

WILTSHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Chippenham Chess Club on Tuesday 28th May 2019

In attendance: Messrs N Wingfield (President), J Bourne (Chairman), R Ludlow (Secretary), A Gladwell (League Secretary), A Ransom (Tournament Secretary), P Owen (Grading Officer), S Zeidler (Treasurer), P Girdlestone (Junior Chess Liaison Officer), R Carver (Vice-President), D Auld, A Champion, A Cooper, J Comerford, G Holman and E Sheppard

1. There were no apologies
2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM were accepted
3. Matters arising: RC pointed out that it had been agreed that 'Presentation of Trophies' would be an agenda item but that it had been omitted. JB and RL apologised and promised to include it next year. There were no other matters arising that were not otherwise on the agenda
4. Reports from Officers:
 - a. The President - no report
 - b. The Chairman expressed warm thanks to all officers of the Association for their hard work; they rendered his job easy and straightforward
 - c. The Secretary - no report
 - d. The Treasurer distributed copies of the Summary of Accounts, explaining that the financial situation was healthy; all fees had been paid on time; there was a good relationship with the ECF concerning payment of registration fees.
 - e. The Grading Officer - no report; all was well
 - f. The Junior Chess Liaison Officer reported on his work; he is the regional co-ordinator for Bristol and the South West for the CSC (Chess in Schools and Communities); this is a London based charity with a national presence, predominantly promoting chess in state primary schools; he is keen that Wiltshire should take full advantage of the scheme; guidance is provided for secondary schools; he is one of several experienced players engaged in junior coaching and he now works in eight schools full time; he tutors in Year 7 class lessons and runs three after school clubs on a weekly basis with other tutors; this has contributed to an increase in playing strength; some juniors have been introduced to team competitions; there is a Junior 4NCL run over three weekends of the year, with squads of five or six players, with four playing in each round; some juniors have played in the main 4NCL; there is also a UK Junior Chess Challenge in which 50,000 young people are playing nationally; the Wiltshire "mega final" will take place on 16th June in Marlborough; in general terms, the emphasis is on the development of the child through chess.

(PG added after the meeting that CSC also supports chess in the community; he highlighted work in prisons, hospitals and with the elderly.)

g. The Tournament Secretary reported as follows:

September Five-minute Tournament: winner - J Sherwin; second - A Champion
third - T Woodward; fourth C Lamming

The Rapidplay tournament had not taken place because AR had been away

The Wiltshire Open Tournament had attracted only seven entries and three had withdrawn for different reasons; it had been an 'all play all' format.

Major - winner J. Bourne Intermediate - winner A Champion

As the Tournament was 'all play all' in the end, J Bourne and A Champion were overall joint champions.

Prize money was also awarded to C Walley and R Ludlow

h. The League Secretary reported as follows:

He thanked team captains for prompt and efficient notification of results.

In the Major League there had been three teams, with each team playing four matches. One match remained to be played. The outcome would be announced and the trophy presented at the Executive Committee meeting in September, Only one board had been defaulted.

The Intermediate League had been well contested. There had been five teams, with each team playing eight matches.

Winners - Trowbridge, with 12 points (game points: 19 for, 13 against)

Second - Swindon A, with 10 points (game points: 19 for, 13 against)

Third - Devizes Nationwide, with 9 points (game points 19 1/2 for, 12 1/2 against)

Again, only one board had been defaulted.

In the Minor League there had been three teams, with each team playing eight matches.

Winners - Chippenham, with 11 points (game points 18 1/2 for, 13 1/2 against)

Second - Swindon, with 10 points (game points 19 for, 13 against)

There had been no defaults; some extra boards had been played.

AG would like to see more teams in the Major League; it was decided to keep the number of matches per team as it is (four); AG clarified that the July grades stand for the whole season (please see rules for certain exceptions); the grade limit for the Minor League was 110 and the Intermediate League 145; these limits could be amended at the Executive Committee meeting, as had happened for the Intermediate League for last season; there was uncertainty regarding numbers of teams for next season; this would be resolved at the Executive Committee meeting in September but captains would give AG the necessary information beforehand; the season would start at the usual time.

The meeting wished to thank AG most sincerely for his excellent work as League Secretary, which included splendid work on the website.

i. One Vice-Presidents was present - no report

5. All officers were re-elected, being duly nominated and seconded

6. SZ would contact R Haydon with a view to re-appointing him as Auditor

7. There would be no increase in subscription rates.

8 and 9. These items had been dealt with above (item 4h)

10. The future of the Wiltshire Open Championship generated much discussion, with a number of possible formats being considered.

In response to a request from AR, RC had asked Swindon Club members why they had not entered last season's Championship. The most commonly stated reason was that the League and Club competitions gave members sufficient chess. Other reasons were: clashes with holidays and other events; the lack of a central venue; and the small number of entrants,

It was decided to have the same format next season as last, hopefully with three levels, major, intermediate and minor. Players would arrange dates and venues among themselves. AR felt that a minimum of 16 entrants was needed for the Championship to go ahead.

11. The Rapidplay Tournament next season was to take place at the Nationwide building on Sunday 24th November.

The Five-minute Tournament would take place at the Chippenham Club on a Wednesday or Thursday in September. DA and PO would check availability of the Hall and report back to AR.

12. It was confirmed that the Executive Committee would meet on Monday 2nd September 2019 at 7.30 pm at Chippenham Chess Club.

13. The next AGM of the WCCA is to take place on Tuesday 26th May 2020 at 7.30 pm. at Chippenham Chess Club.

16 AOB

AG reported that new digital clocks were shown on the ECF website.

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1st June 2019