

**Lancashire Chess Association - Annual General Meeting
9 June 2004 - The Wheatsheaf, Atherton**

Present: Bill O'Rourke, David Clayton, Steve Fanning, Mike O'Hara, Simon Woodcock

1. **Minutes of the 2004 AGM**

These were accepted as being an accurate record.

2. **Matters Arising**

Peter Howarth accepted the position of Auditor.

3. **Apologies for absence**

There were apologies of absence from Carl Tillotson, Dave Gaston and Rob Hart.

4. **Officers Reports**

Presidents Report

The President read from his report. He started by mentioning that Lancashire continues to enjoy the good times. He mentioned the good work by the team managers, the congress organizers, the junior organizers and the bulletin editor and sub-editors.

Bill also reported upon what he called the 'threadbare' organisation of the junior's following Carl Tillotson's hospitalisation and the resignation of Rob Hart.

He concluded however that the upsides certainly overwhelm the downside at the present time and thanked all concerned.

Minutes Secretary

David mentioned that he had written to the NCCU for the LCA to propose Bill O'Rourke as the next NCCU president. Bill is now the NCCU President.

Treasurer's report

Bill reported that he had had a difficult job in collect outstanding money after non-collection by the treasurer, but now it was up to date, he was pleased to report the accounts looked healthy.

Simon distributed an audited congress account from 1/10/02 to 3/10/03. Simon was asked what was included in the arbiters fees, he said it included accommodation, meal and travel expenses etc. For Blackpool 2004, he was pleased to report a surplus of £2,000 from the actual event. The main congress account held £2,700 with £2,500 in the savings account.

For the main LCA account, Simon thanked Bill for his good work in collecting outstanding money. There was a loss of last year of £6.33 that was mainly due to late payments. The main account now stood at £2,995

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5. County Team Managers

OPEN

The Open team lost to Kent in the Quarter Finals on board count with the score at 8 all. Bill O'Rourke thought the team was just 1 or 2 players short of great things.

U175

The U175 team (NCCU champions) lost to Essex 11 – 5 in the national rounds.

U150

The next match is due to be played on 13 June against Greater Manchester in the semi finals.

U125

The NCCU champions lost 9 – 7 to Middlesex in the semi-finals

U100

Again, as NCCU champions, the U100 team lost heavily in the semi finals to Essex.

Steve Fanning asked that more players annotate their games as he finds it very time consuming doing this for the whole of the team.

6. Congresses

The Congress Director read from his written report on the 2004 Blackpool Conference. The main change to the regular format was that the Open became a FIDE event. With increases in participants in the Open and Challengers, there were 527 players at the event.

7. Report of ChessFest Organisers

In 2003 the ChessFest ran a week long Ron Banwell Masters and a Hilton Masters international event. The NCCU junior event attracted an increase of 22% and the rapid play saw almost 140 players taking part.

8. Report of Junior Organisers

Carl had had a shoulder operation during the year; this reduced his availability during the year. Bill read out his report that showed we had a balance of £3,000 in the junior account.

Carl's report also spoke about his concern that the U9 and U11 teams will struggle without Rob Hart who is standing down this year. The U18 team won the National Championships, which was the first time since 1974. We also won the Pennine Cup and the NCCU jamboree. The U15 team came 5th in the National event.

The junior congresses attract between 80 to 160 players.

9. Bulletin Editor

Bill said that the bulletin was being written by the same people and he would like more support.

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10. Leagues

The Central Lancashire league had finished with Preston winning the first division, Rochdale B the second division and Heywood C the third division. There were no reports from the other leagues.

11. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected unopposed

President		Bill O'Rourke
Minutes Secretary		David Clayton
Treasurer		Simon Woodcock
Team Captains	Open	Mike Conroy
	U175	Martyn Hamer
	U150	Bill O'Rourke
	U125	Steve Fanning
	U100	Mike Horne
Correspondence		Peter Furlong
Junior Congress Organiser		Carl Tillotson
Team Captains	U18	Bill O'Rourke
	U16	Bill O'Rourke
	U15	Carl Tillotson
	U13	Dave Gaston
	U11	Dave Gaston
	U9	Louise Hardy
	Girls	Ian Hughes
Congress Director		David Clayton
Congress Treasurer		Simon Woodcock
Grader Co-ordinator		Geoff Jones
BCF Representative		Bill O'Rourke
NCCU Representatives		Simon Woodcock & Carl
Tillotson		
Bulletin Editor		Nick Sinclair
Web Designer		Carl Tillotson
Auditor		Peter Howarth

12. Appointment of Auditor

This was completed above.

13. Subscriptions for 2004

It was agreed to maintain current fees.

14. BCF Membership and Game Fee

Bill informed the meeting that the Game Fee would increase from 36p to 44p. A proposal from the NCCU and Durham CA wished to change from Game Fee to Membership Fee at £10 per annum. The meeting agreed to support this proposition.

15. Date of next AGM

This was set for 9 June 2005