

Lancashire Chess Association – Annual General Meeting

28th October 2010 – Hopwood Unionist Club, Heywood

1 Present

Bill O'Rourke (Heywood, LCA President), Harry Praeger (Heywood), Pete Edhouse (Heywood), Steve Mason (Tameside), Mark Taylor (Rochdale), Martyn Hamer (Great Harwood).

The president asked the floor was there anybody willing to take minutes, considering that Secretary Steve Fanning had resigned because of personal reasons. Harry Praeger offered to take the minutes, and to remain as secretary until the 2011 AGM.

2 Minutes of 2009 AGM

The minutes of last year's AGM were reviewed and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the 2009 AGM.

4 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from John Cooper, Steve Fanning, Simon Woodcock, Phil Raynor and Armand Catz.

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 *President's Report*

Bill apologised for the lateness in the year for the AGM, which had been aggravated by their being no secretary to call the meeting, and said he would personally ensure the AGM was held on the date stipulated by the constitution in 2011. Harry Praeger said the president was being too hard on himself – if there are no volunteers to stand in officer positions he cannot be expected to do all the roles.

Bill said the highlights of the year had been:

i/ The Open County team winning the National finals for the third time in four years, and Bill offered his personal congratulations to captain Mike Conroy on a magnificent achievement.

ii/ Thirteen current Lancashire juniors had now played for England, which is believed by far to be a record for Lancashire junior representation at national level.

Bill once again offered particular thanks to the relatively small group of people who make things happen for Lancashire chess.

5.2 *Minute Secretary's Report*

There was nothing to report from outgoing secretary Steve Fanning, who had thanked Bill by e-mail for all the help he had given him over the years.

5.3 *Treasurer's Report*

The treasurer was not present. However Simon had let Bill know by e-mail that the overall state of the county's finances were again very good. However Simon had had difficulty collecting in the year's affiliation fees from the clubs and had asked to be relieved of his main account duties so that he could concentrate on his position of Lancashire Congress account treasurer.

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Main Account

The president offered to collect in the affiliations for 2010 (due January 2010) so that a new LCA treasurer would have a clean start.

Congress Account

Simon had sent details of the Congress Account (see appendix one). It was again noted that there was a healthy balance at the moment, but Simon and Geoff Jones had cautioned that the Council grant was under threat, and sponsorship was under review. On the positive side the Lancashire congress stock of equipment was in fine fettle.

Junior Account

Bill presented a statement of the junior finances for the 2009/2010 season with a current balance of over £5k despite extensive training having been continued throughout the year.

6 Reports from County Team Captains

The meeting agreed that the NCCU trial jamboree had not been successful for Lancashire, over-extending our resources since we try to compete in six sections, so raising 6 teams to travel all on one day to play in Yorkshire had proved very problematical, exasperated by the fact that there was now an extra section owing to the new grading bands. All captains had stated they did not wish to continue with the jamboree in 2011. Bill said he would convey this back to the NCCU.

The Open team were NCCU champions (8-8, won board count) and made it to the National Final where they beat Sussex 11-5 to become national champions again.

The U180 team finished 2nd in the NCCU Championships but lost at the semi final stage to Warwickshire 6-10.

The U160 team finished 2nd in the NCCU Championships and were beaten 6-10 by Nottinghamshire in the preliminary stages of the national competition.

The U140 team did not qualify past the NCCU stages.

The U120 team finished 2nd in the NCCU Championships, but sadly had to withdraw in the semi final stages of the nationals owing to lack of players, a great disappointment.

The U100 team were NCCU champions (6-6, won board count) and made it to the National semi-finals where they were beat by Essex 4.5-7.5.

7 Report from Congress Organisers

Blackpool

Geoff had e-mailed a report saying the 2010 Blackpool Chess Conference was held at the Imperial and had gone very well, making a surplus despite attendance figures being disappointing compared to previous years. Bill congratulated Geoff and Simon on this achievement.

Lancashire Championships

The Lancashire Championships took place within the Heywood Congress in June 2010. The next Lancashire Championships are due to take place at the Heywood Congress in June 2011 where cash prizes, funded by the Mike O'Hara legacy, will again be awarded to the Lancashire Champions (£50 for the Open, £25 for the Major and £25 for the Minor).

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Other Congresses

Bill reported that numbers had been badly down at the Heywood Congress in June, mostly he believed to the South Lakes congress being run just one week before.

Bill had received no reports regards either the Preston 2009 or Leyland 2009 Congresses.

8 Report from Junior Organisers

Five successful junior congresses had been held during the season at Heywood (October and February), Audley (January and April) and Bilsborough (June). Five are planned for the coming season 2010-2011

Thirteen current Lancashire juniors have now represented England. Bill congratulated all of them, the junior organisers and the junior coaches for this achievement. They are:

Dominic Rabbitte, Liam Rabbite, Michael Rabbitte, Rachel Cass, Natalie Cass, Abigail Pritchard Matthew Walsh, James Walsh, Henry Broadley, Judd Bennett, Jordan Lewis, Mark Talbot and Nathan Talbot.

- The U9 team performed exceptionally well in the U9 EPSCA zonal, finishing 2nd overall, a great improvement on previous years. It was decided not to attend the final in the far south east.
- The U11 team finished 6th in the zonal with 28.5 points, out-scoring some tough opposition, to qualify for the EPSCA National Final again, where we unfortunately put out a very weak team and got punished accordingly.
- The U12 team finished a hugely creditable 3rd in the NYCA competition. An excellent performance by those involved, especially taking into account that some of our strongest players in the age group were not available.
- The U14 team achieved a brilliant result in the NYCA competition, finishing second with 29.5 points
- The U16 team finished in the middle of the field in the NYCA competition (6th) with 16 points.

The NCCU have recently confirmed their eligibility rules for junior events and the meeting agreed that Lancashire should make every effort to enter such competitions during the 2009/2010 season (specifically the U16 Pennine Cup and U18 Jamboree).

9 Report from Website Editor

Steve Fanning had stood down from this position. Carl Tillotson had offered to take up the post once again.

<http://www.lancashirechess.com/>

10 Reports from Lancashire Leagues and Clubs

All leagues had reported that clubs are struggling with membership numbers. The Central Lancs and East Lancashire leagues remain healthy, but the Blackpool and fylde had lost some clubs.

It was noted that once again Lancashire clubs were well represented in the final stages of the NCCU Club Championships, and the county was very successful. Heywood are now the Open, Intermediate and Minor champions!

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11 Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

President	Bill O'Rourke
Minutes Secretary	Harry Praeger (up to 2011 AGM)
Treasurer	Martyn Hamer
Team Captains	Open Mike Conroy
	U180 John Cooper
	U160 Bill O'Rourke
	U140 Joe Petrie
	U120 Colin Greenwood
	U100 David Thorp
Correspondence Organiser	Andrew Clarkson
Junior Coordinator	Bill O'Rourke
Junior Team Managers	U18 Bill O'Rourke
	U16 Bill O'Rourke
	U14 TBA
	U12 TBA
	U11 TBA
	U9 Colin Greenwood
	Girls Ian Hughes
Congress Director	Geoff Jones
Congress Treasurer	Simon Woodcock
Grading Coordinator	Geoff Jones
ECF Representative	Bill O'Rourke
NCCU Representatives	Simon Woodcock / Jim Tennant-Smith
Web Author	Carl Tillotson
Auditor	Peter Howarth

12 Appointment of Auditor

Peter Howarth had confirmed he would continue to act as auditor.

13 Subscriptions Proposal for 2011

It was agreed that club subscriptions would remain at £20 for small clubs (14 or less members) and £25 for larger clubs (15 or more members).

14 Membership Schemes

It was agreed that Lancashire will again join the NCCU MO scheme next season, with Bill co-ordinating for Lancashire. All clubs were asked to send their player information and NMS subscriptions direct to Bill

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15 Lancashire History book

Extensive corrections have been made to the first edition, and new material added. A classy Hardback edition should be available in March 2011, suggested price £20.

16 Any Other Business

None

17 Date of Next AGM

It was agreed that next year's AGM should be held on Tuesday 6th September 2011 at a venue to be decided, but Bill stated he wished the AGM to travel around the county. A further meeting should be held in February in advance of the Blackpool conference.