

DRAFT

WILTSHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Chippenham Chess Club on Tuesday  
23rd. May 2023

In attendance: Messrs J Bourne (Chairman), R Carver (Vice-President), R Ludlow (Secretary), A Gladwell (League Secretary), P Owen (Rating Officer), S Zeidler (Treasurer), D Auld and G Loyden.

1. Apologies had been received from P Girdlestone (Junior Chess Liaison Officer), A Ransom (Tournament Secretary) J Comerford and D Parsons .
2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM held on 24th May were accepted (and duly signed by the Chairman).
3. There were no matters arising, not otherwise on the agenda
4. Reports from Officers:
  - a. The President was not present and there was no report. There had been no communication with Nick Wingfield for some time. Concern was expressed but it was agreed that no action would be taken.
  - b. The Chairman expressed warm thanks to all officers of the Association for their hard work, especially the Secretary; they rendered his job easy and straightforward. He had been Chairman since 1996 and would be happy to stand down if someone were willing to take on the role.
  - c. Secretary - no report
  - d. The Treasurer distributed copies of the Summary of Accounts, explaining that the financial situation remained healthy, with a balance of £797.69. All league fees had been paid.

At this point the Chairman informed the Meeting that the Brown Jack Club would probably fold. Sadly, the Club had suffered as a result of being asked to leave the Brown Jack public house; no suitable alternative premises had been found. The money remaining in the account, and equipment, would be used to support (1) 4NCL chess and (2) Wiltshire County Chess Association. SZ hoped that this might be a catalyst for development.
  - e. The Rating Officer (please note change of name): all was proceeding well; there had been no problems.

The Meeting expressed thanks for his conscientious work.
  - f. The Junior Chess Liaison Officer was not present and there was no report.

g. The Tournament Secretary was not present, but, in response to his earlier request, it was confirmed that there was considerable interest in a "Blitz" Tournament to be held at Chippenham Chess Club in September; there would be a maximum of 20 players.

h. (Incorporating agenda item 9) The League Secretary informed the Meeting that there had been no Major League this season.

The Intermediate League had had five teams and each team had played eight matches; all matches had been played; there had been six defaults; winners were Swindon A with 13 points and runners up Swindon B with 10 points.

The Minor League had had four teams; each team played nine matches; all matches had been played; there had been two defaults. Swindon A were the winners with 14 points and runners up Trowbridge with nine points.

It was recognised that Devizes / Nationwide had had a torrid time trying to fulfil Intermediate League matches. David Parsons, Captain, was commended for his determination and persistence in trying to raise teams; the situation for next season was uncertain.

RL suggested a system of loaning players to Devizes / Nationwide next season. He had spoken to DP about this.

GL felt that Swindon, being closest geographically, should loan players.

The Chairman asked AG to look at adapting the rules to facilitate this; flexibility was needed; our remit was to promote the playing of chess.

5. Presentation of trophies. The Chairman presented both trophies to RC, who was representing Swindon A in both competitions. He warmly congratulated RC, not only on winning both leagues, but also on the strength and continued growth of the Swindon Club.

6. Election of officers: All officers expressed their willingness to stand again; they were all duly proposed, seconded and re-elected unopposed.

7. Appointment of auditor: It was agreed that there was no need for an auditor to be appointed. However, the Chairman expressed the desirability of an audit of accounts; it would be helpful if someone knew of a possible auditor. The Chairman also emphasised the desirability of someone being able to access the accounts (ie other than SZ) in the event of an emergency.

8. Subscription rates. These would be unchanged.

(9. Please see item 6 h above).

10. Major League 2023 /24: The Meeting considered two proposals from RC:

A. That the Major League be resurrected even if there are only two teams.

The problem was that only one club, Swindon, were able and willing to field a team.

JB would sound out Brown Jack players about the possibility of fielding a team.

AG expressed regret that the County's best players did not want to play in the Major League; he made the point that a team could be formed from more than one club.

B. That any clubs entering teams in the Minor or Intermediate Leagues would automatically have one team entered in the Major League free of charge.  
This was agreed.

11. Establishing teams for the 2023 /24 season (provisional): Swindon would enter three teams in the Intermediate League; Trowbridge would enter two.  
Swindon would enter two teams in the Minor League; Trowbridge would enter one.  
There were no other commitments at this time.  
It was felt that this season's rating limits should hold good for next season in both leagues.

Regret was expressed that there was currently no County team. GL had been disappointed with the response to his communication on the subject. It was considered that it might be possible to enter a team in the South West Jamboree in the autumn.

12. A reminder from AR that players should use the bar at Swindon and Trowbridge to support the hospitality industry was noted.

13. Registering results: The Meeting considered a proposal from AR that home club captains be able to enter results on the ECF League Management System, with the away captain verifying the result (as is the case with the Somerset Leagues.)  
This proposal was not accepted. It was felt that we should continue with the current system, which was working well.  
AG was congratulated for the good quality of the website.

14. The **2023 Executive Committee Meeting** would take place on Wednesday 27th September at 7.30 pm at Langley Burrell Village Hall.  
(SZ gave his apologies.)

15. The **Annual General Meeting for 2024** would take place on Tuesday 21st May at 7.30 pm at Langley Burrell Village Hall.

16. AOB: There was none to be noted.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.30 pm.

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