

CLEVELAND CHESS ASSOCIATION

Executive Meeting

The Ladle Hotel, 15th September 2003

1. Apologies for absence

Joe Richardson, Richard Moore, John Dykes, Tony Kiddle.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

These were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

*The questionnaire concerning the sale of the League Trophy (ivory chess set) is to be circulated to all clubs and to be returned by 31st October 2003, which is the deadline for fees. This is to ensure that only paid up members are permitted to vote on the issue.

*The association did not have to pay the £15 fee to the BCF for postage of grading lists.

4. League Matters

Secretary's Report

*The fixture list was somewhat difficult to compile this time, as both Guisborough and Middlesbrough Knights dropped out of the "A" Division before the start of the season. This has had knock on effects: Redcar stay up and Synthonia join Athenaeum and Stokesley; with Woodpushers joining the League, this has left only 7 teams in the "C" Division, so byes have had to be written into the "C" Division fixture list. The "A" Division fixtures start in the week commencing 29th September; the "B" and "C" divisions in week commencing 6th October.

* Ray stressed that all subs must be in for 31st October and he warned teams not to pick players who haven't paid by then. Some clubs have credits, and the credit list will be circulated together with a packet containing everything a team captain needs!

* Clubs were asked to keep up to date all email addresses.

* Grading lists now available.

* The first round of the cup will commence on week commencing 17th November. Teams not notifying Ray or Steve Dauber before the end

of September that they wish to be excluded will automatically be entered and charged accordingly.

At the end of the report, a vote of thanks was moved by Ernie Lazenby for all the work Ray had done over the year.

Treasurer's Report

*Steve Dauber tabled a report for the year 2002/2003. This highlighted that although the Association had £1443.90 on the account, and that this represented a healthier picture than the previous year, the expected outgoings of £1436 will leave it just about even. The good news is that this has permitted fees to remain unchanged for this year.

*Steve also reported that the number of players registered went down from 200 in 2001/2002 to 185 in 2002/2003 - a fall of 7.5%. He felt that the fall was probably due to the sharp hike in registration costs levied last year.

* A number of clubs had a credit balance with the Association, due to pre-paying "spare" registrations. These amounts will be offset against this season's registrations.

Grader's Report

*Bob Rowe reported that nine events were recognised by BCF for grading purposes and that this season, Middlesbrough Congress will be so.

*Any new player, and their grade, should be notified to Bob asap. Should the player not know their grade, Bob will give a new (or estimated) grade, which can subsequently be amended if necessary.

BCF Matters

*Gerry Walsh congratulated Norman Stephenson on becoming the Senior BCF Champion

*Gerry was on a recent BCF delegation which met the Minister of Education to discuss a new Government-backed initiative for chess in schools. Charles Clarke wants chess clubs to adopt schools. Ashok Kumar, the MP for Redcar and Cleveland, has promised to back all initiatives.

*The forthcoming BCF meeting is to change its name to reflect the Federation's English base. Also, from next year the British

Championship shall be open only to British players.

5. AOB

There was no other business.

Phil Semp

County Secretary