



MINUTES

1. Attendees

- a) **Present:** James Smith (JS, Chairman), Brian Callaghan (BC, Treasurer), Heather Dhondy (HD), Chris Duckworth (CD), Mike Hill (MH), Shireen Mohandes (SM), David Muller (DM), Lorinda Muller (LM), Kath Stynes (KS)
- b) **Proxies:**
- c) **Apologies:** Jonathan Lillycrop (JL), Sati McKenzie (SMc)

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM

DM pointed out an error in Item 10 – “JS” should read “DF”. With this amendment, the minutes were accepted.

3. Matter Arising from 2019 Minutes

None.

4. Chairman's Report

“I make no apologies for starting this year's report with the Committee. I am delighted to say that we have three new additions: Heather Dhondy, Shireen Mohandes and Sue Buchan who has taken over the organization of the London Leagues. To all three, a big thanks and welcome. Sadly, I also have to report that we are losing two other Members: Jonathan Lillycrop who is moving up to Durham, though he will keep his role as Chief TD for London; we wish him well. And most regrettably of all, Kath Stynes who is resigning as our Secretary. Kath joined the Committee in 2013 and took over the role of County Secretary in 2017 and has been utterly indispensable. I will be very sorry to see her go and her role will be a very hard one to replace. Any volunteers? I am relieved to say that for the time being she will continue to organize the Lederer, an additional responsibility she took on in 2019. Not content with her duties for us, she has found time to aim for international success and was a member of the 2023 winning Lady Milne team. Many congratulations and best wishes for all you take on in the future.

Our activities over the past twelve months include another successful Lederer competition at the RAC Club, two annual Café Bridge events, one in The Tonsleys (which raised £1783 for our nominated charity this year, Medecins sans Frontieres) and the other most recently in Chiswick which has just raised £2000; a range of other competitions: London Congress, London League, Mixed Pairs, Championship Pairs, Championship Teams, No Fear Pairs, and Garden City heats – all somewhat smaller than pre-pandemic levels but nevertheless still viable events. The London Tollemache team did not qualify this year and there seems little interest from London players in competing in national Inter-County Pairs or Teams (Corwen Trophy or Pachabo).

The achievements of some of our members have been recognized in 2023, namely:

EBU Gold Award to Heather Dhondy
EBU Dimmie Fleming Award to Sati McKenzie
EBU Tony Priday Award to Shireen Mohandes
International Bridge Press Association Award for Junior Deal of 2022 to Ben Norton

Other London members have done very well in various national and international events and worthy of note are the following:

- David Gold won the Vanderbilt at the ACBL Spring Nationals
- The 2023 winning Camrose Team featured 7 London players out of 12 team members over the 2 weekends
- In the 2022 Premier League, the Teams coming 1st and 2nd in Division 1, 1st and 2nd in Division 2 and 1st in Division 3 were all predominantly London players.

But I will finish where I started. The LMBA Committee is now fairly elderly and somewhat creaking and we desperately need new blood. If anyone reading this feels they have what it takes and would like to join us please don't hesitate to get in touch. I wish all members much joy and success in the forthcoming twelve

months.”

5. Treasurer’s Report

BC had circulated accounts for the previous financial year, along with comparisons for the current year to date. He reported that the LMBA was doing well financially, partly because of the continuing post-covid rise in attendances in our events, and also because the Tolle team’s failure to qualify for the finals had significantly reduced our outgoings on their expenses.

The current bank balance was approx. £14,200, but this includes two large sums due to be paid out:

- £2,000 due to be paid to Medecins sans Frontieres, the sum raised for the charity from the recent Café Bridge event, in Chiswick
- £1080 in sponsorship of 6 London schoolchildren to the EBU Youth Camp in September 2023. This sponsorship had been agreed because our funds currently permitted it, but was made on a without-prejudice basis, and would not necessarily be repeated. It was however agreed to have been worthwhile and a photo of the children who benefitted would be posted on the LMBA website.

6. Adoption of accounts for 2019

The accounts were adopted nem con.

7. Subscriptions for 2024-2025

London UM subs remain as for some time at 8p per player per session. The meeting gave the committee the option to change the UM amount by +/- 2p if necessary.

8. Elections to Executive Committee

Three people who had been co-opted onto the committee during the last year were formally elected – Sue Buchan, Heather Dhondy and Shireen Mohandes. It was noted that there are still vacancies should others be interested in serving.

9. Appointment of honorary auditor

The Treasurer had spoken to Andrew Clery (AC) about the possibility of him taking on the task of reviewing the county’s accounts, a formal audit no longer being necessary. AC had agreed in principle and BC agreed to pursue the implementation of this.

10. EBU Shareholders’ report

It was noted that Ian Payn had recently stood down as EBU Chairman and Adrian Darnell was now EBU Chair. The Chair of the Selection Committee had also recently stood down and David Bakhshi had now taken on this role. JS would be attending the EBU County Chairmen’s Meeting the following day, and would have more information thereafter.

11. Any other business

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 7.40pm..