

Minutes of Executive Meeting held at the Ladle club 26.01.98

Present

G. Walsh, G. Marshall, G. Matthews, G. Garnett, A. Trotter, A. Kiddle, S. Henderson, D. Richards, P. Douglas, B. McGregor, DC Baillie, JG Cowle.

Apologies for absence

Stuart Morgan, Darlington Chess Club

Matters Arising

A cheque for £19.20 was received from Hugh Halpin in respect of the pamphlets which he has produced.

Officers Reports

Secretary

Hartlepool announced a change of venue and telephone number for the 'A' team captain.
BCF calendars were issued.

NCCU matters

Two years ago the NCCU endorsed a ruling in the County Championships whereby any team defaulting a game without notice would be fined £25 to recompense expenses to their opponents. At this moment in time some £50 is owed to the Cleveland County or our representatives in this respect. This matter is being pursued by Gerry Walsh.

League Organiser

Up to date League tables were issued.

The season so far has passed without notable incident, with no controversy or points being deducted for misconduct. It is emphasised that all teams are expected to fulfil all their fixtures as defaults may cause unfair advantage in resolving matters of promotion or relegation. The need to restate this principle is a result of Darlington's twice calling off of their match against the Bishops and offering of a default. It may be that clubs would like to consider the introduction of a penalty for the late cancellation of matches for reasons other than severe weather conditions.

It was suggested that the League may care to adopt a no smoking policy, it is requested therefore that clubs discuss the possibility prior to the A.G.M. Please note that Billingham is now a no smoking venue, joining Darlington, Elmwood, Middlesbrough, Guisborough, Athenaeum and Norton Hall.

The draw for the next round of the Tom Wise Trophy was made, with matches to be played by Friday 13th March 1998.

Elmwood A	v	Middlesbrough Rooks
Athenaeum	v	Middlesbrough D
Darlington or	v	Guisborough A or
Upper Eskdale		Peterlee
Hartlepool A	v	Middlesbrough A

Presentation evening

Some discussion took place regarding the venue and catering for this year's event, with the outcome being that suggestions for a possible venue should be forwarded to the organisers and that due to the success of the last couple of events matters should be left to their discretion. The general consensus being that a venue of similar size to the Stokesley Club is ideal and that catering should continue to be of a low cost buffet. It was also agreed that entertainment should be of a nature as to not potentially reduce the attendance of juniors.

Other business

Redcar Congress

The Redcar Congress has, due to increasing pressure on local government, had it's future cast in doubt. The disappointing entry to date causing further worries for it's future, it was suggested that the Minor II grading limit was too high and that a section of under 100 or even lower would encourage more club players to enter, this would be taken into account in arranging the limits for the Middlesbrough Congress.

Troisdorf Trip

Redcar and Cleveland is twinned with Troisdorf and a visit is organised for the Whit period. A number of chess matches are planned for this event and any one interested in attending should contact Gerry Walsh.

Braille Association

The Braille Club has been invited to apply for more funds from the National Lottery. In return for the assistance that the Club has received from the Cleveland Association and its member Clubs, it is hoped that the application can be organised to benefit the Association. One idea is that the moneys gained should be used to operate a Chess Coaching Course that volunteer members would be allowed to attend. The skills gained would then be available to all clubs. Additionally the club is hoping to set up a talking chess library for it's players, this would require volunteers to take the time to record newspaper articles and games that sighted players take for granted. The tapes would then be made available to the Braille players for them to study, this would incur no cost to the volunteers as the tapes would be provided and postage for distribution is free as a concession from the Post Office.

New Grading Officer

The BCF now have a new Grading Officer and as part of his review of the position it has been suggested that the BCF adopt a four figure grading system comparable with the ELO ratings – opinions on this matter are invited, any response may be directed through Gerry Walsh.

Meeting Closed