

WILTSHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATIONMinutes of Annual General Meeting held at Chippenham Chess Club on Tuesday 28th April 2015

In attendance: Messrs N Wingfield (President), J Bourne (Chairman), R Ludlow (Secretary), A Gladwell (League Secretary), P Musgrove (Treasurer), P Owen (Grading Officer), A Ransom (Tournament Secretary), R Carver, J Comerford, C Farrar, S Farren, G Georgiou, E Sheppard, C Walley and S Ziedler.

1. Apologies: Mr H Light (holiday)
2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM were accepted.
3. There were no matters arising that were not otherwise on the agenda.

At this point trophies were presented by the President to S Ziedler, C Walley and C Farrar. Please see Item 4f below for details.

4. Reports from Officers:

- a. The President had presented the President's Shield to Mark Jones. (He had also joined the Swindon Club).
- b. The Chairman warmly thanked all Officers of the Association for their hard work.
- c. Secretary – no report.
- d. The Treasurer distributed copies of the Interim Income and Expenditure Accounts. Income had met expenditure, so that the financial position was neutral. There were cash reserves of £943-62p, which constituted the balance. No increases in fees would be necessary. (Two cheques awarded to last year's tournament winners had not been cashed and would be re-awarded.)
- e. The Acting Match Captain, RL, reported that the County, with 6 1/2 points from 12, had shared first place with Torbay Leagues in the West of England Jamboree in Taunton in September. Thanks were expressed to Gordon Chapman who had worked hard in putting the team together; most players were Swindon members.
- f. The Grading Officer reported that all had gone well.
- g. The Junior Chess Liaison Officer was not present.
- h. The Tournament Secretary reported on the three tournaments:

i. Five Minute (September): Joint winners: J Bourne, J Richmond and J Sherwin

ii. Rapid-play: Winners: Nationwide (9 out of 10); second: Swindon (6)
 Individual winner: over 160 S Ziedler (6 out of 6)
 131 - 160 A Champion (3)
 under 130 G Williams (6)

iii. Wiltshire Open: was divided into North and South sections this year, with the winners in each section having a 'play off'

Major - Winner: C Walley; second: D Weston

Minor - Winner: C Farrar; second D Rothwell

AR reported that it was disappointing that the North section had only attracted two players, whereas the South had attracted eight.

Warm thanks were expressed to AR for his work over many years in organising these various tournaments.

i. The League Secretary reported that there had been two defaulted games in the Major League. Two matches were still to be played, one in each league.

In the Major League (four teams) Brown Jack were yet to play Swindon in a match which would decide the title, Brown Jack and Nationwide both having 7 points.

In the Minor (six teams) the winners were Swindon A who had 15 points with one match to play. The President presented the trophy to G Georgiou.

j. The Vice-Presidents were not present.

5. All current Officers were re-elected, nominated by the Chairman and duly seconded. Regret was expressed that there was no Match Captain but people seemed reluctant to commit to county fixtures. RL offered to organise the team again for the Jamboree in September.

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

7. Subscription rates were to remain the same.

8. AR led a discussion on tournaments for 2015/16. Decisions were as follows:

a. The Five-Minute Tournament would take place at Brown Jack on Monday 7th. September. The Chairman would organise the food.

b. The Rapidplay Tournament would take place at Nationwide on 29th November, with a deadline for entries on 26th. Action would be taken to ensure that games would be played between players of roughly equal strength. Food would be available.

c. There was lengthy discussion concerning the Wiltshire Open Tournaments. The general consensus was that there should be a weekend tournament in January, February or March, with one section for all entrants, played over five rounds from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, using the Swiss system. Matters to be resolved included: venue, dates (with the need to avoid the Junior Congress), publicity and refreshments. There was a need to sound out clubs, for interest and views, by the end of May. AR could not commit the whole weekend to the organisation of the tournament.

9. The proposed new Rule 11 was agreed unanimously. It is as follows:

Eligibility to play in the Minor League is restricted to club members with an ECF July grade of 145 or below, or ELO equivalent which currently stands at 1787. Ungraded

members are eligible. Ungraded members who have previously had a published grade are also eligible, provided that their last published grade was 145 or below (or ELO equivalent.) In all case where players have both an ECF and an ELO grade the ECF grade will take precedence. Eligibility for the whole season will be based on the July grade, with the exception that, if a member has no grade in the July list but obtains a grade of over 160 in the next January list, he/she will no longer be eligible (although games already played and results obtained will count.) The League Secretary has discretion to relax the letter but not the spirit of these restrictions.

This rule would be tried for twelve months.

10. RL withdrew this item as the necessary clarification had been obtained from RC.

11. AOB

AG had three items: a. he commended the work of Ben Edgell at the ECF on behalf of Wiltshire and other counties in the South West; b. He had established a web page to give details of Wiltshire members' successes at congresses; c. ECF fees were to be increased.

12. The next Executive Committee Meeting will take place at Chippenham Chess Club on Tuesday 8th September 2015 at 7.30 pm.

14. The next AGM of the WCCA is to take place at Chippenham Chess Club on Tuesday 10th May 2016.

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