



Minutes of AGM - Hertfordshire Chess Association (HCA)

Friday 15th July 2016

Salisbury Arms Hotel, Fore Street, Hertford

Present

Barnet Elizabethans
Bishop's Stortford
Enfield
Hemel Hempstead
Hertford
Royston
St Albans

Malcolm Harding (MH) (President)
William Young
Stephen Banks
Steve Law (SL)
Alan Brewis (AB) (Secretary)
Kevin Clark (KC), Brian Judkins (BJ), Peter Rice (PR)
Peter Baker (PB), Ray Claret (RC), Michael Flatt (MF),
John Leake (JL) (Treasurer), Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell (JFM)
Chris Majer (CM), Mike Price (MP)
Paul Littlefair
Kidge Elder (KE),

Stevenage

Watford

Welwyn Hatfield Chess Forum

1 Apologies for absence

Mir Wali

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

These were accepted.

3 Matters arising

An award to replace the County Tie (County Award? – suggestions for name please) has been outstanding for 2 years and had been promised for this meeting. It will now appear at the September meeting.

Action – Malcolm Harding

The 'lost' Woodland Trophy has eventually been found – in a cupboard in WHCF.

MH advised that from this meeting forward the trophy for the U120 League will be a permanent one, awarded on loan to the winning team until the following AGM.

4 Treasurer's Report *see separate file* – John Leake

The Treasurer's reports suggests that county teams should be self-financing as is the case with all other competitions. Alternatively, KE believes the HCA should subsidise county teams, particularly those that are successful.

KE suggested that our total monetary assets, £9.2k, are more than the HCA needs and at least some of this could be put to better use. MH proposed to review this at a future meeting.

The Financial Report and Statement were accepted by the meeting.

John stood down as Treasurer and MH thanked him for his decades of service to chess and the high standards he had consistently maintained. The meeting applauded John's huge contribution to chess in Hertfordshire.

The Treasurer did not recommend changing HCA fees for the season ahead but in any case this can be reviewed by the new Treasurer.

5 Secretary's Report *see separate file* - Alan Brewis

Referring to the progress made last season in revising the Closed County Competition Rules, AB proposes to continue with this next season.

AB high-lighted the progress made with meetings with everything now being electronically presented and a complete absence of paperwork. He drew attention to all Minutes and Reports being accessible through the hertschess.com website, <http://www.hertschess.com/node/330>, although notification of events would continue to be sent by email. The latest Rules are accessible here too, <http://www.hertschess.com/node/4>.

It doesn't sound very exciting but the HCA appears to have a wealth of archive material. It's the HCA's legacy and attention to this at a future meeting is planned.

6 Officers' Reports - *see separate files*

Reports received before the meeting:-

League Secretary – Steve Law

Knock-Out Competitions – Steve Law

County Open Team – Peter Rice

U160 Team – Mike Price

Capel, Burn & Bunce – Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell

Correspondence Chess – Graham Williams

Grading – Steve Law

Equipment – Mike Price

MH thanked all officers and captains for their good work over the past year.

Matters Arising:-

League – SL intends to look at the league structure in August and communicate with clubs as necessary.

Open Team – Peter is standing down as captain and expressed disappointment that more eligible players had not come forward to play in the team. Despite his efforts no one has been identified to take over. The East Anglian Chess Union (EACU) hold their AGM on Saturday 16th July and not long after will be wanting to know if we intend to enter a team. **Action – Malcolm Harding & Alan Brewis.**

U160 Team – Despite his grade being in free-fall MP agreed to continue as captain for another year but warned it may be his last.

U140 Team – Captain Steve Dicks had only survived last season by pulling up players from the U120 squad and even < 100 grade. He will defer his decision on whether to enter a team until after the new grades come out (late July).

KE suggested we invite the ECF to review the grading structure for County Matches in view of apparent declining interest. **Action – Alan Brewis, together with our ECF Representative.**

Capel, Burn & Bunce – Provisional dates, 8th & 9th October 2016.

Grading – CM advised that the ECF Grading Administrator, Richard Haddrell, is seriously ill and there is a risk the new grades could be delayed this year.

Adjudication – BJ advised there had been 7 this past season – a typical number.

Webmaster – AB advised that unnecessary problems associated with transferring the domain name from a long retired webmaster had resulted in renewal being forced upon the HCA again without their domain management wishes being in place. **Action – Alan Brewis**

Equipment – A query from KC on what to do with surplus analogue clocks was deferred until the Sep Executive Meeting. **Action – Alan Brewis**

Junior Chess – MF said he would help any club who wished to start a junior chess section. Only Watford and St Albans currently did so.

ECF –

SCCU – MF is their new County Match Controller.

EACU – BJ will attend the meeting on the 16th.

7 Closed County Competition Rule Proposals

- 7.1 In three separate votes Fischer Timing (FT) was approved as an additional rate of play option in the league, U120 league and knock-out competitions.
- 7.2 A proposal to set the FT details was debated and resulted in the following result:
“...all moves in 70 minutes plus 10 added seconds per move per player.”
- 7.3 It was agreed that in the league an unfinished game that has been played using FT would be sent for adjudication.
- 7.4 In knock-out competitions and the U120 league no adjournments are allowed and Ft games should be played to a finish.

These proposals, whilst still allowing adjournments in the league, are a step towards reducing the number of them.

The revised Rules reflecting these changes are at Issue 22 and can found under ‘Rules’ on the website <http://www.hertschess.com/node/4>. Alternatively, contact the Secretary for a copy. They come into force immediately.

8 Election of Officers

President	Malcolm Harding
(County) Secretary	Alan Brewis
Treasurer	Mike Price
Competitions Secretary	Steve Law
Capel, Burn & Bunce Organiser	Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell
County Fixtures Secretary	Stephen Dicks
Open Team Captain	
U160 Team Captain	Mike Price
U140 Team Captain	Stephen Dicks
U120 Team Captain	Peter Baker
Correspondence Chess Conductor	Graham Williams
Webmaster	Stephen Dicks
County Grader	Steve Law
Adjudications Secretary	Brian Judkins
Chief Arbiter	Tim Thurstan
Congress Organiser	Kidge Elder
Archivist	
Equipment Curator	Mike Price
Junior Chess Coordinator	Michael Flatt
SCCU Representative	Michael Flatt
EACU Representatives	Peter Rice, Mike Price, Brian Judkins
ECF Representative	Chris Majer

9 Presentation of Trophies

	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Represented by</u>
League Division 1	Watford 1	Paul Littlefair
League Division 2	St Albans 1	Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell
League Division 3	Stevenage 2	Mike Price
League Division 4 *	Royston 3	(Malcolm Harding)
League Division 5	Hertford 3	Alan Brewis
League Division 6	Bishops Stortford 3	William Young

U120 League	Welwyn Hatfield Chess Forum	Kidge Elder
Flear Trophy	Simon Knott (Hertford)	Alan Brewis
Wright Trophy	William Young	William Young
Russell Trophy	Barnet Elizabethans	Malcolm Harding
Sharp Trophy	Letchworth & Hitchin	Ian Mutton
U140 Trophy	Hemel Hempstead	Steve Law
U120 Trophy	St Albans	Ray Claret

All trophies were available at the meeting and were signed for by the appropriate representative.

* Transferred to Ian Mutton by via MH and Tim Thurstan 18th July

'County Award' performances were noted for Simon Knott (twice!), Andrew Maclaren, Ian Mutton, James Aldred, Simon Charles, Paul Laskier, Francois Sweigers, Russell Bailey, Duncan Marshall, Tim Sampson, John Harris, Keith Kitson, although some of these players have awarded a County Tie in the past. These awards will be made at the next Executive Meeting in September.

10 Any Other Business

RC commented on the success of the St Albans Congress held on 9th – 10th April 2016. Entrant numbers were up again. Next season's congress is scheduled for 1st – 2nd April, 2017. Chess & Bridge provided the bookstall for the first time after many years of support from Tournament Supplies.

KE suggested that, as with the Open and U160 teams, the U120 player with the best county performance should be recognised. MH said the same should apply to the U140 team and suitable trophies would be sought for both. **Action – Malcolm Harding**

MH advised we should keep our list of Vice Presidents up to date. **Action – Malcolm Harding & Alan Brewis**

Aside from an Open Captain, a new Archivist is required. **Alan Brewis – to advertise.**

JFM advised that TT, Ian Cross and himself were 'England 3' at the recent World Senior Championships. They didn't do bad and JFM was invited to give another presentation at a future meeting.

MF told us it's the SCCU's 120th anniversary coming up and consideration is being given to a North Thames v South Thames 100 board match. Apparently the HCA's own such match on the occasion of its centenary is favourably remembered.

Meeting closed, 10.20 pm.

Alan Brewis, 18th July 2016