

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held at the Touchdown pub on 24.01.01

Present

Gerry Walsh (*President*), Keith Smith (*Secretary*), Ray Pallister (*League Organiser*), Tony Kiddle (*Middlesbrough*), Graham Marshall (*Hartlepool*), Stuart Morgan (*Guisborough*), M. Scully (*Hartlepool*).

Apologies for absence

Steve Dauber, Bernie Price

Minutes of the last meeting

These were circulated at the meeting and were accepted as a true record.

Proposed *Mr. S. Morgan* Seconded *Mr. T. Kiddle*

Matters Arising

Mr. Walsh reported that he had just received a letter from the BBC to the effect that the item about the old Tees-side Chess Association trophy would now not appear on the *Antiques Roadshow* due to space limits. The show recorded at Eston was to be broadcast on February 18th. The Secretary had been waiting for this programme to be shown before calling an EGM to discuss what to do with the Trophy, if anything. After discussion Mr Walsh said he would consult Cleveland members at the forthcoming Redcar Congress to see if there was sufficient support to call an EGM, otherwise the matter would have to wait until the AGM in June.

Mr Pallister raised a grading matter – he was concerned that the grade produced by the BCF using the 30 game rule was a farce. He wanted to know why a player can't have a grade from, say, just 12 games or from the games that he or she had played *just* during that season. There was much discussion on grading as there usually is and Mr Walsh reported that the *second* printing of the national grading list was about 95% correct. He said that Roger Edwards had stepped down as Director of National Grading & Game Fee and was now the Grading Officer but the grading was now in the hands of **Richard Furness** with help from a Grading Committee. This committee was formed from the 5 Union Graders and Chris Majer. Finally Mr Walsh reported that Dave Richards had announced his intention to resign as Cleveland grader at the end of the season.

Mr Walsh confirmed that the old Stockton Chess club trophy had been handed back to Elmwood at the Daniel King simul on September 27th.

Reports of Officers

Mr Pallister commented that the **Ladle Chess club** had temporarily dropped out of the League but generally things were going smoothly. **Guisborough Chess club** had lost their venue but were now playing at the Ladle possibly until November 2001. The C division fixtures were re-issued after Xmas because of the demise of the Ladle Lions. He announced some Tom Wise Knockout Cup dates:- 1st round on 6th February at Westgarths club, M'Bro., 1st round of the Plate competition at the same venue in the week beginning 26th February, 2nd round at Darlington possible March 26th and the Semi-finals at the Touchdown, Hartlepool on 12th April.

The Presentation evening was to go ahead during the middle of June with tickets costing £3.50 and Teesside Hungs. might provide a buffet.

The Secretary reported on correspondence he had received from the **Braille Chess Association**. They had thanked the Association for its £50 donation in aid of Chris Ross, who had gone to Poland to play for Britain in the Chess Olympiad. Chris Ross had been playing on Board 2, scored 5½ out of 9 and

was the top performer of the English team. The team came 12th overall and qualified for the next World Cup.

Any Other Business

Mr Marshall asked whether this year's winners and runners-up of the 'C' division would take promotion and what would be the response of the League Organiser if they declined it. Mr Pallister replied that normally if teams declined promotion then they would be relegated to the lowest division but with the C division this year being the lowest division that obviously wasn't an option. The problem for some of the teams in the C division was that they would have to find an extra player and an extra car to play in the B division where 6 and not 5 in a team was the rule. It was felt that this issue might be put on the Agenda again for the AGM to discuss.

Finally Mr Morgan brought the meeting's attention to the fact that though Sean Marsh had qualified for the **British Championships** by winning last year's Redcar Open he had not been able to compete at the event because of the high entry fees.

The meeting closed at around 8.55pm