

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Ladle on 10.06.02

Present

Gerry Walsh (*President*), Keith Smith (*Secretary*), Steve Dauber (*Treasurer*), Ray Pallister (*League Organiser*), Brian Myers (*Individual Championship Organiser*), Bob Rowe, (*Grader*), Steve Henderson (*Webmaster*), Dave Richards (*Webmaster*), Les Boxx (*Hartlepool*), Norman Cole (*Stokesley*), Don Dykes (*Redcar*), Ian Elcoate (*Middlesbrough*), John Gorley (*Elmwood*), Ernie Lazenby (*Middlesbrough*), S. MacCormack (*Teesside Hungs.*), Graham Matthews (*Hartlepool*), Bill M^cGregor (*Peterlee*), Richard Moore (*Redcar*), Stuart Morgan (*Guisborough*), Mike Mossom (*Redcar*), G. Murphy (*Middlesbrough*), Bernard Price (*Hartlepool*), David Smith (*Hartlepool*), David Smith (*Middlesbrough*), John Suscens (*Redcar*), Paul Weightman (*Synthonia*).

Before the meeting started the President asked those present to pay their respects to Peter Bashford who sadly died on the way to the Redcar Congress.

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Apologies for absence

Tony Kiddle

Minutes of the last meeting

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

Proposed *Mr. R. Moore* Seconded *Mr. M. Mossom*

Matters Arising

It was pointed out that Elmwood 'A' had not won the A division but that Middlesbrough Rooks had instead. Mr Walsh reported that a local junior had competed at the Ampleforth Junior Masters and had done well. The old Teesside Chess Trophy was still in the bank and its future had yet to be resolved – however due to the pressure of other business on the Agenda this matter would have to wait.

Reports of Officers

League Organiser

Mr Pallister reported on how the season had gone. This year there were 3 divisions and it was a close call in some of them for promotion and relegation. He praised the sportsmanship of the Athenaeum chess club who had fulfilled all their fixtures despite only winning one match all season.

He issued written reports on the League and Tom Wise KO Cup to all clubs and team captains. He asked that all clubs to consider arranging their AGMs *before* the September executive meeting so they can report quickly to him as to their teams for the new season. At the moment both Darlington and Middlesbrough plan to drop teams.

Secretary

The Secretary had received a letter from a member of the Association regarding a matter in the Cleveland Individual. However this letter was to be brought up by the Cleveland Individual Organiser in his report. There was no other correspondence to be brought before the meeting.

Grader

Mr Rowe issued a written report to the meeting and asked that all new players' details be brought to his attention asap. He has graded 8 different events using the BCF software and sent some of them up to Head Office. Others will be sent up before the end of June deadline.

Treasurer

Mr Dauber reported that the Association had nearly broke even this year mainly because of the reduction of expenses for county matches. He issued a written report to the meeting. There were 200 members which is slightly up on last year. He proposed an increase in the fees of 50p per member and increases in team fees due to the BCF increasing game fee by 2p.

There was a lot of discussion on these proposed increases and it was felt that they were not enough given that the Treasurer has been subsidising the Association in past seasons, particularly at the start of the season. Mr Pallister and Mr Lazenby urged that the fees should go up to £10 per adult, £5 per junior, £6 per senior and direct member.

Proposed by *Mr Pallister* Seconded by *Mr Cole*

At the vote these increases were approved by the meeting.

Finally there was a vote on the whole package of fees suggested by the Treasurer with the amendments incorporated as above.

The new fees are below:

A division - £30, B division - £27, C division - £24. In addition the K.O. Cup - £10 per team, Cleveland Individual - £7.50 per adult and £4.50 per junior. The adult registration fee would now rise to £10, juniors £5 with seniors and BCF direct members paying £6.

The meeting approved the new fees.

Individual Championship Organiser

Mr Myers issued written reports on both the Open and the Minor. Bernie Price won the Minor; Alan Stockley was second and the U90 grading prizewinner. Brian Whitaker won the U80 grading prize. Norman Stephenson won the Open with David Wise and Michael Closs in joint second place. David Baillie and Ernie Lazenby shared the U160 grading prize. Alan Trotter won the U130 GP.

Mr Myers also brought to the attention of the meeting a dispute that had affected the last round match between Ernie Lazenby and Norman Stephenson. Mr Lazenby had written a letter of complaint (**letter from ernie.doc**) to both him and to the Secretary on this matter and he read the letter out to the meeting. The dispute concerned whether Ernie Lazenby, who had been drawn the home player, was entitled to play his final round game against Mr Stephenson at his home. The rules on this matter were not clear and Mr Stephenson had refused initially to play the match at Mr Lazenby's house. Eventually the game was not played and the game was won by Mr Stephenson by default.

Mr Myers had tried to get both players to play the match at Mr Lazenby's home but Mr Stephenson had sought to attach conditions to his playing there and Mr Lazenby had objected to these conditions being made. One was that Mr Myers himself must be present at the playing of the game.

Mr Lazenby then put his side of the story to the meeting and stated that because he had played at his home in past rounds he was entitled to play this match at his house and pointed out that Mr Stephenson had actually played an earlier round at his house also – in fact it was common practice for games to be played at people's houses. He said that Mr Myers had actually encouraged competitors to play their games at home in the past.

There was much comment from the floor on this matter and some support for Mr Lazenby's position. It was felt that his opponent had been unreasonable to attach conditions to him playing the game at Mr Lazenby's home.

The President intervened and suggested that this matter could be resolved in future by the clarification of the rules and referred everyone to a proposal on the agenda (*see proposal f[i]*) which would define where a home player would be deemed to be playing in future Championships. However he ruled that there could be no change in the Controller's decision as now the event had finished.

NCCU delegate

Mr Walsh reported that he had attended the recent NCCU AGM, held in Leeds on 8th June, and that Bryan Bainbridge of Durham had taken over as President for this year. Two Cleveland clubs had done well in the NCCU Club Championships – Hartlepool had won the Minor by beating Wallasey 2½-1½ and Elmwood were runners-up to Wallasey in the Intermediate after losing 3-1. Both matches had taken place at Heywood on 1st June. He congratulated the two clubs on their success.

Junior Organiser and County U100 Captain

There were no reports from these officers.

Election of Officers

It was proposed by the meeting to elect all the officers en bloc, except for the Secretary who did not wish to be re-elected for a further year, and all officers were duly re-elected.

Mr Walsh asked for a volunteer to take over as Secretary but no one came forward.

2002-2003 League fees

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

Proposals

a) That **David Bronstein GM** be made an Honorary Life Member of the Cleveland Chess Association

Proposer: The Executive Seconder: The Executive

This proposal just confirmed what was passed at the January executive meeting and was passed by the meeting. **Motion carried**

b) Subject to both the other NE associations continuing their support that Cleveland should sponsor the NE Rapidplay circuit in 2002 – 03 for £50.

Proposer: Mr G. Marshall Seconder: Mr G. Matthews

There was no problem with this motion being passed. **Motion carried**

c) To once again sponsor the Hartlepool Chess Congress of 2003 to the value of £75 as done in the year 2002.

Proposer: Mr G. Marshall Seconder: Mr G. Matthews

Again this was passed by the meeting – Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Redcar are usually supported to the tune of £75 by the Association. **Motion carried**

d) That the away team in the 'B' division can, at the time of confirmation of the fixture, have the match played by right over five boards only.

Proposer: Mr G. Matthews Seconder: Mr B. Price

This again provoked controversy as in previous years. Mr Price spoke on the matter and said that many clubs liked the idea. Mr Dykes spoke against the proposal, as did others. Mr Walsh pointed out that both Durham and Northumberland have 5-man teams so that one man can take the entire team to an away match. However at the vote:

For 9 Against 13 Motion lost

e) That the away team in the 'A' division can, at the time of confirmation of the fixture, have the match played by right over five boards only.

Proposer: Mr G. Matthews Seconder: Mr B. Price

The meeting voted on this proposal straight after the previous one.

For 5 Against 15 Motion lost

f) i) Rule 7 of the Individual Championship - That the home player is presumed to be playing the game at the home club unless both players agree otherwise.

Proposer: Mr B. Myers Seconder: Mr R. Pallister

Mr Pallister agreed on the night to second this proposal which clarifies where a home player is playing in the Cleveland Individual. There was some discussion on cases where a player has no home club and comment about the suitability of some home venues. However at the vote:

For 20 Against 0 Motion carried

That the home player is permitted to play the game at his or her home if both players agree.

Proposer: Mr B. Myers Seconder: -

This motion was not considered as it was deemed irrelevant because f i) had been passed.

g) i) Rule 5 of the League Rules – replace 4 weeks by 6 weeks so that the relevant sentence now reads: **Any match to be replayed must take place within 6 weeks of the original fixture and the League Organiser notified of the new date.**

Proposer: Mr R. Pallister Seconder: Mr T. Kiddle

Mr Pallister spoke on this and said that it would be best to allow more time for the re-arrangement of fixtures. He noted that teams can insist on playing the match on the date laid down.

For Loads Against None Motion carried

ii) Rule 5 of the League Rules – replace 7 days by 14 days so that the relevant sentence now reads: **That date must be agreed by both captains within 14 days of the original tie or the League Organiser will set that date.**

Proposer: Mr R. Pallister Seconder: Mr T. Kiddle

Similarly there was no problem about this proposal being passed.

For Loads Against None Motion carried

h) add to Rule 8 of the League Rules subsection c - That players graded 120 and below AND who are 18 or under AND WHO ARE NOMINATED PLAYERS should not be allowed to play in a lower division.

Proposer: Mr R. Pallister Seconder: Mr T. Kiddle

This proposal provoked much discussion and two amendments. It was felt by the meeting that it should read 'AND who are under 18 ...' and Mr Pallister accepted this amendment. It was also suggested that the grade should be revised to 100 rather than 120. This amendment was proposed by Mr Cole and seconded by Mr Matthews.

At the vote this amendment was passed and then the revised proposal read as follows:

That players graded 100 and below AND who are under 18 AND WHO ARE NOMINATED PLAYERS should not be allowed to play in a lower division.

For Loads Against None Motion carried

Discussion Topics

The financing of the County team

Unfortunately Mr Whittingham was not able to attend the AGM and because of the lateness of the hour this topic wasn't discussed.

The Presentation evening – 27th June

Mr Pallister said that he might hire a comedian to spice up the event, though with the tickets costing only £4 there might not be sufficient funds. It was suggested that in future the Association could save money on trophies and spend it on entertainment at future Presentation evenings. He asked for help on the night in running the event and said that it was his last year as the solo organiser. There weren't many tickets sold as yet but he needed 100-120 for it to break even. He also asked for prizes to be donated for the raffle.

Any Other Business

Mr Walsh reminded the meeting about the Middlesbrough Congress which has reverted back to the Town Hall this year. There was a new section for beginners. There was much comment on the decline in numbers at local congresses and some said that the rise in internet chess might put off people from joining a traditional chess club. Mr Walsh also reported that there had been a meeting with Richard Caborn, the Minister for Sport, but no progress had been made in reclassifying chess as a sport.

Finally Guisborough chess club announced that they were likely to return to the Cricket club for next season. Middlesbrough's venue was still uncertain.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm