

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held at the Ladle on 13.09.99

Present

Gerry Walsh (*President*), Keith Smith (*Secretary*), Ray Pallister (*League Organizer*), Brian Myers (*Individual Organizer*), Dave Richards (*Grader*), Jeremy Burnett (*Billingham*), N.Cole (*Stokesley*), Gordon Dickinson (*Stokesley*), Paul Douglass (*Teesside Hungarians*), Geoff Garnett (*Teesside Blind*), Keith Hatton (*Darlington*), Steve Henderson (*Ladle*), Graham Marshall (*Hartlepool*), Graham Matthews (*Hartlepool*), Cedric Maxwell (*Whitby*), Bill M^cGregor (*Peterlee*), Trevor Middleton (*Whitby*), Richard Moore (*Redcar*), Mike Mossom (*Redcar*), Bernard Price (*Hartlepool*), Jim Rogers (*Athenaeum*), C. Smith (*Peterlee*), Alan Trotter (*Elmwood*), Paul Weightman (*Billingham*).

Apologies for absence

Steve Dauber, Les Boxx, Tony Kiddle, Peter Archer

Minutes of the last meeting

These had been circulated before the meeting and were accepted.

Proposed *Mr. D. Richards* Seconded *Mr. G. Matthews*

Matters Arising

The BCF championships were held recently in Scarborough and were a great success - so much so that the venue has been booked for the 100th anniversary of the BCF in 2004. All the NCCU club tournaments to be known as the NCCU **Millennium** Club tournaments for the coming season. Last year Elmwood won a Runners-Up prize in the Major category.

Reports of Officers

Mr Pallister, the League Organiser, issued fixture lists for all the divisions. He noted that there were only 6 teams in the D division and that it might be better to amalgamate the C and D divisions. There was much discussion on this and it was felt best to leave things as they were especially since Darlington and possibly Elmwood might enter teams into the D division at the last moment. If this didn't materialise then teams in the D division would play each other three times during the season.

He also commented on the Tom Wise Knockout Cup. Clubs were asked to confirm their entries as soon as possible and this year four venues were to hold at least one round each. Teesside Hungarians were to hold round 1 on 16th November, Stokesley were to hold round 2 on a Wednesday night, Hartlepool were to hold round 3 on a Monday night and finally Guisborough were to hold round 4 on a Thursday night.

The Plate competition was to be repeated this year.

Finally Mr Pallister reminded clubs of the various deadlines:
Nominated players to be in by the end of September to the League Organizer
Fees to be paid by the end of October to the Treasurer.

The Secretary brought to the meeting's attention a verbal invitation he had received from the Durham County Chess Association to the effect that Cleveland were invited to celebrate the DCCA's 75th anniversary at a 3-cornered jamboree in Durham on May 21st 2000. The other county involved is to be Northumberland and each county has been asked to provide 50 boards in order to produce a 75 board match - each board representing one year of Durham's existence.

The President accepted the invitation on behalf of the Association and it would be brought to the attention of the two County captains in due course.

Mr Myers, the Individual Organizer, brought to the meeting's attention the closing date of the two tournaments he is responsible for - 30th September. He also mentioned that an anonymous donation of £100 had been made to him and he wanted some ideas on how to spend it, preferably before the end of the month of September.

Mr Richards, the Grader, reported to the meeting that the grades had arrived and he distributed copies to every club. He also requested each player to fill in a form for his records and the web site.

Mr Walsh reported on NCCU/BCF affairs. He informed those present that he had been nominated to replace Stewart Reuben as Chairman of the BCF and that this was likely to take place at the BCF Council meeting on the 25th September.

He reported on the parlous state of the BCF finances issuing a statement supporting his case. There were problems with the Game Fee not being efficiently collected by Head Office and consequently there would be deficit of around £12,000 on the Game Fee account alone. There was much general comment on how the BCF's financial position could be improved with Mr Walsh favouring an increase in the number of Direct members as the way forward.

The Campaign for Chess as a Sport was still running and chessplayers were advised to write to their MP to keep up the high profile. If the campaign is successful it will help to develop chess in the schools.

Mr Walsh congratulated local players for their fine performances at Scarborough, in particular David Spence and David Wise, both from Middlesborough Chess Club, who came second equal in the Major Open. In addition George Glass won the Minor section of the Braille Championships held at Grantham.

Any Other Business

The Redcar Congress' future looks assured in the short term with a sponsorship deal being announced. SpecSavers of Redcar will sponsor the event.

Mr Garnett issued details of various handicap events to be held in Yarm at the Blue Bell during the Autumn and it was noted that the summer events had been successful.

Finally Mr Walsh advised the meeting that Steve Henderson and Dave Richards, both of the Ladle club, were considering setting up a team quickplay event.

The meeting closed at around 9.00pm