

**Minutes of the LBHCBA's Annual General Meeting
on Tuesday 8th September 2015 at Church House, Westminster**

In the Chair – Marina Channing Pearce

1. Opening by the Chairman: The chairman, Marina Channing Pearce, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Peter Wagon for arranging the use of Church House as a venue and providing coffee and tea.

2. Apologies for absence: These were received from Chris Chambers, Arlette Shenken, Peter Langford, E Clayton and Andrew Stimson.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 2014 AGM: The minutes were approved subject to one change. In item 7, Philip Watson was elected as Tournament Organiser not Tournament Director.

4. Matters Arising from the 2014 AGM (not otherwise on the agenda):

Item 8 Venues for matches

Philip Watson reported that the Young Chelsea had now re-located to its new venue in Goldhawk Road and was available once more as a match venue. The YC could host matches on any evening at 24 hours' notice (48 hours for a Wednesday) at a charge of £48 including pre-dealt boards and tea and cakes. Matches could start at any time between 5.00 and 7.30 pm. The Mudlark pub had hosted some matches while the YC was not available and was still willing to do so.

Peter Cogliatti reminded the meeting that the Mudlark was only available on Mondays and had to be booked through him a week in advance.

5. Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that the 2014-15 season had been successful and almost trouble free. Both Cup competitions had been completed in good time and nearly all league fixtures. Only three un-played matches had required adjudication by the Committee, one in Division 4 and two in Division 5. Two other matters had been adjudicated by the Committee after referring to an EBU Tournament Director and both rulings had been accepted by the teams involved.

As suggested at the previous AGM, a Marketing Sub-Committee led by John White had been formed and had contacted a large number of organisations with invitations to join the Association. This had resulted in three new teams Roehampton and Hurlingham Bridge Clubs and the FCA joining and another, Lavender Green, entering the league as well as the cups off-setting the withdrawal of Temple Bar and RAC Bentley. An entry from PWC had turned out to be from a group of runners who mistakenly thought that the Association organised relay races across London bridges!

In answer to a question about matches where teams arrived late or did a no-show she said that this had been a sore point for a number of teams and the Committee had decided to add the following guidance on the website.

- a) Teams should have more than four players to call on
- b) Captains should confirm dates and times of matches a week in advance

- c) Captains had the right to refuse to start a match after 7.00pm. If a match was started after the agreed start time the teams could agree at half time to reduce the match by 2 boards for every ten minutes' delay if it appeared necessary to complete the match in reasonable time.

In the event of a no-show the onus was on the defaulting team to suggest new three dates (not all in the same week or on the same day of the week). The Committee did not propose any immediate penalty for a no-show but might penalise serial offenders at the end of the season or take fault into account if the match was not played and required adjudication. In its adjudications of the last season it had penalised Balliol Alumni for twice failing to fulfil a match with Stock Exchange "B" by deciding Balliol should not receive the normal adjudicated score and therefore would not win the Division.

She also informed the meeting that the onus was on teams which wanted a Tournament Director available for telephone rulings during a match to arrange this. If they did not do so, they would have to wait on a post-match ruling if an issue could not be resolved by agreement.

The cut-off date for league matches for the coming season would be 31st May but matches could be played in June if the agreed date was notified to the Results Secretary before the end of May. There would be a 2 vp penalty for matches played up to or on 15th June and a 4 vp penalty for those played in the second half of June which could be imposed on one or both teams depending on whether one was deemed primarily responsible for the late playing of the match.

She said that there was one amendment to the divisional layout which had been circulated as Roehampton and Hurlingham had been transposed: Hurlingham would be in Division 2 and Roehampton in Division 3.

A request was made from the floor for future AGMs to start at 6.45 rather than 6.15 and the Committee agreed to consider this.

6. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer tabled the audited accounts for 2014-15. He said that he had still been unable to make contact with the previous treasurer regarding the possible £250 missing from earlier years and now proposed to write off this debt. As foreshadowed the previous year, the 2014-15 accounts showed a larger than usual deficit as he had paid for two years' supply of trophies. The ECATS subscription for the website had again not been demanded, so there was a potential for arrears of subscription to be payable in 2015-16 when there would also be the cost of two years' engraving. He confirmed that the Surdoc and Selfridges events at the Young Chelsea would be priced to break even. Jeff Gill had audited the accounts.

The meeting approved the accounts for 2014-15.

7. Election of Officers: The chairman said that Victoria Ansary had resigned from the Committee during the year because of her family circumstances. Andrew Kisiel had been co-opted in her place and had agreed to be nominated as Vice-Chairman for 2015-16 and all the other Committee members were willing to stand again for their existing offices. There were no nominations from the floor and the Committee was elected as follows:

- Chairman: Marina Chaning Pearce
- Vice Chairman: Andrew Kisiel
- Secretary: Peter Wagon
- Treasurer: Peter Cogliatti
- Results Secretary: Chris Chambers
- Tournament Director: Philip Watson
- Committee Member: Audrey Hartley.

8. Appointment of Auditor: Jeff Gill confirmed his willingness to continue as Auditor as nominated by the Committee. There was no other nomination and he was appointed by the meeting.

9. Dates for Surdoc and Selfridges: The Chairman confirmed that the dates of the Surdoc and Selfridges were as shown on the fixture sheets, 12th October 2015 and 11th April 2016 respectively. Both events would be held at the YC starting as soon as possible after 6.30 pm and no later than 7.00 pm.

The Tournament Organiser asked for Surdoc entries to reach him by 9th October and said there would be an upper limit of fifteen teams. If space permitted clubs would be allowed more than one team. The limit for the Selfridges would be 30 pairs.

10. Playing of League and Cup Matches: This item had been covered during the Chairman's report.

Roy Ham asked why the adjudicated result of Stock Exchange "B"'s match with Balliol had not been shown on the website or the teams informed of the Committee's decision. He also questioned whether Balliol should have been denied promotion by having points deducted as they had twice been at fault with no-shows and Stock Exchange "B" could have avoided relegation if the match had actually been played. The Chairman pointed out that an adjudicated result on this basis would not have prevented Stock Exchange "B"'s relegation and said the Committee felt that awarding Balliol no points for the match was a sufficient penalty. She apologised for not notifying the teams of the adjudication earlier.

11. Availability of Tournament Director: This had also been covered during the Chairman's report.

12. Any Other Business: There was none.

The Chairman closed the meeting with the presentation of trophies.