

CHESS ARBITERS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a special meeting held at The Barbican on 18th September 1993. The meeting was called to complete unfinished business from the Annual General Meeting at Dundee, August 1993

Present : Eric Croker (President. in the chair)

Steve Boniface (Secretary)

David Eustace (Treasurer)

David Woodruffe

John Robinson

J. Glynne Jones

Apologies : Dave Thomas, Roger Edwards. Richard Furness

1) AGM AT DUNDEE. The Secretary recapitulated on the matters discussed. The minutes would be circulated with the next AGM agenda, but the topics included the new Swiss Pairing Rules, Training and a motion from Frank Hatto concerning the treatment of ungraded players. On the last point, it had been agreed that Arbiters should use their influence to extract better information from such players and to dissuade "sharks" by offering only minimal prizes for those outside the system. Some events had already implemented such recommendations.

2) FINANCIAL REPORT. The Secretary presented the accounts showing a Balance of Cash Available as £ 452.78 . There had been no movements throughout the year though this was likely to change in view of increased activity in the fields of training, a newsletter, the case book and expenses by officers. As maximum expenditure was unlikely to exceed half the balance, it was decided to suspend collection of subscriptions until the next AGM except for new members. The levels would remain unchanged at £10 for full membership, £5 for associates. The accounts would be passed to Tony Corfe for auditing.

3) NEW SWISS PAIRING RULES. All members present had seen these.

There were varied opinions on their worth, and attention was drawn to the Final Rule. whereby controllers should announce which set of pairing rules they were following for a particular event. Glynne Jones gave his opinion on the rules and stated that he would continue to employ his own system of float selection based on strength of opposition met. He also gave an alternative view of colour alternation. Finally he explained the "Corden" Rule, whereby unwilling byes were re-paired against early losers in the same round. Steve Boniface agreed that he was unlikely to adopt the new rules but stressed that whatever system was used it should be objective, consistent and available for the players to consult.

John Robinson explained the theory behind the alternation and median bye rules. The new version were originally designed to be used at the British Championship this year, but were abandoned shortly before the event. They had now been rewritten with some anomalies eliminated, and some sections re-worded.

As there had been some interesting ideas expounded by Glynne Jones, it was suggested that he contribute an article for a forthcoming CAA magazine.

4) CADOGAN MASTER POINT SYSTEM. John Robinson sought to explain the new system and some of the possible pitfalls. He suggested that arbiters should not get too deeply involved in the finer points of the scheme but try to concentrate on confirming the players' identities, grades, and opponents. He as administrator would check all the necessary details before awards could be made. He agreed that the leaflets already printed were perhaps not as clear as they could be, though this had been foreseen as only a few were produced. He and Stewart Reuben would re—draft the document to aid both players and arbiters.

It was clarified that although titles could be given only to Direct Members, in practice anyone could

collect qualifications and claim a master award upon payment of the necessary subscription. This implied that in theory every player might present a form to be counter—signed at the end of every event. Although this was unlikely to happen it did mean that the numbers would be much larger than originally expected.

Steve Boniface stated that it was unreasonable to expect controllers to vouch for the players records during or immediately after an event'

It was RESOLVED that players should be asked to present a stamped addressed envelope with their master points form so that arbiters could confirm details at leisure after the event.

It was further AGREED that two articles would be published: one in "Chess Moves" for the benefit of the players, and one in the CAA newsletter as guidance for arbiters. John Robinson would consult with Steve Boniface and Stewart Reuben about these.

5) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. David Sedgwick had asked for copies of CAA AGM minutes of 1992 & 1993, the new Swiss Rules, and information on arbiter training. Steve Boniface would forward these.

b. Richard Furness had submitted a letter confirming that he was prepared to help produce a newsletter.

c. Roger Edwards had sent two letters. The first stated his objections to 2 of the 4 candidate arbiters proposed at Dundee. The second gave his views on the new Pairing Rules (which he had tried) and the Cadogan System.

d. The Secretary was asked to discover whether CAA could be exempted from the copyright restrictions on the Laws of Chess so that an annotated version could be produced.

The meeting ended 12.55 with thanks to G.Kenworthy for venue.