

# **Nottinghamshire Chess Association**

## **Annual General Meeting**

Meeting held at West Bridgford CC at 7:30pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

Present: D. G. Levens [President, in the chair], A. N. Walker [Secretary], R. J. Richmond [Treasurer], M. H. Barnes, S. J. Burke, N. Graham, K. Harvey, B. M. Hayward, F. Hill, M. J. Hill, C. Holt, N. London, A. Morrey, W. Place, A. Posazhennikov, D. Sudar, J. T. Swain, M. Taylor and T. Walker.

### **1. Apologies; minutes of previous meeting**

Apologies had been received from D. Cronshaw, I. Kingston, G. Ladds and B. Redburn.

The President asked the meeting to stand for a minute's silence in respect of members of the Association who had passed away during the year.

The minutes of the Rules Revision Meeting [circulated with the papers for the meeting] were approved, subject to two changes to the sentence structure requested by D. Sudar, which have been applied to the filed copy.

### **2. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **3. Reports of Officers and Committees**

The President referred the meeting to the reports in the papers for the meeting, plus a report tabled by N. Graham; in addition, in his role as Publicity Officer he reported that there had been some entries in the *Nottingham Evening Post*, there had been publicity relating to the *Robin Hood Marathon*, and some other activities had been reported to *Notts News*.

D. Sudar noted the continuing decline in numbers playing; as juniors dispersed, there was a big gap between them and adult players. He commended the activities at Nomads CC, and asked what EC was doing to attract more adults. The President said that more juniors were coming through, that some came back, and that parents came back. M. J. Hill said that web sites were important. N. Graham reminded the meeting of the event at Victoria Leisure Centre, which had been very successful. The NCA could distribute posters, but in the end it was down to clubs. M. H. Barnes said that numbers had declined by 8% in the past two years. We needed to build on the 12-14 age group. The President agreed with all comments made, but regretted that the Secondary Schools Association had

not got off the ground yet; we needed someone to run it. He recalled L. Darby's event in the Broadmarsh centre. EC was working on the problems, but clubs had to play the major part. He also drew attention to the ECF initiative. He was proud of what the county had achieved; we were being watched across the country! M. J. Hill said it was not enough for juniors to join a club; they liked to go with friends.

M. J. Hill asked about the future of grading-limited teams in view of the changes being made to grades. R. J. Richmond said there would be no effect for next season; the old grades would be used for competitions. W. Place said this was a national problem; the changes might revive the U175 event. M. H. Barnes asked whether the ECF was planning to change the bounds; R. J. Richmond thought this unlikely.

M. H. Barnes asked what had happened about the U125 team. N. Graham said there had been no appointed captain; R. Taylor had tried, but failed to raise a team. There was some discussion about the reasons for this and possible ways to make progress. N. Graham said there were many players we were not in contact with, hence the proposed voluntary registration scheme. Success at other levels showed what was possible.

The Treasurer spoke to his report. The audit was nearly complete. The report was approved unanimously, subject to audit. D. Sudar said it was time to reduce league fees, as a thank-you to clubs; he proposed team fees of £45 for divisions 1-4 and £36 for division 5, corresponding to £9 per board. The Treasurer said that if the fees stayed the same, we would show an increased profit thanks to the reduced deficits for the County Championship and the Congress; so he was happy to accept this proposal, which was carried *nem con*.

The President added that proposed attempts to raise our profile included the idea of inviting a GM to give a simultaneous display and talk, and a match with Ghent, which is twinned with Nottingham. M. J. Hill said that 2011 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1936 tournament, and we should start planning.

#### **4. Prizes**

The President distributed prizes as listed in the papers for the meeting, plus the award for the Handicap Tournament, which went to Mansfield.

The Presidential Award, made occasionally at the discretion of the President, went to B. M. Hayward for his services over many years, notably as President and as Grading Officer.

The President nominated Ashfield as Club of the Year.

#### **5. Election of Officers and Committees**

The following officers and committees were elected:

President: D. G. Levens  
Secretary: A. N. Walker  
Treasurer: R. J. Richmond

Executive Committee†:

D. G. Levens, A. N. Walker, R. J. Richmond [*ex officio*],  
M. J. Hill [LMC rep], N. Graham, K. Harvey, W. Place [co-opted]

Team captains:

4NCL: I. Kingston§‡  
Open: *left open*  
U175: *left open*‡  
U150: K. Harvey, W. Place [*joint*]  
U125: *left open*  
U100: R. Dawson§  
Corres: J. K. Walters

League Management Committee†:

Chair: M. J. Hill  
League Sec: R. J. Richmond  
Records Sec: W. Place§  
Members: S. J. Burke, K. Harvey, C. Holt, D. Sudar  
Reserves: B. Redburn, *TBA*

Grading Records Officer: B. M. Hayward  
ECF Representative: R. J. Richmond  
MCCU Representatives: R. J. Richmond, *TBA*‡  
Bulletin Editor: *left open*  
Website manager: D. Coates§  
Congress Director: R. J. Richmond  
County Championship Controller: R. J. Richmond  
Schools Liaison Officer: D. G. Levens  
Publicity Director: D. G. Levens  
Special Events, Blitz: *left open*  
Handicap Tournament Controller: J. A. Tait  
Auditor: S. J. Burke

Notes:

† The LMC elects its chair after the AGM, and also then nominates a member of EC; co-opted members of EC are also not appointed by the AGM.

‡ These posts were allocated to A. J. Wright, who resigned them shortly after the meeting.

§ These posts [*exc.* 4NCL] were left open at the AGM, and filled subsequently.

M. Barnes asked about prospects of running an Open team; N. Graham said that the new organisation into major and minor divisions might help. M. Barnes agreed to help explore the availability of strong players. [*Post-meeting note:* The response was inadequate, and the idea abandoned at least for the current season.]

W. Place said that he would be looking at ways of automating the process of processing League results onto the web and for grading.

M. Barnes reminded the meeting that traditionally the County Championship was held in the north of the county every third year, and this was the third year. N. Graham said that Ashfield would be happy to defer to the High School venue.

There was some discussion of the e-mail and paper versions of a proposed form for voluntary registration of members. N. Graham would circulate this to all known league and county players, the forms to be returned by 1<sup>st</sup> September. There would be supporting comments on the Web and in the Bulletin. The President said it was important to involve parents as well. N. London said that it was necessary to ensure that we had a statement of agreement about proposed uses of the information. The form would be in the Handbook by the end of August. Comments on the form itself should be made to N. Graham within a week, so that EC could finalise the arrangements for its content and distribution.

## **6. Any other business**

M. Barnes asked whether it was true that the NCA would be responsible for the running of the 2009 English Seniors Championship. The Treasurer said this was under discussion; it was possible that VAT could be avoided if the event was franchised to the NCA rather than run directly by N. Graham or the ECF. He reassured the meeting that there would be no risk to the NCA.

N. London proposed a formal vote of thanks to I. Kingston for his hard work as a multiple officer of the NCA, which he was giving up at least for the coming season. This was seconded by the Secretary and passed unanimously.

D. Sudar asked for confirmation that there would be a special general meeting, as proposed at the RRM. The Secretary confirmed that this was still the intention, and that clubs would be given discussion papers in time for this. The Constitution required three weeks notice of meetings. M. J. Hill said that a proper timeframe was needed; the President said this would be taken to EC. Following discussion, it was clear that September, as proposed at the RRM, was too soon, especially as there were likely to be other items for the agenda; early in the New Year was proposed as suitable for a meeting which would allow undistracted discussion of ideas, notably those for an Executive Board.

The President asked whether he should organise some social events, and proposed a trip to the Caves of Nottingham. There was some support for this. In this vein, N. Graham announced that Ashfield would be holding its annual quiz night the following week.

Following a comment from a potential delegate who found travel to West Bridgford difficult, the President asked for a straw poll on whether we should continue to rotate venues for meetings; this was heavily supported.

Meeting closed at 9:50pm.