

LANCASHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1897 (Centenary year)

Affiliated to the British Chess Federation and the Northern Counties Chess Union.

MINUTES OF AGM HELD AT THE WHEATSHEAF HOTEL ATHERTON, WEDNESDAY 03/06/98

Present: Bill O'Rourke, Angela Hanley, Mike O'Hara, Peter Furlong, Roy Townsend, Egons Andersons.

1/ Apologies for absence

Carl Tillotson, Jim Tennant Smith, Steve Appleby, Mike Conroy, Armand Catz, Steve Lamb.

2/ Minutes of 1997 AGM

The minutes of the 1997 AGM were passed without alteration.

3/ Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the 1997 meeting that are not dealt with by the present agenda.

4/ Officers Reports

a/ President's report

'An excellent year - the first year since the 'split' that we have fired on all cylinders at once. The Congresses maintained last year's gains. All 5 county teams qualified. The juniors set fresh targets to beat. The treasurer balanced the books and correspondence teams are still engaged in battle. We've had more clubs and members than at any time since the 1960's and long may the bulletin broadcast our success. One event mars our pleasure- the default of the U175's in the BCF quarter final. It is our duty to see that this never happens again. Our first meeting after the AGM will focus on this.

Finally two officials who have held the county together throughout many difficult years are retiring , Geoff Jones and Ken Gorman. Ken has already received his Honorary Life Vice Presidency and Geoff Jones will be proposed at this meeting'.

b/ Treasurer's report

The treasurer had given the general secretary a written report which was presented in detail to the meeting, a summary of which appears below. As a result of the auditor's recommendations to the treasurer, The following proposal was put to the AGM meeting;

"That the auditor's recommendations be enacted completely and immediately".

This proposal was agreed and passed unanimously. According with the auditor's recommendations, It means that the LCA treasurer will have overall responsibility for the LCA main account, the Junior Organisation account and the Congress account. The Junior Organiser (Bill Winter) and the Congress Organiser (Dave Clayton) will have to keep the treasurer up-to-date with balance sheets, yearly profit and loss and cash flow projections.

The main points of the treasurer's report were as follows below:

i/ Auditor David Lees had reviewed the accounts up to year end 1997, sent to him by Carl Tillotson

- He regretted the fact that previous year's accounts had not been made available to him by previous treasurers.

- He declared himself very unhappy with the fact that it was now apparent that congress accounts had not been sent to the Lancashire treasurer for several years. He felt if this was to continue he himself would not be able to continue in his post of auditor for the LCA accounts.

- The auditor also commented that it was the responsibility of the LCA Executive committee to ensure that the treasurer is provided with this information.

ii/ The treasurer reported a very successful financial year for the junior organisation, which he considered was the result of:

- The former efforts of Ken Gorman

- The further efforts of an enthusiastic new management team

- The decision taken to raise the entry fees to LCA junior events from £2 to £4, which had not reduced the number of entries.

- Coverage in the LCA bulletin, including photographs of successful juniors

- Very generous financial support given by Savant information systems, Virgin trains and Pennine Holdings.

iii/ The treasurer reiterated his desire that County team captains keep a firm control on costs.

iv/ The treasurer also echoed the secretary's wish that all officers make more efforts to sell the bulletins.

c/ General Secretary's report.

1997/98 saw the number of clubs affiliated to the LCA rise to 25, making Lancashire the second best club supported County in England after Kent. These clubs are now provided with better services than ever before (bulletins, congress reductions, strong congresses, healthy county teams at all player strength levels, a vibrant junior organisation etc.). However much of the voluntary work carrying out to provide these successes is performed by a relatively few members. It is vital that more members (and indeed, some more officers) offer their services by way of bulletin selling, bulletin article writing, county team management, junior coaching) otherwise the burden on the few will prove too much.

Lancashire clubs have performed extremely well in the NCCU Club Championships. ROCHDALE overcame a huge grading deficit to win the Open final against Hull and CHORLEY, having defeated fellow Lancastrians Heywood in the semi-final, have gone on to win the Minor section final against Tynemouth. Both clubs will receive £80 and a trophy. It is hoped that more Lancashire Clubs will want to try their luck next year in competing during the NCCU CENTENARY celebrations. Magnificent prizes are being offered.

County results continue to demonstrate the depth of strength of chess in Lancashire, with our Open, U175, U150, U125 and U100 teams all winning through to the BCF Quarter finals. Unfortunately a debacle then occurred which resulted in Lancashire defaulting their U175 match due to the last minute disappearance of the captain. The Open team (who won the NCCU championships) lost narrowly to Sussex 8.5-7.5. The U150 team went down to Kent 10-6, possibly as a result of the non-availability of the normal boards 2-5. The U125 and U100 teams (winners against Hertfordshire 11-5 and Devon 7.5-4.5 respectively) have both progressed to the BCF Semi-finals to be held on June 13th. Both these teams were also winners of their sections in the NCCU Championships. The U100 success is all the more remarkable considering the average age is under 13! Much of this success is due to the thriving Lancashire junior organisation.

As mentioned, the NCCU Centenary takes place next chess season. All affiliated Lancashire cubs will receive individual information during June concerning events taking place, including a NCCU Congress grand prix, a rapidplay grand prix and the club championships. Could all club secretaries bring their member's notice to these events to ensure maximum Lancashire involvement.

5/ Reports from County Team Managers.

a/ Mike Conroy's verbal report to the secretary expressed the belief that with a little bit of luck the Open team would now have been in the semi-finals, rather than having gone out to Sussex 7.5-8.5. He would be happy to continue as captain if re-elected.

b/ The secretary reported that the U175's had been eliminated from the quarter finals having disastrously defaulted the match following the disappearance of the captain. The secretary has since contacted Scott Riley concerning the captaincy and, provided his grade remains below 175, Scott will gladly take on the role.

c/ The secretary reported that the U150's had lost to Kent in the quarter-final. He believes however that a good team is starting to be assembled and that it can go further next season.

d/ The secretary reported that the U125's had smoothly progressed to the semi-finals and that Ken McMahon now hoped to take them all the way.

e/ No report had been received from the U100 captain, but the secretary reported the team was through to the semi-finals on June 13th to play Liverpool.

f/ The correspondence captain (Roy Townsend) reported that our national first division team is on approximately half marks, but that the second team is struggling a little with 3/10 to date. The NCCU first team stands on 3.5/5 (total 12 games), but the second team stand at 2.5/6 (12 games).

6/ Report of Congress Organisers

David Clayton had verbally reported to the secretary another extremely successful Blackpool Congress, only slightly down on last year (482 compared to the centenary's 532 entries). David intends to put out detailed accounts soon to the treasurer, but has reported that a profit was made. Although the 1997 Chorley Congress increased in numbers, it still reported a slight loss. Bill O'Rourke reported another successful 3rd Heywood congress and rapidplay, both up in numbers (183 and 200 respectively). Although only a 50p reduction had been offered to LCA members, over 100 players took this option. This "cost" the Heywood congress fund over £50, but was considered another worthy benefit to LCA members. Rochdale and Preston are to be approached to ask if they would consider giving the same 50p reduction to LCA members.

7/ Report of Junior Organisers.

In the absence of a report from the Junior Organiser, the secretary reported the following:

There is encouraging news both on the team and individual front. The U9's had finished equal 7th in the British counties U9 final at Basingstoke, compared to 15th place last year. The U11's struggled somewhat at the U11 finals at Basildon, but all of the team will still be young enough to compete again next year. The finals will be held in the North West next year, as part of the NCCU Centenary celebrations, which will save considerably on our junior financial resources. Craig Hanley has been selected to play for the British team at the European U14 championships in Vienna during July.

The Junior Organisation is benefiting from a strong management team. A new "fifth" junior congress is being organised for Preston on June 27th and should boost finances further. Several "coaching" days are being planned for our best youngsters this year, and volunteers from our county's best players are asked to put their name forward to give one day's training per year. Please contact Bill Winter. (see attached "Officers List" for addresses).

The NCCU U18 team jamboree will be held in Lancashire in March 1999, with Angela Hanley as the organiser.

8/ Report from Bulletin Editor.

Nick Sinclair had put forward the following report:

The fourth issue of the bulletin this year has just been published and sees my first year as editor completed. It's been an enjoyable effort, and most pleasing has been the willingness of people to help us with articles and games. I hope the variety and quality will grow as people enjoy the bulletin and want to contribute themselves. many thanks to those who have contributed so far.

9/ Reports from Lancashire leagues and clubs.

a/ Blackpool and Fylde League

Bill Winter had reported during the season that many teams are struggling with numbers of players available. Norcross had folded and Preston had had to remove a team.

b/ Central Lancashire League

The secretary reported that Heywood had won the first Division and Chorley the second and third. Leyland would meet Heywood in the cup final on June 11th at Rawtenstall. {Heywood won on board count}.

c/ East Lancashire league

There was no report, though it was known that Burnley had run away with division one.

d/ Clubs

Rochdale were new NCCU open Champions, and Chorley the NCCU minor Champions. Congratulations were offered to both clubs.

Waterfoot and Rossendale have merged to form Rawtenstall Chess Club.

10/ Election of Officers. - See results on next page. Greyed areas represent new officers.

A request is issued for three people to join the list of officers as committee members representing the interests of clubs. Please contact the general secretary if you are interested.

11/ Appointment of Auditor

David Lees has agreed to continue as auditor.

12/ Subscriptions

Upon the treasurer's recommendations, the vice president's and club's subscription rates will remain the same during 1999. However it was proposed and accepted that the bulletin, because of the quality, should now be raised to £1.50 per issue as from the autumn 1998 issue.

13/ Other Business - none

14/ Date of next meeting - Wednesday 16th September 1998
at 7.30, at this venue.

LANCASHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION ELECTED OFFICERS 1998-99

Founded circa 1897

Affiliated to the British Chess Federation and to the Northern Counties Chess Union.

President: Peter Furlong, 6 Thetford Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 3EQ. Tel: 01925 725706

Hon. Vice-Presidents: P. Furlong, P. C. Hoad, D. Lees, J. Tennant-Smith, K. Gorman, G. Jones.

Vice-Presidents: E. Andersons, M. J. Conroy, L. Cutler, C. Murray, B. P. Dabulawicus, S. Foulkes, B. Halliwell, J. Horner, J. Lyth, M. J. O'Hara, V. Tormey, R. Townsend, R. Wild

Full Members: C. Bond, M. Bridges, S. Fanning, E. Gradwell, E. Lesnik, C. Healey, S. Horrocks, J. Lund, M. O'Connell, A. T. Ormesher, S. Parkinson, B. Parry.

General Secretary: Bill O'Rourke, 101 Queens Park Road, Heywood, Lancashire OL10 4JR. Tel: 01706 627874

Treasurer: Carl Tillotson, 13 St. James Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB2 4HD. Tel: 01254 697089.

Open team Captain: Mike J. Conroy, 2 Fairbairn Avenue, Burnley, Lancashire BB12 0LW Tel: 01282 425703;

U175 team Captain: Scott Riley, 2 Appleby Close, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 6TL. Tel: 01254 884690;

U150 team Captain: W. O'Rourke (see above);

U125 team Captain: Ken Mc.Mahon (see below).

U100 team Captain: Bill Winter, 26 Alder Grove, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire FY6 8EH Tel: 01253 882306

Correspondence Captain: Roy Townsend, 10 Hillside Walk, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 2BQ.

Tel: 01254 672912

Junior Organiser: Bill Winter (see above).

U18 Manager: Angela Hanley, 136 Coulston Road, Lancaster, Lancashire LA1 3AB. Tel: 01524 63803

U14 Manager: Steve Lamb, 37 Pheasant Wood Drive, Thornton, Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 2AW

Tel: 01253 857072

U12 Manager: Mike Harris, 8 Oxford Road, Andsdell, Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire FY8 4EG

Tel: 01253 739031

U11 Manager: Rob Healey, 5 Fern Bank, Lancaster, Lancashire LA1 4TT Tel 01524 381242

U9 Manager: Paul Smith, 39 Woodplumpton Lane, Broughton, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 5JJ Tel: 01772 861849.

Congress Organiser: Dave Clayton, 15 Pearfield, Leyland, Lancashire PR5 1NX. Tel: 01772 456784

Congress Co-ordinator: Ken Mc. Mahon, 102 Watkin Lane, Preston, Lancashire Tel: 01772 467767

Grade Co-ordinator: Bill Winter (see above).

Vice-Presidents' Representative: Jim Tennant-Smith, 268 Middleton Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 2LG.

Tel: 01706 369727

Full Members' Representative: Mick Bridges, 298 Burnley Road East, Waterfoot, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 9HU Tel: 01706 223935

Club Reps Committee: Mick Bridges (Rawtenstall), Egons Andersons (Rochdale), Tony Rigby (Chorley).

BCF Council Delegate: Mike O'Hara, 878 St. Helens Road, Over Hulton, Bolton. BL5 1AA. Tel: 0120463275

N.C.C.U. Delegates: Mike O'Hara, W. O'Rourke (see above). Substitute Egons Andersons.

Bulletin Editor: Nick Sinclair, 289 Blackpool Road, Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire. Tel: 01253 895412

LCA Web Page Author: Carl Tillotson (<http://www.lancashirechess.demon.co.uk>).

1998/99 saw the number of clubs affiliated to the LCA continue at 25, with the addition of Blackpool but the withdrawal of King Edward's School. These clubs continue to be provided with better services than ever before - bulletins that are gaining acclaim far and wide; congress reductions; strong congresses; healthy county teams at all player strength levels and an ever expanding junior organisation etc.).

The LCA Bulletin continues to improve, with more annotated games from players at all levels. Some of the in-depth analysis from the Morecambe players in the current addition is excellent.

Lancashire clubs have performed extremely well in the NCCU Centenary Club Championships. Morecambe overcame much fancied Hull to win the Open final, and Crusaders, having defeated fellow Lancastrians Heywood in the semi-final, have gone on to win the Major section final against Elmwood of Cleveland. Both clubs will receive £250 and a trophy. It is hoped that even more Lancashire Clubs will want to try their luck next year.

The Open County team sadly crashed to their first NCCU defeat in 9 years to Yorkshire. Lancashire also had to cede to Yorkshire in the U175's on goal difference; In the nationals the U175's went down fighting to Essex in the quarter finals. The U150, U125 and U100 teams all progressed to the nationals, the U150's and the U125's as NCCU Champions. Unexpectedly the U125's crashed out to Hertfordshire in the quarter finals, but the U150's and the U100's have progressed to the national semi-finals, playing Kent and Merseyside respectively.

As mentioned, the NCCU Centenary has taken place all season. Lancashire players have been acquitting themselves very well, with players in the leading positions in the congress grand prix and the rapidplay grand prix. There are only a few events outstanding in both competitions. Considering these events will be held again next year, could all club secretaries bring their member's notice to ensure maximum Lancashire involvement.

The NCCU Centenary Dinner will take place at Scarborough half way through the British Championships. Lancashire will be well represented.

