



MINUTES

1. Attendees

a) **Present:** James Smith (JS, Chairman), Brian Callaghan (BC), Chris Duckworth (CD), Steve Eginton (SE), Mike Hill (MH), Sati McKenzie (SM), David Muller (DM), Kath Stynes (KS), Dominic Flint, Lorinda Muller, Steven Paull

b) **Proxies:** Martin Baker, Athena Chow, Carrie Eden, Mike Eden, Chantal Girardin, Alex Hannon, Gitte Hecht-Johansen, Mark Lehto, Victor Lesk, Jonathan Lillycrop, Martin Nygren, Debbie Sandford, Nick Sandqvist, Carla Sidney-Woollett, Lorna Vestey

2. Minutes of 2021 AGM

The minutes were accepted.

3. Matter Arising from 2021 Minutes

None.

4. Chairman's Report

"Since I have only sat in this chair for less than six months, I am still feeling my way into it but in that time I have become aware of the enormous pressures facing me and the challenges that are facing the LMBA and the Bridge world in general. F2F Bridge is making a welcome if tentative return but it is also clear that on-line Bridge is here to stay and that poses many problems with particular regard to the possibilities of cheating. I have been playing a lot of my Bridge over the last ten years in France where for reasons that I cannot fathom, the headache appears to be much greater. Perhaps it is something to do with the sheer geographical size of the country and its many and diverse regions or maybe the authorities were slower off the mark. Whatever, the EBU has had its hands full dealing with an unprecedented workload.

I am happy to report that the Lederer returned this year with great success and a dramatic outcome and Café Bridge also returned after a two-year absence and appears to be as popular as ever.

The London Tollemache team won their on-line qualifying heat in November 2021 in fine style ending nearly 3 matches clear of the second placed team in their group. Sad to report that things didn't go quite as well in the final.

London achieved its best result for many years in the Pachabo, the team of Ollie Burgess, Susanna Gross, Phil King and Kevin Kastner finishing second to Middlesex.

London players have been very successful internationally. My congratulations to all of them.

- 7 of the 12 members of the England team in the 2022 Camrose were from London;
- 4 of the 6 members of the England team in the 2022 Bermuda Bowl were from London;
- all 6 of the 6 members of the England team in the 2022 European Championships were from London.

I am sad to note the passing of Cecil Leighton, aged 92. I had the pleasure of working alongside him, helping with the London Trophy. He was a lovely man and worked tirelessly for the game.

From my new perspective, I am now more than ever concerned about the administration of our game. I am indebted to my colleagues on the LMBA and all the hours that they all put in but it is also clear that we are an ageing demographic and we need new blood to take us forward so I make no apologies for appealing in this document to any Londoner out there who would like to get involved and feel they have something to offer to the game. Please get in touch in any way that suits you best.

I intend to remain a Shareholder and attend EBU meetings for the foreseeable future but over time something may have to give and I shall review the situation and my position as and when I see fit.

I wish all London Bridge players a happy and successful twelve months at the Bridge table."

5. Treasurer's Report

BC presented the latest accounts. The situation is about the same as last year – we have a cash balance of £13,480 but that includes money needed for Café Bridge costs. Congress profit was about £800 – (though question if that included UM contributions and Green Point costs).

ACTION: BC to contact Mike Scoltock and get the accounts from 2018 onwards reviewed.

6. Adoption of Accounts for 2020

Approved subject to audit/review by Mike Scoltock.

7. Subscriptions (direct and UM) for 2022-2023

Our only charges are the 8p UM. We restarted the collection of this in 2022 having waived it for several quarters during COVID. AGM gave committee the option to change the county UM by +/- 2p.

8. Elections to Executive Committee

Sue Buchan has agreed to join the EC.

John Williamson has provisionally agreed to join – pending his retirement this year.

We have spare places so no need for anyone to stand down but we should have a list of the member seniority.

ACTION: KS to draw up the seniority list

9. Appointment of honorary auditor

DF proposed Mike Scoltock, KS seconded. All in agreement.

10. EBU Shareholders' report

Shareholders reported that cheating incidences are decreasing. EBU finances are viable. There is a Chairman's meeting later this month – JS will report back.

With the departure of JS we have a vacancy for our 3rd shareholder.

11. Any other business

None