

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 St James Bowling Club, Chorley), WEDNESDAY 07/06/00

Present: Bill O'Rourke, Mike O'Hara, Peter Furlong, Roy Townsend, Egons Andersons, Carl Tillotson

1/ Apologies for absence

Armand Catz, Dave Gaston, Dave Clayton, Pete Dodsworth.

2/ Minutes of 1999 AGM

Minutes of the 1999 AGM were passed without alteration.

3/ Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the 1999 meeting that are not dealt with by the present agenda.

4/ Officers Reports

a/ President's report

A grand season. Everything seemed in order. Praise was given to all officers and officials. A request was made to please continue in the same vein during the following year.

b/ Treasurer's report

The treasurer had given the general secretary a written report on the period January – December 1999, a verbal summary of which was given to the meeting. The secretary will provide complete details to anybody upon request.

The LCA main account showed an operating deficit of £1039.11 for the year 1999. There were three main reasons for this deficit. Again the success of 5 county teams qualifying for the national knock-outs was a massive drain on resources (i.e. £700). Fortunately a payment of £529.60 from the congress account (as per the LCA meeting agreement 27 months ago) reduced the effect of the county teams. Finally £535 was paid out from the Ian Wells Fund, which had been held by the LCA over the accounting year. This was a one-off expense.

It has been noted that our county teams did not perform so well this year, and so the effect on the 2000 accounts will be less damaging. The treasurer therefore proposed no increases in membership fees.

The main account bank balance as of 31/12/99 stood at £779.16

The Congress account showed an operating surplus of £659.92. £529.60 of the operating surplus was transferred to the LCA main account, and the rest retained in the Congress account, which now stands at £2706.99 at the end of 1999 according to the treasurer's figures.

The Junior Organisation account is still very healthy. Five junior congresses run throughout the year again ensured a strong revenue stream. The operating surplus for 1999 was £161, even allowing for the fact that the Lancashire County Council removed the grant to the junior organisation of £580 for 1999. The junior account stood at a surplus of £1291.21 at the end of 1999.

The meeting passed the treasurers report. The treasurer will forward details to auditor Peter Harrington immediately. The treasurer informed the meeting that the LCA account had been moved from the Yorkshire bank to Barclays as requested at the last AGM.

The treasurer (Carl Tillotson) reported that although Dave Gaston had been elected treasurer last year, he had only been able to serve a short time in office before having to resign owing to poor health. Carl had once again taken up the reins, but told the meeting he would be unable to continue in the post because of the work he puts into the LCA Juniors and because of work commitments

c/ General Secretary's report.

1999/2000 saw the number of clubs affiliated by subscription to the LCA reduce by one to 24, after the amalgamation of Waterfoot and Rossendale chess clubs to form the new Rawtenstall club. These clubs continue to be provided with better services than ever before:

- The LCA Bulletin continues to improve, with more annotated games from players at all levels. Grandmaster Keith Arkell recently commented that the LCA bulletin is excellent.
- Not only are many Lancashire congresses offering LCA club members congress reductions, but this year each Blackpool entrant received a free LCA bulletin.
- Lancashire congresses remain strong and healthy, whilst countrywide attendances are down. We are the only county to advertise ALL of our chess events in the BCF yearbook.
- Many of our county teams continue to reach the latter stages of national competitions.
- Our ever-expanding junior organisation and junior congresses is the envy of many other counties. Our youngsters continue to improve at regional and national level.
- We must be careful of complacency. Nationally chess is on a downward spiral, the BCF has been through turmoil and we must ensure chess on our own patch is well organised.

Lancashire clubs have again performed extremely well in the NCCU Club Championships. Burnley just overcame fellow Lancastrians Rochdale to win the Open final; Preston won the Major section final against Elmwood; Cleveleys just beat Heywood in the minor final. All three clubs will receive £250 and a trophy, with the runners up receiving £100. It is hoped that even more Lancashire Clubs will want to try their luck next year.

The Open County team sadly crashed to their second NCCU defeat in 10 years to Yorkshire. Lancashire also lost to Yorkshire in the U175's. The U150 and U125 teams both progressed to the nationals, both as NCCU Champions. The U150's sadly lost 8.5-7.5 to Warwickshire in the quarter-finals (our conquerors in the national final last year); The U125's lost on board count to Hampshire in the semi-finals; The U100's unfortunately failed to qualify for the national quarter-finals.

The LCA held its first club rapidplay in May. Although the number of clubs represented was low, eleven teams had an enjoyable contest, Preston becoming the inaugural champions.

Lancashire players have again been acquitting themselves well in the NCCU Grand Prix, with players in the leading positions in the congress grand prix and the rapidplay grand prix.

Finally Lancashire was the best-represented county at the superb NCCU Centenary Dinner last August.

5/ Reports from County Team Managers.

a/ Mike Conroy's reported to the secretary that the Yorkshire first team had been exceptionally strong this year, resulting in a 9.5-2.5 defeat. He would be happy to continue as captain if re-elected.

b/ The secretary reported that the U175's, captained by Armand Catz, had been defeated at the NCCU level by Yorkshire 7-5.

c/ The secretary reported that the U150's succumbed to Warwickshire in the quarter-final by 8.5-7.5

d/ The secretary reported that the U125's had progressed to the semi finals but had then lost out on board count to Hampshire 8-8.

e/ See junior organiser's report for U100 team.

f/ The correspondence captain (Roy Townsend) reported to the secretary that our national first division team came 4th in the national competition in 1998-1999 with 14.5 points, and currently is on 8.5/16 with eight games to go for 1999-2000. The NCCU first team stands on 0.5/2 (total 12 games), the second team on 3.5/7.

6/ Report of Congress Organisers

David Clayton reported another extremely successful Blackpool Congress, up on last year (458 compared to the 1998's 442 entries), assisted by the Doncaster congress having moved from the same weekend. The congress made a surplus of just over £720. The 1999 Chorley Congress was slightly down in numbers to 158, and reported a slight deficit of £60. Bill O'Rourke reported successful 4th Heywood congress and rapidplays, though both were slightly down in numbers. Rochdale was slightly up at 120 entries, Preston slightly down at 136 (a clash with bury rapidplay). Rochdale and Preston are to be approached to ask if they would consider giving a similar reduction to LCA members as do Blackpool, Chorley and Heywood..

The advert placed in the BCF yearbook marketing all Lancashire events (congresses, rapidplays and junior congresses) was considered again a great success and would be repeated next year.

A Lancashire arbiter training course would take place in May 2000.

7/ Report of Junior Organisers.

Junior organiser Carl Tillotson reported the following:

Under 14's Team came third just behind Manchester and Richmond. The Under 11's Team were the North West Champions for the second successive year. However this team finished a disappointing 13th in the National Finals.

Under 9s Team were the North West Champions. Very disappointing day in Yorkshire meant the team failed to qualify

for the finals. Under 16's Team won the Pennine Shield, beating rivals Manchester and Yorkshire.

Junior Congresses are still very popular and well attended. Lancashire Junior Chess does not now get any financial support from any Local Government sources or Lottery Funding. This may be a problem in future years. Fortunately, for the last two years, the travel arrangements for the National Finals have meant that travel costs have been minimised. Fortunately Kumon maths are now providing sponsorship for the LCA Juniors.

The U100 Team, which is mainly juniors, got to the 1999 Finals. However, the promise shown has not materialised as they failed to qualify for the final stages of this year's competition.

8/ Report from Bulletin Editor.

Nick Sinclair had put forward the following report:

My third year as editor completed, my thanks in particular to the sub-editors Bill O'Rourke and Carl Tillotson, as well as the numerous other contributors.

9/ Reports from Lancashire leagues and clubs.

a/ Blackpool and Fylde League

Morecambe took division one.

b/ Central Lancashire League

The secretary reported that the league continued to grow, with Great Lever now added. The 1999-2000 first division champions were Crusaders, and Chorley the cup winners. Greater lever had won division 2, and Crusaders C the 3rd division. Rochdale had won the subsidiary cup.

c/ East Lancashire league

Burnley's resumed their winning streak by taking the first division after last year's hiccup. Crusaders won division 2 and also the knock-out cup.

d/ Clubs

Burnley were the new NCCU open Champions after a win against fellow Lancastrians Rochdale. Preston won the NCCU Intermediate Championships, and Cleveleys the minor (defeating Heywood in a fine final). Congratulations were offered to all three clubs, who had won £250 and a trophy each, with the runners up receiving £100. All games are covered in the next LCA bulletin.

10/ Election of Officers. - See attached appendix.

Peter Furlong had indicated at last season's AGM that he was willing to stand down if somebody was willing to take on the job. This year Bill O'Rourke was nominated and he accepted, having served an apprenticeship of six year's as secretary. Bill's first action was to thank Peter Furlong for the numerous years of efforts he had put into Lancashire.

Dave Clayton had offered to take on the role of minutes secretary after the AGM. The new President offered to take on the treasurer's role for six months in order to simplify the systems and paperwork involved with the task. The LCA would then be actively seeking a new treasurer, preferably new blood.

11/ Appointment of Auditor

Peter Harrington of Blackburn has agreed to act as auditor.

12/ Subscriptions

Upon the treasurer's recommendations, the meeting agreed that fees would remain the same for 2000 as per 1999. Clubs are reminded that payment of this fee entitles ALL of it's members to reductions at Lancashire congresses; to free entry into the NCCU Congress and rapidplay Grand Prix; to one copy of each LCA bulletin being delivered free to the club; Finally it entitles that club's members to be picked for Lancashire.

13/ Other Business – THE BLACKPOOL CHESS FESTIVAL AT THE HOTEL HILTON

LCA officers Dave Clayton, Bill O'Rourke and Carl Tillotson were organising a chess festival from August 20-24th at the Hotel Hilton Blackpool. Leaflets are now available from these officers.

Grandmaster simultaneous, chess computer exhibitions, trans-Atlantic internet chess matches, Veterans vs. youngsters, beginners Chess Every Morning. Casual chess all day every day for every age. Colouring competitions and many prizes to be won every day. Every day there will be an evening rapidplay event open to all. Small entry fee with all monies returned as prizes.

The emphasis is to have fun in the wonderful surroundings of the Hilton Blackpool.

CHESSFEST 2000 is a celebration of Chess in Lancashire and the NCCU region and many events have been planned.

And the chessfest is open to all.

14/ Date of next meeting - Wednesday 20th September 2000 at 7.30 p.m. , at Chorley Chess Club.

Date of next AGM - Wednesday 6th June 2001, 7.30 p.m. , Chorley

LANCASHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION – officers 2000-2001

Founded circa 1897

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

President: Bill O'Rourke, 101 Queens Park Road, Heywood, Lancashire OL10 4JR. Tel: 01706 627874
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Hon. Vice-Presidents: P. Furlong, P. C. Hoad, D. Lees, J. Tennant-Smith, K. Gorman, G. Jones.

Vice-Presidents: E. Andersons, M. J. Conroy, C. Murray, D. Hodges, J. Horner, J. Lyth, M. J. O'Hara, W. O'Rourke, C. Tillotson, V. Tormey, R. Townsend, R. Wild.

Full Members: M. Bridges, S. Fanning, E. Gradwell, B. Hague, C. Healey, J. Lund, S. Parkinson

Minutes Secretary: Dave Clayton, 17 Bracken Close, Chorley, Lancashire PR6 0EJ. Tel: 01257 275053
dclayton@ukip.co.uk

Treasurer: Bill O'Rourke (As above).

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

U175 team Captain: Armand Catz, 19 Dicken Green, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL16 5TJ Tel: 01706 669852
catzarman@yahoo.co.uk

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

U125 team Captain: Mick Bridges, 298 Burnley Road East, Waterfoot, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 9HU Tel: 01706
223935 Mike@bridges5624.freemove.co.uk

U100 team Captain: Peter Dodsworth, 62 Kendall Road, Great Heaton, Higher Crumpsall, Manchester OL11 5DE
Tel: 0161 795 4856 PEMOCHESS@aol.com

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

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Junior Organiser: Carl Tillotson, 13 St. James Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB2 4HD. Tel: 01254 697089.
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U18 and U16 Manager: Frank Gardner 446 Ashfield Road Whiteholme Blackpool FY5 3JA Tel: 01253 821144
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U14 Manager: Steve Lamb, 37 Pheasant Wood Drive, Thornton, Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 2AW

Tel: 01253 857072

U12 Manager: Carl Tillotson (as above).

U11 Managers: Carl Tillotson (as above) and Dave Gaston

U9 Manager: Bill Winter, 26 Alder Grove, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire FY6 8EH Tel: 01253 882306.
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Congress Organiser: Dave Clayton (as above)

Congress Co-ordinator: Ken McMahon, 66 Blackmoor Road, Guide, Blackburn, Lancashire Tel: 01254 725153

Congress Trophy Officer: Tony Rigby, 8 Darlington Street, Coppull, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 5AB Tel:01257
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Grade Co-ordinator: Bill Winter (as above)

Vice-Presidents' Representative: Jim Tennant-Smith, 268 Middleton Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 2LG. Tel:
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Full Members' Representative: Mick Bridges (As above)

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
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N.C.C.U. Delegates: Carl Tillotson and W. O'Rourke (see above). Substitute Egons Andersons.

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