

WILTSHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Westinghouse on Tuesday 8th May 2012

In attendance: Messrs J Bourne (Chairman), R Ludlow (Secretary), T Headlong (Treasurer), A Gladwell (League Secretary), A Ransom (Tournament Secretary), P Owen (Grading Officer), R Carver, H Light, S Ziedler, D Wingrove.

1. Apologies: The President.
2. Minutes of the 2011 AGM were accepted.
3. There were no matters arising that were not otherwise on the agenda.
4. Reports from Officers:
 - A. The President was not present.
 - B. The Chairman once again warmly thanked all other Officers of the Association for their hard work.
 - C. The Secretary asked to be informed of any new email addresses. Otherwise there was no report.
 - D. The treasurer distributed his statement of accounts, which reported a balance of £1652.90, to which was to be added the Brown Jack affiliation fee of £98. The Accounts were accepted. He thanked the auditor, Mr Andrew Law, for his work.
 - E. The Match Captain was not present. It was reported that the County had not taken part in the Jamboree this season and that there had been no County chess.
 - F. The Grading Officer reported that all was under control. Much more information on grading was now available on the ECF website. The Meeting expressed warm appreciation of his work.
 - G. TH reported that the Wilts Under 9's had come fifth in the National Finals. The Under 11's were to play on Saturday. This chess is 'rapidplay'. Moonrakers Junior Chess Club, of Swindon, is keen to affiliate to WCCA. Brown Jack will have a 4NCL junior team next season. This is chess played to standard time limits.
 - H. The Tournament Secretary reported on the four tournaments, all of which had been successful:
 - i. Five Minute (5th Sept.) – 13 players: winner: P Richmond (10 out of 12)
 - ii. Rapid-play: winner – Nationwide team. Individual winner – Adam Burroughs
 - iii. Wilts Open: Major (three entries) winner – P Richmond, the trophy holder
Minor (six entries): joint winners – P Owen and G Williams
The trophy was duly presented to PO and would be passed to GW at a later date.
 - iv. Five Minute (26th March) – 14 players: winner: M Rabbitt (12 out of 13)
second: J Richmond (11).
 - I. The League Secretary reported that all games had been played in both leagues. There had been just one default in each league.
Results were as follows:
4-a-side: winner – Trowbridge (7); second Nationwide (7); third Swindon (7)
Positions had been decided on game points.
Minor: winner – Swindon B (13); second Chippenham (11); third Swindon A (9)
The best individual performances had been: 4-a-side – SZ (5 out of 6)
Minor – G Georgiou (7 out of 9)

Unfortunately the trophies had not been brought to the Meeting and so could not be presented.

J. There was currently no West of England Representative.

K. There were no nominations for additional Vice-Presidents.

5. TH reported that he was standing down as Treasurer. Those present at the Meeting were asked to help find a new Treasurer. Other existing officers were re-elected to their positions.

6. A decision on the appointment of the auditor was postponed, pending the election of a new Treasurer.

7. This item (subscription rates) was now to be combined with item 9.

8. AR confirmed the tournaments that would take place in the 2012/13 season:

Five Minute – Monday 3rd September (Brown Jack)

Rapid-play – Sunday 25th November (Nationwide - SZ would need notice of names of players by Thursday 22nd)

Wilts Open – Major and Minor, beginning Monday 1st October, at Chippenham Chess Club, a new venue

AR hoped that there would be another end-of-season Five Minute competition.

9. Following representations from AG and RC the following amendments were made to the rules:

Rule 4: Guideline to be deleted.

Rule 5: The 7.35 pm start for Swindon to be deleted.

Rule 8: Reference to the web-master to be deleted.

Rule 11: The mutual agreement sentence to be deleted.

Rule 13 now has the addition: A player not eligible may make one guest appearance for the next lower team to avoid a default (ie a guest from A to B, or B to C, but not A to C).

Rule 10, at the end, now reads: “Players in any league would be encouraged to have ECH individual membership (minimum Bronze membership).”

The ECF were to submit invoices for any £2 board fees incurred at the end of the season.

Re his points for discussion AG explained as follows:

ECF had a shortfall in finance and would now insist on individual membership if games were to be graded. There was to be one transitional season only (2012/13) when board fees (£2.00 per board) could be paid by non-members.

There were to be four categories of membership:

- A. Bronze – would cover grading for all club, league and county games - £13 pa
- B. Silver - all the above, plus congresses - £19 pa
- C. Gold - all the above, plus 4NCL and FIDE-rated events - £28 pa
- D. Platinum – all the above, plus the cost of a Diary and Yearbook - £60 pa

There was to be a £1 discount for on-line membership.

(TH explained that there were considerable complications re junior membership fees.)

After considerable discussions the following decisions were made:

- i Regular players would be expected to have at least Bronze membership
- ii We would use next year to encourage all players to have at least Bronze membership
- iii We would reconsider the situation in one year's time

Other points were made as follows:

A separate Wiltshire grading system would not be workable because some players play in two counties; we have sufficient funds to cover any shortfall in board fees for next season; there was now no limit in the number of games which could be submitted for grading once the membership fee had been paid; a closed championship would require Bronze membership, but an open one Silver;

It was decided to delete the £5 membership fee for WCCA (£2 for juniors) and to reduce affiliation fees from £15 to £10 per team, and from £10 to £5 for a second or third team in the same competition. Clubs were to collect the £2 board fees. They were also to decide how to pass on the savings which would be made under the new system.

10. Where digital clocks are available they will be used in preference to analogue clocks. It will be the responsibility of the home club to ensure the correct operation of the clocks, particularly adjusting the time for quickplay finishes and for any two minute penalties. The use of a Braille clock by visually handicapped players is not affected.

11. Use of Rule 3 (enabling players, in addition to those forming the team of four, to play graded games) will be encouraged. The onus will be on the away side to state how many players it has available.

12. The 2012 Executive Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday 11th September at Chippenham Chess Club

13. The 2013 AGM will take place on Tuesday 7th May at Chippenham Chess Club.

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