

Nottinghamshire Chess Association

Annual General Meeting

Glossary: 4NCL—4 Nations Chess League; CC—Chess Club; EC—Executive Committee; ECF—English Chess Federation; FIDE—International Chess Federation; LMC—League Management; MCCU—Midlands Counties Chess Union; NCA—Nottinghamshire Chess Association; RRM—Rules Revision Meeting.

Meeting held at Gambit CC, 7:30pm, Tuesday 13th July 2010.

Present were M. H. Barnes [President, in the Chair], A. N. Walker [Secretary], R. J. Richmond [Treasurer], J. G. Collins, N. Graham, D. Griffiths, K. Harvey, B. M. Hayward, M. J. Hill, C. Holt, D. G. Levens, D. Sudar, J. T. Swain, J. Tait, M. V. Taylor, B. Thompson, T. Walker and J. K. Walters. Meeting opened at 7:32pm.

1. Apologies, minutes, matters arising

Apologies were received from W. Place. The President reported the death of Ben Hobson, and the meeting stood for a few moments in his memory. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without comment, and no matters arising were raised.

2. Reports of officers and committees

The President said that the NCA had run smoothly during his year in office, and expressed his thanks to the officers, especially the Treasurer. The county teams had been successful, all having reached at least the national quarter-finals. The Leagus had also run smoothly, thanks to its officers and the webmasters. He noted that some team captains did not have web access, and hoped it would be possible to have occasional newsletters.

The Secretary had nothing of significance to report.

The Treasurer had nothing to add to his written report which showed a surplus of £399, comprising a profit of £666 on tournaments and a loss of £267 on other income and expenditure, leading to accumulated funds of £8097. The accounts had not yet been audited. The Treasurer's report and accounts as presented to the meeting were approved, subject to audit. The Treasurer proposed that League fees be unchanged; this was accepted.

The Secretary reported that EC had held three meetings and conducted much business by e-mail. Papers had gone to the General Meetings about proposals to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the 1936 tournament. It had been a successful season, thanks as always to the enormous efforts of our officers.

County teams:

D. G. Levens reported that the 4NCL teams had dropped off the pace, though the top boards had been successful. A dispute over fines for defaults when players had been snowed-in made participation in next season's event unlikely. It was possible that this might make it feasible to revive an Open team.

K. Harvey reported that the U180 team had reached the national final, where they had lost by two points. It had been a great performance; much credit was due to his co-captain, W. Place.

J. K. Walters reported that the U160 team had lost in the national quarter-finals to Suffolk, and referred to his report for further details. He thanked all his players.

N. Graham said that the U140 matches had been reported to the web site. In a remarkable turnaround from three years ago when the team had folded, this year they had reached the national final, which they had lost only on board count.

The President reported on behalf of R. Dawson that the U120 team had reached the national quarter-finals but had there lost to Yorkshire. N. Graham said there had been problems caused by the unreliability of Yorkshire grades.

J. K. Walters reported that the Ward-Higgs correspondence competition was not yet finished, but we so far had only 2½ points out of 15, and he expected us to be relegated†. More players were needed by early September for the team. The Secretary asked whether the problems facing our correspondence team were reflected in other counties; it seemed that the national picture was patchy.

† *Post-meeting note: In fact the team survived.*

M. J. Hill reported, on behalf of the LMC, that the League had run smoothly, and thanked D. Sudar and D. Griffiths, the League Officers. There had been some problems with mobile 'phones, which had led to the proposed rule changes discussed at the RRM. D. Sudar said that LMC meetings had been excellent.

B. M. Hayward, as Grading Results Officer, said that he had nothing to add to his written report. This showed 252 active players in the League, a decline of 27 players from the previous season, and gave a number of tables showing numbers of players broken down by club and by grade.

The Treasurer reported on ECF and MCCU matters. MCCU had debated whether to relax rules about mobile 'phones along the lines adopted by the NCA at the RRM; but this had been defeated. Digital clocks could now be used by mutual agreement. Neutral venues were to be used, except by mutual agreement, whenever counties had no common boundary. The levy would be £10 per levy point, or £40 for the NCA; the levy-point system was under review. He had not attended the ECF meeting, which clashed with the Congress. D. Sudar had also attended the MCCU meeting, and added that teams in the Open championship could choose whether to play in the Major or Minor section. M. J. Hill pointed out that the ECF had lost out in government grants; this was likely to lead to financial stringency.

The Treasurer, in his role as Congress Director, said that there had been full reports on the Congress, the County Championship and the Rapidplay in the papers for this meeting and on the web. The President said that the venue at the High School had been excellent.

D. G. Levens said that his work as Schools Liaison Officer had been closely linked with his role as Publicity Director. The juniors had been very successful, but a Secondary Schools Chess Association was urgently needed to complement and continue the work done at primary level. He had had some success in getting publicity for local chess, but it was very hard to get the media interested unless juniors were involved. J. T. Swain said that it was important to get support from teachers.

D. Griffiths said that the web site had made it possible to get results up very quickly; it was very helpful if both teams confirmed the result. The President said that in addition D. Coates had been very effective in reporting congress results.

The President said that W. Place had organised a Special Event, which had taken the form of a quickplay with two sections. D. Sudar had won.

J. Tait reported that the Handicap Tournament had not taken place; there had been too few entries.

The President reported that the Auditor, S. J. Burke, had found two minor problems with the previous year's accounts.

D. G. Levens apologised that he had not been able to produce a regular Bulletin. The President asked whether it might be possible at least to produce an occasional bulletin, as mentioned in his report. This was thought to be a good idea.

3. Prizes

The President made awards to Grantham 1 [Division 1], Mansfield 1 [Division 2], Grantham 2 [Division 3], West Nottingham 5 [Division 4] and Radcliffe and Bingham 2 [Division 5]. He also reported that P. Padilla had won the County Championship, with T. J. Poole and J. K. Walters sharing the U160 title. The Best Game prize had gone jointly to P. Padilla and R. Myers.

The President said that he had not chased up the trophies. D. G. Levens said that, in accordance with EC's proposals as previously endorsed, the awards would consist of engraved clocks, while the trophies would go to a cabinet kept at Nottingham High School.

4. Election of officers and committees

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

Honorary Life Vice-Presidents	P. B. Dodson, F. Ellis and A. E. Morrey—see note 1
Executive Committee	
President	R. J. Richmond
Secretary	A. N. Walker
Treasurer	S. J. Burke
LMC Representative	<i>M. J. Hill</i> —see note 2

† Names in italics represent appointments by bodies other than the AGM.

Co-opted members	<i>N. Graham, D. G. Levens</i> —see note 2
Team Captains	
4NCL	<i>vacant</i> —see note 3
Open	<i>D. G. Levens</i> —see note 4
U180	<i>D. G. Levens</i> —see note 4
U160	<i>J. K. Walters</i> —see note 4
U140	<i>N. Graham</i> —see note 4
U120	<i>T. Clegg</i> —see note 4
U100	<i>D. G. Levens</i> —see note 5
Correspondence	<i>J. K. Walters</i> —see note 6
League Management Committee	—see note 7
Chair	M. J. Hill
League Secretary	D. Sudar
Records Secretary	D. Griffiths
Members	S. J. Burke, K. Harvey, C. Holt, T. Walker
Reserves	D. G. Levens, M. V. Taylor
Other Officers	
Grading Records Officer	B. M. Hayward—see note 8
ECF Representative	R. J. Richmond
MCCU Representatives	R. J. Richmond, D. Sudar, <i>vacancy</i>
Bulletin Editor	<i>vacancy</i>
Webmaster	D. Coates and W. Place (joint)
Congress Director	R. J. Richmond
County Championship	R. J. Richmond
School Liaison Officer	D. G. Levens
Publicity Director	D. G. Levens
Special Events and Blitz	W. Place—see note 9
Auditor	D. Griffiths

Notes:

- 1: The Honorary Life Vice-Presidents were not elected by this AGM.
- 2: These members were not elected by the AGM but by the LMC and by the other members of EC, respectively.
- 3: Post-meeting note: after discussions at EC, no 4NCL team was entered.
- 4: Left vacant at the AGM, in view of uncertainties about grades, and appointed subsequently by EC.
- 5: Following a proposal made at the AGM, EC agreed to enter an U100 team with the intention that this should consist largely or entirely of juniors. D. G. Levens agreed to co-ordinate this.
- 6: J. K. Walters expressed the wish to stand down, but agreed to consult the players for the Ward-Higgs team and to keep the Secretary informed. In the event, he agreed to serve for one further year.
- 7: The Chair and the EC representative were elected by LMC.
- 8: B. M. Hayward gave notice that, after 25 years, this would be his last year in this office.
- 9: Following the demise of the Handicap Tournament, some proposals were made about other possible special events to replace it. N. Graham agreed to devise a set of rules and to organise such an event.

Following this item, the meeting adjourned at 9:22pm and resumed at 9:38pm.

5. Funding of Nottingham 1936 75th Anniversary Celebrations

The Treasurer spoke to his paper, circulated with the papers for the meeting. The principal proposed expense would be for a tournament. If this was approved, he would approach the University and the High School as potential venues; otherwise, either there would be no tournament, or it would have to be self-financing.

J. G. Collins asked about the state of NCA finances. The Treasurer said that the available balance had risen from £5000 to £8000 over five years. M. J. Hill asked about progress on other anniversary projects. The Treasurer replied that the 75-board match was to be organised later, but should break even; the proposed book should break even; D. G. Levens had ideas for the junior appeal. N. Graham said that we should allocate an upper limit; the prizes in the proposal were not enough to attract top players to a FIDE-rated event, and extra prizes would attract better players. J. Tait asked why the proposal specified August. This was to make it distinct from the Congress and also because it was the anniversary of the 1936 event.

The President suggested that the way ahead was to set a guarantee. The Treasurer then proposed that the meeting should give EC authority to spend up to £4000 on the celebrations. B. M. Hayward asked how this money was benefiting the NCA, and wondered whether £4000 was too much. The Secretary suggested that we start at £2000 and work up. On this basis, a guarantee of £2000 was supported unanimously, £3000 *nem. con.*, and £4000 by 9 votes to 3, at which point the meeting agreed to stop.

M. J. Hill asked whether this guarantee was for a specific tournament; it was agreed that it was for the whole package. The Secretary asked whether further progress was to be in the hands of a committee set up for the purpose, or of EC. The President said that it would be left to EC. D. Sudar said that he would like them to consider higher awards for the County Championship, specifically for Notts players.

6. Any other business

The meeting expressed its thanks to the outgoing President, M. H. Barnes.

Meeting closed at 10:26pm.