

**BUCKS COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the BCCA, Held at the Aylesbury**  
**Conservative Association, 100 Walton Street, Aylesbury,**  
**HP21 7QP, on Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009**

**1. Present**

Nick Butland (Chairman), Joe Yeomans, David Langford, Roger de Coverly, Colin and Sam Walker, Manfred Egby, Joan Gardner, Brian Lacey, Joe Arthur, Graham Brown, Frank Rich, Brian Hicks, Chris Stothert, Dave Turner, Jon Melsom, Carl Weaver, Fred Day.

**2. Apologies**

Alex, Ian Hall, Andrew Hill

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

The last AGM minutes were approved without amendment..

**4. Matters Arising (not covered in this agenda)**

None

**5. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Executive Recommendations:**

Carl Weaver reported, subject to audit, an increase of £19.31 in our funds as at 1<sup>st</sup> June, and there was a credit balance comprising of £1,130.54 at the bank, and £590.81 at the building society.

The meeting considered the Executive Committee's recommendations for next season, and most of these were accepted nem con, subject to small increases in the Individual Competition entry fee and prize monies. The 2009/10 figures agreed were:

- Club Subs to BCCA (unchanged) £20
- Club Competition Entry Fees (was £36) £40/team
- Club Competition prizes Div 1(was £35) £50
- Ditto Div 2 (was £30) £35
- Individual Competition: Entry fee£7.00, Div Prizes £30 Top section, £20 others
- The new ECF Grading fee – 50p/half game – was noted
- The Match captains were still to carry out inventory on equipment – new boards had been bought, but some clocks were not working - these will be given to the secretary to attempt salvage.
- The meeting decided to continue our £50 subscription to the SCCU to avoid possible problems for juniors, if we formally withdrew.

It was noted that Nigel Jennings had had to relinquish auditor duties for health reasons. All agreed that the secretary should write to Nigel to commiserate and express our thanks for his past services. Joan Gardner kindly volunteered to take over the auditing duties.

**6. Secretary's /Individual Controller's Report**

The secretary had referred in the agenda to results and officers reports on the Bucks website, rather than circulating any hard copy versions: no objections were raised to this practice. Hard copy minutes will be sent to club secretaries and other officers without computer facilities.

Secretary's Special Note Although reported on the Bucks website last August 2008, I omitted to remind the meeting that Alex, our President, had been honoured by the ECF with the President's Award for services to chess. I was pleased to attend the award ceremony at his Fakenham club, as did another former Wycombe and Bucks player, Ken Ellis, who lives near Norwich. Alex was the mainstay of the old Amersham club for many years, a successful County match captain, sometime club and county champion, and was one of the initiators of the Bucks and Berks August bank holiday congress, among many other things. Since his retirement to Norfolk in 1984, he has contributed to Norfolk chess and, despite poor health, which limits his travels, he maintains a keen interest in Bucks chess, demonstrated by his annual

President's Prize award. My apologies for this omission, and I am sure you would all endorse the many congratulations he received at the time.

In the Individual Competition, Dave Turner and Herby Ferris shared first place, in a fiercely contested top division, with Nick Butland in close contention. Joe Yeomans won Div 2, but the second promotion place depends on a play-off between Andrew Hill and Phil Wain (03/06/2009 - Phil Wain won the play-off). Darrell Watson ran away with Div 3 and is promoted with Mike Firth. Your secretary is not inclined to discuss relegation! (Neither is the Treasurer!)

### **7. Club Championship Controller's Report**

Jon Melsom congratulated Bourne End, winners of the club Championship, and Aylesbury on winning Div 2, thus making a rapid return to the championship section, replacing the relegated Wycombe and Hazlemere 2. Results details and league tables on website. He referred to his suggestions for an open top division, published on the website, and grading-limited other divisions, whilst indicating his strong preference for the current league structure, with the associated promotion and relegation. Jon was not inclined to accept Graham Brown's suggestion that the playing up rule should be further relaxed to permit five games to be played for higher teams, before a player became ineligible for lower teams: the matter was not pursued further.

### **8. County Chess - Captains' Reports**

At the Chilterns league meeting in May, it had been decided, in the light of the new ECF grading calculations, to set the grading limits for the current three competitions as follows:

u-180 up to u-200 (an open section had not been accepted)

u-125 up to u-150

u-100 up to u-125

The Chairman commented that the mixed adult/junior u-100 section, the brain-child of Chris Stothert, had been deemed very successful in the first year, and he congratulated Chris on the decision of Chilterns committee to name the associated trophy after him.

The fixtures for next season had been published on the website, but Brian Hicks advised that the venues for the Hants home and away fixtures for both the u-200 and u-150 teams had been reversed at their request, though the dates were unchanged.

Results and performances for last season – see website.

### **9. Junior Chess**

The possible need for a formal Child Protection Policy was discussed at length, it being recognised there were two distinct areas of application: purely junior events, and mixed adult/junior events, such as club and county matches. It was known that those most regularly involved with juniors in Bucks had obtained CRB Enhanced Disclosure Clearance, and they were familiar with related ECF guidelines on which a draft policy presented to the Executive had been based. The sense of the meeting was that there was no immediate need for a formal policy, although it might be required if grants were sought from the county council or elsewhere.. It was pointed out that if requirements surrounding junior chess were made too onerous, clubs might simply ban junior membership. The situation will be reviewed again next year.

The Chairman referred to his autumn circular to clubs seeking information and help for juniors. He had been very disappointed with the lack of positive response, and contrasted the position with Berkshire, where there seemed to be plenty of parental help. He observed that Paul Basham was doing a tremendous job with juniors at Hamilton School (BYCA at H Wycombe –Friday evenings) and with organising events such as the recent one at Wycombe High School. However lack of adult support meant that Paul and his colleagues, including Brian Lacey, had had to work on an informal basis as BYCA meetings had been inchoate, and could therefore take no formal decisions. Jon Melsom had agreed at the recent Executive meeting to help the BYCA by chairing meetings, and would discuss this with Paul..

The "Chess in Schools" initiative, in which the Holooid Plastics company were due to supply free chess

sets to interested schools, was expected to make progress in September, following a management buy-out of the company.

#### **10. ECF/SCCU Matters**

Neville Belinfante confirmed that the new ECF grading system would be operative for adult chess next season, but more work had to be done with junior grades, which were deemed too high in the figures given about two months ago. He referred to uncertainty at the top management level at the ECF, and the resignation of the recently appointed financial director. His detailed report on ECF fees will appear on the website.

#### **11. Presentation of the Presentation of Trophies/Prizes**

The Chairman presented prizes as follows:

- The President's Prize was presented to Sam Walker, who had been Captain and Board 1 of the winning England Under 14 team in the Four Nations "Glorney Faber" tournament. He was joint first in the Under 14 British Championships, and so is the current Under 14 British Chess Champion. In addition he played regularly on top board for Wycombe & Hazlemere in Division 1 of the Bucks League, scoring 7 out of 12.
- Club Championship Winners (Bourne End 1)
- Club Championship Div 2 Winners (Aylesbury 1)
- Individual Competition Winners (Tie: Dave Turner & Herby Ferris)
- Individual Div 2 Winner (Joe Yeomans)
- Individual Div 3 Winner ( Darrel Watson)
- Best game prize – still to be decided – seven under consideration.

#### **12. Congresses and Other Events**

- Bucks and Berks Congress will be held over the August Bank Holiday weekend at the same Twyford School venue as last year.
- Amersham Congress at the De Veres Latimer Place Hotel, Latimer, Chesham, took place in May, where Roger de Coverly qualified for entry to the British Championships.
- The next Bourne Rapid-play, which attracted 93 entrants this year, is planned for Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
- A simultaneous event organised by Joe Arthur at Downley, by "Grand Masters" Roger de Coverly and Andrew Smith, raised £437 on behalf of the homeless in High Wycombe.
- Bramley/Ruddle Trophies – no competition this year.

### 13. Amendments to the Constitution

- The new ECF grades are higher, particularly at the lower end of the spectrum, so the following amendment to Rule 21 of Schedule 1 (Club Championship) was unanimously agreed:

“Any player may play for the first team. For lower teams, no substitute shall have a grade more than 10 ECF points higher than that of the player replaced, with the exception of the situation concerning a strong new player joining a club, covered in Rules 23 and 24 below. For this purpose all players with a grade of 125 (was 100) or less shall be considered equal.”

- A smaller Executive Committee was agreed in principle by the Executive Committee. The following revised Rule 11 was unanimously agreed:

“The Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee, which shall consist of the Officers of the Association (except the Grading Officer/Webmaster and Auditor) and one representative from each affiliated club if the club is not already represented by a county officer”

- It was unanimously agreed to update Rule 9 of the Constitution, to read:

“The Officers of the Association shall be the President, Chairman, Match Captains, Secretary, Treasurer, Controller of the Club Championship and other events, the Conductor of the Individual Championship, Webmaster/Grading Officer and the Junior Organiser.”

### 14. Election Of Officers

There being no new nominations, and the existing officers being willing to continue in post, the chairman declared all to be re-elected for the 2009-10 season. Joan Gardner was confirmed as auditor.

*Secretary's Note: An updated list of officers' contact details and club locations is appended. As this will be submitted as the Bucks entry in the ECF Yearbook, please check details and advise the secretary of any further necessary corrections or amendments.*

### 15. Any other business

- Berkhamsted Chess Club – everyone was reminded of another new venue at Berkhamsted Cricket Club, as detailed in the Yearbook entry.
- Digital clocks - although these clocks are not in regular use in Bucks club chess, they are common at congresses and national events, and it was felt that they may eventually become available for our club games. There were concerns about the applicability of our present rules with the necessary re-setting of clocks for the rapid-play finishes, and it might be unfair if one player was unfamiliar with the clocks. It was agreed that such clocks should only be used with the agreement of both clubs (or both players in the individual competition), and that they should be used on all boards, rather than be mixed with our current clock types. Guidelines will be prepared by the Controllers of the Club Championship and Individual Competition for next season.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed.

## Appendix

### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

WEBSITE: <http://www.buckschess.org.uk>.

#### OFFICERS AND CLUB DETAILS FOR SEASON 2009-10

**President:** Alex Niedzwiedzki, St Francis Cottage, Almonry Lane, 39 High Street, Little Walsingham, Norfolk NR22 6BZ Tel: 01328 820 727 e-mail: [alex.niedzwiedzki@which.net](mailto:alex.niedzwiedzki@which.net)

**Chairman:** Nick Butland, 24 Coppidwell Drive, Aylesbury, HP21 9QF, Tel: 01296-433672  
e-mail [nick.butland@ntlworld.com](mailto:nick.butland@ntlworld.com)

**Secretary and Conductor of Individual Championship:** Fred Day, 59 Wordsworth Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2UR Tel: 01494 522 713 e-mail: [fgd@talktalk.net](mailto:fgd@talktalk.net)

**Treasurer:** Carl Weaver, 94 Minster Way, Langley, Slough, Berkshire, SL3 7EX  
Tel. 07769 934 363, e-mail: [Carlweaver1@aol.com](mailto:Carlweaver1@aol.com)

**Match Captain (1<sup>st</sup> Team in Chilterns League – u-200):** P Brian Hicks, Pound Cottage, Terry's Lane, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 9RZ Tel: 01628 520 098 email: [brianchess007@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brianchess007@yahoo.co.uk)

**Match Captain (u-150 and u-125 Teams in Chilterns League):** Chris Stothert 183 Fowler Road, Aylesbury, HP19 7QR, Tel: 01296 381 621, email: [chrishess@ntlworld.com](mailto:chrishess@ntlworld.com)

**Grading Officer and Webmaster:** David J Turner, 22 Butterfield, Wooburn Green, Bucks, HP10 0PX Tel: 0788 779 1416, e-mail: [dt@wedlake-systems.co.uk](mailto:dt@wedlake-systems.co.uk)

**Conductor of Club Championship:** Jon Melsom, 2 Chiltern View, Saunderton, High Wycombe, HP14 4HX Tel: 01494 562 306 e-mail: [jonathan.melsom@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jonathan.melsom@tiscali.co.uk)

**Junior Organiser:** Brian Lacey, 11 Laceys Drive, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, HP15 7JY  
Tel: 01494 713 698 e-mail: [twolaceys@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:twolaceys@tiscali.co.uk)

**ECF Representative:** Neville Belinfante, Ostlers Court, Old Coach Drive, High Wycombe.  
Tel: 01494 436 534 e-mail: [Neville@belinfante.demon.co.uk](mailto:Neville@belinfante.demon.co.uk)

**SCCU Representative:** Vacancy

**Auditor:** J Gardner.

**Executive Committee:** The President and the Officers, and one representative of each club, if the club is not already represented by a county officer.

#### AFFILIATED CLUBS AND SECRETARIES

**Aylesbury:** Aylesbury Conservative Association, 100 Walton Street, Aylesbury HP21 7QP (Tuesdays).

Nick Butland, 24 Coppidwell Drive, Aylesbury, HP21 9QF, Tel: 01296-433672  
e-mail [nick.butland@ntlworld.com](mailto:nick.butland@ntlworld.com) (Juniors 6.30 – 7.30pm).

**Berkhamsted:** Cricket Club, Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club, Kitcheners Field, Off Castle Hill, Berkhamsted, HP4 1HE. (Wednesdays) Website: [Berkhamsted Sports Club.co.uk](http://BerkhamstedSportsClub.co.uk)  
Ian J Hall, 6 Hall Park Gate, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 2NJ, Tel: 01442 864 097

**Bourne End:** Bourne End Community Centre, [Wakeman Road](#), Bourne End, Bucks, SL8 5SX, UK, (Wednesdays), Roger de Coverly, 1 Kennedy Close, Marlow, Bucks SL7 3JA, Tel: 01628 486 676. e-mail: [rdc@rdc200.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:rdc@rdc200.fsnet.co.uk)

**Gerrards Cross:** Memorial Centre, 8 East Common, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 7AD (Thursdays)  
Peter Forrest, Tregaron, Disraeli Park, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 2QE  
Tel: 01494 677 640 e-mail: [petforr@btinternet.com](mailto:petforr@btinternet.com)

**High Wycombe and Hazlemere:** Hazlemere Community Centre, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, HP15 7UB (Mondays) Andrew W Hill, 25 Honorwood Close, Prestwood, Great Missenden, Bucks, HP16 9HJ  
Tel: 01494 864 366 e-mail: [andrewhill65@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andrewhill65@yahoo.co.uk) Also Bucks beginners and improvers – all ages, Mondays, 6.30pm to 7.15 pm at same venue (contact Brian Lacey above)

**Slough (Lady Haig):** British Legion Club, 70 Stoke Road, Slough (Thursdays)  
A Graham Brown, 5 Clewer Park, Windsor, Berks, SL4 5HA  
Tel: 01753 868 720 e-mail: [Graham.brown68@btinternet.com](mailto:Graham.brown68@btinternet.com)

**Hamilton School Junior Chess/BYCA**, Priory Road, HP13 6SG, High Wycombe (Fridays -6.30pm.) Open to any Bucks juniors, beginners and improvers - Contact Paul Basham [Tel:01494 531 275](tel:01494531275)  
email: [paul.basham@crowcon.com](mailto:paul.basham@crowcon.com),

FGD 030609