

DRAFT

Wiltshire County Chess Association

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held at Chippenham Chess Club on Wednesday 12th September 2018 at 7.30 pm.

In attendance: Messrs. N Wingfield (President), Mr J Bourne (Chairman), A Gladwell (League Secretary), R Ludlow (Secretary), A Ransom (Tournament Secretary), S Zeidler (Treasurer), D Auld, R Carver and A Cooper

1. Apologies were received from P Owen (Grading Officer)
2. Minutes were accepted with one correction. NW had given his apologies for the 2017 meeting. This was duly noted.
3. There were no matters arising (please see AOB for details relating to the President's Shield.)
4. All trophies had already been presented.
5. AG declared that there would be the three leagues, as last season.

There will be three teams in the Major League:

Check Inmates (formerly Brown Jack) contact: M Rabbitt, reserve J Bourne
Devizes/Nationwide contact: A Cooper, reserve S Zeidler
Swindon contact: M Jones, reserve G Georgiou

As last season, each team would play the other two teams home and away once, making just four matches each.

JB reported that the former Brown Jack Club would in future play at the Check Inn in Wroughton and take the name 'Check Inmates' from the pub.

There will be five teams in the Intermediate League:

Chippenham contact: P Owen, reserve J Rose
Devizes/Nationwide contact: D Parsons, reserve K Jackson
Swindon A contact: D O'Byrne, reserve Richard Williams
Swindon B contact: R Carver, reserve G Chapman
Trowbridge contact: R Ludlow, reserve A Ransom

After some discussion it was decided that the grade limit would be 150 for the coming season. This would allow some people to play, who would otherwise not play much chess.

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

There will be three teams in the Minor League:

Chippenham	contact: S Williams, reserve D Auld
Swindon	contact: D Brown, reserve R Sparks
Trowbridge	contact: R Ludlow; reserve A Ransom

The grade limit would be 110 for the coming season.
Each team would play the other two teams home and away twice, making eight matches in all.

6. SZ circulated the updated summary of accounts and explained them. There was to be no increase in club fees. Finances were stable: there had been a small decrease in the bank balance from this time last year, from £718 to £672.89. It was now possible to view statements online.

7. AR announced the result of the 5-minute Tournament, which had taken place on Thursday 6th September at Trowbridge. There had been 9 entries: 1st J Sherwin (9 points), 2nd A Champion (8), and 3rd C Lamming (6). JB congratulated AR on his organising the tournament at such short notice.

There would be no rapidplay tournament this season because of AR's other commitments.

AR was disappointed that there were only four entries for the Wiltshire Championship. It was decided to give people more time to enter. An all-play-all tournament might be possible.

8. As HL was not present, it was decided to defer the item Data Protection to the AGM.

9. Paul Girdlestone has agreed to fulfil the role of Junior Chess Liaison Officer. He would act as a link between WCCA and junior chess in the County and report back to WCCA. JB reported that junior chess was very healthy.

10. RL had made contact with the Salisbury Club but had no response to the idea of their entering teams in the Wiltshire leagues.

11. There was no overall support at all for a reduction in time for league matches. SZ stressed the need for matches to start on time. JB stated that, with digital clocks becoming ever more common, and with more tournaments using an incremental time control, we would certainly be looking at time controls again. The meeting was reminded that rule changes can only be made at the AGM.

12. AR explained the use of Monday evenings at Trowbridge for casual chess. It had brought many new people, of both sexes and all ages into the Club. One person at least was now wishing to play league chess. AR warmly commended this idea.

RC reported that Swindon had tried a similar scheme, which had been similarly successful but had come to an end for financial reasons. It was decided to offer clubs a sum of £50 (for which they could bid) to fund such schemes.

JB made the point that many sports activities were suffering because of members' work and family commitments. However, good work was being done in schools and the situation re junior chess was positive. It was hoped that young people would return to the game later. Junior players were participating in the Check Inmates 4NCL teams. There were also many female players in the 4NCL.

NW stressed the need to value older players. Also, much social chess was being played by people of all ages in West Swindon Library.

AC made the point that junior chess congresses were very popular.

Finally, there was encouragement to promote the game through the clubs.

13. The date of the 2019 AGM was confirmed: Tuesday 28th May at 7.30 pm at Chippenham Chess Club.

14. The date of the 2019 Executive Committee was decided: Monday 2nd September at 7.30 pm at Chippenham Chess Club. It was to be earlier than normal because of problems of members' availability later in the month.

15 AOB

- i. RL apologised for forgetting to add AOB to the agenda.
- ii BBC Wiltshire wished to interview someone about chess in the County. AR would pursue. It would need to be done in school.
- iii. The President's Shield. NW had not received last year's minutes with the nominations, for which RL sincerely apologised. However, NW did not feel that either of the nominees merited the award; the President's Shield was established to recognise outstanding achievement and so might not be awarded every year. Members were asked to send 2017/18 nominations to RL, who would pass them to NW.
- iv. AG reported that there were new ECF membership numbers this year. En masse subscriptions were cheaper and there was free silver membership for new junior players.
JB reported an increase in the gap between the fees for gold and silver members in some congresses.

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