

Secretary's Report - Alan Brewis

Attendance

July 2018 (AGM)	October 2018	March 2018	November 2017
20 (18) (17) (20)	7 (12) (18) (14)	(10) (8) (12) (11)	N/A (8) (13) (11)

Meetings

There was just one meeting this past season and only 7 attended. There seems little to no business to discuss so in future I am proposing to organise meetings only when they appear necessary. I am not seeking to abandon meetings, rather respond to the current climate. The HCA has a competent set of officers and the financial and operational demands of the organisation are comfortably satisfied. With less meetings though there is a danger new officers might be more difficult to find.

Perhaps the most likely reason for a meeting would be to deal with proposals to amend the Closed County Competition Rules. However, for 'simple' amendments even these might be accommodated within the AGM.

As we are not satisfying the HCA Constitution requirement to meet at least twice a year I have proposed an amendment to make two meetings more an ambition than a requirement.

AGM

The attempt to move the AGM to a weekday, Tuesday, was abandoned as it clashed with the H&D blitz. Daytime during a weekend is another possibility.

Minutes

The Minutes of this meeting might only record attendance, appointments, etc, with the achievements and reports of the 2018 – 19 season past being edited into a Newsletter or Yearbook. It is thought that a Newsletter would obtain more interest. It certainly allows more flexibility as to the content. Present plans are to release the Newsletter before the beginning of next season. Material, particularly annotated games, puzzles, etc, would be gratefully received. The first Newsletter is likely to be quite modest but represents a start.

Herts Congress

The last Herts Congress was held in November 2016 and, along the previous four all held in the Hertfordshire County Hall, was very successful. Inspired by the 4NCL Easter Congress held at the Holiday Inn in Stevenage I have been in contact with Mike Truran, CEO of the ECF, to see if the HCA could benefit from this experience. The weekend of the 2 – 3 November 2019 has been identified as a suitable time, avoiding EACU, 4NCL, London Chess Classic and other events. The venue and location are attractive, and the Holiday Inn's offer is expected imminently.

Archives

I hold the archives by accident, there being no other volunteer to take them over. However, they do hold material covering many of the 100 plus years of the HCA's existence. What's more I have been looking at it with growing interest. Some of it, the ledgers for instance, do not seem worth retaining but other written information, particularly Newsletters are quite a good read. During my own nearly 25 year association with the HCA, I have particularly enjoyed Jeremy (Fraser-Mitchell's) and before him Steve (Law's) good work. This has provided the motivation to resurrect the Newsletter myself.

County Award

A new County Award has been identified the lines of the plinth of the short-lived last one. There are awards from the 2017 -18 season outstanding. These should be obtained together with any County Awards for 2018 – 19 in one batch.

U120 Cup

This trophy, for best individual county performance, is missing.

July 2019