

Minutes of the BCCA Executive Meeting, Held at Gerrards Cross CC on 15th April 2010

1. **Apologies from:** Neville Belinfante, Graham Brown, Andrew Hill
2. **Present**
Nick Butland (Chairman) ,Jon Melsom, Brian Hicks, Chris Stothert, Peter Forrest, Ian Hall, Carl Weaver and FD

3. **Officers' Reports**

a) **Treasurer**

Carl presented draft accounts based on estimates of officers accounts not yet submitted, which indicated a loss of about £100 on the season, leaving a balance of about £1600. This had arisen largely through higher grading fees because of an additional team in Div 2, involving a further 168 games for grading, and also a loss on county matches. Taking into account anticipated rise in ECF grading fees, and increased room hire charges for the Rossetti Hall (*up to £33 from £20/session*), and on the principle that all activities should be self-financing, the following recommendations to the AGM were agreed for next season:

- Club Subs to BCCA £20
- Club Competition Entry Fees (*was £40*) £45/team
- Club Competition prizes Div 1 £50
- Ditto Div 2 (*was £30*) £35
- Individual Competition Entry fee (*was £7.00*) £7.50,
- Div Prizes £30 Top section, £20 others
- The new ECF Grading fee was not yet set (ECF meeting later this week) this was 50p/half game . Grading fees are based on actual games played
- County match board fees, (*was £3 for home games only*), to be £3 for home and £2 for away games, with Juniors £2 per home games and £1 for away games.
- The meeting recommended continuation of our £50 subscription to the SCCU

b) **Secretary/Individual Competition**

Following the last AGM, Chris had requested some assistance, and Andrew Hill had agreed to take over the U-150 Chilterns team. In the Individual competition, although the leading contenders for promotion (and relegation!) were clear, the outcomes depended on the remaining games in all divisions (see website).

c) **Club Competition Controller**

Jon reported that the final games would determine the championship and promotion/relegation places, but Aylesbury 1 were almost certainly the new Club Championship winners. He had been happy with the manner in which clubs had re-arranged fixtures because of the postponements due to weather conditions.

Jon expressed concern at occasional behavioural issues. Some players clearly did not have a proper grasp of the laws or etiquette required. The League Controller would consider whether further written advice on the role and responsibility of match captains should be issued, to cover the most common offences, such as failure to record moves.

d) County Match Captains' Reports

- BH – u-200- lost all our matches this year, the team being again out-graded by the opposition. One match was defaulted following a postponement for bad weather. There was a strong case for u200 be made open , but this had been opposed by Hants..
- FD (for AH) u-150team had won three, drawn one this year, with Berkshire failing to field a team for another of the six fixtures.
- CS – We had won one, drawn one and lost two by the narrowest margins.

The team captains were thanked by Chairman.

e) Grading Officer/Webmaster.

Dave Turner was not present, but it was noted that the website had been regularly updated with results in the various competitions, and some news items. Dave requires all game results for grading by the end of May.

f) Junior Organiser

Jon Melsom had not been able to hold the formal meeting discussed at the last AGM, after which Brian Lacey had resigned as JO, effectively leaving Jon in the role. No junior county matches at any age levels this season, but Wycombe and Aylesbury juniors very active, and some excellent local juniors had performed in national teams. A successful BYCA Autumn tourney had been held at HWGHS: this was a qualifying competition for the London Junior Championships. The local ECF Giga finals were scheduled for 9th May.

Neville Belinfante had emailed in a proposal that Brian Lacey should be offered the role of County Chess for Schools coordinator, acting as the link between Kirsty Lapworth at the ECF office and local schools for the ECF's Chess for Schools project. *(Sec's Note: Brian agreed, and a Junior Chess meeting is now scheduled for 27th May, and indications are that it will be attended by all of the key people interested in junior chess)*

2. Constitution/Rules

a) Championship Divisions

Ian Hall proposed that all clubs should have the right to be permanently represented in the first division in the club championship; other club teams in the second division would compete for promotion to the championship section on a one up/one down basis. He had in mind the effects on the future of a club when key strong players leave after their club first team is relegated, and the associated financial repercussions threatening the continuation of a club. Ian withdrew the proposal after several objections were raised, including possible unfairness to a relegated second team, and it was also pointed out that Aylesbury 1 had just bounced back to win the club championship.

b) Use of Score Books

Dave Turner had questioned the use of score books as opposed to score sheets, largely on the grounds that when table surface space and elbow room are restricted, accessing the books can cause distraction. He was not referring to riffling through pages searching for analysis of earlier games, though riffling for any reason can be distracting at critical moments. As we could not prevent county opponents from

using scorebooks, it was felt that we could not legislate against them, but perhaps captains could advise that the use of score sheets was preferable.

c) Schedule 1, Rule 42 - amended to be recommended as follows:

“Each player. *unless physically handicapped*, shall keep a game score up-to-date unless less than FIVE minutes remains on his/her clock, but a draw by repetition of moves cannot be claimed unless an up-to-date score has been kept.”

3. Bramley/Ruddle Competition

As these competitions had not been held in recent years it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda, until such time as they are resurrected.

4. President's Prize

Most of you will be aware Alex's illness. In the circumstances it was agreed that an award from County funds should be made. It was unanimously agreed that the recipient should be Hans Hansen, in the light of his strong performances for Aylesbury 1, and his work in the interests of juniors – Nick will prepare a formal citation.

5. ECF/SCCU Matters

It was noted that Neville Belinfante would be attending the ECF Finance meeting on 17th April, when the new grading fees and other matters would be decided.

(Report subsequently circulated by Neville – grading fee now 54p/half game)

6. Any Other Business

- Best Game Prize - entries for games played since 01/06/09 to be submitted to the chairman before the end of the season.
- Garden Chess set. on offer – Nick to submit details to the Webmaster for advert.

7. Date/Location of AGM

Wed 2nd June at Bourne End 8.00pm