**YORKSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of the 1999 Annual General Meetin~heId at Centenary flouse~ North Street9 Leeds 2~ on Saturdav 19thJune.**

The Deputy President, Mr Jon Griffiths, took the chair. Present were:

Mark Bentley, Paul Blackman, Jim Burnett, Steve Burton, Bill Catron, Paul Clarke, Peter Cloudsdale, Richard Coates, Alan Coupe, Angus Dunnington, Brian Foster Jon Griffiths, Peter Hall, EF Johnson, Paul Johnson. Stuart Johnson, Maurice Kent, Joe Kilshaw, Ihor Lewyk, Neil Lowther, Steve Mann, D Miller, Dave Mills, Sam Nicholls, Charlie Norris, Richard Pallisen, Michael Pollard, Tony Stalmans, Peter Tate, J Taylor, Keith Trobridge and Roelof Westra.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received on behalf of Steve Bessell, Roy Bond, Clive Davies. Mike Dow, P. Gibbs and Cohn Hailstone.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

These were accepted without criticism.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**4. Annual Reports**

(i) Secretary’s report - Steve Mann commented that the county teams were quite successful this year, for which he offered thanks to the captains. We had not entered a team in the U-l00 event as no-one had come forward to take this on. Chris Dunworth had organised a National Counties Team Rapidplay event which was won rather easily by Yorkshire; he is holding the 1999 event in Sheffield which means that Yorkshire still host three national chess events this year (the other two being the full British championships in Scarborough and the British rapidplav event in Leeds). Neither the Yorkshire individual nor team lightning events had been held this season.

(ii) Treasurer's report - Steve Burton expressed concern at the sharp drop in our balance - the closing balance of £3,292.67 is down from £4.846.71 representing a deficit of *£l.554.04* over the season. Re said that the prime reason for this was the success of the county' teams, including the juniors, whose balance had topped by nearly £400. Steve said that we would have to pay more next season in game fees as the BCF have raised the cost from 27p to 29p per game. There were outstanding fees still to be collected totalling £263.00.

(iii) The Competitions Controller, Stuart Johnson, said that Hull "N' had won the Woodhouse Cup yet again but had lost a match ironically against the bottom team Undercliffe. In the other leagues, Doncaster "A" had won the IM Bro~~i', Hull "C" had won the Silver Rook and St. Andrews had clinched the Sunderland Cup. There were eleven postponements and six defaulted matches - Stuart reminded us that he needs to know about rescheduled matches (some teams had not informed him this year).

(iv) The Junior chess organiser, Alan Coupe, said that junior chess activity had increased, thanks to the efforts of Peter Cloudsdale, Gary Kenworthy & Michael Basman. Over 1,800 schoolchildren in Yorkshire alone had taken part in Mr Basman's "Saitek UK chess challenge" Not surprisingly, there had been some congestion in the calendar and his junior teams suffered as a result of players taking part in other events. Nevertheless, his teams enjoyed considerable success: the "B" team were runners-up in the NCCU Jamboree, the Under-11 team qualified for the national finals and were the best Northern team, the Under-9 team finished eighth in the national finals, the Under-14 team were promoted to the Premier division and the Under-16 side finished third in the Pennine Challenge. There were also some outstanding individual successes: Richard Palliser had won the adult Yorkshire championship, Gawain Jones had been invited to join the National Junior Squad whilst Stuart Robertson had qualified for the England Under-Il squad. Man said that many kids had expressed an interest in joining adult clubs, particularly those with existing junior players; however, there was a serious shortage of girl chess players (only 21 in the whole of Yorkshire). A vote of thanks was held to acknowledge the tremendous amount of hard work done by Alan & his wife.

*(v)* **Match** captains - Keith Trobridge mentioned that last year's Under-175 team had eventually reached the national final where they were beaten 10-6 by Essex. In this

season's events:

**Open** S Barren beat Lancashire to win the NCCU event; lost in National quarter-finals to Essex.

U-175 S Nicholls won NCCU event, ahead of Lancashire & Cheshire; lost in National quarter-finals to Bedfordshire.

U-150 C Davies runners-up in the NCCU event; lost in National quarter-finals to Sussex.

U-125 S Burton runners-up in the NCCU event; lost in National preliminary round to Cambridgeshire.

(vi) Correspondence controller - Dave Milton had taken over from Adrian Dawson; he said the fixtures would finish around December and welcomed new players.

(vii) The grader, Peter Tate, expected both YCA & BCF grading lists to be ready in late Summer as usual. He has re-written his computer program and the BCF were also perfecting a new system. He had not received any county results from the NCCU and hence these would not be counted in his list.

(viii) The NCCU delegate,Steve Mann, gave a report on NCCU events. The NCCU Grand Prix was coming to an end with twenty-six congresses involved. The NCCU club championships had been successful - Hull were runners-up in the Open section whilst Sheffield were runners-up in the Minor event. There will be a Centenary Dinner on Saturday 7th August at Scarborough during the British championships and Steve asked for participants.

(ix) **BCF** delegate - Steve Mann said that the Game fee was increasing from 27 to 29p. Stewart Reuben, the long-time chairman of the BCF, was retiring. Angus Dunnington asked if the YCA could help to get Richard Palliser, our current champion, into the British championships. Steve said he had approached Neil Graham but there were difficulties - there was a relatively new and rather vague rule which allowed the local area holding the championships to nominate a contender, but the BCF had not told us about this. Several members were dissatisfied and a proposal was passed that Steve should write a letter to the BCF expressing this dissatisfaction and asking them to reconsider the matter.

5. **Presentation of trophies**

The presentations were made by the Competitions controller, Stuart Johnson.

Woodhouse Cup - Hull "A" (Anthony Stalmans)

N Brown - Doncaster "A" (Neil Lowther)

Silver Rook - Hull "C" (Ted Johnson)

Sunderland Cup - St. Andrews (Mark Bettley)

Individual champion - Richard Palliser

NCCU OPEN - (Ihor Lewyk)

NCCU U-175 - (Sam Nicholls)

Turner Shield (Correspondence) - Dave Milton)

**6. Election of Officers**

Steve Mann read out a letter from Roy Bond, in which he stated that he was resigning from the presidency due to business commitments; he had managed to reduce our subs to the NCCU by 100%. Ml elections were unopposed:

President - Maurice Kent

Deputy President - Jon Griffith

Secretary - Steve Mann

Competitions controller - Stuart Johnson

Treasurer & Registrations secretary - Steve Burton

Minutes secretary - Sam Nicholls

Correspondence controller - Dave Milton

Junior Chess organiser - Mr & Mrs Alan Coupe

Open Captain - Steve Barrett

U-175 Captain - Sam Nicholls

U-15O Captain - Clive Davies

U-125 Captain - Steve Burton

U-100 Captain - Paul Blackman (until someone else takes over)

Grader - Peter Tate

Auditor - Mike Dow

NCCU delegates - Steve Mann & Maurice Kent

BCF delegate - Maurice Kent

**7. Proposed changes to the Constitution & Rules**

(a) Rule Al was amended to include the sentence "These competitions are divisions of a league competition, the descending order of divisions being as listed."

(b) A proposed amendment to Rule A5 to allow postponements if one team was short of players was defeated.

(c) An amendment to rule A9 to allow postponements (subject to the approval of the Competitions Controller) if two or more players were away representing their county in a match or at a meeting was passed.

(d) A proposal to amend rule A13 so that only eight players were used in the Woodhouse Cup (as in the other divisions) was defeated.

(e) A proposal to have six players per team in the lowest division and eight in all other divisions was withdrawn.

(f) A proposal was passed to allow the AGM to transfer teams between divisions provided it does not deny promotion to an eligible team (rule A14).

(g) A proposal was passed to amend rule AIS *so* that a player cannot play for a lower team in the last match of the season unless he/she has already previously represented the lower team.

(h) A proposal to start matches at 2:00 pm (instead of 2:30 pm) was defeated.

**8. Fixing of fees & subscriptions**

It was agreed that the registration fee would increase from £1.50 to *£2.50* **per player (£1.00 for** juniors). The board fee for county matches will be raised from £2.50 to £3.00 per player and there will be a rate of 10 pence per mile for travel expenses.

**9. League Programme**

Extra teams were anticipated from Scarborough & Sheffield; in addition, Harrogate were thinking of entering another team. Stuart Johnson said he hoped to have the fixture list ready by mid-August.

**10. Calendar**

Referring to the increasingly congested calendar of events, the Hon. Secretary said tint there were three occasions when YCA matches were scheduled in consecutive weeks, in order to avoid a clash with various events. Several members were unhappy with this and a proposal was passed to move the fixtures scheduled for 4~ December to 2711' November (unfortunately clashing with the Sheffield Rapidplay event). There was also a possibility that the Doncaster congress could move from 10-12th March to 18-20th February; if this happened, it would clash with YCA matches. A vote was taken to allow the Competitions controller flexibility in order to avoid such a clash.

**11. Nomination of a congress to hold the YCA Individual Championship**

This will be determined by the rota set up specifically for this purpose.

**12. Suggestions for fund use in the Junior account**

Paul Blackman has an idea for a junior event in Sheffield and asked for a donation of £40; he was asked to put his request in writing to the committee. The junior organiser, Alan Coupe, said that the money in the junior account was rapidly decreasing and, at the present rate, would evaporate within a few years.

**13. Any other business**

Angus Dunnington announced that the "White Rose Initiative' was organising an international tournament in Wakefield in July, with the hope of obtaining I.M. norms for Yorkshire players. A vote was taken to give a £200 grant from YCA hinds. Angus also offered to do a simultaneous display to raise funds for the "Children in Need" charity.

Neville Pearce brought up the subject of clubs providing refreshments for YCA matches; it was agreed that this would be advertised in the YCA Yearbook. David Mills offered to arrange matches between the Civil Service and county teams and/or cities.