

# London Business Houses Contract Bridge Association

## Minutes of AGM held virtually at 6:00 pm on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Present:** Mark Hutton (MH), Alex German (AG), Andrew Kisiel(AK), Bill Linton(BL), Marina Channing Pearce (MCP) and Peter Cogliatti (PC), as members of the current Committee + a large majority of Players representing the member Clubs of LBHCBA.

Chris Chambers, Dominic Flint and Jim O'Donoghue sent apologies for being unable to attend.

### 1. Introduction and Report by the Chair

The Chair, Mark Hutton, welcomed the attendees to the meeting.

It has been a very successful season. All the matches in the various Leagues, the 2 Cups, the Summer League as well as the Surdoc and Selfridges Pairs were completed without issues arising. The Chair expressed thanks to all participating Players. The feedback from the various teams on how matches should be played was: Surdoc and Selfridges Pairs on-line; play as prefer to play (face to face, BBO or Real Bridge) with BBO the default in case of no agreement. 2 teams have dropped out of LBHCBA and as a result from the 2024/25 season, in order to balance the divisions, only 1 team by default will be promoted from each division. However it may be that a second team is also promoted. 2 teams, as hitherto, are likely to be relegated.

The Committee has been meeting virtually, approximately every 2 months. The key changes resulting from the meetings, to be presented for approval by the AGM are: amended Constitution and Policy documents and the intention to elect the Conduct Committee Chair at the first Committee meeting following the AGM. The intention is formulate a Conditions of Contest document during the coming year.

MH warmly thanked the Committee for the support during the year and particularly thanked Chris Chambers and Andrew Kisiel for the significant work done on the Constitution and Policy documents.

### 2. Minutes of 2022 AGM

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### 3. Treasurer's Report re 2022/23 Accounts

The Treasurer, Peter Cogliatti, presented the accounts. PC apologised for the error, which he will correct, namely that the accounts are to 31<sup>st</sup> July and not 31<sup>st</sup> August. There again was surplus in the year, particularly due to Selfridges Pairs being played on line and so no need for a subsidy. The trophies have yet to be engraved with the winners names, which will cost money. PC then explained that during the year the EBU woke up to the fact that LBHCBA has been undercharged the annual affiliation fees, which will effectively double from now on. As a result PC, with the approval of the Committee, proposed to increase for the 2023/24 season by £5 the affiliation fees of the LBHCBA participating Clubs. Questions were raised regarding the benefits of affiliation to EBU. PC listed some of these as: allocation of Master Points, periodic use of EBU as referees, support in case of any litigation. The Committee, and in particular Chris Chambers, often consult the EBU on matters of bridge organisation. The accounts again were not audited,

but Marina Chaning Pearce had signed them in confirmation that the figures corresponded to the bank statements. The accounts and fee increase were approved.

#### 4. 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 Alex German, Bill Linton, Chris Chambers, Marina Chaning Pearce

The Committee was elected as proposed.

#### 5. Revised Documents

The Chair explained that there had been some changes to the formulation of the Constitution and the Privacy documents since they were presented and passed at the 2021 AGM. The revised documents had been circulated to all Clubs prior to the AGM. The new documents were approved.

#### 6. Appointment of Auditor

Alex German, a chartered accountant, offered to act as and was appointed auditor.

#### 7. Trophy winners

The 2022/23 season trophy winners were:

- Division 1: Civil Service
- Division 2: Buttons 'A'
- Division 3: KPMG
- Division 4: Formtex
- Division 5: National Liberal Club
- Leslie Dodds Cup: White Rabbits
- Gainsborough Plate: Coolhurst
- SURDOC Trophy: Civil Service
- Selfridges Pairs: Robin Kennedy & Vivienne McNaughton
- Summer Handicap: Civil Service

#### 8. Dates for SURDOC and Selfridges Pairs

Both will take place on Real Bridge: SURDOC on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023; Selfridges Pairs on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

#### 9. Any Other Business

The former Formtex team, which has lost its captain, is changing its name to Polex.

Master points currently are only awarded for matches in the League – not for either of the Cups or for the Summer league.