

# **London Business Houses Contract Bridge Association**

## **Minutes of AGM**

held online at 6.00pm on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### **1. Introduction and Report by the Chair**

The Chair, Mark Hutton, welcomed attendees to the meeting. He thanked the Committee members for their support in adapting to the post-Covid era. He thanked Peter Wagon the Secretary and a former Chair who was stepping down after 20 years on the Committee.

He also thanked the team representatives for completing all the 2021-22 competitions before the AGM. Only two league matches, which had no impact on promotion or relegation, had been unplayed. The Committee welcomed this as walkovers were not allowed and it preferred to avoid adjudications if possible.

There had been few problems but some questions about the timing of online matches. Mark confirmed the committee has discussed this and concluded that EBU guidelines on the time for boards and matches should be followed.

The survey of team preferences for matches to be played online vs face-to-face had been repeated and in light of this the Committee had decided that the default options for league and cup matches would be on-line on BBO unless both captains agreed otherwise.

The level of support for the Summer Handicap competition had encouraged the Committee to make it permanent and it would run again in May 2023. Teams entering would be required to have completed their League matches by the deadline date of the end of April.

In response to a question the Chair confirmed that Real Bridge could be used instead of BBO if both captains agreed.

Sally Found and Alex German commented that their teams preferred face-to-face but were willing to continue on the default basis. The Chair confirmed that one team had withdrawn because of this and encouraged captains to discuss in advance their preferences when arranging matches.

The issue of allowing “undos” in auctions had been raised with the Committee and discussed at its last meeting. The Committee’s recommendation was that they should not be allowed but it decided to put this to a vote of the AGM. A vote was held with 14 votes supporting the Committee recommendation and three against with one abstention.

Gerry Weston asked whether this was another matter on which captains could agree to vary the default rule. The Chair noted that the Committee would not generally know if this happened but said that if any dispute arose as a result, it would not adjudicate, and the teams would have to resolve this by reference to

an EBU referee. This reflected the Committee's position on at-table disputes. The Committee's view was that there was an emphasis on friendly and enjoyable bridge in the Association's competitions.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Chris Chambers and Roy Westwater.

## **3. Minutes of 2020 AGM**

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were agreed as an accurate record.

## **4. Matters arising**

There were none.

## **5. Trophy winners and presentation of Accounts**

The Treasurer, Peter Cogliatti (PC) announced that the 2021/22 one trophy winners were as follows

Division 1	Civil Service	Division 4	Formtex
Division 2	Roehampton Diamonds		
Division 3	Buttons "A"		
Division 4	KPMG		
Division 5	Coolhurst		
Leslie Dodds Cup	Civil Service		
Gainsborough Plate	Stock Exchange		
Surdoc Trophy	Civil Service		
Selfridges Pairs	Not held		
2021 Summer Handicap	White Rabbits		

PC then presented the draft accounts. These had not been audited but Marina Channing Pearce had confirmed that she was content with the headline figures which showed a small surplus. Again, there had been no subsidy for the Surdoc as it had been held online but there was a backlog of costs for engraving trophies. He would be in touch with the relevant captains to collect and deliver trophies.

He was encountering problems with HSBC so it might be necessary to switch the account to another bank.

Marina Chaning Pearce and Sally Found proposed and seconded approval of the draft accounts and they were approved nem.con.

## **6. Election of Officers and Committee members**

The Committee had proposed the following for election as officers and as members of the Committee. No other nominations had been received.

Chair:	Mark Hutton
Secretary:	Andrew Kisiel (also vice-chair)
Treasurer:	Peter Cogliatti
Committee members:	Chris Chambers, Bill Linton, Alex German, Marina Chaning Pearce

The Committee was elected as proposed.

## **7. Appointment of Auditor**

No nominations had been received and the Treasurer said he would approach a non-Committee member to undertake the role.

## **8. Dates for Surdoc and Selfridges**

The Surdoc would take place on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 (on Real Bridge) and the Selfridges on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (face-to-face at Mind Sports Centre)

## **9. Playing protocol for new season**

These had been covered during discussion of the Chair's report (Item 1).

## **10. Any Other Business**

Gerry Weston asked whether kibbitzing could be allowed at matches. The Chair said that the position was as for "undos". This was not allowed under the LBHCBA competition rules and the Committee would not adjudicate if any disputes arose as a result of teams agreeing to the presence of kibitzers.

Peter Cogliatti reminded captains that new EBU White and Blue books had been issued and teams should be aware of the contents.