

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Ladle on 19.06.00

## Present

Gerry Walsh (*President*), Keith Smith (*Secretary*), Steve Dauber (*Treasurer*), Ray Pallister (*League Organiser*), Dave Richards (*Grader*), Brian Myers (*Individual Championship Organiser*), Phil Whittingham (*County U100 Captain*), Brian M<sup>c</sup>Kie (*County U125 Captain*), Les Boxx (*Hartlepool*), Jeremy Burnett (*Synthonia*), Norman Cole (*Stokesley*), Gordon Dickinson (*Stokesley*), Graham Edwards (*Synthonia*), Keith Hatton (*Darlington*), Tony Kiddle (*Middlesbrough*), Andrew Killick (*Middlesbrough*), Graham Matthews (*Hartlepool*), Stuart Morgan (*Guisborough*), Mike Mossom (*Redcar*), Bernard Price (*Hartlepool*), David Richardson (*Middlesbrough*), Phil Semp (*Middlesbrough*), Norman Stephenson (*Ladle*), P. Weightman (*Synthonia*).

**Before the meeting started the President announced the deaths during the season of Howard Bowyer, Steve Welbourne, Anne Kallagher and Marion Myers and asked those present to pay their respects with a moment's silence.**

## Apologies for absence

DC Baillie, G.Marshall, B.M<sup>c</sup>Gregor and Richard Moore.

## Minutes of the last meeting

These had been circulated before the meeting and were accepted as a true record.

Proposed            *Mr. G. Matthews*            Seconded            *Mr. L. Boxx*

## Matters Arising

The President commented on the fine NCCU dinner which had gone smoothly. The Chess As A Sport campaign had suffered a setback with Tony Banks' resignation as Sports Minister.

## Reports of Officers

### **Secretary**

The Secretary brought to the meeting's attention a letter he had received from the **Braille Chess Association** requesting assistance for two men from the north who had been selected to represent Great Britain in a Chess Olympiad being held in Poland from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 6<sup>th</sup> September. The meeting liked the idea of supporting Chris Ross, of Stockton-on-Tees, who was well known in the Cleveland area having played for the Teesside Blind chess club and it was agreed that £50 could be donated to the **BCA**, after the Treasurer commented that the finances could stand it.

Proposed            *Mr. S. Morgan*            Seconded            *Mr. B. Myers*

In addition, Mr Walsh, said that he would hold a raffle during the forthcoming Middlesbrough Congress which should gain extra funds for the trip.

Secondly, the Secretary, informed the meeting that the BCF wanted to put all the Yearbook data into their web site and that they had requested permission from the Association to do this.

There were some objections to this being given for all personal data like telephone numbers but eventually it was agreed that, if necessary, a reduced subset of the data could appear on the web site. Each club and officer was to be consulted as to what they would prefer to be displayed on the web site.

### **Treasurer**

Mr Dauber issued a written report to the meeting. There was an increase of £500 in the bank balance but some claims were still outstanding. The registrations had fallen by 14 but this was to be expected since two clubs had folded at the start of the season. As a result of the Game Fee remaining at 29p he proposed no increase in fees for the coming season. So they remain at:

A division - £27, B division - £25, C division - £22 and the D division - £20. In addition the K.O. Cup - £8 per team, Cleveland Individual - £6 per adult and £3.50 per junior. Finally the adult registration fee would remain at £6 with juniors and seniors both paying £3.50 and BCF direct members still paying £3.

Mr Walsh proposed that £75 be donated to the Hartlepool Congress and this was accepted by the meeting.

The accounts were approved unanimously.

Proposed            *Mr. R. Pallister*                      Seconded            *Mr. T. Kiddle*

### **League Organiser**

Mr Pallister issued the Final League tables.

Generally everything had run smoothly and the idea of staging each round of the Tom Wise K.O. Cup at a different venue had been popular, particularly the Semi-Finals at Hartlepool where a buffet had been laid on for the players!

Middlesbrough Rooks won both the A division and the K.O. Cup. Whitby won the B division, the Athenaeum won the C division and M'Bro' D the D division. The Plate competition was won by Darlington 'B' with Ladle 'B' the Runners-Up.

He also reported that teams from the Darlington & District League might join the Association for next season.

### **Grader**

Mr Richards reported that the grading had gone well with most of the results in.

He confirmed that he would accept club championship results but that these would have to be paid for by the individual clubs – the BCF would invoice them for this service. The new grading list was on target to be available from 1<sup>st</sup> August according to Roger Edwards, the BCF grader.

### **Cleveland Individual Organiser**

Mr Myers issued a written report to the meeting.

Mike Closs is the new Cleveland Champion scoring 6½/7 with Sean Marsh coming second with 6/7 and three shared third place. The Under 160 grading prize was won by Andy Corbyn and the Under 130 prize by Alan Trotter.

The Minor was won by Jim Rogers who scored 6/7. David Richardson came second on 5½/7 and Alan Stockley third on 5/7. Frank Brown and Keith Hatton shared the U95 grading prize and the U75 prize was shared by Alan Hare and Vince Skillcorn.

New prizes were awarded to third place in both tournaments thanks to a mystery donation of £100. This also allowed for shields to be presented to both winners.

*Finally Mr. Walsh read out a letter he had received from Jim Rogers, the new Minor Champion, which congratulated Mr. Myers on the running of the Championship.*

### **U125 Match captain**

Mr M<sup>c</sup>Kie reported that unfortunately there had been no County fixtures last season but that he hoped to get the U125 team off the ground for next season.

### **U100 Match captain**

Mr Whittingham reported on the team's progress which was markedly better than the previous season's. The team had won the NCCU U100 shield and had progressed to the National preliminaries where they had lost to Warwickshire. The President presented the NCCU shield to the captain after his report.

### **BCF and NCCU matters**

Mr Walsh had chaired recent meetings of the BCF which he described as chaotic and reported that they don't like the idea of modernisation. The proposed membership scheme has been deferred to 2001. The NCCU like the idea of a membership fee of around £12 which would have a £3 rebate built into it for northern counties. This would pay for the grading, ChessMoves, discount card, etc for each member. He also reported that he was trying to reduce the size of the Management Board to a reasonable level.

Finally there was no report from the Junior Organiser.

### **Election of Officers**

It was proposed by the meeting to elect all the officers en bloc and all officers were duly re-elected.

Proposed            *Mr. T. Kiddle*                                  Seconded            *Mr. G. Matthews*

Mr Walsh informed the meeting that Paul Douglass was willing to stand for the new post of Correspondence Captain and the meeting voted him in.

**New Correspondence Captain: Paul Douglass**

### **2000-2001 League fees**

This had already been dealt with by the Treasurer under Reports of Officers.

### **Proposals**

- a)            **That there should be a toss of coin for colours in the Tom Wise K.O. Cup.**

Generally there was support for this proposal but an amendment was inserted into it so that it read:-  
*That there should be a toss of coin for colours on the night after the team lists had been exchanged in the Tom Wise K.O. Cup.*

In favour            **Loads**    Against **0**            **Motion carried**

- b)            **That teams in the 'B' Division should consist of 5 players.**

Once again there was opposition to this on the grounds that it had been discussed before and that it deprived people of playing chess.

In favour            **6**            Against **12**            **Motion failed**

- c)            i)            That the Cleveland Individual competitions should be played at a central venue – the dates for which should be published at the start of the season.
- ii)            Any player who is unable to attend on the published date must notify his opponent at least 1 week prior and may arrange to play the match within 2 weeks of the published date at the venue of the opponent, unless any other mutually agreed arrangements can be made.

These two sections were taken together and there was much opposition on the grounds that they liked the Individual Championships the way they are and also the playing arrangements were flexible enough as they were.

At the vote:

In favour            0            Against **Loads**    **Motion failed**

- d)            **Subject to both the other NE associations continuing their support that Cleveland should sponsor the NE Rapidplay circuit in 2000 – 01 for £50.**

This was well supported by the meeting especially as Cleveland players had been amongst the prize winners again this season.

In favour            **Loads**    Against 0            **Motion carried**

- e)            **That the last round matches of the League to be played on the same night and at the same venue as per the Knockout Cup, to avoid teams knowing what is expected to stay up or be promoted.**

Opposition to this on the grounds that it wasn't fair for teams due to play at home and it was difficult to get a night that suited everybody.

At the vote:

In favour            1            Against **Loads**    **Motion failed**

- f)            **That a point deduction be made from the board points difference for every game which is defaulted within any League match.**

This motion was withdrawn as a result of the last proposal being rejected by the meeting.

### **Presentation evening**

This year it was to be held at the Westgarths Social Club on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Mr. Pallister thanked the lads of the Ladle who had helped run the event for the last few years. This year it was a close run thing as to whether it would take place but it was rescued at the last minute – clubs were urged to support the event, especially if they had trophies to pick up. This year there would be a disco, quiz, raffle and the presentation of the silverware but no cabaret.

It was hoped that 120 would attend.

### **Any Other Business**

There was much discussion on the selling of the original Tees Side Chess Association trophy which had recently been valued by the Antiques Roadshow at around £20,000. The trophy is made of ivory and dates back to 1886 when it cost £14 2/-. It was accepted by the meeting that an EGM should be called to discuss what to do with it, if anything. It currently was being stored in the bank at a cost of £10 per quarter to the Association. This meeting was likely to be after the show was broadcast, sometime in September or October, and so likely to be after the Sept. executive meeting. Only members of the CCA were to be permitted to vote on the issue.

Finally the M'Bro. Chess Congress was brought to the attention of the meeting. The Grader also reported that the web site would be changed shortly.

The meeting closed at around 9.30pm