

**Minutes of the LBHCBA's Annual General Meeting
on Tuesday 3rd September 2013 at Church House, Westminster**

In the Chair – Peter Wagon

1. Opening by the Chairman: The chairman, Peter Wagon, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence: These were received from Philip Watson, Audrey Hartley, Chris Chambers and Victoria Ansary.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 2012 AGM: The minutes were approved.

4. Matters Arising from the 2012 AGM (not otherwise on the agenda): The chairman drew reminded those present that a list of possible venues for those teams without a home venue of their own had been added to the website. The Young Chelsea had left its premises in Earl's Court and was temporarily at Queens Club. This would be the venue for the Surdoc Trophy which it was intended to hold in the week commencing 30th September. Philip Watson hoped to finalise the date and send an email to captains by mid-September.

5. Chairman's Report (and Results Secretary): The Results Secretary was unable to be present and the Chairman reiterated the Committee's thanks for his work in maintaining the website with contact details for captains and prompt updating of results. This was essential to the smooth running of the competitions. The Chairman reported that the league fixtures had been completed in good time during the 2012-13 season with only two unplayed matches, both by LSE"B" who had not entered for the new season and which had not been adjudicated as the outcome could not affect promotion from Division 5.

Progress in the Cup and Plate competitions had been better than usual and both competitions had been completed ahead of the new season. He thanked Chris Chambers and Peter Cogliatti for their chasing of teams to complete fixtures in the league and Cups respectively which had greatly helped in achieving good progress. He urged everyone to make every effort to play Cup matches promptly in the coming season and hoped that the earlier date of the AGM would help in this respect. In the League for 2012-14 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.

The withdrawal of LSE"B" was the only change to the composition of the league for next season. This had led the Committee to adjust the composition of the divisions to achieve a 6,5,5,5,5 configuration. This had necessitated Home Office and Smith and Williamson dropping down a division when they would not otherwise have done so and the Chairman thanked them for taking this in good part.

The only other matter he needed to raise was the problem that one team had had with their opponents in Cup matches starting matches late. He reminded everyone that this was inconsiderate to opponents as some players faced inconvenient journeys if too much delayed. He also reiterated the rule that teams had the right to refuse to start a match after 7.00pm and that two boards could be withdrawn for every fifteen minutes

delay after the agreed start time but a minimum number of 18 must be played which in effect meant that matches should not begin more than 45 minutes late.

6. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer tabled the audited accounts for 2012-13 which were approved by the meeting. He reported that he had been unable to reconstruct the accounts for 2010-11 and 2011-12. His predecessor had again promised these but had failed to produce them. However, he had indicated that he was still holding £200-300 representing the surplus on events held at IBM and would be forwarding this money plus one year's arrears of subscriptions by IBM. The Treasurer said that this would reconcile the figures from 2010 with those in the current accounts and the Committee would ensure that this money was received. Subject to this the Committee was satisfied with the overall financial position and for the time being was content to run down reserves slightly each year by keeping subscriptions and entry fees at the present levels. The meeting approved the accounts for 2012-13.

7. Election of Officers: The chairman indicated that the committee were all willing to stand again but that he wished to stand down as Chairman having already held the post for six years rather than the customary five. Richard Heys the Vice-Chairman had agreed to take on the Chairmanship. This would mean that there would be no Vice-Chairman for the coming season and Richard would be seeking one in due course. There were no nominations from the floor and the meeting elected Richard Heys (Chairman), Chris Chambers (Results Secretary), Philip Watson (Tournament Organiser/Secretary), Peter Cogliatti (Treasurer), Peter Wagon, Marina Chaning Pearce, Audrey Hartley and Victoria Ansary.

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

9. Review of affiliation to the EBU: The meeting was informed that the EBU had still not devised a new method of charging teams which participated in leagues and we therefore continued to pay £5 per team. The Committee continued to favour remaining affiliated and would only review this if there was a strong contrary view from the floor. No-one expressed dissent from this.

10. Any Other Business: Three matters were raised. It was proposed that the divisions should be numbered to 1-5 and the Premier Division label should be dropped now that there was no longer an East/West structure below it. This was put to the meeting and agreed.

It was also suggested that vp scale should be amended into line with the standard EBU 0-20 scale with a 51 imp maximum. There was general support for this and it was also agreed by the meeting.

The matter of an alternative to the mugs currently presented as individual trophies for members of winning teams was raised and it was suggested that an internet search for alternatives and for engravers should be undertaken. The Committee undertook to look into this.

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

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