



Minutes of Meeting - Hertfordshire Chess Association (HCA)

Held Friday 18th March 2016 from 19.30 hrs

Shire Park Club, Shire Park, Bessemer Road, WGC, AL7 1EL

Present

Barnet	Malcolm Harding (MH)	President
Hertford	Alan Brewis (AB)	Secretary
St Albans	John Leake (JL)	Treasurer
	Michael Flatt (MF)	Junior Secretary, SCCU & ECF Representative
	Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell	Closed County Competition Organiser
	Ian Cross (IC)	
Royston	Peter Rice (PR)	Open Captain, EACU Representative
	Brian Judkins (BJ)	Adjudication Secretary
	Kevin Clark (KC)	
Stevenage	Chris Majer (CM)	
Letchworth & Hitchin	Tim Thurstan (TT)	Arbiter
Welwyn Hatfield CF	Mir Wali (MW)	

1 Apologies for Absence

Ray Claret, Mike Price, Terry O'Sullivan, Malcolm Gesthuysen, Steve Law, Kidge Elder

2 Minutes of the previous meeting held 20th November 2015

The minutes were approved

3 Matters Arising

3.1 County Tie Replacement - The new award will be available in time for the AGM - Tim Thurstan

3.2 ECF Yearbook - HCA's entry was submitted in November 2015 - Alan Brewis

4 Treasurer's Report – John Leake

Please refer to the attached two reports. JL's proposal not to reimburse an Officer for expenses which have not had the prior approval of the Executive Meeting was carried nem con.

5 Secretary's Report – Alan Brewis

Trophies - The award of a certificate was proposed, and defeated, as an alternative to the presentation of trophies in recognition of league and cup success. MW returned the Woodland Board and Set (the missing division 4 trophy) that had been found in a WHCF cupboard. He also returned the u140 knockout trophy that WHCF won last season. Both were retained by MH.

Daytime Chess - Between now and the AGM, HCA players will be contacted to gauge possible interest in playing chess in the daytime. **Alan Brewis**

Vice Presidents - With input from MH and JL the list of current VP's is attached.

hertschess.com - As previously advised, documents will in future be distributed via the website rather than appended to emails. However email circulation will continue to advise of website updates.

County Teams - From information provided by Steve Law, the number of Herts players eligible to play in the various grading categories are:

U120	108
U140	79
U160	52
U180	42
Open	39

Safeguarding Children - It is a requirement of those, like the HCA, holding ECF insurance that they comply with the ECF Child Protection Policy. Accordingly it was adopted nem con by the meeting. MF generously agreed to be both the leader for safeguarding the HCA as well as its Safeguarding Officer. The policy will be available through the hertschess.com website in due course.

Election of Officers at the AGM - Officers are requested to advise the Secretary asap if they do not intend to stand for re-election next season. Better still, it would help considerably if they nominate their successor.

6 Closed County Competition Rules (CCCR), Issue 21, Draft 5 - Alan Brewis

Following an extensive review by the Rules Committee (RC), Issue 21 draft 5 was recommended as offering a significant improvement over the current issue 20. MH explained several of the changes to the meeting. The review focussed on the structure, order and consistency of the Rules. Rule amendments were confined to correcting practices that were not being followed. The following further two amendments were included in the revision:

Rule 3.6.2 Replace "...the time for cessation of play shall be 2 hours 30 minutes after the commencement (i.e. usually 22.15 hours)." with "...the time for cessation of play shall be 2 hours 40 minutes after the commencement."

Rule 3.6.3 Replace "The winner of the toss has choice of colour on odd-numbered boards" with "The away team has White on odd boards." This had been proposed by Ian Cross.

These revised Rules, now at draft 6, were adopted nem com to come into force next season.

The following suggestions will be considered for the next review.

- 1) To include reference to the ECF Competition Rules coming into force from September 1st 2016.
- 2) Consider merging together sections 1 and 2 of the CCCR.

It is Alan's intention, as acting Chairman of the RC to continue next season to further improve the Rules.

7 Officers Reports

League Secretary - Steve Law

The League & KO are running smoothly with no problems caused by the weather. A couple of clubs are bending the play-up rules to the limit this season. I'm happy to turn a blind eye at the lower

reaches of the league as I appreciate lack of players at the bottom of the club results in defaults. But lack of players in the higher divisions are the concern. If the lower teams of these clubs benefit unduly from this I might suggest they consider which divisions are appropriate for their teams.

With only 6 teams in division 1 I'm planning to address this by shuffling teams upwards. The spare places will be taken by either the relegated team or the 2nd placed team in the lower division. I sent to all the club secretaries the proposal below. No club said they were against the extra promotions, although I've had some suggestions over the div 6 / 7 problem. I'll deal with div 6 / 7 when it becomes clear how many teams there will be for next season.

With Barnet withdrawing shortly after the season had started we are left with only 6 teams in division 1. Divisions 5-7 are also a team short. I propose the following to rectify this for next season.

Div 1 no relegation.

Div 2-7 top team promoted.

Div 6 2nd team promoted.

Div 6 no team relegated.

For each of the spare positions the teams finishing 2nd in divisions 3-5 will get promoted, if they score greater than 3.25 times the % match points of the teams finishing last in divisions 2-4.

The team finishing 3rd in division 6 will get promoted, if they score greater than 3.25 times the % match points of the team finishing last in divisions 5.

The aim is to end up with 7 teams in divisions 1-5. If there are fewer than 47 teams next season I will merge divisions 6 & 7 into a large division. For 48-51 I will adjust divisions 6 & 7 accordingly. This assumes that Barnet 1 will not reappear. If they were to it would be in division 2 or 3 depending on team strength.

Steve's proposals were welcomed and approved nem con by the meeting.

County Captains

Open Team - Peter Rice The team finished 4th in the EACU competition having played all other teams once. Moreover, Herts won their match against Bedfordshire. Herts retired from the competition before playing any further matches and Peter does not intend accepting an invitation from either the EACU or the SCCU to play in the Minor Championships. Peter sites three reasons for the absence of players: 1) Some first team players have retired. 2) Some clubs who could support the team simply do not. 3) Some players living on the County border elect to play for a neighbouring team instead.

U120 Team - Peter Baker/Kidge Elder Postscript: Herts beat Kent 6½ - 5½ on Saturday 19th March to become SCCU Champions once again. Their next match, in the national quarter finals, will be against the winner of the East Anglian stage on May 21st.

ECF Representative - Michael Flatt

Chris Majer kindly agreed to stand in for Michael at the ECF Finance Meeting on April 16th in London.

SCCU Representative - Michael Flatt

Richard Haddrell is retiring as Secretary after many years of service and the SCCU seek someone to replace him.

Junior Chess - Michael Flatt

At a SCCU junior jamboree held at Gravesend on Sunday 13th March 2016 Herts came 6/6 in the under 14 Open and 5/5 in the under 14 Minor. It should be mentioned that for the most part Herts players were heavily out-graded, however they did benefit from the experience.

8 Any Other Business

Fischer Timing (FT)

Alan, the only u120 player at the meeting, reported that his limited experience of FT in both the U120 league and the congress had been entirely satisfactory although he had noticed that u120 players were sometimes barely aware of the significance of FT.

In discussion, the meeting expressed general support for Fischer Timing being introduced as a new, optional rate of play in competition next season. Kevin's original proposal was intended to reduce the need to play on (if a game did not finish on the night). With FT there is still the possibility, although reduced, for games to be in progress when the end of session time is reached. The meeting recognised that one way of dealing with this could be for any such games to be resolved through adjudication i.e. not by adjournment. Rule changes to introduce FT will be circulated via the website well before the next Executive Meeting.

Events

The 34th St Albans Congress is being held on April 9 – 10th 2016, <http://www.stalbanscongress.com>.

The English Senior Championships is included in a range of events being held under the banner of the Colin Crouch Celebration Chess Congress, April 2 – 10th 2016, <http://colincrouchccc.co.uk/>.

Meeting Closed: 22.15 hrs