



## YORK BRIDGE CLUB

### **Committee Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025: Draft Minutes**

#### **Present:**

Robin Loft (RL) (Chair), Andrew Merrison (AM), Ruth Mattingley-Turner (RM-T), Mike Barnard (MB), Jonathan Sanders (JS), Andrew Barnes (AB), Rose Townsend (RT), Sally Gregory (SG) (Chair of Trustees), Phillip Ashton (PA) (Trustee), Morris Gregory (Minute Secretary)

#### **Apologies for Absence:**

Lynda Baker (LB)

#### **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Committee Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 had been agreed and will be published on the website.

#### **1. Health and Safety**

The fire evacuation plan needs to be amended to say that it is not required to switch off the electricity but that the fire and rescue service will be informed where the switch is. **Action: RL.**

#### **2. Calendar Events**

**JS** reported that the Sim pairs event will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January and some marketing has been done to publicise it. Members have been asked to register their intention to take part in advance but it is not mandatory.

A TD and scorer have still to be identified. As this is a nationwide event a senior level TD is required, **SG** suggested Stuart Kay (**SK**) or James Carpenter (**JC**), possibly Barry O'Connor (**BC**) or Trevor Wadilove (**TW**). **Action: AM** to send out a targeted email.

#### **3. Swiss Pairs**

Nominations were requested for the standby pair for the Swiss Pairs event in February. **RL** and **RT** volunteered.

#### **4. Christmas Party Review**

The general view was that the Christmas party was a very successful event.

**RM-T** and her friend, **Mary**, were congratulated for the significant effort they put in under stressful circumstances, particularly in relation to difficulties with Morrison's not being able to fill the order. There was some discussion on how best to organize for the future. It was suggested that 2 teams of 5, one for setting up and one for clearing up may be required. The alternative was for external caterers to be brought in and the additional cost to be factored into the charge for the event. It was agreed this latter proposal would be taken forward if costs were not prohibitive.

It was agreed that for further large events, as with the Andrew Robson one, food would be put on trestle tables in the kitchen relaxation area and each table of players would be called up in rows to avoid congestion. Entry would be from the corridor and players would exit with their food through the kitchen double doors. Provision would be made to ensure disabled players would not be disadvantaged.

It was agreed that heavy duty recyclable paper plates would be used at such events to reduce the clearing up effort. It was also agreed that a water station should be set up.

#### **5. Next Social Event**

The next social event will be on 1<sup>st</sup> March, St David's Day and outside caterers will be booked.

**RL** asked for volunteers to plan the event with him. **RT** volunteered.

An MC is needed to host the event. **Action: RL.**

## 6. Parish Council Notice Boards

**MB** has sent off a poster to his council contact but has had no response.

**Action: RL to follow up.**

**RL** has flyers and will put them in the scorer's desk and on the noticeboard.

## 7. Excessive Biscuit Consumption

It was agreed that announcements will be made by CC members at playing sessions to ask that, where possible, players eat biscuits and other food in the kitchen to avoid cards getting contaminated and causing problems for dealing. Care to be taken not to sound dictatorial.

## 8. Teams on Saturday and Competitions update

**JS** reported that the first Saturday teams' event went well. He gave brief details of the handicapping system and identified that another person needs to be trained in it.

It was proposed, and agreed, that a Teams event be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month for teams of up to 6 players. Teams would need to play in at least 7 events to be considered for the trophy.

**Action: AM** to explain teams strategy at the start of each session. **RL** and **JS** to produce a flyer to publicise the events and to produce an update notice to advertise for team members on the whiteboard.

**JS** to issue communication to members to let them know what is happening in respect of forthcoming competitions for 2025

Setting up competitions on the web pages.

**Action: JS** to meet with **TW** to discuss and implement.

## 9. Appendix Mitchells – Update on John Guest proposal

A proposal has been made by John Guest (**JG**) for an Appendix Mitchell event to be held on a Saturday. **SG** and Trevor Waddilove (**TW**) have provided feedback identifying some concerns that need to be addressed before this proposal can be taken forward. **JS** to discuss with **JG** and/or **TW**

## 10. 1<sup>st</sup> Step Outcome

**AM, MB and JS** ran the event which has proved to be a success despite some technical malfunctions. There were 6 tables at the session, and it enabled some players to attend who are unavailable during weekdays.

The nature of the session is such that 3 tutors were needed to cater for all of the tables.

There was some discussion on whether the session should be considered a teaching session or not and the consequences for uploading to EBU and also payment (or otherwise) for the tutors. It was agreed that the result would be uploaded to Bridgewebs but not to EBU. The payment model will need to be agreed by the Trustees. **RL** also indicated that the outcome of the session was fundamentally different from that originally proposed

**Action: AM** To provide a short paper for consideration by the Trustees.

## 11. Teaching Feedback

**AM** provided an update on the various teaching sessions. It was noted that the proposed defence class is no longer going ahead.

## 12. Dealers Update

**Peter Turner (PT)** will train **AB** to become a dealer when he next becomes available.

## 13. YCBA Grant for Technology Update

**SG** informed the meeting that grant money was available from the EBU. Applications must state what is required, what is to be used for and what gains will accrue. No specific figure was provided but it is thought the maximum amount may be around £2k. **SG** thought it unlikely we would be able to obtain another laptop or large viewing screen through this grant. **AM** asked if cameras to facilitate a YouTube channel might be a possibility. **SG** advised this needs to be aligned with the new strategic priorities. It is therefore not practical for this to be processed for 2024/25 but it might be an option for 2025/6.

#### **14. Behavioural Trends amongst members**

It is recognized there is still some unacceptable behaviour at the table in some sessions. **RL** confirmed that action will be taken where necessary and reminded all CC members to be keen to report at the earliest sign.

#### **15. Fire Drill**

A fire drill was carried out on 6<sup>th</sup> January involving 26 members. It was a success, albeit some people did not move far enough away from the building.

#### **16. Christmas closures for 2025**

The only dates YBC will be closed in 2025 are 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December. New Year's Eve will be a normal play session.

#### **17. Friday Night Sessions suggestions**

A number of suggestions were made to try to get members to attend on a Friday evening. These included a one-off free session, permanently handicapping the session, and moving it to a Thursday evening.

**Action: JS, RL, AM and AB** to discuss and propose a course of action.

#### **18. Chair of Trustees Address**

**SG** presented an overview of the trustees' strategy for the next 5 years. This was provided as a heads-up prior to it being made known to the membership. The YBC committee will be involved in producing and implementing plans that align with the strategy.

#### **19. Mentoring**

The paper produced by **MB** was discussed and a number of points were raised.

**MB** would keep a list of mentors and be the player development guide.

It was agreed that mentors would sign up initially for 6 sessions with one or more persons to be mentored.

The point at which mentoring becomes a partnership was raised. Agreement needs to be reached on this, in particular if mentors are to be paid for mentoring/ those mentored required to pay an additional fee (£3 was suggested) to table money.

There are potential safeguarding issues if mentors are regarded as teachers.

**Action: MB** to email Phil Godfrey (**PG**) to obtain advice on this matter.

The relationship between mentoring and assisted play needs to be clarified and the charging model updated to reflect this. This will be an agenda item for the trustees meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

It was noted that several attendees at the assisted play sessions had been attending numerous sessions (some more than 2 years) without becoming YBC members. This is out of line with visitors being asked to join YBC after 6 sessions as a visitor. This will be taken forward by the trustees.

#### **20. A.O.B.**

There was no other business.

#### **21. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 at 17.00