

LANCASHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION



Lancashire Chess Association Annual General Meeting - 7th September 2011

Present: Bill O'Rourke, Martyn Hamer, Stephen Fanning, Robert Taylor, Carl Tillotson

Apologies Received:

| Office | Name |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| U180 Team Captain: | John Cooper |
| Junior Chief Trainer: | Dave Gaston |
| U14 Manager: | Pete Edhouse |
| U12 Manager: | John Wood |
| U11 + U9 Manager: | Dave Gaston |
| Congress Organiser: | Geoff Jones |

| Club / League | Contact |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Atherton: | Simon Woodcock |
| Blackburn: | Peter Harrington |
| Knights United: | Dave Gaston |
| Lancaster Royal Grammar: | Brian Cornish |
| Leyland: | Steve Hughes |
| Pendle: | John C. Belbin |
| Poulton: | Majorie Ellison |
| Tameside: | Steve Mason |

Minutes of Last Meeting: Matters Arising

- 1) Issue over attendees, record showed two attendees who had not been fully present at the meeting. Mark Taylor had arrived late for the meeting, and Martyn Hamer, although he did arrive at the venue, was not directed to the room where the meeting had been moved to.

Bill thanked the previous minutes taker, Harry Praeger, who had stood in because no secretary was present.

- 2) Robert Taylor complained that Preston Chess Club did not receive notice of the last meeting, that the meeting had taken place much later than originally announced and failed to reach other clubs such as Leyland and Atherton. Bill said notice had been issued to clubs based on the mailing list at the time, issue at the time was the previous secretary had resigned and the mailing list used previously was not available. Carl Tillotson pointed out that the mailing list he had received from Bill did contain inaccuracies, with a number of incorrect mailing addresses since clubs had not updated their information.
- 3) Robert Taylor also pointed out that the association had also appeared to have not paid tribute to the services to chess rendered by John Littlewood. Bill went on to reply to Bob that he had actually been present at John's funeral, representing the LCA, and talked with his family. Bill said he had been sad to see so few chess players present at the funeral.
- 4) It was agreed to accept the minutes as they were, with the noted comments from Robert Taylor.

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President's Report

Bill reported that at the county level, Lancashire got 5 teams to the semi-final stages of the ECF County Championship, which was an excellent set of results. 2 teams got to the final stages, both unfortunately lost in the final. Nonetheless, a creditable performance and Bill expressed his thanks to all county captains. Bill also expressed his thanks to the junior team managers and support staff who have once again worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Bill reported that he believed that the Lancashire setup remained strong, but we would lose one club as a result of Burnley and Hawks merging. There were also problems with schedules, with county matches as well as junior events clashing with adult events.

Secretary's Report

Carl Tillotson provided the meeting with an update on the issues with the mailing list received, a number of the entries were out of date. Carl would be updating the mailing list based on details returned from clubs, and intended to send out a mail shot to each affiliated club requesting that contact information is updated.

Carl reminded people he had stepped in to assist with the AGM, so had nothing further to report for the year.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer (Martyn Hamer) submitted his report, which was discussed at length within the meeting. In summary, an overall profit of £300 on the year. A number of clubs still owed fees for 2011, and there was a discussion over the issues in past years with collection. The treasurer agreed to chase clubs owing money, and to collect overdue subscriptions before the end of the year. Overall the bank balance is very healthy.

Team Captains' Reports

Bill gave an update on the issues with the timings of the semi-finals, which meant they occurred in between Heywood and South Lakes congresses, Bill had put Heywood back a week to make sure there was two week gap but this still lead to issues with team captains being able to get their strongest teams out at the semi-final stages.

U100 – lost in the SF stage, 6-6 won on board count but due to fielding an ungraded player without agreement, the match result was penalised. As a result, Lancashire did not qualify for the final.

U120 – losing finalist.

U140 – lost at the QF stage

U160 – losing finalist.

U180 – lost in the SF

OPEN – lost in the SF.

Congress Reports

Blackpool congress was well attended again this year, with 418 attendees. There is a concern for next year, that the council will no longer sponsor the event. Heywood congress had made a good recovery from the previous year, and entries were solid this year. Preston congress, the numbers were holding up. People liked the new venue, and Preston are hopeful to have same or increased numbers next time around, although due to venue bookings Preston had to bring the congress forward by a few weeks this year and it is uncertain what impact on numbers this will have.

There was a discussion on venues for the Lancashire Championship, and the desire to rotate these around the Lancashire congresses. Bill reported that they had been at Heywood for 2 years, and that Leyland did not wish to host the championship due to issues last time. It was agreed that Preston would hold the Championship in November 2012 for season 2012-2013 as this would be Preston Guild Year. An approach will be made to

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Leyland to hold in August 2014 (for season 2013-14) with Heywood hosting the season after if Leyland take up the championships.

Junior Chess

The Junior Chess scene remains strong, there are 5 congresses being run. And we now have the highest number of players for several years playing for England. However the congresses do rely on a small team of people to organise the events. Bill asked that if people could spread the message and request that if you are able, to please get involved with helping with the juniors.

The U11 team finished 6th in the northern section, and qualified for the national finals. The U9 team finished 9th in their section and failed to qualify for the final stages.

The U14 team finished 2nd in the national championship (late news, the U14 team repeated this performance at the championship that took place after the AGM).

Bill presented a comprehensive spreadsheet covering all junior financial activity over the last four years. Junior finances, as a result of the junior congresses, remain very healthy.

Website

Carl provided a report on the status of the domain names, and the plans going forward. There would be a review of what archive material to keep on the website based on access. Stephen would continue to maintain the main site, whilst Carl works on a replacement using a CMS (Content Management System) based on DRUPAL. The idea is that the CMS once rolled out, would allow any LCA officer access to the website to upload content for the site, this should mean less delay in publication of information.

Leagues

ELCA – Burnley are Division 1 Champions, Great Harwood A were the Division 2 champions, with Great Harwood C the Division 3 champions. Great Harwood A won the Lucas Shield, and Crusaders B won the Subsidiary KO.

Central Lancashire – Division 1 Champions Preston A, Division 2 – Chorley A, and Division 3 – Crusaders C

Blackpool & Fylde - Division 1 – Preston A, Division 2 – Preston C

Election of Officers

The following officers / posts were elected at the meeting.

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| President | Bill O'Rourke |
| Secretary | Carl Tillotson |
| Treasurer | Martyn Hamer |
| Team Captains | Same as last year |
| Junior Organiser | Same as last year |
| Web Editor | Stephen Fanning / Carl Tillotson |
| Correspondence | Bill to approach Mike Conroy |
| Congress Director | Geoff Jones |
| Congress Treasurer | Simon Woodcock |
| ECF Representative | nominations sought, Bill will fulfil in meantime |
| NCCU | Simon Woodcock, Jim Tennant-Smith |
| Auditor | Peter Howarth |

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Subscriptions Proposal 2012

The treasurer proposed that the subscriptions remained unchanged, and this was accepted by the meeting.

Membership Scheme 2011-2012

Bill reported on the success of the Northern Membership Scheme (NMS) which was potentially at risk based on the ECF funding proposal. Nonetheless, the scheme would remain for a further year and membership was £13 for adults and £8.50 for juniors.

Lancashire History Book

Bill reported that the book is nearly ready for publication; there would be a limited production run. The cost received was £1400 for 100 editions. After discussion at the meeting, it was agreed that we would proceed with the production run of 100 editions.

AOB

None raised.

Date and Time Next Meeting

Agreed to hold in September 2012, and the venue would be a club from the Blackpool & Fylde league area. Carl Tillotson to seek nominations and advise accordingly.