

DRAFT

WILTSHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Chippenham Chess Club on Tuesday 31st May 2016

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

1. The Meeting stood in silence for one minute in memory of our former Treasurer, Dr P Musgrove.

2. Apologies: Messrs A Champion and B Morris

3. Minutes of the 2015 AGM were accepted with one correction (advised after the meeting): Mr H Light had been present and not absent on holiday, as stated.

4. There were no matters arising that were not otherwise on the agenda.

5. Reports from Officers:

- a. The President - no report. Nominations were invited for the President's Shield.
- b. The Chairman warmly thanked all Officers of the Association for their hard work.
- c. Secretary – no report.
- d. In the absence of a Treasurer, the Chairman reported that the financial situation was stable.
- e. The Match Captain, Mr C Snook-Lumb, was absent. His efforts in organising teams for county chess had been greatly appreciated. The Meeting expressed regret that he had had to resign because he had moved away from the County.
- f. The Grading Officer reported that all had gone well. Any outstanding results needed to be submitted by 8th July.
- g. The Junior Chess Liaison Officer was not present.
- h. The Tournament Secretary reported on the three tournaments:

- 1. Five Minute, held on 7th September: Winner: L Martin, with 10 points
Second: J Sherwin, with 8 points
Third: G Pearce and C Farrar

There had been 11 entries.

2. Rapid-play, held on 29th November:

Team winners: Brown Jack

second : Nationwide

Individual winner: 160+ S Zeidler

131 - 159 D O'Byrne

under 131 G Williams

top junior A Copping

Mr A Ransom wished to nominate A Copping for the President's Shield.

3. Wiltshire Championships: the number of entries had been disappointing. Several people who had said that they would enter had not arrived.

Major (two entries) - Winner: B Morris

Intermediate (seven entries) - Winner: A Champion, with 4 1/2 points
second: G Georgiou
third: K Osborne

Minor (one entry) - Winner: D Millichamp

The Championships had incurred a loss of £159.13p

It was decided that, as few people had entered and the event had made a loss, no prize money would be offered.

There were lessons to be learned:

Entrants normally pay in advance (NW); entry fees are not normally refundable (SZ); the Frome Congress has a useful system, which is widespread - there are two rates of entry fee: in advance (lower) and late (higher) (JB).

i. The League Secretary reported that there had been six teams in the Major League; seven in the Intermediate League; and three in the new Minor League.

In the Major League five matches were still to be played, with three teams in contention for first place. In the Intermediate League two matches remained, but Swindon A had won, with 19 points, and Devizes had come second and Swindon B third. Minor League fixtures were completed; Swindon had won, with 12 points, and Trowbridge had come second and Chippenham third.

In the Intermediate League two matches had not been played.

Richard Carver received the Minor League trophy on behalf of David Brown.

The two other trophies would be presented at the Executive Committee meeting. The season had been unduly long, with matches due to be played in June and even in July.

j. The Vice-Presidents were not present.

6. All officers were re-elected, being duly nominated and seconded, with the exception of Treasurer and Match Captain. Mr S Zeidler was nominated by JB as Treasurer and seconded by AG. There were no nominations or volunteers for the position of Match Captain. AC suggested that it might be possible to find one from among those who had represented the County during the season.

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

8. Subscription rates were to remain the same.

9. AG stated that the League programme for 2016/17 would be as for this season. The new Minor League had been a great success, with many more players being enabled to play more chess.

10. It was decided every effort would be made to start next season on Monday 12th September. JB felt that there was no need to change the date of the Executive Committee meeting. SZ said that there were implications for the payment of fees, but he preferred the earlier start. Club captains would announce details of teams by email to AG. (Swindon were expected to run one team in the Major League, not two as this season and three teams in the Intermediate League, not four; this should also help to avoid an unduly long season.)

11. AR would purchase the trophy needed for this season's Wiltshire Championships. He declared that tournaments for 2016/17 would be as follows:

- a. The Five-Minute would take place at Brown Jack on Monday 5th September.
- b. The Rapidplay would take place at Nationwide on Sunday 27th November.
- c. He was not inclined to go ahead with the Wiltshire Championships next season; he would put his thoughts together in a report.

12. The proposed amendments (a) and (b) to Rule 11 were rejected. The Rule remains as follows:

Eligibility to play in the Intermediate 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 also applies to the Minor League, with the grade limit 110 or ELO equivalent, which is 1525.

13. The proposal for a new "mobile 'phone" rule was accepted, with an amendment. It is now as follows:

If there is a sound from a mobile 'phone during play, the owner will donate £1 to the home club funds, and the game be allowed to continue. If this happens a second time during the season it will result in the loss of the game. AG will keep a tally.

14. It was noted that Saturday 10th September was to be a 'National Chess Day'.

15. The next Executive Committee Meeting will take place at Chippenham Chess Club on Wednesday 14th September 2016 at 7.30 pm. RL will book the room.

16. The next AGM of the WCCA is to take place at Chippenham Chess Club on Tuesday 30th May 2017.

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