

LCA Annual General Meeting – 5 June 2002
The Wheatsheaf, Atherton

Present: Bill O'Rourke, Egons Anderson, Armand Catz, David Clayton, John Cooper, Steve Fanning, Rob Hart, Mike O'Hara, Phil Raynor, Carl Tillotson & Simon Woodcock

1. Minutes of 2001 AGM

The minutes of the 2001 AGM were proposed by Egons Anderson and seconded by Simon Woodcock.

2. Matters Arising from the Last Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM.

3. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

4. Officers Reports

a. President

The President opened his report by saying that he felt the organization had had a reasonable year. On the positive side, he was pleased to report upon the success of the second ChessFest held August 17th – 19th 2001. It had incorporated a one-day quick play event on the Sunday. The bulletin was financially sound and was full of games and reports, which represented good value for money. The LCA congresses continued to be successful, both in numbers and financially. Bill was also pleased to report we had 24 clubs affiliated to the county. Another positive sign for Lancashire Chess was the success of our county teams, all of which had progressed to the national stages of the counties championship. Bill was also pleased to inform the meeting of a new quick play congress in Lancaster on October 20th.

However Bill believed we had problems regards the junior activities. Junior Organizer Carl Tillotson was clearly overstretched, and Bill would be supporting Carl's proposal to break the junior role into two. Also Junior finances were under strain from transport costs, and Bill would be supporting proposals regards the raising of finance.

b. Minutes Secretary

There were no issues to be reported upon.

c. Treasurer

The Treasurer passed around the accounts for the main account. He thanked the Vice Presidents and Full Members along with those who made donations for providing the association with additional income. A surplus of £259.18 was recorded for the year, with another £48.12 to be added from the congress account that should have been transferred in the last accounting year. The treasurer recommended that all fees remain the same for 2002-2003.

Simon Woodcock presented the congress accounts. For the Blackpool congress, an increase in fees, including a late entry fee of £5, plus an increase in sponsorship and along with some cost cutting, helped to record a surplus of £1,126. This included £500 for equipment hire and the cost of LCA bulletins for all competitors. The Chorley congress recorded a small surplus of £130. The President thanked Simon for the accuracy of his accounts. He also requested that transferral to the main account of any surplus for 2002 over £500 be transferred as soon as reasonably possible after the Chorley congress.

Carl Tillotson reported a deficit of £369 for the Junior accounts, the major expense being coach fees. It was discussed and then agreed to take the following actions in order to try and improve the finances:

- Seek finance from councils – Lancashire had already said no.
- Run an additional junior congress – Carl to organise
- Charge £5 for providing transport (unless obvious difficulties in individual cases). Children would be picked for the team, and their parents advised their child could, if they wanted, travel on an arranged coach at a cost of £5 per head.

5 **Reports from County Team Managers**

Open In the NCCU round we lost 6½ - 5½ to Yorkshire and won 9 – 3 against Cheshire. In the National Quarter-finals we lost a winning position 8½ - 7½.

U175 We lost 6½ - 5½ to Yorkshire, Armand reported he had had difficulty in getting people to play. Bill offered to pull together a list of eligible players once the 2002-2003 grading list is released, so that Armand can send a letter to all Lancashire U175 players requesting their help. Bill believed we had a catch 22 situation – players will not play because they don't believe the team is strong enough.

U150 The U150 team have reached the semi finals, after winning the NCCU Championships and defeating Norfolk in the semis. They will meet Warwickshire in the Semi-finals.

U125 The U125 team have also reached the semi finals, where they will meet Staffordshire, after winning the NCCU Championships and defeating Middlesex in the quarter-finals

U100 The U100 team are also still in the county championship, having won the NCCU Championships and defeating Cambridgeshire in the Quarter finals. They will play Merseyside in the semi-finals.

6 **Report of Congresses Organiser**

The Congress Director reported that at 508, the Blackpool Congress had attracted the highest number of entries this year, being only surpassed by the LCA centenary congress. With the closure of Manchester Supplies, the congress is going to purchase 100 sets, boards and clocks for use by LCA congresses. This would be available for hire for £10 for Lancashire congresses. The President thanked both David and Simon for all their hard work. He also raised the fact that this year it was Lancashire's turn to have two British Championships qualifying places to be run at nominated congresses. Considering that Blackpool automatically is granted a qualifying place because of its size, it was suggested that one each should go to our next two biggest congresses, Heywood and Chorley. This was agreed, so these events will host a British Qualifying place on behalf of the NCCU in August 2002 and June 2003 respectively.

7 **Report of Junior Organiser**

Carl Tillotson presented his report. It was noted there were certain players not willing to play for the county at U18 level, and this was frowned upon by the meeting, since Lancashire had been very supportive of these individuals in their earlier days.

Lancashire had very narrowly been defeated in the NCCU Junior U18 team event (though the draw had probably been responsible for this, since Lancashire beat all the other teams individually, but were kept away from the weakest team, whilst the winners played them more frequently). Because of lack of support from certain individuals, an u18 team was not entered into the national finals.

Things were much better at U16 level, with the Lancashire team romping away with the delayed 2001 Pennine cup by defeating Yorkshire 23-13.

The under 14 team were in transition and the under 11 team just failed to qualify for the National finals of the Epsca event. The U9's just managed to qualify but struggled at the national final.

Carl suggested that the junior organiser role be split between congresses and teams. In essence the Junior Congress Director will be in charge of all facets of the six annual junior congresses and financial control of the juniors. The Junior Teams Organiser will be responsible for co-ordinating all junior teams, their entries into regional and national competitions and also training. After discussion this was agreed. Egon Anderson was tasked with obtaining more information regarding funding of chess teaching in schools, and Carl with finding out more about paid learning mentors in schools.

8 **Report from the Bulletin editor**

Bill O'Rourke reported on the bulletin on behalf of Nick Sinclair. Nick has compiled the Summer bulletin that should be available within the next two weeks. A request for more games and articles from Open players was made. Overall the bulletin is very strong, with contributions from most levels. A request for more games and articles from Open players was made. Financially the Bulletin runs at break even, which the meeting felt a great achievement.

9 Reports from Lancashire Leagues and Clubs

Blackpool and Fylde

Division A Preston Division B Lytham Ex. Division C Blackpool
The LCA website contains a report submitted from the League Secretary Phil Raynor. In passing the president thanked the Blackpool & Fylde president John Cooper for attending.

Central Lancs

1st Division Preston 2nd Division Atherton 3rd Division Crusaders
More information can be found at the Central Lancs website:
<http://www.ottie.org.uk/lcc/index.htm>

East Lancs.

There was nobody present to report on the East Lancashire. League. The president reported that for some reason he had not been receiving bulletins from the league for some time.

Bill O'Rourke reported upon the LCA clubs rapid play tournament. Although there was a low attendance (only 7 teams entered), those present enjoyed the event and an excellent buffet. The Open was won by Lytham with 17 points, followed closely by Heywood with 16.5 points and Atherton with 16 points. Lytham received a clock for their efforts. The meeting was at a loss for reasons why teams had not entered this well publicised event.

Lancashire clubs had again done well in the NCCU Club Championship. In the Open Rochdale beat Preston in the final, winning £100 and £50 respectively.

10 Election of Officers

The following people were elected unopposed:

President Bill O'Rourke **Treasurer** Armand Catz **Minutes Secretary** David Clayton
Junior Organiser Carl Tillotson **Junior Teams Co-ordinator** Dave Gaston

1st. Team Captain Mike Conroy; **U175** Armand Catz **U150** Bill O'Rourke
U125 Steve Fanning **U100** Egons Anderson **Correspondence** Roy Townsend

U18 An approach would be made to Frank Gardner, if not CT/WOR. **U16** As for U18
U14 Carl Tillotson **U12** Dave Gaston **U11** Dave Gaston **U9** Rob Hart

Congress Director David Clayton **Congress Treasurer** Simon Woodcock

LCA Grader Geoff Jones **BCF Delegate** Mike O'Hara
NCCU Delegates Simon Woodcock and Carl Tillotson
Bulletin Editor Nick Sinclair **LCA Web Master** Carl Tillotson

11 Appointment of Auditor

Bill O'Rourke would approach Peter Harrington to see if he would be prepared to be auditor.

12 Subscriptions 2001 and proposals for 2002

It was agreed that there be no change to the subscriptions for 2002.

13 Any Other Business

a. BCF Game Fee - Mike O'Hara confirmed that the game fee would increase from 30p to 32p. He said that not all possible votes from the NCCU area were cast at BCF meetings. Bill O'Rourke and Mike O'Hara would approach LCA area congresses to offer them the opportunity of proxy voting by our delegate.

b. NCCU Meeting - The next NCCU meeting would discuss the wish of GMCA to join the NCCU. The NCCU had previously agreed to discuss this providing a solution to Lancashire could be agreed regards boundaries. The GMCA were unwilling to join a working party to discuss this. Their application would therefore not be accepted by the NCCU.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The following date was set for next LCA AGM: Wednesday 4 June 2003
The next LCA committee meeting would be 18 September 2002.

LANCASHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION

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, D. Lees, J. Tennant-Smith, K. Gorman, G. Jones.

Vice-Presidents: E. Andersons, A. Catz, M. J. Conroy, C. Murray, J. Horner, H. Hughes, J. Lyth, R. Newton,
M. J. O'Hara, V. Tormey, R. Townsend.

Minutes Secretary: Dave Clayton, 17 Bracken Close, Chorley, Lancashire PR6 0EJ. Tel: 01257 275053
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Treasurer: Armand Catz, 19 Dicken Green, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL16 5TJ Tel: 01706 669852
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Open team Captain: Mike J. Conroy, 2 Fairbairn Avenue, Burnley, Lancashire BB12 0LW Tel: 01282 425703

U175 team Captain: Armand Catz (see above)

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

U125 team Captain: Steve Fanning, 10 Broadheath Close, Westhoughton, Bolton, Lancs BL5 3UQ
Tel: 01942 815241 stevefanning@talk21.com

U100 team Captain: Mike Horne, 23 Ottershaw Gardens, Blackburn Lancashire BB1 8RG Tel: 01254 672869
mike@23gardens.freemove.co.uk and Egons Andersons (see below).

Correspondence Captain: Roy Townsend, 10 Hillside Walk, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 2BQ. 01254 602127
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697089. ctillotson@ntlworld.com

Junior Teams Organiser: Dave Gaston, 40 Plantation Road Blackburn Lancashire BB2 4QA Tel: 01254 673430
Dave@64squares.freemove.co.uk

U18 and U16 Manager: Carl Tillotson (see above) and Bill O'Rourke (see above)

U14 Manager: Steve Lamb 07773 437239

U12 Manager: Dave Gaston (as above) **U11 Manager:** Dave Gaston (as above)

U9 Manager: Rob Hart, Abbotsford, 89 Gillibrand Walks, Chorley, Lancashire, PR 7 2HF 01257 261316
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Congress Organiser: Dave Clayton (as above)

Congress Treasurer: Simon Woodcock, 8 Donnington Close, Leigh, Lancashire WN7 3NY 01942 682646
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N.C.C.U. Delegates: Simon Woodcock (see above) and Carl Tillotson (see above).

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