

**Minutes of the LBHCBA's Annual General Meeting
on Thursday 27th September 2012 at Young Chelsea Bridge Club**

In the Chair – Peter Wagon

1. Opening by the Chairman: In opening the AGM, the chairman, Peter Wagon, thanked the Young Chelsea for hosting the meeting and apologised for the change of time and venue for the meeting. This was because Graham Cunningham had taken early retirement from IBM and the premises were no longer available to us.

2. Apologies for absence: These were received from Philip Watson, Graham Cunningham, Chris Chambers and Marina Channing-Pearce.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 2011 AGM: These minutes were approved as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from the 2011 AGM (not otherwise on the agenda): There were none.

5. Chairman's Report (and Results Secretary): The Results Secretary was unable to be present and the Chairman recorded the Committee's thanks for his work in maintaining the website with contact details for captains and prompt updating of results. The Chairman reported that three teams had unfortunately had to withdraw from the league during the season and that a number of other matches had not been played. Some end-of-season adjudication of unplayed matches had therefore been necessary. The Committee had also imposed vp fines on teams which had failed to play sufficient matches before Christmas and had not completed their fixtures by the end of the season. The Committee had agreed to retain the system of imposing a suspended vps fine on teams which had not played three matches by the end of December which would be rescinded if the team concerned completed all its fixtures by the designated end of season. He was pleased to report that two new teams had joined the league Habeas Corpus during the 2011-12 season and White Rabbits for the new season.

Progress in the Cup and Plate competitions had been slow as usual although less so than in 2010-11 when the Plate final had not been played until March 2012. He was pleased to say that the Leslie Dodds Cup final, won by Stock Exchange "A", had been completed just before the new season, and a date in October agreed for the Plate Final. He urged everyone to make every effort to play Cup matches more promptly in the coming season. In the League for 2011-12 there would again be a deadline for all matches of 31st May 2012 and thereafter there would be an adjudication of results, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

There was some feeling from the floor that the Committee should take a harder line in disqualifying teams from the Cup competitions for not arranging matches in reasonable time. The Chairman acknowledged this but pointed out that the Committee preferred that competitions should be decided by playing matches rather than forfeits. The vp fines for not playing league matches also had the side effect of encouraging captains to prioritise league matches over cup fixtures.

RAC asked what could be done to encourage the LSE to arrange matches earlier and fulfil fixtures. The Chairman said that to some extent the LSE was a special case as

the start date of their term meant that they were often unable to attend the fixture meeting. The Committee was also conscious that they did not want to discourage one of the few teams in the league with younger players who might go on to play for other teams in the future

6. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer had again due to personal circumstances been unable to produce accounts for auditing and approval in time for the meeting and had now resigned. The Chairman apologised that this had now happened for two consecutive years. The Committee remained satisfied that the financial position was sound with no unusual expenditure, and no significant depletion of reserves or unpaid bills. However, they accepted that the matter needed to be addressed before the next AGM and to this end Peter Cogliatti had agreed take on the role of Treasurer and would be put forward for election to the post.

7. Election of Officers: The chairman indicated that the committee, with the exception of Graham Cunningham, were all willing to stand again. The meeting re-elected Peter Wagon (Chairman), Richard Heys (Vice-Chairman), Chris Chambers (Results Secretary), Philip Watson (Tournament Organiser/Secretary), Marina Channing Pearce and Audrey Hartley and elected Peter Cogliatti as Treasurer. In addition Victoria Ansary volunteered at the meeting to join the Committee and was elected by the Meeting.

8. Appointment of Auditor Jeff Gill agreed to continue as auditor and was re-appointed by the Meeting

9. Pay to Play of the EBU (P2P): the meeting was informed that the EBU had not yet devised a new method of charging teams which participated in leagues and we therefore continued to pay £5 per team. There was some sentiment from the floor that the EBU did not deliver much in return for the fees but the feeling of meeting was that the Association should remain affiliated in order to support Bridge in the wider context.

10.. Location for Events and Competitions: As IBM would no longer be available as a venue for competitions the Committee intended to use of the Young Chelsea as the venue for the Surdoc and Selfridges. He reminded the meeting that the Surdoc Trophy would be held on 2nd October at the Young Chelsea and encouraged more teams to enter as so far there were only three.

11. Any Other Business: There was none.

The Chairman, **Peter Wagon**, closed the meeting with the presentation of trophies.