

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee held at Langley Burrell Village Hall on Wednesday 11th September 2024

In attendance: R Carver (Vice-President), S Zeidler (Treasurer and Acting Chairman), A Gladwell (League Secretary), R Ludlow (Secretary), A Ransom (Tournaments Secretary), P Owen (Rating Officer), D Auld and D Parsons.

1. **Apologies** had been received from J Bourne, who had a clash of meetings.
2. The **minutes** of the 2023 Executive Committee meeting were accepted and duly signed by the Acting Chairman.
3. There were no **matters arising**, not otherwise on the agenda.
4. AR reported that the **Blitz Tournament** held on 4th September had been very enjoyable and successful. There had been 16 entrants..  
The winner was J Bourne, with six points from seven; the runner up was G Crockart and third was S Roberts. The event had been well publicised; several players had travelled from Bristol.  
It was felt that, for the future, digital clocks would be better than analogue and a Monday evening would be preferred, to avoid a clash with club nights.
5. In establishing **leagues and teams for the coming season**, it was decided, after much discussion, that the **Major League** would re-start. There would be three teams: Chippenham, Swindon and Trowbridge. Each team would play the other teams home and away, making four matches for each team. The term 'Major' was preferred to 'Open'.

In the **Intermediate League** there would be five teams, as follows:

Swindon - two teams

Trowbridge - two teams

A 'nomadic' team, comprising Devizes / Nationwide and Chippenham players, with the venue to be determined.

Sadly, Devizes / Nationwide no longer had sufficient players to form a team.

Each team would play the other teams home and away, making eight matches in all.

In the **Minor League** there would be five teams, as follows:

Chippenham - one team

Swindon - two teams

Trowbridge - one team

Each team would play the others home and away, making eight matches in all

Clubs were asked to send AG details of team contacts within two weeks.

The rating boundaries would be 1900 maximum in the Intermediate League and 1600 maximum in the Minor League.

It was established that there **was a Major League trophy**. RL would ask J Bourne if he knew of its whereabouts.

(Up-date: J Bourne does not know. AG has established that Devizes / Nationwide were the last winners and will ask A Cooper about it.)

On the subject of **trophies**, AR confirmed that he had a trophy suitable for the Wiltshire Individual championship (which had been won by Tony Coffey last season), so there would be no need for the Association to purchase one.

6. After much discussion, it was decided not to use **increments in time controls**. There was a likelihood of games lasting beyond the 10.30 cut off time, which would be problematic for some clubs.

7. SZ circulated the summary of accounts 22/5/24 - 11/9/24. The financial situation was healthy and had been helped by the donation from the Brown Jack club which, sadly, had folded. Fees would remain the same. There would-be no fees to enter teams in the Major League; it was hoped that this would encourage clubs to enter teams. .

8. There were two matters of **AOB**:

(A) It was decided that the **individual championship** would be run according to last season's format, ie the four winners of the club championships would contest the semi-finals and, then, the final.

(B) Wiltshire had been invited to participate in a **county chess tournament** with Berkshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire. There would be teams of ten players, with a maximum rating of 1750. Venues would be Reading (Berkshire), Cumnor (Oxfordshire) and the Winchester area (Hampshire). We would need to identify a venue. (Up-date: Langley Burrell Villlage Hall has been provisionally booked for Saturday 25th January). The first match was scheduled for 26th October.

It was decided to support the tournament in principal. Issues remaining to be resolved were (a) cost - there would be a £20 registration fee, the cost of hiring the venue and travelling expenses; SZ felt that players should not incur expense of more than £2, not including travel and (b) who would be captain and so contact club captains and organise the team. SZ agreed to write to Ben Ogunshola and Gary Loyden to ask if either would take this on. (Up-date: Ben has declined.)

11. The date, time and venue of the **2025 AGM** were confirmed as Tuesday 21st May at 7.30 pm at Langley Burrell Village Hall.

12. The date, time and venue of the **2025 Executive Committee Meeting** were agreed as Wednesday 17th September at 7.30 pm at Langley Burrell Village Hall.

Roy Ludlow, Secretary, Wiltshire County Chess Association,  
14th September 2024.