

WILTSHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a combined Annual General Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 6th October 2021 at 7.30 pm at Chippenham Chess Club, Langley Burrell Village Hall.

In attendance: Messrs J Bourne (Chairman), R Carver (Vice-President), R Ludlow (Secretary), P Owen (Grading Officer), A Ransom (Tournaments Secretary), J Comerford, A Cooper and D Parsons.

Apologies had been received from Messrs A Gladwell (League Secretary) and S Zeidler (Treasurer).

AG had presented a paper which RL circulated (please see below).

SZ had given a statement of accounts to JB. As there had been no financial activity since before the pandemic, the financial situation remained unchanged; it was healthy, with some £800 on account.

1. Online Chess

This had proved very enjoyable. Trowbridge had run a tournaments for Club members on Monday evenings. Chippenham had run a Wiltshire wide tournament on Tuesday evenings. As many as ten players had participated in the latter. Both tournaments had been successful. PO had played some excellent online chess via the ECF website, which had included simultaneous displays given by grandmasters.

It was felt that, as we returned to over-the-board play, the possibilities of online play should be kept in mind.

2. West of England Counties Online Championship, January - March 2021

RL - This proved most enjoyable and was splendidly organised by Ian George (Cornwall). Devon, with GM Jonathan Nunn on board one, won the tournament, winning all their matches. Other participants were Cornwall, Dorset / Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire and Somerset.

Dorset (14 players) and ourselves (12) were both unable to raise a full side of 16 players and so fielded a combined team. Some Wiltshire players played three games and others two. All games had been enjoyable.

3. Return to over-the-board chess

Reference was made to RC's proposal (as an item of AOB) that the grade limits, under the new four figure system, should be 1800 for the Intermediate League and 1500 for the Minor, these being the nearest round number equivalents of 145 and 110.

Reference was also made to AG's paper. It was decided that the league season would start in November and run until April.

There was a recommendation to AG that the grade limit for the Intermediate League be raised to 1850, to allow three people, who had grades just above 1800, to play; also that the limit for the Minor be 1500 (Gary Loyden, 1517, would play in the Intermediate).

Clubs reported on their current circumstances:

Check Inmates were struggling.

Chippenham had yet to meet, so the situation was uncertain.

Devizes / Nationwide hoped to field one combined team, but the situation, again, was uncertain.

Swindon had had an influx of new members, as well as many juniors. A new Junior Club had been started in South Marston and had been put in touch with Paul Girdlestone. The Club had ample equipment. The situation at Swindon generally was most encouraging.

Trowbridge reported a similar situation to the pre-pandemic one; there had been one or two new members.

The wearing of face masks would be left to the discretion of the team captains.

4. Teams for the 2021 / 2022 season

Captains would give AG details of numbers of teams to be entered in the Major, Intermediate and Minor Leagues, together with contact details (email and 'phone) of first and second contacts for each team **by Friday 22nd. October.**

5. AOB

A. RC's item - please see Item 3 above.

B. AR - Wiltshire Tournaments

It would not be practicable to try to run tournaments this season, so decisions were postponed to future meetings.

Possibilities for 2022 might be a blitz tournament, either at a venue in Swindon (but larger than The Merlin), or online; and an online rapid play tournament.

C. Ref. AG's paper: 2019/2020 Results.

Major League - curtailed, with no winner.

Intermediate League - with 34 matches played out of 40, Swindon A were declared the winners. The trophy was presented by the Chairman to Richard Carver.

Minor League - with 34 matches played out of 36, Swindon B were declared the winners; the trophy was not available,

6. Future Meetings

The next AGM would take place on Tuesday 24th May 2022, at 7.30 pm, at Chippenham Chess Club

The next Executive Committee Meeting would take place on Tuesday 13th September 2022 at 7.30 pm at Chippenham Chess Club.

Anthony Ransom has sent his apologies in advance for the AGM

Roy Ludlow, Secretary, Wiltshire County Chess Association
royludlowd4@gmail.com
01225 868779

9th October 2021