

**Minutes of the Manchester County Bridge Association**

**Annual General Meeting**

**on Thursday 29th June 2023 Held at Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme Bridge Centre and Online via Zoom (hybrid meeting)**

**Present**

Irene Davies (chair), Alan Mould (secretary), Joy Blakey, Adam Wiseberg, Paul Murray, Kevin Comrie, Celia Comrie, Alec Smalley, Susan Triggs, Eve Lighthill, Anne Richardson, Bernard Kaye, Moira Bloomfield, Rhona Goldenfield, Bill Bentley, Jeff Smith, Ann Thornton, Graham Winn, John Roberts, Annie Naylor, Michael Byrne, Royce Alexander.

1. **Apologies**

Rodney, Lighton, Roger Hopton, Barbara Lewis, Joan Lewis, John Holland, Howard Rosemarine, Irving Blakey,

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting (EGM) held 23rd June 2022 online via Zoom**

The minutes were presented to the meeting.

1. **Accuracy and Matters Arising**
   1. Accuracy

Accepted as a true and correct record.

* 1. Matters Arising

None not dealt with during the year.

1. **Reports from the Officers**
   1. Chair Irene Davies

**State of Play**

Bridge in the County is still in a recovery period following COVID. Clubs are slowly

increasing their numbers of players at Face-to-face sessons, while online numbers

seem to be falling. A similar process is taking place at County events. But On-line

bridge is clearly an option that is here to stay. Most clubs have a mixture of both

F2F and online sessions and the County’s leagues and cups have mostly been

played online. The EBU’s events are also a mixture of both. This is the reality we

face. It does make life difficult for the County and clubs as the bridge population

seems to be divided into those who only want to play online, those who only want to play F2F and those who only want to play.

We will have to see how this develops over the coming year but at present it seems best to be flexible in our organisation of events.

**Tollemache**

Manchester won the Tollemache Cup. It’s the most prestigious national teams event run by the EBU, involving all the Counties. It’s the first time that Manchester as a separate county has won the event. Well done and long overdue.

**Teaching Beginners**

I am glad to report that more teaching of beginners is taking place this year. We

now have beginners being taught at Manchester BC, Ashton BC, Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme Bridge Centre as well as by individual teachers in the County.

Trafford BCs are also planning to restart their Beginners teaching programme.

Improvers lessons are also taking place in a number of clubs. The hard work of

turning learners into club members and attenders at duplicate sessions is the next

target. Manchester BC is a model for this transition.

**Worries**

• The falling numbers in the League and Higson Cup is a real concern. The drop in

numbers seem to be equally from all divisions. Most matches are being played online. We need to put in a big effort this year to see if we can increase the number of teams in the league and cup and if this is not successful we will have to rethink our whole plan around the League and Higson Cup.

• There is also a concern among the stronger players in Manchester that the EBU

has put so many competitions online. This has been done largely for financial reasons but has led to a reduction in the numbers of good players playing in National Competitions. (As seen in the recent Corwen Trophy). This is also the case for the Northern Bridge League and the Presidents Cup, where we are finding difficulty in organising a real A team.

• We do not have a Youth and Schools organiser at the moment. This has been a difficult area of work for the last few years but one that is surely essential to the survival of bridge.

**Tournament Directors**

The County is organising a Tournament Directors Course in the Autumn at Trafford BC. This is in response from requests from a number of clubs.

**Members sub-committee**

A new members sub-committee has been set up to improve the executive’s communication with clubs and the members and to reach out to the unaffiliated

clubs. See a separate report from the Subcommittee.

**EBU Chairs meetings**

I have attended a number of these online meetings over the past year. (Thanks to

Alan Mould for standing in for me when I couldn’t attend).

They are now chaired, and the agenda organised by the Counties so are not as top down as they were previously. Good practice and initiatives from clubs are aired such as Norfolk engaging with the libraries sector to have bridge lessons in libraries, or how chess is organised in primary schools. But there doesn’t seem to be an overall EBU strategy to develop the game. So I find these meetings somewhat frustrating.

**Succession (Not the TV series)**

My thanks have to go to the people who run the County. They are all volunteers who give up their time to ensure that bridge can be enjoyed by the players in the County. Unfortunately, none of us are getting any younger (though MGB thinks he is) and there is a need to recruit new people to help organise bridge in the County. So, we are happy to involve anyone who feels they can give up a little bit of their time to help.

On this note I would particularly like to thank Eve Lighthill for her many years as President of the Association. Eve was already a stalwart of Manchester bridge when I started playing in 2002. We thank you for all your service to the Count and trust you will keep playing for many more years yet.

* 1. Secretary Alan Mould

Another extremely quiet period in terms of my secretary duties. The Executive has met only once in this year, and Council has met twice as usual. There has been the usual trickle of correspondence from the EBU.

My main business for the County has been chairing the Constitution Revision Group, and I am grateful to Howard Rosemarine and Alec Smalley for their work on that. The redrafted constitution is a major agenda item.

* 1. Treasurer Joy Blakey

I attach for your consideration a copy of the accounts (and the notes relating thereto) together with the Audit report, for the financial year ending 31st March 2023.

Whilst the County’s finances are fairly static, I have to report a loss this year of £1,755. There are several contributary factors and considering them all we have actually done remarkably well:-

a) League entries were down by two thirds providing income of only £916.

b) We had Tollemache expenses of £1,000 where there were none for a few years when played online.

c) Advertising in local newspapers trying to attract beginners - £591.

d) We again had no income from UMS contributions.

After discussions with our Accountant and my Executive, I have taken the step of closing our Skipton Building Society account where interest rates have been very poor for several years. Also, and with the approval of the Cantor Family, I have taken the Cantor Fund money, added to our BS money and some money from our current account, to apply for a One Year Fixed Rate Bond. This application has been accepted and the Bond will yield £595 by this time next year. Naturally, we still have enough working capital in our current account.

I am proposing that we re-introduce the 7p UMS from the 2024-25 year in order to stabilise the finances. This is the same level as our UMS pre-Covid and lockdown.

In the pursuit of face-to-face bridge, I hope that all our affiliated clubs and our County events will start to see an increase in attendances – this will not only improve our social health and wellbeing but the continued financial success of the clubs and the county.

I thank Howard Stubbings, our Honourary Accountant, for his continued support and producing the Accounts, and Peter Green, our Honourary Auditor, for the audit thereof.

**Comments**

ID spoke to club’s figures. 7p would give the association £3630. Cost to MBC would be about £480, Bramhall £481, Ashton £604, Larkhill £230.

AS asked if there was an arrangement whereby some clubs could pay UMS but not others. JB felt this was not possible but would check with the EBU.

**Action:** JB to check whether a variable UMS is possible

AR said that Larkhill is currently loss making. Already absorbed EBU UMS. This is extra. Larkhill no longer has any premises in which to place.

We could look to give rebates to clubs that are struggling. JS felt this would create severe administrative issues.

AM questioned whether a smaller UMS, say 5p, would be viable.

**Vote:** To apply 7p UMS for 2024-25 and clubs can apply for a rebate. The Executive will put in place measures to deal with this.

**Passed nem com**

* 1. Membership Secretary Alan Mould

I have in previous reports given caveats concerning the value of the membership data given the very slow return to F2F bridge. Given that the pandemic is now 2 years past its peak, I feel more confident in the figures, though that is based on a gut instinct rather than any actual analysis.

I give below the data from the EBU as of 15th November 2020, as of 23rd February 2021, as of 19th October 2021, as of 8th May 2022 and as of 7th May 2023.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Member** | **Total**  **15/11/2020** | **Total 23/02/2021** | **Total**  **19/10/2021** | **Total**  **8/05/2022** | **Total**  **07/05/2023** |
| P2P | **1405** | **1396** | **1435** | **1485** | **1307** |
| Direct members | **44** | **45** | **42** | **39** | **31** |
| Students  (People on the EBED register as learning bridge) | **21** | **20** | **0** | **5** | **39** |
| Total from spreadsheet | **1470** | **1461** | **1477** | **1529** | **1377** |

The obvious notable feature of this data is that total numbers are down by 152 from last year and exactly 100 from the year before. Frankly, this does not surprise me as numbers “normalise” post pandemic and members have left clubs or not renewed membership. I see this as a clear reflection of the reduced numbers in club games and at county events. I strongly suspect this pattern of reduced numbers is repeated across the country. The number of MCBA affiliated clubs has remained constant at

Dealing only with the data of 7th May 2023, of the 1377 members, 1307 are Pay to Play, 31 chose to be Direct members and 39 are student members on the first year of a student course. I strongly suspect one of these has been mis-coded as she lives in Newcastle and her only registered club is Whitley Bay and Tynemouth! Of the 1377 members, 1327 have primary allegiance to MCBA and 50 secondary allegiance. Of the 50 secondary allegiance, all bar one are P2P, with the 1 direct member living way outside the county boundaries.

Under the EBED category the following are listed:

* 16 people listed as “EBTA” (ie teachers) which is a pleasing increasing of 3 from last year (though still well down from the height of 28 pre-pandemic), all of which are Pay to Play. However, one has a club of primary allegiance outside of the area (Deva).
* 39 people are listed as “BFA Year 1”, the same 39 as listed as a category of “Student”.
* All others are listed as “None” under the EBED category

The data download from the EBU includes details of NGS grade and MP rank. The AGM may be interested to know that the county has 4 members who are ace of spades, 41 members who are aces (down from 51 last year), though 11 are secondary members, and 18 premier grand masters (up from 17 last year), though 6 of these are secondary members.

**Club Numbers**

I have given the MCBA primary clubs and numbers below. Clubs will obviously have their own records, but I thought people might be interested to see what the EBU records show. There are actually 58 bridge clubs listed as primary in the spreadsheet scattered all over the country. This is the result of Adam enrolling people as members of MCBA when they play in our online events. I have thus ignored everything except the MCBA affiliated clubs and simply listed the numbers in them. This does mean of course that the total is NOT 1377 since all of the “other” clubs are missing. I give the number as of 23rd June 2021, as of 8th May 2022 and as of 7th May 2023 for comparison.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Primary Club** | **Number**  **23/06/2021** | **Number**  **08/05/2022** | **Number**  **07/05/2023** |
| Adam Wiseberg Bridge Club | **27** | **52** | **65** |
| Altrincham Bridge Club | **217** | **217** | **115** |
| Ashton and District Bridge Club | **105** | **106** | **83** |
| Besses O’Th’barn Bridge Club | **45** | **47** | **41** |
| Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme Bridge Centre | **125** | **110** | **146** |
| Chorley Monday Bridge Club | **-** | **80** | **85** |
| Larkhill Bridge Club | **-** | **53** | **63** |
| Manchester Bridge Club | **206** | **219** | **227** |
| Marple Duplicate Bridge Club | **74** | **74** | **48** |
| Prestbury Duplicate Bridge Club | **69** | **69** | **61** |
| Stretford Bridge Club | **74** | **73** | **78** |
| Trafford Bridge Club | **273** | **273** | **168** |
| **Total** | **1215** | **1373** | **1180** |

The most striking feature of these numbers is the huge drop in primary numbers at all of Altrincham, Marple and Trafford clubs, with numbers not far off dropping by 50% in each case. I have no idea whether this is a real drop, or poor data. The clubs presumably do know.

In addition, we have 60 primary members listed as no club, but of these 39 are the student members given above and 21 are Direct members. The other 10 direct members are scattered amongst MCBA affiliated and other clubs.

Of the members who list a primary club, 326 also list a secondary club, sometimes several. Usually these are MCBA affiliated clubs, but not always, with clubs such as Bury Athenaeum or Preston featuring.

**Comments**

ID reported that Joan Lewis said that the number for ABC are likely to be correct.

AS said afternoon sessions are popular.

* 1. League Secretary Adam Wiseberg

The new season was to run from October to the end of May 2023 with the default being online but an option for teams to play their matches face to face if both teams were willing to do so.

During the season a few matches were played face to face but the most were played online, usually on the BBO platform.

There were five divisions of which three had with 9 teams whilst Divisions 1 & 5 had 8 teams. Unfortunately, one team subsequently withdrew from Div 5,

Division winners were:

* Div 1 Inverted Minors
* Div 2 St Titus
* Div 3 Ashton Aces
* Div 4 Rubber Soul
* Div 5 The Enigmas

Two matches in each of Divisions 1, 2 and 4 remained unplayed and were scored using the Mould formula.

Royce Alexander has agreed to take over the running of the league for 2023-4 and I wish him success and will provide any assistance he needs.

**Comments**

ID spoke to AW’s tireless work during Covid and afterwards in organising the League. Really important in keeping bridge going in Manchester. MCBA has sent AW a bottle of whisky as a thank you.

* 1. Higson Cup Secretary Paul Beckwith

No report.

**Comments**

ID stated that the Higson Cup has declined badly in numbers. MGB pointed out that this was more or less in the same proportion as the league, the decline in club membership and the decline in entries to EBU events.

A straw poll was taken about the handicap system, and it was pretty even between who was strongly in favour, who was strongly against and those who were indifferent.

It was agreed that we need to get more teams in both league and Cup.

* 1. Goldstone Trophy Secretary Roger Hopton

No report.

* 1. Green Point Secretary Rhona Goldenfield

GP Teams July 2022 we had 15 teams face to face. The winners were Rodney Lighton Michael Byrne Sally Brock and Barry Myers.

Pairs in March 2023 30 pairs winners Stephen Lloyd and David Smith from Merseyside.

We made a profit of £107.

We decided to give out prizes despite the lower number of participants and keep the entry fee the same at £20.

Stuart Davies directed.

July this year there are only 8 teams entered so far. I keep sending out emails but the response is very slow. I hope by the time of the AGM we have had many more entries.

Stuart Davies is directing.

I don’t think we should increase the entry fee as it is difficult to compete with online events.

I have booked St Peters for both events next year.

* 1. Tournament Secretary Michael Byrne

This was my first year as Tournament Secretary and as such I start with thanks to everyone that has helped, and in some cases run the events as I was out of the country.

The Ben Franks was held on December 4th 2022 at Manchester Bridge Club. Lateness in announcing the date meant that only 12 pairs took part, the event was won by Alec and Barbara.

My thanks to Vera Lowson and her team at Manchester Bridge Club for hosting the event well.

This year it will be held on Sunday December 3rd, and I hope to get a much bigger entry.

The Gazette Trophy was held on Sunday 5th February at Bramhall and Cheadle Bridge Centre. Only 3 of our clubs put in teams, but with Manchester putting in 4, BCBC putting in 3 and Altrincham putting in 2 the event was well attended with 9 teams.

Sadly a medical emergency on the day meant there were directorial problems and a seemingly accidental issue with the computer slowed the scoring down, but the players pulled together and thanks to a lot of work from Alec and others a winner was eventually announced.

On the plus side everyone seemed to enjoy the food that was provided as a complimentary bonus.

The Cantor Cup was held on Sunday February 26th at Manchester Bridge Club, 14 pairs took part the winners were Chris and Tammy Lin.

My thanks to Susan Triggs and her team at Manchester Bridge Club who ran the event on the day and helped generate publicity for it.

In addition the other competitions that Manchester runs (The Goldstone trophy, Higson Cup, Green Point events) all ran well, these will be covered by the individual secretary’s reports.

My hope is that we will attempt to hold the events on the same day each year (First Sunday of Dec for Ben Franks, First Sunday of Feb for Gazette, Last Sunday in Feb for Cantor Cup) and this way everyone will know in advance and be able to plan effectively.

**Comments**

ID spoke to the charity event held at Larkhill. Raised £700 for charity. Gordon Bickley is hoping to run a charity event at Ashton in conjunction with the County. These are a replacement for our intermediate events.

JS asked about a Jack high event as they seemed to get big entries. AS responded that our intermediate events were about jack high, but we could not run them since Covid. However, a jack high event was worth looking at.

**Action:** MGB to look at running a jack high event.

JB said that there were many players in golf clubs who we should reach out to. AS felt that this was not viable.

ST said Cantor Cup is about players who have learnt in the last couple of years.

ID spoke to the need to break down barriers between the County and the unaffiliated clubs. Have to build links.

* 1. Congress Secretary Barbara Lewis

**January 2023**

The Congress was held on-line (RealBridge) for the third year: January 7th and 8th. The Pairs attracted 38 pairs (46 in 2022), and the Teams 12 teams (21 in 2022). Half the players were from MCBA proposed single session non-expert competitions were combined into one session of 8 pairs on Sunday. A quiz was organised by Michael.

The organising of the weekend and directing was excellent. Thanks to Joy for taking all the entries and to Adam for all the tasks involved in directing. Entry fees per person were kept to a minimum - £10/£11 and £4. Even so, the weekend was profitable for MCBA – adding approx. £700 to reserves.

However, it was subsequently agreed at a meeting of the MCBA Executive that an on-line Congress has now run its course and that the Congress should return to face-to-face.

**January 2024**

The Congress has been booked with the EBU with a licence for January 6th (Pairs) and January 7th (Teams) 2024. It is on the EBU calendar as Face to Face – black pointed.

*Venue and organisation.* The executive discussed various venues including Altrincham bridge club and hotels in Manchester and Cheshire. Also, it was agreed that MCBA no longer has ‘what it takes’ to put the package together: eg organising boards, booking van hire and collection of furniture and equipment from several places, set up/break down, hiring TDs, appropriate advertising, etc. Consequently, it was agreed to enlist the assistance of a professional tournament organiser who would do all of the above work. As a result, Oliver Cowan agreed to organise all aspects of the Congress, has carried out research and costings and the Cresta Court hotel in Altrincham has been booked as the venue. Alec signed the contract with the Cresta Court and asked Meghan to e-mail Joy for the £250.00 deposit.

**Comments**

JB said deposit has been paid.

Suggested fees are £25 for 1 day and £45 for both days.

We need to market it as of now.

* 1. Chair of Selectors (Adam Wiseberg, chair, and John Roberts, sec)

The current committee is Adam Wiseberg (Chairman), John Roberts (Secretary), Catherine Draper, Roger Hopton and Rodney Lighton. All members except Rodney Lighton are prepared to stand for next year. Alec Smalley has indicated that he would be prepared to stand in place of Rodney.

Since the last report to the AGM in May 2022, the Selection Committee has been involved with the following:

***Tollemache Qualifier***

The Committee selected a team for the Tollemache Qualifier. The event was played on-line on the Realbridge platform on the weekend of Nov 12th/13th 2022. The selected pairs were :

Holland/Hassett

Byrne/Smalley

Draper/Woodcock

Lighton/Mould

The Manchester team finished second in their group and thus qualified for the final, which was held face to face on February 18th / 19th 2023 in Stratford. The team selected for the final was :

Holland/Mould

Slater/Smalley

Draper/Woodcock

Byrne/Hassett

The selectors are pleased to report that Manchester, for the first time in 36 years, finally won the event. They won all of their matches and finished well ahead of Middlesex with an average VP score of 16 per match. All players were above average on the cross imps. The Committee extends its congratulations to all the players.

***Corwen Trophy***

The Ben Franks Trophy is the qualifying event for this. The top four pairs with Manchester allegiance qualify and in the event of non-availability the next highest placed pair qualify, with the proviso that they must have scored at least 50% in the Ben Franks qualifier. Because of the relatively small field in the Ben Franks and the unavailability of some qualifying pairs for the Corwen it was only possible to enter 3 pairs to play in the event which was played over the weekend of 3rd/4th June. The qualifying pairs were :

Kath Nelson and Rhona Goldenfield

Eddie Thornton-Chan and Tony Hodgson

Martin Taylor and Justin Hackett

Justin and Martin were the highest placed Manchester pair finishing 22nd out of 87 pairs.

***Presidents Cup***

The Committee has determined the availabilities of players and has selected for the Presidents Cup which will be held on-line over two days on June 24/25 2023 on the RealBridge platform. Because of the low availability of players, Manchester is fielding only one team this year. The teams selected for the two days were :

**24th June**

Paul Murray & Andrew Woodcock

Tony Hodgson & Eddie Thornton-Chan

John Stell & Steve Allen

John Roberts & Royce Alexander

**25th June**

Paul Murray & Andrew Woodcock

Tony Hodgson & Eddie Thornton-Chan

Pearl Fielding & Mike Hart

Roger Hopton & Dave Fussell

***Inter-County National Bridge League Finals***

Manchester won both the A and B Divisions and finished 4th in the C Division of the Northern Bridge league last year. As a result teams from the A and B pool will play in the Inter-County National Finals on June 18th 2023. The event will be played on the RealBridge platform.

The teams selected to play are :

A Team

Ray Semp & Gary Hyett

Joy & Irving Blakey

Phil Taylor & Josh Clarke

Kath Nelson & Rhona Goldenfield

B Team

Mike Hart & Pearl Fielding

Tony Hodgson & Eddie Thornton Chan

Irene Davies & Karen Reissmann

Pauline Lang & Steve Mattinson

***Northern Bridge League***

The Northern Bridge League is set to continue on-line during the months of July to October 2023. Selection for the first two of these matches is in progress.

**Comments**

JR pointed out that little selection now took place as the Committee now struggled to get players at any level to play in events. AW had to do a lot of ringing round to get a C team out at all.

AS is not surprised at the reduction in people wanting to play in online events. Should go back to F2F. MGB concurred.

HK pointed out that it was no longer viable to have the NBL F2F because they had teams like Scotland in it.

JB said perhaps an afternoon start would be better.

* 1. Match Secretary (Adam Wiseberg)

Subsumed into Selection Committee report above.

* 1. EBU Shareholders Alec Smalley, Jeff Morris, Alan Mould

No report received.

* 1. Publicity Officer Susan Triggs

There is a limited amount to report in terms of publicity activity in the last 12 months. The MCBA online team continue to do a great job of publicising the MCBA duplicates and events. They can send out the information to all members along with updates which is very helpful.

Members are now returning to play F2F at our local clubs. Most local clubs are currently offering more F2F sessions and generally less online games than 12 months ago. Few clubs have returned to their pre-pandemic timetables and bridge offers but many are close to previous levels. A key priority for publicity must still be about attracting new players to our clubs, as well as encouraging previous players to return.

We are now at the time when we should be preparing to publicise Bridge lessons over the summer, and I will contact the Secretaries of all the Bridge Clubs in MCBA to get details of any plans they have to run beginner’s lessons in September. Currently, Ashton, Bramhall/Cheadle and Manchester Bridge Clubs will be running lessons in September and Trafford/Sale BC also hope to. Jenny Morris is running a range of courses including a beginner’s course.

As part of my role with Manchester Bridge Club I am organising publicity with a local newspaper. If we join their network and agree to advertise in their paper, they will publish good news articles about our club in each of their editions for the next 12 months. This, or something similar, may be available to other clubs via their local community newspapers.

My priorities for publicity this year are:

1. Re-contacting as many bridge teachers and clubs as possible to find out what opportunities they will be offering for beginners to learn to play bridge from September 2023 onwards. There are still limited opportunities to learn bridge F2F currently in our area but hopefully this will increase by September. People want to learn to play bridge and we are missing an opportunity by not having more courses available for beginners. Just for info I have currently finished 2 courses for beginners at Manchester Bridge Club (25 new members) and have interest from 25+ people already for the courses in September.
2. Publicising clubs’ current offers via updating the teacher’s information on the MCBA website (with Rodney’s assistance).
3. Supporting the work of the Member’s Sub Committee
4. Finding a way to get trained/more skilled in the use of social media – is there any-one who could help me improve my skills?

Last year I had a small budget (£250) for advertising for beginner’s lessons. If the Executive wish to spend any money on advertising this year, I’d suggest the budget is given directly to clubs who commit to running beginner’s lessons in September 2023.

**Comments**

ST says she will prioritise getting in touch with golf clubs.

AS thanked ST on behalf of B&CHBC as 30 new players have joined the beginners classes.

* 1. Schools, Youth & Teachers Liaison Post Vacant

No report.

* 1. Webmaster Rodney Lighton

The MCBA website receives about 45 visits per day currently.

This is down to about 80-85% of the level that it was before lockdown.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to the Deal of the Week feature.

**Comments**

EG is taking over the bridgewebs website.

JS asked why we had two websites rather than one. This matter was deferred to the Executive.

4.17 Members Sub-Committee



1. **Player of the Year and League Division Winners**

The Player of the Year has been won by:

* Expert Category: Rodney Lighton
* Non-expert Category: Barbara Eastabrook and Karen Jones

The League was online by default and had 5 divisions. The winners were:

* Division 1 Inverted Minors
* Division 2 St. Titus
* Division 3 Ashton Aces
* Division 4 Rubber Soul
* Division 5 The Enigmas

1. **Constitution Redraft**
   1. Motion 1

That the Constitution redraft is accepted by the AGM in its entirety.

Proposed: Alan Mould Seconded: Howard Rosemarine

EL: Was against abolition of Council and against proxy voting.

JS: Raised a number of technical points concerning the redraft. JS to email AM concerning these.

ID stated that she was against proxy voting but would not put in an amendment or vote against the redraft because of this.

ID and JB both felt that Council was not working and had had its day.

Vote: 9 in favour, against: 2, Abstain: 9

Since the vote did not meet the 2/3rd of members positive voting for the change the motion failed.

1. **Election of President**

ID spoke of EL’s work for MCBA over the years. MCBA have given EL a book token as a thank you for her service.

Kevin Comrie was elected unopposed.

KC said it was a pleasure and an honour to be appointed.

1. **Election of Executive**

AM pointed that with the Constitution redraft falling, it followed that 8.10 Higson Cup Secretary and 8.11 Goldstone Trophy Secretary were not part of the Executive but were officers of the Association instead

* 1. Chair

Irene Davies was elected unopposed.

* 1. Vice-chair

Alec Smalley was elected unopposed.

* 1. Secretary

AM stated he was no longer prepared to do anything for any Council meetings and would therefore only accept a nomination for Secretary if that was acceptable to the AGM. The AGM accepted this, and Alan Mould was elected unopposed.

* 1. Treasurer

Joy Blakey was elected unopposed.

* 1. Membership Secretary

Alan Mould was elected unopposed.

* 1. League Secretary

Royce Alexander was elected unopposed.

* 1. Green Point Secretary

Rhona Goldenfield was elected unopposed.

* 1. Tournament Secretary

Michael Byrne was elected unopposed.

* 1. Congress Secretary

Barbara Lewis was elected unopposed.

* 1. Higson Cup secretary

Paul Beckwith was elected unopposed.

* 1. Goldstone Trophy Secretary

Roger Hopton was elected unopposed.

1. **Election of Other Officers** 
   1. EBU Shareholders

Alec Smalley, Jeff Morris and Alan Mould were elected unopposed.

* 1. Publicity Officer

Susan Triggs was elected unopposed.

* 1. Schools, Youth and Teachers Liaison Officer

No appointment

* 1. Webmaster

Rodney Lighton was elected unopposed.

* 1. Accountant and Auditor

Howard Stubbings was elected as accountant.

On the advice of Peter Green the auditor, the requirement for an audit was dropped. The meeting thanked Peter for his work as auditor.

* 1. Handbook Editor

A hard copy handbook has not been produced this Covid. The meeting decided that a handbook editor was therefore no longer necessary. Graham Winn and Susan Triggs were thanked for their work on this in the past.

* 1. Selection Committee

Adam Wiseberg, Roger Hopton, John Roberts, Catherine Draper, and Alec Smalley were elected unopposed.

* 1. Conduct Committee

Alec Smalley, Michael Byrne, Kevin Comrie and Alan Mould were elected unopposed.

The Committee has no fixed size.

* 1. Disciplinary Committee

Joy Blakey and Rodney Lighton were elected unopposed.

John Holland and Espen Gisvold had not replied to a request from the secretary to confirm they would continue.

The Committee has no fixed size.

* 1. Tournament Committee

This is an open committee, so no elections are necessary. The Committee has not met since before Covid.

**Comments**

**Action:** AM to confirm with John Holland and Espen Gisvold that they are prepared to continue as members of the Disciplinary Committee.

1. **Motions tabled Before the AGM**

None received.

1. **MCBA Events in 2023-24 (Face to Face or Online)**
   1. League

MGB spoke to the league. Default is currently online. MGB wants it to be F2F. AS agreed with this.

RA felt we should keep it default online at the moment but was prepared to run a F2F league if that is what the membership wanted.

AS suggested running a F2F and an online league.

JB and PM felt that we should ask the members what they wanted.

MGB suggested not having a default.

ID stated that we needed to be flexible.

A heated debate about online versus F2F ensued.

**Proposed:** To send out a survey to ALL members. This was agreed.

All other competitions were not discussions and so will be de facto decided by the Executive.

* 1. Higson Cup and Plate
  2. Goldstone Trophy
  3. Ben Franks Trophy
  4. Green Point Events
  5. Congress
  6. Intermediate events including the Cantor Cup
  7. Gazette Trophy
  8. Other Events

1. **Any Other Business**

BK asked about the position of defaults and the rulings of the league secretary. AM responded that there was already an appeal against the League Secretary’s ruling in the CoC of the League. BK proposed that a committee be set up to support the League Secretary. The meeting seemed to be in favour of this.

The meeting thanked JB for purchasing the microphone/speaker. This was an excellent piece of equipment that enables everyone online to hear everyone F2F and vice versa. It made a hybrid meeting viable.

1. **Date and venue of next AGM (Hybrid)**

A vote of thanks was given to the chair.

Meeting ended 21:35.