


2007 

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 4th September at the Abbey,
Abbey lane, Sheffield commencing 7.30 p.m.

This meeting witnessed the retirement or standing down of four very respected officers of the Association: president Roger Hoole, Chairman of the executive and Postal Secretary Geoff Frost and Divisional secretaries Joe Primrose (Div.2) and Ron Keenan (Div. 3)

President Roger Hoole opened the meeting and reminded the members of his decision to retire as he had indicated the previous year. The members responded with a richly deserved ovation.

1. apologies for absence: were received from J. Primrose, G.Frost, Sheffield Deaf and John Mercy.
2. Minutes of the previous (2006) A.G.M.: were distributed and approved.
3. matters arising: none
4. Treasurer's report: Treasurer Mike Brumby reported a healthy state of affairs financially for the association, with expenditure very low and an increasing surplus of funds. He was proposing therefore a reduction in fees for the coming season.

In his accompanying notes the following points were highlighted.

- (i) For the fourth consecutive year no account or receipt of payments had been received from Yorkshire league team Sheffield D.
- (ii) Rotherham Juniors had not paid their yearly subscriptions within the financial year, however they had now paid both their outstanding debt and the subscriptions for the forthcoming season in advance.
- (iii) A fund of £150 allocated to the Junior Chess secretary in September 2000 appeared to be still unused as no record of any expenses had ever been reported.

5. Secretaries Reports

General secretary Bill Ward reported a quiet season, but a very hectic summer with much discussion on several points, including proposals to lengthen the season, a revamp of the match scorecards to include YCA codes as requested by the Yorkshire Grader and a general discussion into the use of the Internet, the association website and the use of email for reporting of results and other information, all of which was due to be discussed later in the meeting.

Divisional Secretaries.

Division 1 Secretary Mike Brumby reported a trouble free season with in particular very few rearrangements.

Division 2 Secretary Joe Primrose was not at the meeting, the General Secretary reminded the meeting of the final Division 2 placings.

Division 3 Secretary Ron Keenan also reported a trouble free season.

Division 4 Secretary Phil Beckett was not at the meeting. Again the General Secretary read through the final placings.

Richardson Cup Controller Mike Brumby reported no problems in either the cup or plate competitions.

Yorkshire league Captains.

A team: Jeremy Hamm reported a third place finish in Division 1.

B team: Alan McIntosh reported a tense division 2 relegation battle where survival was only achieved on the last game.

C team: John Mercy was not at the meeting. Gerry Fletcher reported a reasonable season in division 2 .

D team: Paul Blackman was not at the meeting. The D team had however won the silver rook (Division 3) trophy and achieved promotion.

Postal chess: Secretary Geoff frost was not at the meeting but had sent a report.

The A team had finished second in the top division, narrowly missing the title and the B team had managed to survive in Division 2

Sheffield Championship: John Fryer reported another win for Chris Shepherd, but again asked for more support for the coming year as numbers were again very low.

Crabb Shield: Bill Ward reported on another fun, enjoyable day.

All trophy winners are listed in the next section.

6. Presentation of trophies

Davy Trophy (Div.1): Nomads A

Weston Trophy (Div.2): Barnby Dun

Batley-Meek Trophy (Div.3): Phoenix B

Athanaeum Trophy (Div.4): Chesterfield B

Richardson Cup :Nomads

YMCA Trophy (Cup runner-up): Ecclesall

Sam Haystead Memorial trophy(Plate): Phoenix

Sheffield Championship:

Bruce Trophy: C.C.W.Shephard

Holroyd trophy: X.Y.Guo

Crabb shield: P.Chakrovarty, C.C.W.Shephard

Congratulations to all concerned!

7.Election of Officers, auditors and Match Captains

President : With the retirement of Roger Hoole a new president was needed. Mike Smith was proposed and elected to the position and at this point took the chair for the remainder of the meeting..

Roger Hoole assumed the role of past President

Vice President: Vice Presidents were as before with the exception of Mike Smith who as the new president was removed from the list.

General Secretary: Bill Ward was re-elected.

Division 1 and Richardson Cup: Mike Brumby

Division 2 Secretary: Simon Dunkley

Division 3 secretary: Neil Limbert

Division 4 secretary: P.J.Beckett

Sheffield Championship Controller: John Fryer

Bulletin secretary: Simon Dunkley

Treasurer: Mike Brumby

Yorkshire League Captains:

Sheffield A: Jeremy Hamm

Sheffield B: Alan McIntosh

Sheffield C: John Mercy

Sheffield D: Paul Blackman

Postal Chess Secretary: P..J.Beckett

Crabb Shield : Woodseats Chess Club(Bill Ward)

Auditors: Nigel Carpino, Patrick Broadhead

Junior Chess Secretary :Paul Blackman

University Chess Supervisor: Mark Kirkham

8. Election of Chairman of the Executive:

Mike Brumby was elected to this post.

9.Election of members to serve on the Executive;

Paul Cumbers having left the region was standing down.

Pete Swanson, Phil Ellis and Paul Blackman were all re-elected.

Jeremy Hamm was elected as the fourth representative.

10 Proposed amendments to the Constitution and Rules:

A proposal from Mike Smith to change the starting date for the league season to 15th September was approved by a simple majority though not passed as a rule change (two-thirds majority).

Further proposals to change the end of the financial year to 31st May, to change the period of days for the circulation of audited accounts to 7 days and to change the date for the notice for proposed rule changes to 31st March were not passed.

11. Approval of clubs seeking membership to the league.

Sheffield Deaf had indicated their wish to re-enter the league and this was unanimously approved by the meeting.

12. Fixing of Subscriptions:

Treasurer Mike Brumby's proposal to reduce league fees as indicated earlier in the meeting was not surprisingly welcomed with open arms!

13. Organisation of teams into Divisions:

Division 1. There was a problem in the make up of teams for Division 1 for the coming season.

Workshop A who had finished in the second promotion place in Division 2 declined promotion to Division 1. No other team, including SASCA A and University A who had finished 8th and 9th in Division 1 were willing to apply for the casual vacancy which meant that only 8 teams were confirmed for Division 1 for the coming season (and also that 10 teams would be in Division 2 by right). No resolution to this problem could be made on the night although hope was that a solution would be found before the fixtures were produced. President Mike Smith suggested that if either of the two teams involved (SASCA A and University A) decided before the Fixture meeting that they could enter a team in Division 1 then the first team to notify this to the General Secretary would be allocated the additional place provided that any such decision be passed to the General Secretary, Bill Ward to allow him to finalise the fixtures. This was accepted by the meeting. Jeremy Hamm asked to minute concern regarding the unresolved situation.

The problem was in fact resolved by University A accepting the last place in Division 1.

In Division 4, SASCA D has withdrawn from the league, their place would be taken by the re-entering Sheffield Deaf team.

14. Any Other Business

(i).+ (ii) Chess in the 21st Century

the use of the internet, the Association website and communicating by email was discussed at length. Clearly this is the future and in particular the emailing of results and a new format for the match card was presented. Bill Ward promised to provide paper copies of the card for those who needed it at the Fixture Meeting, but the intention was that results would be submitted as much as possible by email to the divisional secretaries and hence the bulletin editor.

- (iii) Mike Smith made note that next year (2008) would be the 125th anniversary of the S.& D.C.A. and that the association should find a way to commemorate this. It was mentioned that our current lord Mayor was the father of a leading chess player, Chris Dunworth, and that there was a very genuine opportunity to benefit from this in some kind of commemorative event. It was decided to refer this to the Executive for further development.
- (iv) There was a further suggestion from Mike Smith to set up a summer league for teams and players interested in playing during the summer weeks. Bill Ward, Nick Mahoney and Alan Coupe all gave their support to a proposed working party to be set up by the Executive to develop this.
- (v) There was a similar proposal from Mike Smith to set up a daytime league, possibly but not exclusively for veterans, which was supported by John Knight and was again referred to the Executive for a proposed working party.
- (vi) Jeremy Hamm raised the issue of junior Chess, and to what extent the Association was supporting this. It was again decided that the Executive should set up a working party to develop this and Jeremy has support from John Fryer, Paul Bailsy and hopefully Paul Blackman in forwarding this.
- (vii) Philip South from Stannington raised the issue of the new licensing laws regarding public houses and how this would affect Stannington and possibly other clubs in the forthcoming season.
Exactly what bearing this might have on Junior players and clubs was still not known.
- (viii) Finally, Paul Bailey and Simon Dunkley drew people's attention to the Association website where all information relating to the meeting would be posted, including a facility to download the new scoresheets and an explanation of the facility to email these results.

Meeting closed: 10.20pm