

# London Business Houses Contract Bridge Association

## Minutes of AGM held virtually

6.00 pm on 3rd September 2025

**Present:** Mark Hutton (MH), Andrew Kisiel (AK), Bill Linton (BL), Chris Chambers (CC) and Peter Cogliatti (PC), as members of the current Committee + representatives of all clubs in the LBHCBA League other than: Balliol Alumni, Buttons A, Habeas Corpus, Home Office, RAC Speed 6 and Reform Declarers.

Alex German, as member of the Committee, and Balliol Alumni, Home Office and RAC Speed 6 had sent apologies for non-attendance.

### **1 Minutes of AGM held virtually on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

AK proposed and Konrad Mau seconded the approval of the minutes.

There were no matters arising.

### **2 Introduction and Report by the Chair**

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

It has been another successful season with few problems. 2 matches were not finished, but the lack of the associated results did not affect anything. 6 teams competed in the Surdoc, as well as in the Summer League. Regrettably Selfridges Pairs did not take place due to lack of support.

For the current season, in view of the request by some clubs, there will be 3 Divisions with the default, when no agreement is reached, to be matches on BBO and 1 Division where the default will be face to face matches.

The LBHCBA Committee met virtually on 5 occasions. Here MH thanked the Committee most sincerely for the support that he has received.

MH concluded that that he has agreed to continue as Chair for the current 4<sup>th</sup> year, but after that he wants to stand down as Chair.

### **3 Treasurer's Report re 2024/25 Accounts**

The Treasurer, Peter Cogliatti, presented the accounts. The surplus shown in the year, is greater than reality, as an invoice for £270 from ECATS only materialised in the past days and was not included in the accounts. Alex German has checked the accounts against bank statements but has yet to audit them. The accounts were approved.

There is a true balance of little over £4,000 on the accounts and the League entry fee of £20 is being halved for teams that completed their League matches by end of April 2025.

The trophies have yet to be engraved with the winners' names.

2 teams (Lavender Blue and a RAC team) have dropped out of the League and Southeasterlies have joined the League.

### **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 and new members Laura Birnhak and Jim O'Donoghue.

The Committee was elected as proposed.

## **5 Appointment of Auditor**

Alex German was re-appointed as auditor – proposed by Bill Linton and seconded by Roger Whittaker.

## **6 Trophy winners**

The 2024/25 season trophy winners were:

Division 1 Buttons 'B'

Division 2 Habeas Corpus

Division 3 Lavender Blue

Division 4 Balliol Alumni

Leslie Dodds Cup London Underground

Gainsborough Cup Buttons 'A'

SURDOC Trophy Stock Exchange

Summer League Livesey

## **7 Any Other Business**

There are currently 4 teams that have applied to compete in the SURDOC on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025. At least 2 more teams are required for the event to take place.

Konrad Mau pointed to the difficulty of organising matches in the Summer League, due to the narrowness of the time window. MH replied that the Committee will endeavour to start the League earlier in May 2026.

Gerry Weston referred to a situation that arose in one of the matches, in that one of the opposition team members was 1¼ hours late. The present penalties on the LBHCBA web site appear inadequate. MH replied that the Committee will consider the issue at its next meeting.

AK, on behalf of the Committee, warmly thanked MH for the hard work he has put in to make LBHCBA a success.