

CHESS ARBITERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, August 4th 2001 at the BCF Championships in Scarborough.

Present: Alex McFarlane, Geoff Jones, David Welch, Steve Boniface, John Robinson, Stewart Reuben, Neville Belinfante, Neil Graham, Sue Hale, Marda Dixon, Priscilla Morris, Rob Hart, Peter Dodsworth, Angela Hanley, Gerry Walsh.

Alex McFarlane started the meeting as Chairman, Geoff Jones as Secretary.

There was a minute's silence to remember two of our members who had died recently, David Wallace and George Smith.

1. Apologies. Apologies were received from Roy Heppinstall, Tony Corfe, Lara Barnes, Peter Purland, Ian Cowen, Alec Webster, David Sedgwick, Gerald Jacobs, John Dunleavy, Alan Ruffle, Simon Woodcock, Ewart Smith, Sue Howell, Chris Howell, Francis Bowers, Julie Leonard, John Swain, Peter Wilson, David Woodruff, Cyril Johnson, Julie Johnson .
2. Minutes. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, August 5th, 2000 at the Millfield School, Street, were accepted as a true record. Proposed Neil Graham, Seconded David Welch. -
3. Matters arising. Positive Vetting, Neil Graham reported that the government had set up the CR8 (Criminal Records Bureau) to "facilitate safer recruitment to protect children and vulnerable adults". The BCF would register to become a body that can countersign applications for "Standard or Enhanced Disclosures". Fuller information can be obtained from Neil or the government web site www.crb.gov.uk. It was asked whether chess events should register? To which Neil answered that parents would expect officials to be cleared.
4. Chairman's Report. The Chairman welcomed members to the year 2001 meeting of the CAA and stated that he was keeping his report brief. He stated that he was standing down this year and would like to thank all the members for the honour it had been to be Chairman of the Arbiters Association. '
5. Treasurer's Report. Please find attached the accounts for the last financial year. On the accounts, the following comments were added: (1) The auditor had seen and approved the accounts with the comment that the shirts (see 3) should not be shown as assets (2) We had 61 full members and 32 associates (this figure does not include our two honorary members (3) The major expense of the year was the purchase of Arbiter Shirts from the BCF for resale to members (Excellent price thanks to Neil Graham) (4) The new bursary scheme was launched with three applicants. One has been award the BCF title, one is awaiting a final endorsement, and the third has been asked to provide further evidence of competence. (5) The reduction in subscription fees has been generally welcomed and has seen the accounts stabilize. (6) Further suggestions for the active use of the funds are welcome, provided there is no undue risk. Steve Boniface suggests a contingency of a thousand pound would be sufficient to meet most emergencies. Steve's report was accepted with thanks.

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

6. Chief Arbiter's Report. Dave Welch reported that three arbiters had been confirmed by the BCF; Francis Bowers, Priscilla Morris, Alan Parsons, all members of this association. Our congratulations go to these three. Dave also stated that the new laws came into effect on July 1st and that Stewart Reuben's new book which includes these, will be out this coming Thursday.

Neil Graham stated that the BCF were unsure, at the moment, of which of the new arbiters confirmed in the last 2 years had received badges, certificates etc., but he would check up and make sure that they all received them. it was asked if the BCF were issuing a definitive version of the new laws but this was not known.

The BCF delegate presented a written report which is attached.

A discussion ensued about the items on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting:

1.) a proposal to appoint a Web director, why should the title not be IT director as internet chess is not part of the BCF constitution and is limiting where IT would cover much more and looks towards the future. It was left without conclusion.

2.) a proposal that all BCF arbiters should be members of their national association. This would also include coaches and management board members.

Gerry Walsh was proposing an amendment that arbiters must also be CAA members. Dave Welch was in favour of this. it would make updating arbiters, who had a duty to keep up to date, easier as the CAA kept members informed of the latest law and tournament rules changes. it was agreed that our delegate should vote accordingly and place on our agenda for next year similar changes.

7. Election of Officers.

(Office)	(Nominee)	(Proposer)	(Secunder)
Chairman	John Robinson	Geoff Jones	David Welch
John Robinson at this point thanked the members for electing him and also Alex McFarlane, who all would agree, had done a sterling job.			
Secretary	Geoff Jones	Stewart Reuben	Alex McFarlane
Treasurer	Steve Boniface	Gerry Walsh	David Welch
Chief Arbiter	David Welch	Stewart Reuben	Gerry Walsh
Information Officer	Alan Ruffle	Alex McFarlane	Peter Dodsworth
Committee	Alex McFarlane	David Welch	Stewart Reuben
	Neville Belinfante	Geoff Jones	Rob Hart
	Peter Dodsworth	Rob Hart	David Welch
Auditor	David Sedgwick	Stewart Reuben	Gerry Walsh
BCF Delegate	Neville Belinfante	Geoff Jones	David Welch.

8. Honorary Members. it was agreed that this item should be left on the table until next years AGM with the committee proposing a policy on Honorary Members. '

9. Any Other Business The secretary raised the matter of the constitution, which he thought he had a copy of, but in his paperwork had nothing to give this any authenticity. it was left with some members looking into their paperwork and then something being circulated for next years AGM. - _

it was pointed out that we now had a new information officer and we should all help him by

supplying suitable articles as soon as possible.

There being no further matters the meeting closed at 3.40p.m.