

WILTSHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Chippenham Chess Club on Tuesday 30th May 2017

In attendance: Messrs N Wingfield (President), J Bourne (Chairman), R Ludlow (Secretary), A Gladwell (League Secretary), P Owen (Grading Officer), S Zeidler (Treasurer), R Carver, A Cooper, D Auld, J Comerford, G Georgiou, H Light, E Sheppard and S Farren

(NB Two additional points under item 4g)

1. Apologies: Mr A Ransom (Tournament Secretary)
2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM were accepted
3. There were no matters arising that were not otherwise on the agenda
4. Reports from Officers:
 - a. The President - no report
 - b. The Chairman thanked profusely all officers of the Association for their hard work.
 - c. The Secretary – no report.
 - d. The Treasurer distributed copies of the Summary of Accounts and reported that the financial situation was 'on an even keel'. The projected bank balance, once pending payments had been processed, was £811.09.
There was discussion as to how the balance could be used to further chess within the County, for example, providing coaching sessions; the purchase of digital clocks; the purchase of a special clock for Gordon Chapman. More thought would be given to this in time for the Executive Committee meeting in September.
 - e. The Grading Officer reported that all had gone well. Any outstanding results needed to be submitted by the beginning of July.
 - f. The Junior Chess Liaison Officer was not present.
 - g. The Tournament Secretary was not present. In his absence he was warmly thanked by the Chairman for his customary hard work during the season. SZ had booked Nationwide for the Rapidplay Tournament on Sunday 26th November 2017.

The Rapidplay tournament in September was won by Roger Hutchins

The 2017 Rapidplay Tournament will take place on Monday 4th September at the Brown Jack Club. It is expected that the pub will be under new ownership by then but this is not expected to affect the tournament. It is not known if food will be available.

h. The League Secretary reported that the season had again been successful, with only a single default (in the Minor League). RL explained the difficulties that Trowbridge had had in fielding eligible players in the Minor League and added that the player who had missed out through the default had in fact played a graded game that evening, which had not, however, counted in the team result.

Results were as follows:

Major League: Winners - Brown Jack (9 points)
Runners-Up - Devizes / Nationwide (8 points)

Intermediate League: Winners - Swindon A (12 points)
Runner-Up - Swindon B (10 points)

Minor League: Winners - Swindon (12 points)
Runners-Up - Trowbridge (7 points)

The Chairman presented the Intermediate League trophy to George Georgiou (Swindon A) and the Minor League trophy to Richard Carver (Swindon).

i. The Vice-Presidents were not present.

RL would organise a County team for the West of England Jamboree if an appropriate venue were chosen.

5. All officers were re-elected, being duly nominated and seconded, with the exception of the Junior Chess Liaison Officer. The Chairman would approach Paul Girdlestone to encourage him to take this role. Paul was doing excellent coaching work in schools.

6. The Chairman would contact R Haydon in order to re-appoint him as Auditor.

7. There would be no increase in subscription rates.

8. The League programmes for the 2017/18 season would be determined precisely at the Executive Committee meeting in September. AG stated that there would be three leagues again; the grading limits would need to be looked at in the light of the new (July) grades.

The Salisbury Club would be encouraged to field teams. Matches involving them could be played at Devizes. The County could assist with expenses. RL would contact Salisbury.

9. As 8 above: teams for next season would be determined in September.

10. The 2017/18 Wiltshire Open Championship generated much discussion. The prevailing view was that a weekend congress was preferable. Entry fees would need to be paid in advance; a fee of £15 to £20 was considered reasonable. AC offered Devizes as a venue, but it had capacity for 12 boards only. The Village Hall at Urchfont might be another possibility. SZ offered £200 to underwrite prize money

and fund player accommodation. There was a need to avoid clashes, eg with the Bristol congress and 4NCL matches. February was considered to be a good time, ie after Christmas and New Year and before spring holidays.

11. The idea of using Devizes as a half-way venue for Major League matches between Trowbridge and Swindon, and Trowbridge and Brown Jack, was approved. Team captains were asked to make arrangements. There might be a problem with accessing the building.

12. It was felt to be inevitable that, once the grade limit had been raised to 147 for Intermediate League matches, clubs would use it to field the strongest possible teams. If such a change of rule were only to apply in certain very specific circumstances, then this needed to be made entirely explicit in advance.

13. There had been a minor problem with updating the WCCA website when AG had been on holiday in February / March, but generally speaking it was felt that the website was excellent. AG was warmly thanked by the meeting for his work in this respect.

14. After lengthy discussion, with clearly expressed views on both sides, the meeting voted by seven to five, with two abstentions, to adopt the proposal. So next season the time limit for all matches will be 1 1/2 hours for each player for the whole game, with no division at any time. This will be reviewed at the end of the 2017/18 season. It was felt inevitable that the ECF would move to the 'increment' system in the near future.

17. AOB item from H Light and P Owen (NB This item was deliberately taken out of order.) The item was rejected, so that in the Intermediate League next season no player will be allowed to exceed the 145 limit. However, clubs undertook to provide a fifth player, when requested, to enable the player concerned to play a graded game. This game would not be included in the team result.

15. The next Executive Committee Meeting will take place at Chippenham Chess Club on Wednesday 13th September 2017 at 7.30 pm.

16. The next AGM of the WCCA is to take place at Chippenham Chess Club on Tuesday 29th May 2018 at 7.30 pm.

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