

## **WORCESTERSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on Friday, 21 April 2017 at The Methodist Centre, Worcester Road, Droitwich commencing at 7:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Michael Butcher (MB, Malvern); Ian Clack (IC, Redditch); Michele Clack (MC Redditch); Ray Collett (RAC, Worcester); Richard Collett (RiC, Greenlands); Steve Crees (SC, Greenlands); Mark Cundy (MC, Olton); Jim Keene (JK, Worcester); Peter Kitson (PK, Worcester); Paul Sharratt (PS, Stourbridge); Brian Turner (BT, Malvern); Laurence Wheatley (LW, Greenlands); John Wrench (JW, Kidderminster).

PK was in the Chair for all but a few moments at the start of the meeting when JK took the chair in his absence. BT took notes and RAC wrote the minutes

**1. Apologies.** Stewart Fishburne (Halesowen); Kevan Ward (Mercia); John Southcote (Halesowen).

#### **2. Introductions and election of chair for the meeting**

At the opening of the meeting with the president not having arrived, the secretary proposed that Jim Keene should chair the meeting. The proposal was agreed unanimously and JK took the chair. Mark Cundy and Steve Crees were welcomed to the meeting.

The secretary reported the deaths of Geoff Harris (Stourbridge) a former vice-president and leading county player, Ken Tyson (Worcester), Barry Stone (Malvern), and Steven Foster (Worcester St John's). These were losses were marked by members standing in silence for a minute.

At this point the President arrived explaining that his bus had arrived late and JK vacated the Chair for PK.

#### **3. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held 19 August 2016**

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to one minor correction.

#### **4. Matters arising.**

**4.1 Chess equipment.** Captains reported that county equipment was in order and electronic timers had worked. The secretary reported that some wooden sets and home-made boards, previously part of Hagley Club equipment, had been given to Bewdley St Anne's informal chess club. It was also reported that Mercia and Redditch clubs were purchasing new timers and they invited other clubs to join them to attract a better discount.

**4.2 Website.** The secretary apologised that he had not yet arranged for the purchase of a domain name or hosting for the association's site.

**4.3 County individual champion regulations.** It was noted that the president and secretary were to write draft proposals for the award of individual titles for consideration by the AGM.

#### **5. Reports**

**5a) President's Report.** There was none.

**5b) Secretary and webmaster's report.**

The meeting noted the report which was circulated to members. The secretary noted that he had been unsuccessful in securing an assistant and reminded members that he would have to

step down at the 2018 AGM. The county website was still hosted at his personal domain <www.raycollet.net>.

### **5c) Treasurer's report.**

BT reported changes since the executive meeting in August and presented signed audited accounts. These were circulated and the assets register updated (see attached). The treasurer reported a surplus on operations during the year. As in previous years he pointed to the contributions made by vice-presidents and thanked them for their continued support. Funds were transferred to the NS&I Savings account and a clearer distinction would be made between working capital and reserves. The administration of Game Fee had presented some issues this year because of late billing caused by the untimely death of the ECF finance Director and he urged club secretaries to check the ECF membership status of their league team players. BT was investigating the use of on-line facilities for managing the TSB account. He thanked the honorary auditor SF for advice and would consult with the secretary before final decisions were made.

The secretary reported that under new national management, the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge, had appointed Alex Holowczak as organiser for the 2017 Worcestershire Megafinal and the association would have no formal responsibilities this year for disbursement of moneys or its organisation.

In relation to forthcoming events, BT recommended there should be a board fee 'holiday' for team members playing in the 2017 national stage matches and fees should be £2 next season. There had been fewer home matches this season and costs of matches were lower than last year.

*The meeting approved without dissent the report and the audited accounts and recommended that they should be approved at the AGM.*

*The meeting approved after discussion a recommendation for a board fee 'holiday' in the 2017 national county team matches.*

*The meeting agreed without dissent to support proposals that fees should not be increased for the 2017-8 season at the AGM.*

*The meeting thanked BT for his stewardship of funds and SF for auditing the accounts.*

### **5d) Competition and Grading officer's report**

PS reported that the county league competitions had run smoothly and thanked secretaries, captains and the webmaster for reporting results in a timely fashion. One game had been sent to him for adjudication. He noted that whatever the result of this game it would not influence the race for the championship. PS noted that the ECF no longer had an adjudications service nor did the league have an adjudicator. He proposed that the game should be analysed by a strong chess engine and that he should make decision on the basis of that analysis.

*The meeting agreed without dissent the proposed method of deciding the result of the game submitted for adjudication and PS was asked to put his proposal into operation.*

In relation to grading PS, reported on debates at national level for increasing the frequency of publication of lists. He noted that seasonal league competitions with grade limits would need to continue to use a particular list, which by convention was the revised August list published at the start of the season.

**Worcestershire Chess League.** Five teams competed in Division 1 with Olton taking promotion. All matches except one match in Division I had been completed and 2017 League Champions were Halesowen I. In Division II, six teams competed with Halesowen entering two teams. Halesowen 2B were champions after a three-way fight between that team, Halesowen A and Kidderminster B.

**Worcester & District Chess League.** Five teams competed in Division 1 and seven in Division 2. There was one defaulted match and one fixture remaining in Division 1. Worcester Bishops cannot be caught and were District league champions. In Division 2, there were two fixtures remaining and Stourbridge were Division 2 champions for the second year running.

**Dudley & District Chess League.** Three teams competed in Division 1, nine in Division 2, and seven in Division 3. The league championship was yet to be decided: the Warley Quinborne-Stourbridge fixture in Division 1 would determine the title's destination. There was one fixture to be played in Division 2 and South Birmingham could catch Halesowen. In Division 3, South Birmingham were champions. League officials had to resolve a difficult dispute in one of the matches in Division 3.

### **5e) Team knock out tournament report**

LW reported that the rules had been further revised to make drawn matches impossible except when teams had the same aggregate grades and there were draws on each board. Eight teams entered. The quarter finals were: Malvern-Kidderminster and Droitwich-Redditch.

### **5f) Team Captains' reports**

**First team.** The meeting received a report of results and analysis of players' performance circulated by John Wrench. This season Worcestershire shared the Midlands County Team championship with Lincolnshire, playing four matches and winning three. JW thanked Stephen Woodhouse for acting as Captain in the match against Nottinghamshire. The team were drawn against Suffolk in the national quarter finals. JW was thanked for his leadership and bringing success for the team.

**Second team.** Paul Sharratt reported that the county had entered the MCCU under-140 and won each of its three matches to take the Midlands under-140 team championship. He thanked players for their excellent play against higher graded opponents and looked forward to the national stages where the team is drawn against Essex. The meeting applauded PS for his team's continued success.

**Third team.** Richard Collett reported that the team had scraped through to the national stages and had taken third place in the Midlands Under-120 County team competition. The team were drawn against Lancashire in the national quarter finals in May. The meeting congratulated RiC for the team's improved results.

**Correspondence teams.** JK reported that two Worcestershire teams competed in national county teams championships. Worcestershire A had accepted promotion to take their place in Division 2, for the Sinclair trophy. Worcestershire A had scored 3/18 points, all members having finished their games. When unfinished games were completed it was likely that the team would be near the bottom of the table. Worcestershire B team played in Division 3 for the Butler Thomas trophy. Team members had completed their games, scored 4/16 points, and were in the lower half of the table. JK was thanked for his work during the season.

## **6 Safeguarding**

Paul Sharratt stated that there were no matters to report. PS stated that it was now some time that he had worked in schools and recommended that the association ask ECF to conduct a DBS check on him.

*The meeting asked the secretary to make appropriate arrangements.*

## **7 Nominations of officers at AGM**

**7a) Officers and captains.** The following officers present at the meeting confirmed that they were willing to continue, subject to AGM approval, their roles: the president, secretary & webmaster, treasurer, competitions secretary & grading officer, team knock out controller, second team captain, third team captain and correspondence captain.

*The meeting asked the secretary to invite nominations for vacant assistant secretary and vice-captains' posts.*

**7b) Honorary auditor.** The honorary auditor was not present.

*The meeting asked RaC to find whether SF was willing to continue in post.*

**7c) Delegates.** The following delegates present at the meeting confirmed they were willing to continue: ECF Paul Sharratt, but he would be happy to stand down if another person would like to attend the ECF meetings; MCCU Ray Collett, Richard Collett, and John Wrench and Paul Sharratt; DDCL Paul Sharratt; BDCL Laurence Wheatley. It was agreed to ask Arnold Kirkland and Maurice Bissell whether they could continue as W&DCL delegates.

**7d) Vice-president.** The secretary stated that meetings could recommend that additional vice-presidents were invited.

## **12. Chess development in Worcestershire**

RaC stated that he had been offered a venue by The King's School Worcester and he would be willing, if assistance were promised, to organise a Worcestershire closed championship tournament in summer.

*The meeting asked the secretary to book the weekend of 19/20 August.*

RaC stated that the Worcester branch of University of the Third Age (U3A) had started a chess group and he urged members to find whether other local branches of U3A had groups.

## **13. Any Other Business.**

MC asked members to publicise the visit of GM Jon Speelman, author and chess columnist for *The Observer* on 16 May to provide a workshop on endgame techniques.

## **14. Date and venue of the AGM**

The secretary stated that he had booked a room for **7:30pm Friday 26 May 2017 at Droitwich.**

**The meeting closed at about 9:40pm.**

Peter Kitson, chair of the meeting

Ray Collett, honorary secretary

## Updated assets register as at 15 April

Asset	Holder at EC 27/08/15	Holder at EC 15/04/16	Replacement value
Bonham Trophy (Div 1)	J Edge Halesowen	Ray Collett	£400
CG Brown Junior Trophy	Ray Collett	Ray Collett	£75
Cobham Trophy (Div 2)	John Wrench Kidderminster	John Wrench Kidderminster	£200
Wheatley Trophy	Shirley & Wythall CC	Shirley & Wythall CC	£50
Pairings Boards x 4	Andrew Moore	It was reported that Andrew was now back in the West Midlands	£80
Boards x16	Ray Collett	??Jim Friar or Richard Collett	£112
Sets x16 and boxes	Ray Collett	??Jim Friar or Richard Collett	£184
Clocks x 16	Ray Collett	??Jim Friar or Richard Collett	£640
Transport Cases	Ray Collett	??Jim Friar or Richard Collett	£140

## Appendix

Extracts from [http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/chapters/chapter\\_two.html#volun](http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/chapters/chapter_two.html#volun) (accessed 17-4-16)

### Voluntary and private sectors

43. Voluntary organisations and private sector providers play an important role in delivering services to children. They should have the arrangements described in **paragraph 4** of this chapter in place in the same way as organisations in the public sector, and need to work effectively with the LSCB. Paid and volunteer staff need to be aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, how they should respond to child protection concerns and make a referral to local authority children's social care or the police if necessary.

[Ray's comment: LSCB = Local Safeguarding Children Board ]

### Section 11 of the Children Act 2004

**Section 11** of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

4. These organisations should have in place arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including:

- a clear line of accountability for the commissioning and/or provision of services designed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- a senior board level lead to take leadership responsibility for the organisation's safeguarding arrangements;
- a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, both in individual decisions and the development of services;
- clear whistleblowing procedures, which reflect the principles in Sir Robert Francis's Freedom to Speak Up review and are suitably referenced in staff training and codes of conduct, and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed;<sup>[23]</sup>
- arrangements which set out clearly the processes for sharing information, with other professionals and with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB);
- a designated professional lead (or, for health provider organisations, named professionals) for safeguarding. Their role is to support other professionals in their agencies to recognise the needs of children, including rescue from possible abuse or neglect. Designated professional roles should always be explicitly defined in job descriptions. Professionals should be given sufficient time, funding, supervision and support to fulfil their child welfare and safeguarding responsibilities effectively;
- safe recruitment practices for individuals whom the organisation will permit to work regularly with children, including policies on when to obtain a criminal record check;

- appropriate supervision and support for staff, including undertaking safeguarding training:

employers are responsible for ensuring that their staff are competent to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and creating an environment where staff feel able to raise concerns and feel supported in their safeguarding role;

staff should be given a mandatory induction, which includes familiarisation with child protection responsibilities and procedures to be followed if anyone has any concerns about a child's safety or welfare; and

all professionals should have regular reviews of their own practice to ensure they improve over time.
- clear policies in line with those from the LSCB for dealing with allegations against people who work with children. Such policies should make a clear distinction between an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children who has::

behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;

possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or

behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.