

## CHESS ARBITERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, July 26th 2003 at the BCF Championships in Edinburgh.

Present: John Robinson, Geoff Jones, David Welch, Steve Boniface, Alex McFarlane, Neville Belinfante, Neil Graham, Garry Walsh, Rob Hart, Angela Henley . John Robinson started the meeting as Chairman, Geoff Jones as Secretary.

Apologies. Apologies were received from Peter Purland, Ian Cowen, Alec Webster, David Sedgwick, Marda Dixon, Simon Woodcock, Francis Bowers, John Swain, Cyril Johnson, Julie Johnson, Eric Croker, David Woodruff, Ewart Smith, Tim Thurston, John Dunleavy, Julie Leonard, Ken Groce, John Richards, Roy Heppinstall, Tony Corie, Mike Sinclair, Carl Tillitson, Adrian Elwin, Peter Hannan, Harry Lamb.

Minutes. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, August 3rd, 2002 at Torquay, were accepted as a true record.

Proposed Gerry Walsh, Seconded Neil Graham.

Matters arising. Positive Vetting, The BCF was in the process of registering with the CRB It was pointed out that although some members had gone through the vetting process with other organizations. These were local clearances and the members would still need to go through BCF to cover the chess scene. It was proposed that the secretary write to the BCF instructing the Management Board to register with the CRB at the earliest possible moment. It should also discuss its policy for child protection including a code of conduct along the lines of the enclosed documents. Chairman's Report. There had been a few additions to the arbiters list over the last year and four additions to the senior arbiters list.

Treasurers Report. The accounts and treasurers report for the last financial year was circulated with the agenda. The membership stood at 71 full members and 37 associate members. The backlog of arrears had been cleared. There were only three polo shirts left and the treasurer was looking around for suitable replacements.

Neil Graham proposed that the report be accepted, seconded by Rob Hart.

Finally Steve's proposal that the fees remain the same for the forth-coming year was accepted.

Chief Arbiter's Report All the names put forward by the chief arbiter had been approved by the BCF as arbiters. Dave has been working on the BCF tournament rules revision but had not yet got them as he would like them. He would like them simplified to a point with the help of a senior arbiter who could then give advice in the running of the competition. Gerry Walsh, Neil Graham, and Dave would look at the rules and allocate someone to review them Dave Welch then bring them together so that there were no overlaps or anomalies. Grand Prix rules were subject to there being a sponsor found for next year. Dave then said that an article in Arbiting Matters had caused some concern and reminded us that if the magazine was to be a forum for discussion of matters concerning over the board chess, we must be careful not step on other authorities toes. Postal Chess and chess not over the board, did not fall within our remit. Mobile phones required a law from FIDE other than the loose interpretation of article 12 that is used at the moment. Mobiles should not be in the playing room and the penalties should be ramped up to an outright ban. Stewart Reuben said later, that a law had been written, but it had not yet been seen by the chief arbiter. A discussion then took place over 10.2 and should there be a stipulated number of moves made. It was left that each position

must be judged on its own merits. We were asked if we would support a proposal going to FIDE that the default time should be brought down to 15 minutes. It was agreed that we should seek the thoughts of players. The BCF delegate gave a report of the two BCF Council meetings that he had attended. He reported that the BCF accounts had not been audited and at the April finance meeting the BCF was in some financial difficulty. There was debate on the game fee before it was agreed to put it up 4p to 36p. Roy Heppinstall, one of our members, was appointed Chief Executive. And a new post of IT Director was agreed. Chris Mayer was appointed Strategic Planning director and Neville Belinfante had agreed to assist. There was to be a meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> with Charles Clarke, the Minister of Education.

#### Election of Officers.

(Office)	(Nominee)	(Proposer)	(Seconder)
Chairman	John Robinson	David Welch	Gerry Walsh
Secretary	Geoff Jones	Gerry Walsh	Steve Boniface
Treasurer	Steve Boniface	Gerry Walsh	Neville Belinfante
Chief Arbiter	David Welch	Gerry Walsh	Geoff Jones
Information Officer	Alan Ruffle	Neville Belinfante	John Robinson
Committee	proposed en block Alex McFarlane Neville Belinfante Peter Dodsworth	David Welch	Neil Graham
Auditor	David Sedgwick	Neil Graham	Geoff Jones
BCF Delegate	Neville Belinfante	Gerry Walsh	Geoff Jones

Any Other Business A discussion then took place on ‘The Disability Discrimination Act’ which will come into full force October 2004. It was noted that there had already, in different bodies, been wide spread debate and with the lack of numbers attending our meeting, it was agreed that Bruce Birchall's and Cyril Johnson's reports, along with Stan Lovell's comments should be circulated with the minutes in order to foster fruitful discussion in Arbiting Matters. It was also noted that Roy Heppinstall was going up to Leicester to discuss these issues and would be reporting back to the August BCF Management Board meeting and the September Council meeting. It was suggested that with the poor turn out at this meeting, we hold next year's AGM at the 4NCL weekend in June which would be June 21<sup>st</sup> 2004. The members' views on this would be canvassed.

There being no further matters the meeting closed at 5.45p.m.