

MINUTES OF CLEVELAND CHESS A.G.M.

Monday 23rd June 2003, Ladle Hotel 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Gerry Walsh (President), Ray Pallister (Secretary and League Organiser), Brian Myers (Individual Championship Organiser), Steve Henderson (Webmaster), Dave Richards, S.Ormerod, C Stephens, P.Harker, Graham Matthews, David Smith (Hartlepool), David Smith (Middlesbrough), F.A.Boagey, B.McGregor (Peterlee), I.B.Metcalf, Norman Stephenson (Middlesbrough), Richard Moore (Redcar), Ian Elcoate (Middlesbrough), Phil Semp (Stokesley), Ian Richardson (Middlesbrough), Dave Richardson (Middlesbrough), Graeme Edwards (Billingham), Jeremy Burnett (Billingham), Trevor Middleton (Whitby), Stuart Morgan (Guisborough), Dennis Sawdon (Upper Eskdale), John Renwick (Middlesbrough), Philip Mitcheson (Elmwood), John Gorley (Elmwood), Susan Fraser (Darlington), Rod Gilpin (Darlington), Brian McKie (Darlington), J Sams, (Darlington), Tony Kiddle (Middlesbrough).

Before the meeting started, a minute's silence was observed to mark the death of Graham Johns.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Suresh Keswani (Stokesley), Joe Richardson (Stokesley) B Price (H'pool), E Lazenby (M'bro)

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM:

These were circulated and accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING:

[NO Matters Arising]

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

These were elected en bloc, as of last year, with the exception of secretary. Ray said he'd been doubling up and we needed a new sec. Phil Semp volunteered, and was duly elected, and took the minutes from thereon.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS:

President and BCF and NCCU delegate:

Issues highlighted:-

BCF:

The major problem faced is still income. Membership fees are £13 with the magazine; £5 without it, but the largest source of income is still the £60k Government grant - and the BCF has been living beyond its means. Since membership for NCCU is now voluntary, this has had big repercussions financially. So the game fee has gone up by 4p. Whether this will meet the income problem remains to be seen.

NCCU:

The NCCU is organising an Under16 tournament in Cleveland in November of this year.

SCHOOLS AND JUNIOR CHESS:

Gerry believes that we are on the verge of a governmental initiative in schools chess and raised possible implications of this organisationally and financially. Sean Marsh was organising a knockout tournament for 4 schools, in addition to all the other work he has been doing on the junior front. Gerry thought we needed an additional helper for Sean.

Secretary's Report:- None

League Organiser's Report:

Ray reported that we had run 3 divisions, each with 8 teams, and that on the whole this had worked well. The `C' Division had been a very closely run contest; the `B' Division was even closer, being decided only on board difference; in the `A' Division Elmwood pipped the Rooks in the last match of the season. The Cup was a bit of a disappointment - only 15 teams entered.

Elmwood won the Cup; Middlesbrough `D' won the Plate.

Other issues highlighted:-

- * pity teams had to have points deducted for breach of rules

- * grateful for work of the county grader (Bob Rowe), and for the compiling of results and updating of the website by the webmaster (Steve Henderson). One not-so-savoury aspect has been the hurtful remarks anonymously posted to the Forum. Ray believed we should scrap this.

- * Bob Rowe was on holiday, so couldn't be present at the AGM, but he had already sent the grades to the BCF.

Richard Moore moved a vote of thanks to Ray and Steve.

Individual Championship Organiser's Report:

Brian presented written reports for both the Minor and the "main" Individual Championships. He stated that both ran very well and highlighted issues from both.

These included:

- * thanks to the anonymous donor of £50, which allowed prizes for the first three in both tournaments, with higher prizes for the first two

- * the Minor resulted in a tie between Ged Murphy and Jason Gentle; Brian Whittiker won the U90 grading prize, with Martin McLoughlin and Joe Richardson sharing the U80 grading prize, each tying for third place

* the Open was jointly won by Sean Marsh and David Wise, with Norman Stephenson finishing third. The U 160 grading prize was split three ways by John Garnet, David Bailey and Ian Elcoate; the U 130 grading prize was won by John Pallister.

Richard Moore proposed a vote of thanks to Bob Rowe and Brian Myers.

Webmaster's Report:

Steve thanked everyone for sending in team and individual match results via the web site, between Ray and Steve this worked well to keep everything up to date. A discussion then ensued about people posting under alias names on the Forum and making accusations about other players and causing upset. At the end of the discussion it was agreed that all posts on the forum must now have the real ID/name of the person posting at the end of their message. Any posts that are not signed off with the persons real name will be deleted without notice.

Treasurer's Report:- Not Present

Ray proposed that fees remain unaltered for 2003-04 unless they needed to be raised to cover a game fee rise. This was accepted unanimously.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES:

Rule 5

The first sentence was amended to:

"All matches must be played on the scheduled date unless agreement is reached by both captains, before 7 days of the match, to postpone the fixture."

The first sentence of the last paragraph was amended to:

"A fixed penalty of 1 point WILL be deducted by the League Organiser against any team responsible for a late postponement for any reason(s) other than exceptional circumstances."

(Obviously, this would be invoked should one of the captains not agree to a postponement.)

Rule 6

This was amended so that the minimum number of players in the `B' Division is 5.

(Attention is drawn to the last sentence of that rule which permits captains to agree more than the minimum number of boards for any given match.)

Rule 10

A resolution was duly presented to the AGM to amend the first sentence of the second paragraph so that the home team would have had black on all boards. This was heavily defeated.

Rule 14

After much debate, the following addition was made to the first paragraph:

"Any team which refuses promotion by dropping out of the League and returning via the lowest division cannot be promoted the following year."

PLANS TO PRESENT TROPHIES

Ray prefaced his remarks on trophy presentation with a plea to hold all club Agm's in the first week of September or before and to notify any changes of captaincy by the second week in September. He also gave verbal notice that the next League meeting will be held on 15th September and the fixture list will be sent out in the week commencing 29 September.

The trophies will be presented at the September League meeting and a buffet will be laid on.

AOB**i) Selling the ivory chess set**

This hardy annual surfaced, yet again. Following a short discussion, it was decided to canvass members by seeking their opinions through a form to be distributed to clubs at the September meeting, the issue to be decided at the January exec meeting.

ii) AGM venue

The question was raised as to whether the League AGM had to be held at The Ladle. The member concerned was informed that the venue could be changed, but not without it being raised as a formal item at a League meeting, and properly discussed.

Meeting Closed 21.17hrs

Phil Semp
CCA Secretary