

Minutes of the YCBA Tournament Committee meeting held on Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 7.00 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) and 3) Minutes of previous meeting on 4th November 2024 and matters arising

The minutes were approved. Matters arising:

- NW and MD have agreed to meet at York Bridge Club early in February with a view to compiling the database of YCBA trophies. **Open.**
- Discussion on the low entries for Nine High and Really Easy events. RM suggested that publicity for such events should be sent to bridge teachers.

4) Congresses Sub-committee

- LM and NW reported on entities received to date for the Harrogate Spring Congress and ongoing arrangements for the HSC, Northern Easter Festival and Yorkshire Congress. **Open.**
- Unfortunately the Village Hotel, Leeds will not be available for the GNSP over the intended weekend of 5th & 6th October as the hotel has already been booked for another event. Accordingly either the GNSP will be moved to the previous weekend of 27th & 28th September, when there are no other significant competing events, or else to an alternative venue such as the Weetwood Hall Hotel. The weekend of 12th & 13th October is no good as 12th October is a Northern Bridge League match day. Action LM. **Open.**

5) Report on other recent competitions

- Yorkshire Handicapped Pairs. The second trial heat at Sheffield Bridge Club was also successful with 12 tables, though most of the players were from Sheffield and Beauchief with just a few from Dncaster and Barnsley. See also item 9. **Closed.**
- New Year Bonanza. There were nine tables, fewer than last year, and somewhat disappointing given it was a free event. A short report with details of the leading pairs to be put on the website under Latest Results. **Closed.**

6) Arrangements for other upcoming events, including appointment of Event Organisers and TDs

- Yorkshire Pairs (York Bridge Club) and Nine High Yorkshire Pairs (online), 26th January 2025. The starting time will be 1.00 pm and Stuart Davies will take the entries. RJ to update the Events Calendar. Stephen Kennedy will be TD for the NHYP, if it proceeds, as only three entries have been received to date.
- Affiliated Clubs Teams, It was agreed that the date should be moved from Thursday 17th April to the previous Thursday 10th April, because of the proximity of the original date to the Northern Easter Festival. Last year's event at Wakefield Bridge Club was successful with 16 teams entering and NW will ask Wakefield to host the event again, though the club may be unwilling to accept as many as 16 teams this time. The Mixed Pairs also played at Wakefield was capped at 12 tables. It was noted

that the catering at both events was excellent. RJ to act as Event Organiser and circulate club secretaries to invite entries. **Open.**

- Nelson Rose Bowl, Thursday 15th May, Wetherby. PS confirmed arrangements are on track. **Open.**
- Yorkshire Mixed Pairs. The proposed date Sunday 15th June was approved and NW will ask Wakefield to host the event as they did in 2024. **Open.**

8) Report of Yorkshire League Committee

- The first four rounds of matches of the Yorkshire League have been completed with all matches played, including two postponed from earlier rounds.
- An encouraging 32 teams entered the Winter 2025 season of the Online Yorkshire League so there are three divisions of 10, 10 and 12 teams. The first match day was on 5th January. One match could not be played and another was curtailed in each case for technical reasons, but these are to be rearranged or completed as appropriate. It was noted that if 5th January had been a Yorkshire League match day it would have been severely disrupted by the heavy snowfall across much of the county.
- The proposed dates of Yorkshire League matches in autumn 2025, 19th October, 2nd and 23rd November, and 7th December were approved. **Closed.**

8) County wide Yorkshire Handicapped Pairs

MD summarised his paper circulated with the agenda and it was agreed that in the light of the successful trials last November a county wide Handicapped Pairs will take place before the end of the present season, After discussion it was decided the event will be on two consecutive midweek dates Wednesday and Thursday 4th and 5th June. Clubs may choose either. 24 boards approximately to be played. There will be a different set of hands each day but a combined ranking list. Clubs may change their usual table money with no supplement so YCBA will bear the cost of employing a scorer and purchase of prizes or trophies for the winning pair(s). MD to be Event Organiser and will ask James Carpenter to act as scorer including generating the hands. Suggested fee £75. JC also to advise whether one winner movements are required for club heats using Mitchells. **Open.**

9) Vacancies on Selection Committees A and B

It was noted that the continuing members of SC A, Alan Brosgill and Dave Robinson wish to appoint Nichola Cockerill Smith as a third member and that Julia Staniforth wishes to continue working with John OSullivan on SC B subject to JOS agreeing to join. No one disagreed with these proposals which will be considered by the MB at its next meeting. **Open.**

10) Other Business.

There was a further discussion on the awarding of prizes, cash or otherwise at the Yorkshire Congress and the EBU Congresses hosted by YCBA. NW to discuss with OC his plans for a prize fund at the Yorkshire Congress. **Open.**

11) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 18th March at 7.00 pm by Zoom video conferencing.