

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Monday 4th November 2024 at 4.30 pm by Zoom video conference.

PRESENT: Nick Woolven (Tournament Chair), Lesley Millet (Treasurer), Robin Jepson (Assistant Secretary), Ron Millet, Pauline Stout, Stuart Davies and Mark Dunkley

1) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

None

2) Co-option of Mark Dunkley

It was unanimously agreed that Mark Dunkley should be co-opted onto the TC and the Chair thanked Mark for agreeing to join.

3) and 4) Minutes of previous meeting on 17th September 2024 and matters arising

The minutes were approved. Matters arising:

- 1946 Trophy. MD has received this from Geoge Nelson's relative and, though it is much smaller than anticipated, it was agreed this will be used for presentation to the winners of the Yorkshire Championship Pairs until such time as the currently missing trophies are found. **Closed.**
- SD has now delivered all the trophies he was holding to York Bridge Club. NW and MD will meet at York Bridge Club with a view to identifying unknown trophies and producing a definitive list of trophies in the possession of YCBA, those that are still required for presentation to competition winners, and those that are redundant. Any of the redundant trophies that have value because of their silver content are to be sold, and the proceeds used towards the purchase of one off glass trophies for presentation in future years to the winners of divisions of the Yorkshire League and Nelson Roe Bowl. **Open.**
- The Chairman's Plate will be described in future publicity as the Philip Mason Chairman's Plate. It does not require further engraving, as the existing reads "Chairman's Plate presented by Philip Mason". **Closed.**

5) Report of the Congresses Sub-committee.

- LM and RM reported on the Great Northern Swiss Pairs. It was successful with 22 tables in the main event and 6 tables in the Nine High. The venue is popular. SD said the playing area was a little cramped on the Saturday with both events taking place in the same room and there were one or two dark spots which could be improved with better or additional lighting. To be taken up with the hotel manager before next year. **Closed**
- LM reported on arrangements for the Harrogate Spring Congress. The entry fees are to remain unchanged from previous years. A Nine High event will be held on the Friday starting at 2.00, and players in the main event will have the option of playing the first session on Friday afternoon or Friday evening. The starting and finishing times on the Sunday are to be brought forward slightly to facilitate travel arrangements for players based outside the county. **Open.**
- LM also reported that arrangements for the Northern Easter Festival are proceeding. It will be held again at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Harrogate. **Open.**

- NW reported on his provisional agreement with Oliver Cowan for the organisation of the 2025 Yorkshire Congress. It will be held on 28th and 29th June at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate. Entry fees will be significantly lower than in recent years as meals will not be included in the price. The programme will be similar to recent years with a multiple pairs on the Saturday and a multiple teams on the Sunday, plus a Jack High Pairs on the Sunday. OC recommends starting and finishing times on both days to be earlier, in the light of feedback from players and with a view to attracting more entries from outside the county. OC will take entries but keep YCBA informed. YCBA will appoint a TD, provisionally Jim Edwards. YCBA to apply for a green point licence, but the cost of this to be treated as a Congress expense. Itemised accounts to be produced by OC and any profit will be shared equally between OC and YCBA. Flyers to be produced by OC. These arrangements were approved. **Open.**
- The YCBA AGM will also take place at the Cairn Hotel from 10.00 to 11.30 am on Saturday 28th June. **Closed.**

6) Arrangements for forthcoming non congress events

New Year Bonanza. **Open.**

- Ken Johnston has been appointed as TD. NW will ask Ken to take the entries.
- To be publicised via the website and a Pianola mailshot to all members.

Yorkshire Pairs and Nine High Yorkshire Pairs. **Open.**

- Jim Edwards will be TD for the YP. NW to appoint a TD for the Nine High.
- PS to take the entries for the Nine High. Provisionally, SD to take the entries for the YP.

7) New Handicapped Pairs competition

MD reported on the Keighley heat which took place on 2nd November. Entries were closed with 16 tables, the capacity of the venue. The competition was publicised by a targeted mailshot from David Guild sent to members of the Keighley, Bradford, Olicana and Halifax clubs. In response to a question, NW and MD attributed the success to free entry, players being able to play at a local club without much travelling, and the handicap format giving players at all levels equal opportunity to do well in the event. A second heat is to be played at Sheffield on 9th November and has been similarly publicised to members of Sheffield, Beauchief, Doncaster and Wakefield. Consideration will be given at a future TC meeting to repeating and expanding the competition. **Open.**

8) Report of Yorkshire League Committee

Probably as a result of better publicity and awareness, the entries for the Waddington Shield knockout have risen from ten last year to thirteen this year. The entries for the Yorkshire Trophy Jack High knockout have doubled from a very low base, eight compared with four last year.

The first two matches in the 2024 25 Yorkshire League have been played without any major problems. Two matches had to be postponed owing to illness and player unavailability, but have been rearranged and will be played in December. Barrie Partridge, Sheffield, has kindly offered his services as a senior TD available by phone while Yorkshire League matches are in progress, to offer advice to players and team captains, and deal with rulings and appeals that cannot be handled locally.

The entry forms for the Winter 2025 season of the Online League have been set out with a closing date of 30th November. **Closed.**

9) Other Business

It was noted that the Yorkshire teams in the Northern Bridge League had had remarkable success winning all three divisions. All three of the successful teams will take part in the National Inter County League finals next June. RJ attended the NBL review meeting and reported the concern at the dwindling support for the competition from other counties particularly in the top division where Manchester did not enter a team in 2024. The four dates for the 2025 NBL have been decided and added to the YCBA Events Calendar.

Closed.

1) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conferencing.