



Minutes of Meeting - Hertfordshire Chess Association (HCA)

Held Friday 18th November 2016 from 19.30 hrs

Chauncy Room, Hertford Club, Bull Plain, Hertford, SG14 1DT

Present

Barnet	Malcolm Harding (MH)	President
Hertford	Alan Brewis (AB)	Secretary
St Albans	Michael Flatt (MF)	Junior Secretary, SCCU Representative
Hemel Hempstead	Steve Law (SL)	Competitions Secretary
Stevenage	Chris Majer (CM)	ECF Delegate
	Mike Price (MP)	Treasurer
Enfield	Steve Banks (SB)	Secretary, Enfield CC
Welwyn Hatfield CF	Kidge Elder (KE)	Congress Organiser

Before the meeting, the President delivered a special award to John Leake, to mark over 35 years as an Officer of the Association, as Secretary, Treasurer, League Secretary, Junior Secretary, Under 120 League Secretary and County Captain.

John was pleased to see the new trophies included the Association's logo, which he'd designed.

He was in good form, and asked that his best wishes and greetings be passed to all his friends in Herts Chess.

1 Apologies for Absence

Graham Willams, Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell, Paul Littlefair, Ray Claret, Peter Baker.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting held 23rd September 2016

The minutes were approved.

3 Matters Arising

County Tie Replacement Further 'county award' winners are being identified.

ECF Yearbook The HCA now has a 2016 copy and will respond to the ECF's request for material for the 2017 edition.

Daytime Chess The suggestion of playing chess in the daytime was circulated with the last meeting's Minutes. There was one response. The idea will be added to the hertchess.com website.

Vice Presidents VP's who have not renewed by the time of the AGM will assume to have resigned. The comment was once again made that VP's get nothing in return for their sub. A Newsletter would be good but failed in the past because of lack of contributions. AB will provide a summary of all county team results together with some games from the recent

Congress hoping this initiative will inspire others to provide some copy. This idea too will appear on the website.

Hosting the Executive Meeting No offers received for alternative venues so future meetings will continue at either the Hertford Club or the Salisbury Arms Hotel, Hertford.

4 **Treasurer's Report – Mike Price**

Please refer to the two separate reports 'Treasurers Report, Nov 2016' and 'Financial Report, 2016'. Three clubs had yet to pay their affiliation fees. Of these, Allenburys do not participate in HCA competitions. AB will speak to its representative, John Harris.

AB has received the telephone banking form from HSBC and will forward to MP.

5 **Secretary's Report – Alan Brewis**

Following queries from two clubs an explanatory note will be added to the Rules to explain that rule 3.6.3, *The away team has White on odd boards*, only applies to the HCA league i.e. not to the U120 league nor the knock-out competitions. It was decided that the rules would be sent to all captains. **Action – Alan Brewis**

The appointment of the Rules Committee (RC) will be added to the AGM Agenda in future. In advance of this, existing RC members will be invited to acknowledge their intention to contribute. The current RC consists of:

Alan Brewis (Acting Chairman)
Malcolm Harding
Michael Flatt
Chris Majer
Peter Rice
Stephen Dicks

6 **Officers Reports**

Reports from the Competitions Secretary, the Caple, Burn & Bunce Organiser, Herts Congress, U160 County Captain, Correspondence Chess Conductor, Equipment Curator and ECF Representative are appended in the single file 'Officers Reports, November 2016'.

Special attention is drawn to the desire to continue to hold both the Closed County Competitions (also known as the Caple, Burn and Bunce) and the Herts Congress. The former needs a new organiser although advice is available. The Herts Congress is a large successful event. The current lead organiser, Kidge Elder, is stepping down after 5 years and the remaining team, Alan Brewis, Michael Flatt and Tim Thurston would like some help to keep it running. Help before the congress and/or on either of the two weekend days of the congress itself would be welcomed. There are modest, specific tasks that could be undertaken if taking over the lead does not appeal!

Example: someone to validate each player's entry details and fees.

Example: two or three to help set up the chess sets late Friday afternoon.

Example: some to take responsibility for keeping the results display up to date.

Queries to Alan please.

7 **Chess Results Website – Steve Law**

The hosting of the website needs to be addressed. Mark Harris has reported that his server is beyond its useful life and one of the disks has failed completely. He's asking for the HCA to contribute to the update which to date we have used free of charge. We have rather taken Mark for granted and we are now in our 8th season. When we started, few players made use of the site, but gradually this has increased year by year. Steve was shocked to find out the number of emails we have been sending from the site. A conservative estimate is probably around 500 a week over the 8 months of the season. Most of the 500 occur at the beginning of the week. This has given rise to hitting Mark's limit of 100 emails a day on a regular basis and he has had to increase this to enable him to send his own emails. As many have noted the site had been getting slower over time, primarily due to increase in visitors. This is highlighted by the following ... a daily automated email with the information about players, clubs & teams is sent to Steve. This is triggered by the first person to view the site each day, it's rare that this happens later than a couple of minutes past midnight.

Steve have been trying to speed the site up over the past weeks and he is now eliminating duplicate results being entered. He has also been testing the code on his own web space. This has highlighted a few potential problems in moving to an alternate server.

The meeting debated the three main options proposed to maintain the Chess Results website.

- (a) Offer financial support to Mark to update his server.
- (b) Move to a server provided by a Third Party commercial service.
- (c) Move to a server provided by either Steve Law or Stephen Dicks.

In the absence of a quorum but facing the need to make a decision to keep the Chess Results facility in operation, the three principal executive officers, The President, Treasurer and Secretary agreed to provide £300 to Mark, approximately 50% of the cost, in return for the server being upgraded and the chess results being maintained for the foreseeable future.

8 **Archives**

The archives were displayed at the meeting. In volume, they consist of ledgers, bulletins, notebooks and CDs that together fill two boxes approximately 18" x 12" and 12" x 10" in cross section. Over the past 12 months Roger Kearns, Mike Price, John Leake and Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell have contributed material to the archives. Alan Brewis will add to this to cover his tenure as Secretary.

[The first consideration is that the role of Archivist is vacant for anyone with an interest in preserving this material. Please apply to the Secretary.](#)

In the meantime, the Secretary will investigate the possibility of hosting the archive on an HCA website. **Action – Alan Brewis**

9 **Any Other Business**

Steve Law gave notice he intends to propose, in time for the next meeting, a change to the rules concerning adjournment.

Meeting closed at 22.10 hrs.