

# Nottinghamshire Chess Association

## Annual General Meeting

Meeting held at Navigation CC, 7:30pm, Tuesday 7th July 2009.

Present were D. G. Levens [President, in the Chair], A. N. Walker [Secretary], R. J. Richmond [Treasurer], M. Barnes, R. Dyce, N. Graham, D. Griffiths, K. Harvey, M. J. Hill, C. Holt, N. London, A. Morrey, D. Padvic, W. Place, D. Sudar, J. T. Swain and J. Tait. Meeting opened at 7:50pm.

Abbreviations: AGM—Annual General Meeting; CA—Chess Association; CC—Chess Club, also County Championship; EC—Executive Committee; ECF—English Chess Federation; FIDE—International Chess Federation; LMC—League Management Committee; MCCU—Midlands Counties Chess Union; NCA—Nottinghamshire CA; 4NCL—4-Nations Chess League; U—Under [a grade of].

### 1. Apologies, minutes, matters arising

Apologies were received from D. Cronshaw, B. M. Hayward, G. Ladds and A. Posazhennikov. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without comment, and no matters arising were raised.

### 2. Reports of officers and committees

The President summarised his three years in office. There had been great advances in the junior chess within the county. These were doing much to offset the long-term decline in adult chess, and promised much for the future. The association with the High School had made available a good, free and central venue for many of our events. He thanked the officers of the NCA and others who had helped him.

The Secretary reported that the lack of elected officers had caused some problems at the start of the year, but the difficulties had been overcome.

The Treasurer reported a surplus for the year of £304 and accumulated funds of £7704. The loss of income brought about by reduced league fees had been compensated, as anticipated, by improvements in the finances of the county championship, congress and rapidplay. However, increased county match costs had offset these gains to some extent. There had been cash flow problems caused by the changes agreed last year, so he had transferred £1000 from the building society account. The accounts had not yet been audited. The Treasurer's report and accounts as presented to the meeting were approved, subject to audit.

The Secretary spoke to the report of the Executive Committee. W. Place had replaced A. J. Wright as a co-opted member. Most of the decisions taken by EC had been reported by other officers. EC accepted that, in the absence of *NottsNews*, communications with the membership had been less than ideal, and hoped to rectify this.

The 4NCL teams had disappointed. The first team had repeatedly under-performed, often losing 2½–3½ to lower-rated teams, and had even finished below the second team, which had finished strongly after some poor results earlier. M. Barnes had attempted to raise an Open team for the inter-counties championship, but too few players had been willing. The U175 team had played in an MCCU jamboree to qualify for the national quarter-final, but we had been unable to raise a team for this. The U150 team had had an enjoyable season, qualifying for the national stages despite a loss to Warwickshire, but had then lost to Surrey. The U125 team had also reached the national stages, but had then lost, and had also lost to Warwickshire in the MCCU final. The U100 team had lost to Kent in the national semi-finals. The MCCU stages had been very close. The Correspondence team was currently third from bottom in the Ward-Higgs competition, but there were still some games outstanding and we hoped to survive.

R. Richmond reported for the LMC that there were 39 teams, two down from the previous season, leading to four divisions of eight and a fifth division of seven. University 1 had won the League, and West Nottingham 1, Nomads 2, Grantham 2 and Long Eaton 2 had won the other divisions. Submitting results by e-mail had worked well. The LMC had investigated systems for electronic submission of results and automatically updating the web site; but the system proposed was expensive and intrusive. EC had decided not to proceed with this for the time being. M. J. Hill said there had been several disputes, especially involving captains reporting flag falls. The LMC would deal case-by-case with such incidents. J. T. Swain reminded the meeting that there were some changes to the FIDE rules, which were therefore automatically incorporated into our

League rules.

B. M. Hayward reported, as Grading Results Officer, that there had been 279 active players in the League, an increase of 21 over the previous season. The new system for submitting results had worked well, but he asked team captains now to supply full names rather than just initials to resolve some identification problems. This change was approved. He also reported that the ECF re-grading exercise was about to take effect, and most players would find that their grades had gone up, with the effects most marked at the lower end. There was expected to be a corresponding change in the grading limits for county matches; it looked as though there would still be sufficient players to provide for all the county teams.

R. Richmond reported on ECF and MCCU matters. For the ECF, we were referred to their web site. The MCCU had ratified changes to the grading limits, and there would be U180, U160, U140, U120 and U100 tournaments next season. N. Graham suggested that it would be helpful to delay sorting out these events until after new grades were known.

R. Richmond reported on the Congress, the County Championship and the Rapidplay. All had been successful, and there had been full reports on the web site. More space would be available at the High School for next year's events, which would improve the accommodation. Prizes, entry fees and grading structures were under review. M. Barnes asked about qualifications for the CC, as a number of players from outside the county had asked to play. It was agreed that club members who played in our League should be deemed eligible to play in the CC.

D. G. Levens reported on his work as Schools Liaison Officer. He was head coach to the Notts Primary Schools Chess Association and had set up a coaching award scheme. He remained committed to setting up a Secondary Schools CA. He said that coaching works because many people are involved, and suggested that team captains could recruit new players at coaching sessions. He would e-mail clubs with suggestions.

D. G. Levens also reported on his work as Publicity Director. We had gained publicity in the media through the chess content in the Robin Hood Marathon and through an event at Victoria Baths; but the media remained largely uninterested except when juniors were involved. The NCA had purchased a large banner, which could be used at NCA events. Local libraries had been supplied with posters.

J. Tait reported that eight teams had entered the Handicap Tournament, and Mansfield had won. That was not many entries, and perhaps the format needed to be refreshed.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments after this item, at 9:05pm, and resumed at 9:22pm.

### 3. Prizes

The President distributed the League trophies in accordance with the above report. He commented that it was difficult to keep track of these trophies and to recover them each year, so EC proposed that they should be retained centrally, and that successful teams should be awarded engraved clocks, which they would be able to keep. This proposal was approved by 11 votes to 1.

The Treasurer reminded the meeting that we had failed to set League fees for next season. He had proposed a modest increase in his report. A. N. Walke suggested that as we had recorded a healthy surplus, we could afford to maintain the *status quo*; this was confirmed by a large majority.

The President said that he was making a President's Award to Neil Graham, in recognition of his services to the Association over many years, and in particular of his help to the President during his three years of office. N. Graham expressed his surprise, and thanked the President for this mark of confidence.

### 4. Election of officers and committees

Officers and committees were elected, all *nem. con.*, as listed in the following table.

<b>Honorary Life Vice-Presidents</b>	<i>P. B. Dodson, F. Ellis and A. E. Morrey—see note 1</i>
<b>Executive Committee</b>	
<b>President</b>	M. H. Barnes—see note 2
<b>Secretary</b>	A. N. Walker
<b>Treasurer</b>	R. J. Richmond
<b>LMC Representative</b>	<i>D. Sudar—see note 3</i>
<b>Co-opted members</b>	<i>N. Graham, D. G. Levens—see note 3</i>
<b>Team Captains</b>	

<b>4NCL</b>	<i>D. G. Levens</i> —see note 4
<b>Open</b>	<i>vacant</i>
<b>U180</b>	<i>W. Place and K. Harvey (joint)</i> —see note 5
<b>U160</b>	<i>J. K. Walters</i> —see note 5
<b>U140</b>	<i>N. Graham</i> —see note 5
<b>U120</b>	<i>R. Dawson</i> —see note 5
<b>U100</b>	<i>vacant</i>
<b>Correspondence</b>	J. K. Walters
<b>League Management Committee</b>	—see note 6
<b>Chair</b>	M. J. Hill
<b>League Secretary</b>	D. Sudar
<b>Records Secretary</b>	D. Griffiths
<b>Members</b>	S. J. Burke, K. Harvey, C. Holt, T. Walker
<b>Reserves</b>	D. G. Levens, B. Redburn
<b>Other Officers</b>	
<b>Grading Records Officer</b>	B. M. Hayward
<b>ECF Representative</b>	R. J. Richmond
<b>MCCU Representatives</b>	M. H. Barnes, R. J. Richmond, D. Sudar
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	D. G. Levens
<b>Webmater</b>	D. Coates and W. Place (joint)
<b>Congress Director</b>	R. J. Richmond
<b>County Championship</b>	R. J. Richmond
<b>School Liaison Officer</b>	D. G. Levens
<b>Publicity Director</b>	D. G. Levens
<b>Special Events and Blitz</b>	W. Place—see note 7
<b>Handicap Tournament</b>	J. Tait
<b>Auditor</b>	S. J. Burke

Notes:

- 1: The Honorary Life Vice-Presidents were elected at an earlier General Meeting.
- 2: M. Barnes stated that he was prepared to serve for only one year.
- 3: These members were not elected by the AGM but by the LMC and by the other members of EC, respectively.
- 4: Left vacant at the AGM, and appointed subsequently by EC. There was a discussion about the extent of the subsidy given to the 4NCL teams by the NCA. N. Graham proposed that the subsidy should be up to one-third of the fees, while D. Sudar suggested that the limit should be £60 per team. N. Graham's proposal was approved by 7 votes to 5.
- 5: Left vacant at the AGM in view of the unknown effects of the re-grading exercise. Several names were suggested at the AGM and the allocation between them confirmed by EC when grades became known.
- 6: The Chair is appointed within the committee. The AGM noted that those appointed were not all from different clubs, as required by League Rules, and decided to proceed notwithstanding. It was agreed to revisit this issue at the Rules Revision Meeting.
- 7: W. Place said that he hoped to organise a blitz event at Gambit CC in August.

**5. Any other business**

The meeting expressed its thanks to the outgoing President, D. G. Levens.

Meeting closed at 10:18pm.