

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Hull & District Chess Association**

**Held on Tuesday 24 June 2008 at the New Clarence Pub, Charles Street, Hull.**

Present: M Butt (President), J Thompson (Vice President), M Ieronimo (Secretary), S Thrower (Treasurer), S Donoghue (League Secretary), N Whetton, S McKay, D Sheppard, K Lamb, M Brookes, D Mills, J Lawson, G Chesters, A Bettley, E Stamp, T Barwood, J Scotter, S Mackenzie, J Bycroft, M Crampton, A Northen, R Noble, S Culkin. (23)

### **1. President's Remarks**

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all those who had contributed to the Association's activities over the year. He pointed out there were many positives to draw from the year despite the fact the Association was going through a period of decline. He drew particular attention to the staging of the annual congress, rapid play and the first junior championship for many years. He appealed to members to help promote chess in the area, and stated that he would like to attract new players into the Association and to encourage former players to take up chess once again. He recommended that full use should be made of the Ross Fund in pursuing this aim while the funds are still available.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from John Andrews.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were read out aloud. Subject to one amendment ('Yorkshire' should become 'York' in the penultimate paragraph of the minutes), John Lawson proposed the minutes be taken as an accurate record, Mike Butt seconded his proposal. **Vote: For (23), Against (0), Abstentions (0). Motion carried**

### **4. Matters arising from the minutes**

John Bycroft stated that it had been agreed at a previous AGM that all matches were to be self-financing, but that it was evident that this had not been the case with the most recent Hull-Yorkshire match. Some debate ensued- but no immediate resolution was found because the minutes of the previous meeting referred to were not to hand. John Lawson proposed that John Bycroft's comments be noted in the minutes and returned to later in the meeting, Mark Ieronimo seconded his proposal. **Vote: For (15), Against: (2), Abstentions (6). Motion carried**

Tim Barwood questioned how many more associate member organisations had joined the Association since the last meeting. The General Secretary stated that only one more application had been received. Tim Barwood stated that he would have expected more clubs to have joined considering the time and money spent.

### **4. General Secretary's Report**

The General Secretary reported that Southcoates Primary School had applied to join the Association as an associate member and had subsequently been accepted into the Association following the decision made at the AGM the previous year.

He also noted that Steve Thrower had launched an appeal against a decision by the League Secretary, but this appeal was withdrawn before it reached the Committee Meeting stage.

In addition, John Andrews had resigned as Junior Officer. No successor had been found.

The General Secretary also reported that there had been an objection to the Treasurer's proposal regarding access to the Ross Fund received from Tim Barwood. The Secretary informed the Committee that the Treasurer himself would address Tim Barwood's concern later in the meeting.

The General Secretary announced the purchase of a new domain name (hullchess.com) and web space for the promotion of chess in the area. The new name had been purchased for a ten-year period, and the web space would be paid for annually. The General Secretary told the AGM that this purchase had been absolutely necessary to promote the Association to the outside world and to provide a central point of reference for all its members.

In response to queries from John Scotter and Shaun Culkin, the General Secretary confirmed that parental consent had been gathered before publishing pictures of junior players on the web, and also that the web pages would be further developed in terms of downloads (minutes of meetings etc) when contributions were received and time found to develop it.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported that it had been a busy year with over 50 transactions, double that of last year. The monies in Halifax and Lloyds banks totalled £1270.29, up by about £263 on last year. The Congress account (managed by Mark Ieronimo) shows a balance of £1516.3 up by about £650 but monies is still owed to University. There has been a massive fall in the value of HBOS shares held by the Association of around £1300 over the year. In the balance sheet monies received from subscriptions totalled £251 for the year, up by £14 from the previous year. Monies from the R P Ross designated senior fund was £548.36 this helped fund a new lap top computer and software for the Congresses etc Monies from the R P Ross junior fund totalled £1333. Most of which was used for teaching at schools, a new web site for Juniors, prizes, stationary and junior congress mainly organised by Mike Butt. There is an expenditure of £103.95 for printer cartridges later refunded in full. There has been an increase in stationary printer costs to the League Secretary this year, mainly due to set up costs and additional correspondence to club captains etc. Interest paid in; to the account by both Halifax and Lloyds totalled £35.34 and the HBOS share dividends came to £90.47 for the year. Finally £36 was paid for membership and £90 for insurance to the ECF. The treasurer offered to pay YCA a nominal amount for grading H&D matches and no direct reply to myself from Steve Burton of YCA has been received.

John Lawson raised the issue of the annual affiliation fee to the Yorkshire Chess Association pointing out that it does not seem to have been paid. John Lawson said the YCA seem to have waived it each year but the Association should look to pay it, especially since they were now producing the Association's grades. Mike Butt declared he would take care of the matter.

The Treasurer pointed to the £51 still outstanding from Steve Withill. Since it was unlikely the Association would recover the money, John Lawson proposed the debt

be written off and the accounts resubmitted to the AGM. Mark Ieronimo seconded. **Vote: For (18), Against (1), Abstentions (4). Motion carried**

Scott McKay proposed that the accounts be accepted as a true record. John Thompson seconded. **Vote: For (17), Against (0), Abstentions (6). Motion carried**

## **6. League and Cup Controller's Report**

Controller Steve Donoghue reported some last-minute complications with teams dropping out before the start of the season, but a successful season overall. (See Prizewinners).

He stated that he was looking for teams to get matches played within period, and he was also looking at changing the first division from six to four players.

He also drew attention to the increased use of reserve team players over the season, and wondered if this was a worrying sign. David Mills replied that this was probably due to the fact that much more chess was being played this year, and the consensus was that if 'reserving' was done in accordance with the rules, it is probably beneficial rather than harmful.

## **7. Other reports**

### **a) Hull-York match**

David Mills reported that the event went very well, with the final result a draw 7.5 v 7.5. He drew attention to the disparity between top and bottom boards, with York winning on most of their top boards, and Hull winning on most of the lower boards.

### **b) Cup Competitions**

Cup Controller David Mills reported that the U100 had been the most successful competition, and was won by John Thompson. The U150 had been less satisfactory with Brian Hesler giving a default win to Steve Crow. The Open handicap had gone a little better, and David Mills himself won that competition in a tightly-fought game against Colin Hailstone.

### **c) Hull Congress**

Congress Organiser Mark Ieronimo reported that the Congress had seen a slight increase in the numbers of competitors in comparison to the previous year. He also reported making a surplus of about £800 following the introduction of the new prize system. His intention was that the 2008 congress should be a little more generous with prizes if the cost of the venue remained low.

In contrast, the rapid play had struggled for numbers, and the Open had had to be cancelled for the second year in succession. Unlike the previous year, there was no obvious clash with any other event, so the low numbers suggested some apathy from players towards it. The event actually made a loss of about £200. The Organiser stated that the Open event would be capped to ECF200 the following year.

#### d) Summer League

Controller Andrew Bettley reported that Section One had gone smoothly. St Andrews A had finished winners. Section Two had experienced problems, since some games had had to be defaulted when one team had used players who had already played for another team in the Section. In the end, Section Two had been won by Willows B.

#### e) Peter Hughes Tournament

Andrew Bettley reported that he had followed the original set up by Ted Johnson. Two players had pulled out, and the final- between John Atkinson and Eric Gardener- still had to be played. The Controller stated that in future years he would predetermine the colours to be used by players in each round- something that had not been done this year.

### 8. Election of officers

John Lawson proposed that all serving Officers and Executive Committee members be re-elected for the 2008/9 season, provided those who were absent (Keith Jones, Chris Matthews and Ian Major) consented to continuing in their current roles. Graham Chester seconded the motion. **Vote: For (20), Against (0), Abstentions (3). Motion carried** Graham Chesters proposed John Lawson become Publicity Officer. Roger Noble seconded the motion. Vote: For (23), Against (0), Abstentions (0). There were no volunteers to be Junior Officer- so the office remains vacant. Therefore, the Officers and Committee members for the 2008/9 season are as follows:

**President** Mike Butt

**Vice President** John Thompson

**General Secretary and Congress Organiser** Mark Ieronimo

**Treasurer** Steve Thrower

**League Secretary and Cup Controller** Steve Donoghue

**Summer League Controller** Andrew Bettley

**Junior Officer** Vacant

**Auditor** Graeme Reid

**Executive Committee** Ian Major, Keith Jones, Tim Barwood, Chris Matthews, Derek Sheppard, David Mills, Scott McKay.

### 9. Any other business

John Lawson proposed the Association pay an affiliation fee to the Yorkshire Chess Association. Mike Butt seconded the motion. **Vote: For (23), Against (0), Abstentions (0). Motion carried**

The Congress Organiser stressed the need to bring in more personnel to run the Congress and Rapid Play, particularly with the retirement of John Lawson. He proposed bringing in an outsider to run the event- paying their costs and a small fee if necessary to secure the events (factored into the running costs of the events)- since no volunteers had come forward despite a constant advertising campaign. John Bycroft said he would rather see the event end if it meant paying people to control. President Mike Butt stated that he considered it important to keep the event going- particularly after all the hard work that had gone into promoting the Association over the past two years.

John Lawson offered to teach anyone who needed any training. John Scotter, David Mills and Steve Thrower said that they would be interested in learning to control, and it was agreed that they would meet for some training with John at a convenient time. Mark Ieronimo proposed a panel of controllers be formed on which to draw to run Association events, and that funding be made available for any training costs deemed necessary to the Executive Committee. John Lawson seconded the motion. **Vote: For (16), Against (0), Abstentions (6). Motion carried.**

Steve Thrower proposed: 'The H&DCA Committee act on behalf of all Hull and District Chess Association clubs (with the exception of Hull Chess Club) to seek monies from the RP Ross Fund to forward and promote the game of chess at their club. Requests for these monies have to be presented to the H&DCA Committee by an agreed date for approval and forwarded to the Solicitors who manage the fund'. Mark Ieronimo seconded. **Vote: For (14), Against (6), Abstentions (3). Motion carried.**

Steve Thrower withdrew his second proposal and proposed that the Association adopt a wait-and-see attitude after the recent collapse in the value of Halifax shares, since the dividend paid out was quite healthy.

Dave Mills proposed that the Ross Fund be used to finance matches against York. John Lawson seconded the motion. **Vote: For (3), Against (18), Abstentions (2).**

**Motion defeated.**

## 10. Prize giving

<b>Division One Champions</b>	Hull Chess Club
<b>Division One Runners Up</b>	St Andrews A
<b>Division Two Champions</b>	Willows B
<b>Division Two Runners Up</b>	St Andrews B
<b>RP Ross 4 Board Division One Champions</b>	Hull X
<b>RP Ross 4 Board Division Two Champions</b>	Beverley C
<b>Summer League Section One Champions</b>	St Andrews
<b>Summer League Section Two Champions</b>	Willows B
<b>Thomas Atkinson Cup Champions</b>	Hull E
<b>Thomas Atkinson Cup Runners Up</b>	St Andrews A
<b>Fenner Trophy Champions</b>	Beverley B
<b>Fenner Trophy Runners Up</b>	St Andrews B
<b>Jubilee Cup Champions</b>	St Andrews B
<b>Jubilee Cup Runners Up</b>	Beverley B

<b>Team Lightning Champions</b>	Hull C
<b>Team Lightning Best Percentage Team</b>	Victoria Dock
<b>Open Knockout Champion</b>	David Mills
<b>U150 Knockout Champion</b>	Steve Crow
<b>U100 Knockout Champion</b>	John Thompson
<b>Hull and District Congress Champion</b>	Sergei Kaminskij
<b>Division One Player of the Year</b>	Graham Chesters
<b>Division Two Player of the Year</b>	Sarah Mackenzie
<b>RP Ross Division One Player of the Year</b>	Mike Brookes
<b>RP Ross Division Two Player of the Year</b>	Keith Lamb
<b>Overall Player of the Year</b>	Sarah Mackenzie
<b>Junior Player of the Year</b>	Thomas Bertolotti

11. The date of the next meeting was set for the Tuesday 23 June 2009.

The President declared the AGM closed at 10.45pm