

**Minutes of the LBHCBA's Annual General Meeting  
on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at Church House, Westminster**

**In the Chair – Richard Heys**

**1. Opening by the Chairman:** The chairman, Richard Heys, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Peter Wagon for arranging the use of Church House as a venue. He was pleased to see a good attendance as this meant most fixtures would be arranged at the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence:** These were received from Chris Chambers, Pauli Lauman and Victoria Ansary.

**3. Approval of the minutes of the 2013 AGM:** The minutes were approved.

**4. Matters Arising from the 2013 AGM (not otherwise on the agenda):** There were none

**5. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported that the 2013-14 season had been a good one. Few matters had needed to be referred to the Committee. League fixtures had mostly been completed in good time and only one match had needed adjudication. For the second successive year the Cup and Plate competitions had been completed before the new season, a marked improvement on previous years. The Surdoc and Selfridges competitions had been better supported and he was pleased to report that more teams than usual had entered for the Surdoc for the forthcoming season.

In answer to a question he said that the adjudicated match had been in the first division. The match could have affected the outcome of the division had the Civil Service won it 20-0 but attempts to get the match played had been to no avail.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer tabled the audited accounts for 2013-14. He said that he had been unable to make contact with the previous treasurer regarding the £250 which he had said that he was holding from earlier years. The accounts for 2013-14 showed a nominal surplus but this was misleading as the subscription to ECATS for the website had not yet been demanded, there had been a one-off sale of the equipment which had been held at IBM and there had been no costs for trophies or engraving as the previous supplier had gone out of business. He had now ordered two years supply of trophies from a new supplier at a discounted rate but this expenditure would appear in the following year's accounts. The real position therefore was that as had been the case for several years there had been a small deficit on the season. The Committee was, for the time being, content to allow this as there was a sizeable reserve of over £4k in hand and it enabled the cost of the Surdoc and Selfridges to be subsidised. There had been a larger than usual subsidy of the Selfridge's this year as the venue, the RAC, was relatively expensive for refreshments.

In response to a question he said that the league and cup entry fees had not been increased for more than 10 years. Views were expressed from the floor that in the long run the aim should be to break even and that league and cup fees should not be increased to subsidise other competitions.

The meeting approved the accounts for 2013-14.

**7. Election of Officers:** The chairman explained that his family circumstances meant that he was not able to give the time to the Committee that he felt he should as Chairman and that he therefore wished to stand down as Chairman and leave the Committee, although he hoped to be able to return in a year or two. Philip Watson announced that he had decided to stand down as secretary having been on the Committee for some thirty years. He was happy to continue as a Committee member and as tournament director. The Committee nominated Marina Channing Pearce as Chair and Peter Wagon as Secretary, both of whom were willing to stand. There were no nominations from the floor and the Committee was elected as follows:

- Chairman: Marina Channing Pearce
- Secretary: Peter Wagon
- Treasurer: Peter Cogliatti
- Results Secretary: Chris Chambers
- Tournament Director: Philip Watson
- Committee Members: Audrey Hartley and Victoria Ansary.

**8. Central London Venues for Matches** Philip Watson explained that the difficulty caused by some clubs no longer having a home venue available in Central London had been exacerbated by the Young Chelsea club leaving its premises in Earls Court. The YC was temporarily in St John's Wood but was still hoping to relocate to Goldhawk Road. He had therefore negotiated an arrangement with the Mudlark pub near London Bridge Station the details of which had been posted on the website. The venue would be available at no charge on Monday evenings and could accommodate up to two matches at a time. Three days notice was required and pre-dealt boards would be available for a charge of £10 and sandwiches could be ordered.

The Chairman thanked Philip for arranging this venue. The question of playing matches at the homes of team members was raised but the meeting was reminded that the rules of the association specified that venues must be in central London which was regarded as within travel card zones 1 and 2. The meeting was also reminded that the Civil Service Club could be booked for matches although the space offered was quite small.

**9. No-show costs for matches:** Bill Linton on behalf of Buttons asked the meeting to consider a cap on the expenses, at the rate charged by the YC, which an away team should contribute where it failed to show up with a full team for a match. In particular the refreshments provided at the RAC were much more expensive than at other venues. Marina Channing Pearce pointed out that the RAC teams had no choice as regards the cost of refreshments as the Club had fixed rates. The feeling of the meeting was that it was not fair to expect that RAC members should bear the loss resulting from their visitors failing to put out a team. Other teams were aware of the higher cost of refreshments at the RAC and were happy to enjoy the hospitality provided. They should therefore be prepared to give early notice if they could not raise a team or expect to meet the standard costs of the RAC teams' refreshments. The meeting reaffirmed the current rules as regards defaulting teams reimbursing reasonable costs.

**10. Table money for events:** this item had been covered during discussion of the Treasurer's report.

**11. Substitute players in league/cup matches:** It was confirmed that use substitute players during the course of a match in both league and cup was allowed subject to following the bye-laws. *(NB. The bye-laws provide that up to six players may play for one side during a match with the substitution(s) being at a time agreed by both captains. All the players concerned should be eligible to play for the team (and players from another team from the same club should not be a regular partnership).* The question was raised as to what should happen if a cup match was a draw. Philip Watson explained that the bye-laws provided for the match to then be decided on the aggregate scores of the teams. If still equal or by agreement three extra boards could be played if there was sufficient time.

## **12. Any Other Business.**

### **Penalties for no shows**

It was suggested that there should be a victory points penalty on the offending team where there was a no show. However, the Committee was reluctant to do so, as a matter of course, as no-shows were often the result of unavoidable travel disruptions. If the match could not be rearranged before the end of the season the Committee's adjudication of the result could then include a penalty. It might also consider imposing one if a team was a persistent offender.

### **Recruitment of new teams**

John White suggested that in view of the steady decline in the number of participating teams in recent years that a concerted attempt to recruit new teams should be made. He offered to form a group to co-ordinate this. The Chairman welcomed his offer and asked that one or two others volunteer to assist John.

Chairman emeritus **Richard Heys** closed the meeting with the presentation of trophies.