

**Minutes of the LBHCBA's Annual General Meeting
on Wednesday 5th September 2018 at Church House, Westminster**

In the Chair – Marina Channing Pearce

1. Opening by the Chairman: The Chairman, Marina Channing Pearce, thanked everyone for coming and welcomed new teams, Coolhurst, who had joined after the previous year's AGM, and RAC Spitfire, to the league and welcomed back TFHK, who had only played in the cup in 2017-18. One team NAO had been lost from the previous season, following the retirement of a key player.

2. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Chris Chambers, Audrey Hartley, John White, and Philip Watson.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 2017 AGM: Andrew Kisiel, who had chaired the 2017 AGM, confirmed that the draft minutes were an accurate record and proposed that they be approved. The minutes were approved nem. con.

4. Matters Arising from the 2017 AGM (not otherwise on the agenda): The invitation to teams from the defunct London Trophy (item 6) had resulted in Coolhurst joining the League and they had been slotted into Division 4.

5. Chairman's Report: The Chairman thanked Peter Wagon for arranging the use of the Church Commissioners' office as the venue for the meeting and Chris Chambers for his vital role in maintaining the website and updating results. She was pleased to report that the 2017-18 season had been very successful with all league fixtures and the matches in both Cup competitions completed within their respective time limits. There had been only one incident reported to the Committee where a team had conceded a Cup match to opponents they were unwilling to play following an incident in a previous season. The Committee regretted that a match had been decided in this way but could not compel a team to play.

She reminded the meeting that not all teams in the League were as aware of the EBU rules as some of those who played regularly in other bridge events and it behoved more experienced players not to exploit their greater knowledge in an aggressive or intimidating manner. The league was a social one and matches should be played in a sporting atmosphere.

She reported that CMS Alumni had won the Gainsborough Plate but the result had not been notified earlier, and congratulated them

6. Arrangement and Cancellation of matches

Andrew Kisiel the Vice-Chair, put forward proposals for rules relating to cancellations and rearrangements of fixtures agreed at the Fixture meeting including penalties for teams failing to comply. He said there two particular issues, the first that insufficient notice was given by the cancelling team and the others that with teams taking too long to agree a new date when one was proposed leaving the other team holding one or more dates and unable to use them for other matches.

Peter Cogliatti added that there should be an expectation that the Home Captain should confirm the date with the away Captain a week ahead but acknowledged that some

teams had only a few players and might be compelled to cancel if someone had to drop out closer to the match date. He reminded the meeting that there had been no sanctions hitherto and suggested that the Committee should be notified of any cancellations at less than 48 hours' notice and given the discretion to penalise persistent offenders.

In general discussion the meeting did not feel that this was a pressing problem and did not wish to lay down specific penalties to be imposed on every occasion but agreed that the Committee should agree a penalty if it felt one was warranted.

7. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer said that accounts for 2017-18 had been audited and there was currently some £3,700 in the Association's account with £426 owed to him for the purchase of prizes but that included those for the next year as he had ordered more on learning that the supplier of the prizes was going out of business. He was seeking a new one. He pointed out that there had been a slight increase in the cost of tournaments because of an increase in the Young Chelsea's charges for the Surdoc and Selfridge's. Less had been spent on engraving trophies, although this would increase again in the future. A case of wine had again been presented to Chris Chambers as an appreciation of his work with the website.

In response to a question he said that the question of whether to have prizes at all in future could be considered when the current supply had been used.

The accounts for 2017-18 were approved.

8. Election of Officers: The Chair said that all the existing Committee members were willing to stand again for the same offices and there had been no other nominations. There were no nominations from the floor and the Committee was re-elected unanimously as follows:

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

9. Appointment of Auditor: Mike Bull confirmed that he was willing to continue as Honorary Auditor and his appointment was confirmed by the meeting.

10. Dates for Surdoc and Selfridges: The Chair confirmed that the date of the Surdoc would be 2nd October 2018 at the YC. There had been a low response so far and she reminded the meeting that there was scope for up to 13 teams. No date had yet been agreed for the Selfridge Pairs as the Tournament Organiser was not sure when he would be available. The date would be advertised on the website in due course but would probably be in April as usual.

11. Playing of League and Cup Matches:

The cut-off date for league matches for the coming season would again be 31st May but matches could be played up to 15th June, without penalty, if the agreed date was notified to the Results Secretary before the end of May. She reminded everyone that teams should aim to play three matches before the end of the year and 2 vp penalties per match would be imposed if the team then failed to complete all its matches by 31st May. She emphasised the importance of playing first round cup matches by the 26th October deadline because of the knock-on effect of a delay at this stage.

12. Any Other Business: The Chair said that Chris Chambers had raised the issue of compliance with GDPR in relation to the website. She asked anyone with concerns to let the Committee know and, if necessary, it would take action such as introducing passwords for access.

A question was asked about how the result of a cup-match should be determined if the teams were level on vps and it was confirmed that it should be resolved on the imp score and if still a draw by the net aggregate scores. If necessary and time permitting three additional hands could be played.

The Chair closed the meeting with the presentation of trophies.