

WORCESTERSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 13th May 2016 at the Methodist Centre, Worcester Road, Droitwich WR9 8AN at 7.30 p.m.

Present. Gordon Christie (Shirley & Wythall, GC), Ian Clack (Redditch, IC), Michele Clack (Redditch, MC Ray Collett (Worcester, RaC, took minutes); Richard Collett (RiC), Stewart Fishburne (Halesowen, SF), Jeff Heath (Redditch), Arnold Kirkland (Droitwich, AK), Peter Kitson (Worcester, PK in the chair), John Llewelyn (Olton JL), Terry Pountney (Kidderminster, TP), Rob Reynolds (Olton, RR), Paul Sharratt (Stourbridge, PS); John Southcote (JS), Brian Turner (Malvern BT), Laurence Wheatley (Greenlands, LW); and John Wrench (Kidderminster, JW)

1. Apologies

Maurice Bissell (Kidderminster), Andrew Farthing (Worcester) Jim Friar (Kidderminster, JF), Jim Keene (Worcester), Dave Scriven (Stourbridge) and Tim Yates (Kidderminster).

2. Minutes of the previous EGM held 27 August 2015

The minutes were approved as a true record nem. con. – Proposer Richard Collett, seconded by Michele Clack. It was noted that the quorum for an AGM was now nine.

3. Report of Executive Committee held 15 April 2016

- a) **Jim Friar.** The secretary reported that Jim Friar was very unwell and would step down from captaincy of the first team. Members signed a card offering their best wishes.
- b) **Digital clocks** had been purchased for county matches and the DTG 2010 model had proved to be easy to set. The Saitek Mephisto model had not been used and was more tricky to set.
- c) **Safeguarding.** It was reported that the ECF policy, code and procedures had been adopted by a large majority vote.
- d) **Woodcock prize.** Criteria for eligible games had been circulated to club secretaries. Andrew Farthing and Maurice Bissell had agreed to be adjudicators and were considering the 5 games submitted. The 2016 award would be presented at the August Executive Committee.
- e) **Website.** The EC had asked the secretary to investigate the costs of purchasing a suitable domain name for WCA.

3. Matters arising

There was none.

4. Officers' reports

- a) *President.* There was nothing significant to report.
- b) *Secretary.* A written report with a summary of the *April EC meeting* was received. The highlight of the season had been the revival of the u140 team under the captaincy of Paul Sharratt and second place of the Correspondence A team in the Butler Thomas competition. Against these successes Bill Sitch had told him that *Hagley Chess Club* had disbanded and it was possible that WCA would be offered a loan of their chess equipment providing it would be released for use by any new group of Hagley chess players. The secretary had provided Bill with contact details for other nearby clubs that members could join. **ACTION** RaC to write to Bill to offer assistance. It was reported there had been no *Worcestershire Open congress* in 2014-5 because of the proximity in location and time of the British Championships at Warwick and the previous organiser did not have time to organise one for 2015-6. Captains and team captains were thanked for reporting league results promptly to the webmaster. **ACTION** RaC to make further enquiries and place a definite proposal for senior officers to consider
- c) *Competitions secretary and grading officer.* PS reported that league champions Halesowen had retained their title and Malvern were runners-up in Division 1. Division 2 champions were Olton who

conceded one draw only and runners up were Halesowen II. Olton captain JL reported that his team would like promotion to Division 1 and informed the meeting that the club were considering whether to enter a further team in division 2 for 2016-7 season. PS asked whether teams should consider whether to amend the competition rules so that defaults attracted a penalty and to stipulate procedures for managing request for postponing matches. **ACTION** RaC to draft relevant amendments and consult team captains and club secretaries by e-mail before the EC meeting in August. PS reminded club secretaries to send him results of internal competitions for grading by 15 June 2016.

d) *Junior chess*. RaC reported that Worcestershire Junior Chess Academy continues to run at the King's School Worcester with between 6 and 12 players each Saturday morning in term time. The club's members participate in the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge. A tournament for juniors was run with Jim Friar controlling in August 2015 with about 40 entrants. The Worcestershire Megafinal of the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge – about 100 entries - will be on 15 May at the University of Worcester and organised by Alex Holowczak with WCA.

e) *Team KO competition*. LW reported in consultation with RaC that the rules had been modified to make draws very unlikely. Eight teams had entered and the final between Worcester B and Mercia was scheduled to be played on 24 May at Greenlands. [The final was won by Mercia on handicap].

5. Treasurer's report

BT presented a written *financial report and audited accounts*. The association had made a slight loss on 'core operations' but this included accruals for potential fines for defaulted county match boards, which might not be levied if last season's procedures are followed. He would like to thank vice-presidents who have been very generous and supported nearly a third of the association's core operations. The cost of digital clocks had been charged to the congress fund. The analogue mechanical clocks would be retained, but not insured. He was intending to cease tracking congress and junior funds separately and these monies would be included in reserves, some being transferred to the NS&I account. BT recommended that WCA note a commitment to continue to support junior activities and congress activities. The treasurer anticipated that expenditure in 2016-7 would be broadly similar to 2015-6 and the EC was recommending that fees should remain the same as this year.

A motion to approve the financial report, recommendations and audited accounts was proposed by LW and seconded by PS. The motion was carried unanimously and treasurer and auditor thanked for their work.

A motion to approve proposed fees for the 2016-7 season was also carried unanimously:

Club and League affiliation fee	£5
League team entry fee	£19
KO team entry fee	£3
County team board fee (excludes juniors)	£2 per match

6. Captains' reports

a) *Open/Minor*. JW presented a printed analysis of results and reported that the team had won their first match against Warwickshire, but lost the remaining three by small margins and were fourth out of five teams. Eight players had turned out for all matches and eight players were undefeated with Kevin Hurney (Greenlands/South Birmingham) achieving 75% from his games.

b) *Under-140*. PS reported that a return to the under-140 competition had been rewarded with a place in the national stages and the team were playing Kent at Milton Keynes on 21 May. The team played 3 matches winning one and losing two. He thanked RaC for helping to find players and making arrangements for venues.

c) *Under-120*. RiC reported on an unsuccessful season. The team had played four matches losing four, some by quite large differences. There had also been multiple defaults, but he was hopeful that the team would perform better next year because new players had expressed interest for next season.

d) *Correspondence teams*. The secretary reported that JK had presented a printed score-sheet to the EC. The county had entered two teams, both of which played in Division 3 for the Butler Thomas trophy. Worcester A had finished with 11½ points from 16 games and were placed second below East Glamorgan. Worcester B were eighth on 5 points from 15 games with one game continuing. Games were played on the International Correspondence Chess Federation server. Geoff Herbert (Malvern, board 4) and Derek Gallimore (board 8) had won both their games.

7. County teams for 2016-7

The recommendations from the EC meeting were adopted and the secretary and correspondence captains were asked to enter teams as follows: MCCU over-the-board competitions: Open/Minor, under-140, under-120; and correspondence teams Worcester A and Worcester B. **ACTION** RaC to complete entry forms for MCCU and JK to enter two correspondence teams.

8. Delegates' reports

a) *ECF*. PS reported he had not been able to attend the meeting. The most controversial issue had been the ousting of Phil Ehr from the CEO post and his subsequent replacement by Mike Truran. Malcolm Pein became International Director. The meeting decided not to increase subscriptions and PS stated that counties would still be able to renew their members' subscriptions. The Director of Home Chess was planning to move towards monthly re-grading, which was appreciated by junior players in particular. From next year, players in the county team open competition (not the Minor Counties) would require FIDE registration and ECF gold membership if they played more than one game per season in the national stages.

b) *MCCU*. RaC reported the annual meeting would be on 25 June at Derby and would be covered at the executive meeting in August.

c) *W&DCL*. AK reported that Malvern had won the League Championship title. Worcester Bishops were runners-up in Division 1. Division 2 champions were Stourbridge and runners-up were Kidderminster Pawns. Lee Davis (Malvern) had won the Bennett Cup and the Ball Cup final was between Paul Sharratt (Stourbridge) and Ray Collett (Worcester).

d) *DDCL*. PS reported a triple tie on match points in Division 1 with Stourbridge getting the League championship on the game points tie-breaker. South Birmingham were Division 2 champions and Bushbury Division 3 champions on tie-break from Warley Quinborne.

9. Proposal for a Worcestershire closed congress

The secretary presented a paper with proposals for a tournament restricted to directly affiliated clubs to decide the Worcestershire individual champions. It was noted that players from clubs only indirectly affiliated through DDCL would be able to participate if their clubs decided to affiliate to WCA. It was suggested that players should be allowed to take one half point bye in any except the last round. A turnover of about £200 was suggested and it was agreed that the financial risks were acceptable. After discussion *it was agreed that the weekend of 27/28 August was preferred and the preferred option was for an 'arbiterless' tournament. The Secretary was asked to prepare advertising to county players as soon as possible after consultation with senior officers.* **ACTION** RaC

10. Safeguarding

RaC reported that the ECF had confirmed that the public indemnity cover provided by the Aviva insurance policy required an organisation to adopt the ECF policy and comply with the code and procedures for the insurance cover to become effective. The safeguarding documents had been published on the website and paper copies of the policy and the code of practice had been distributed to members attending the meeting. The meeting would need to elect a lead person for safeguarding and a safeguarding officer (these roles can be filled by the same person). The association would have to review the safeguarding policy, code, and procedures each year. PS offered to undertake the role of safeguarding officer for WCA and the lead person for safeguarding for the association. **ACTION** RaC to send electronic copies of the documents to all affiliated organisations' secretaries urging their clubs

or leagues to adopt the ECF policy. To send electronic copies to all WCA officials, team captains and appointees.

11. Website

RaC reported that he had approached three organisations offering website hosting and domain name. Prices varied between £70 and £30 per year and services offered also varied. The secretary said he would need to consult players more knowledgeable than he to decide the best way forward. Tim Yates (Kidderminster) was suggested as a good contact.

12. Election of honorary officers

The motion that the list of officers recommended by the EC should be elected was proposed by LW and seconded by GC and carried unanimously. Further officers were also elected nem. con..

- a) *President* – Peter Kitson (Worcester)
- b) *General secretary* – Ray Collett (Worcester)
- c) *Treasurer* – Brian Turner (Malvern)
- d) *Competitions secretary* – Paul Sharratt (Stourbridge)
- e) *Grading officer* – Paul Sharratt
- f) *Safeguarding officer and lead.* – Paul Sharratt
PS volunteered to fill this role, but he reminded the meeting that he may need to receive a DBS check and training. BT reminded that the association had already agreed to approved expenditure to ensure relevant volunteers or offers could receive DBS checks. The offer was accepted and there were no other nominations and PS was elected unanimously.
- g) *Junior organiser* – Jim Friar (Kidderminster)
- h) *Auditor* – Stewart Fishburne (Halesowen)
- i) *Webmaster* – Ray Collett
- j) *Controller and secretary for the team KO competition* – Laurence Wheatley (controller, Greenlands) and Ray Collett (secretary, Worcester)
- k) *Life Vice-President* – Jeff Heath (Redditch)
The award recognised the many year's service to chess in Worcestershire. Jeff had been an active player and organiser in Redditch as well as a Vice-President of the association for many years. He was Worcestershire champion in 1973 and 1974 and he captained the first team from 1975 to 1982.

At the suggestion of RaC, *the meeting agreed to establish the post of Assistant Secretary* in an effort to distribute the load wider and encourage new members to join in work for the association. The secretary was asked to canvass affiliated clubs for volunteers. **ACTION RaC.**

13. Election of team captains

The motion that the list of EC nominees received from the EC should be elected was proposed by RaC and carried unanimously.

- a) Open/Minor Counties team – captain John Wrench (Kidderminster), vice-captain Jim Friar (Kidderminster)
- b) Under-140 team – captain Paul Sharratt (Stourbridge)
- c) Under-120 team – captain Richard Collett (Greenlands)
- d) Correspondence teams – captain Jim Keene (Worcester)

It was noted that three teams did not have vice-captains and the secretary was asked to canvas affiliated clubs for volunteers. **ACTION RaC.**

14. Election of delegates

The motion that the list of EC nominees received from the EC should be elected was proposed by RaC and carried unanimously.

- a) ECF – Paul Sharratt (Stourbridge)
- b) MCCU – Ray Collett (Worcester), Paul Sharratt (Stourbridge), John Wrench (Kidderminster) and Richard Collett (Greenlands)
- c) DDCL – Paul Sharratt (Stourbridge)

- d) W&DCL – Arnold Kirkland (Droitwich)
- e) BDCL – Laurence Wheatley (Greenlands)

15. Dates of next Executive Committee, League Fixtures and Annual General Meetings

The meeting agreed that the secretary should seek to hold the meetings on dates shown below.

Executive Committee and fixtures meeting - Friday 19 August 2016

Annual General Meeting - Friday 19 May 2017

16. Any other business

Chess in Schools & Communities. JW reported he had recruited two teachers in Worcester schools and he was looking for more players to come forward so that he could ask the charity to run a training session in Worcester. **ACTION** club secretaries to canvass their club's members and refer interested player to JW

17. Presentations of trophies and awards

- a) Worcestershire League Champions – Halesowen presented to Stuart Fishburne.
- b) Worcestershire Chess League Division 2 champions – Olton to John Llewelyn.

After the presentations the treasurer was asked to update the asset register.
ACTION BT (See attached

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.