

SECRETARY'S REPORT: AGM 2013

There were just two matters during the year that require a report to this meeting. Firstly, the HMP Kirklevington Grange chess challenge finally took place last August. Norman Stephenson conducted a 'simul' over six boards or so, at the prison. Afterwards, I received an email from the prison chess club organiser advising that the evening had been a great success. The impression Norman had made on the inmates was commented on in glowing terms. They had found him patient and understanding. In particular, he addressed them in a very relaxed and friendly manner, which had not been expected. Norman later confessed that he had lost his queen in one game through complete oversight and simply resigned on the spot. This had made his opponent's evening complete, apparently.

With its success, Norman immediately offered to participate in another event. The chess club organiser informed me that she was leaving the prison and the club's future was uncertain. It was agreed that my contact details would be left for her successor, if any, to take up Norman's offer. There has been no contact since.

Secondly, I drafted the minutes of last year's AGM and sent them to the Executive Committee for consideration. With the remarks about the Peterlee Chess Club's failure to honour fixtures last season in mind, I delayed their publication on the website to avoid provoking any untoward comments on 'social media' at the start of a new season. My instructions from the meeting were to convey the sentiments expressed about this issue directly to that club. I determined to speak to Collin Smith personally in order to keep matters 'low-key'. On the 3rd December last, an opportunity arose with Peterlee A's away league match against my team, the Middlesbrough Knights. I had a few words with Collin afterwards and, hoping that the point would then be taken informally, I left the publication of the draft minutes on the website until 23rd April this year. What happened subsequently has been referred to by the Chairman.

P Mitcheson