

Minutes of the YCBA Management Board (MB) Meeting held by Zoom video conference on Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present: David Guild (Chair - DG), Nick Woolven (NW), Lesley Millet (LM), Ron Millet (RM), Robin Jepson (RJ) and Ruth Kerr (RK).

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest – Graham Jepson (President), Mark Dunkley, Pauline Stout and Stephen Cordingley. There were no declarations of interest.

Previous Minutes

2. The minutes of the Board meeting on 24th January 2024 were approved.

Matters arising from the minutes:

2a. Asset register of items of YCBA property held by individuals - work in progress - action LM. **Open.**

2b. Proposal to appoint a paid consultant to advise on recruitment and marketing - agreed that there is sufficient expertise on the MB and committees so a paid consultant is not required. **Closed.**

2c. Update of website list of past winners of YCBA competitions NW asked Dani Hyman to make a start on this task, but to date she has not rescinded. **Open.**

2d. Correspondence with EBU regarding religious holidays. DG reported that in the most recent response from the EBU they undertook to give proper consideration to avoiding clashes with religious holidays, when setting dates for competitions. Agreed that this is satisfactory, but RM will continue to monitor the EBU calendar, and report back to the MB should any problem recur. **Closed.**

2e. Website mailboxes. DG reported that these have been reallocated to the extent required. **Closed.**

2f. There were no further matters arising from the minutes of the last Board meeting.

3. Review of Management Board Away Day and matters arising from minutes (DG)

3a. Club visits by MB members - these have all been carried out but NW and RM have still to write up the notes of their meetings. An ongoing benefit of the visits is that affiliated clubs now have a 'buddy' on the MB as a point of contact for any issues they wish to raise with YCBA. **Open.**

3b. Subcommittee on Diversity Progress - RK to arrange the first meeting. **Open.**

3c. RJ reported that to date there have been no nominations for the Board positions of Diversity Champion and Women's Champion. Agreed that if these posts are not filled, alternative arrangements will have to be made for 2024-25. **Open.**

3d. MB succession and recruitment - update of role descriptions. In progress, action DG/NW. **Open**

3e. Review of committee structures. Deferred. **Open.**

3f. Lobby for appointment of Yorkshire representative on EBU Tournament Committee. This would be dependent on YCBA identifying a suitably experienced and qualified person ready and willing to take a place on the EBU TC. RJ to sound out Alan Brosgill. **Open.**

3g. Reserves policy. In response to a question, LM said that the credit balance is currently in the region of £55,000 to £60,000 but the amount fluctuates during the year owing to cash flow, particularly expenditure on and income from Congresses. Also, YCBA is now receiving significant Bank interest following recent rises in interest rates. We discussed

reducing county UMS and or lower fees for some county competitions but the latter might be perceived as benefiting only the section of the membership that takes part in such competitions. It was agreed that at the AGM the Chairs will invite suggestions from members for projects involving capital expenditure, subsidies, or reductions in entry fees, with a view to reducing the reserves to a level no higher than is required to contingencies.

Open.

3h. Review of YCBA insurances - in progress. Action RM. To be completed before the next policy renewal date in March 2025. **Open.**

3i. Communications Strategy Development paper. Action RK. **Open.**

3j. There were no other matters arising from the minutes of the Away Day.

4. EBU & EBED relations breakdown

NW, DG and RM explained the background to the dispute which led to the resignation of the EBED Board and replacement with members appointed by EBU. It was agreed that YCBA as a county association ought to take a position of supporting the EBU Board while deploring the unsolicited communications and campaigning by its opponents. **Closed.**

5. Investigation of discrimination allegations

The Board reversed its earlier decision to investigate the previous allegations and confirmed that all our processes will be reviewed for diversity in 2024. **Open** for review only.

6. Arrangements for AGM - 8th June 2024

LM said the accounts for the last financial year have not yet been signed off, but she is in communication with the auditors. RJ reminded members who have not yet submitted their nominations for 2024-25 that the constitutional time limit for doing so is Saturday 18th May. The AGM has already been publicised on the home page of the website and it was agreed that a reminder will be sent to all members via Pianola, at a fortnight before the date of the meeting - action DG or NW. **Open.**

7. EBU Festival of Bridge - September 2024

YCBA events approved to date by the Festival Steering Group are a Skipton Canal Boat trip with bridge included, Golf & Bridge at Thirsk and Northallerton, and Bowls & Bridge at Leeds, plus a simultaneous pairs event to be organised by the Tournament Committee.

Open.

8. Reports of the Tournament, Bridge Development and Grants Committees.

NW and LM presented brief reports. It was agreed that another grants fund will be opened for 2024-25. Summaries to be presented at the June AGM. **Closed.**

9. Other business

A request has been received from Sheffield for a Tournament Directors' training course to be held in the south of the county. The MB approved this. To be run by Barrie Partridge in October 2024. Details to be arranged by the Bridge Development Committee. **Closed.**

10. Date of next meeting - Saturday 8th June 2024 at 1.00 pm or as soon as possible after completion of the AGM, at the Radisson Hotel, York. Video conferencing may be available for members who are unable to attend in person. Intended to be a short meeting to appoint committees for 2024-25.