

CHESS ARBITERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, August 28th, 2005, at Hope University, Liverpool

Present: Lara Barnes, Geoff Jones, Steve Boniface, Dave Welch, John Robinson, Alex McFarlane, Peter Purland, Ian Campbell, Ian Eustis.

1. Apologies. Before reading out the apologies he had received, the secretary said that he was having difficulties with his email (changing ISP) and thought that some apologies could have been lost. He apologised for this and the meeting agreed if anyone notified the secretary that their apologies were missing that he should add them to this list. Those apologies that had been received were from John Turnock, Simon Woodcock, Keith Brown, Kevin Staveley, Paul Bielby, Ewart Smith, Tim Thurstan, John Richards, Gerald Jacobs, Francis Bowers, Colin Hailstone, Kevin Thurlow, Wilf Arnold, Neville Belinfante, Davis Sedgwick, Alex Webster, David Woodruff.
2. Minutes. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday August 7th, 2004 in Scarborough were accepted as a true record. Proposed Dave Welch, Seconded John Robinson.
3. Matters arising.
 - a.) CRB clearance, Steve Boniface had received a letter from Roy Heppinstall saying that the BCF application for umbrella status that come through with Roy and Gerry Walsh as the lead signatories but the process was temporary delayed due to sickness in the BCF office. The cost will be £25 for standard clearance and £35 for the enhanced clearance. It was agreed that something be added to membership renewal form to indicate which of our members had clearance.
 - b.) The secretary reported that he had failed to find the copy of the constitution David Sedgwick had sent him. He thought that this was at the time he moved house and it had been lost in the moving process. No one present had a copy of the constitution and the only item resembling a constitution was the A4 sheet the secretary had found in the papers passed on to him. It was proposed by David Welch, seconded by Peter Purland that this be accepted as the de facto constitution with the following amendments; 1.) change that "Affiliated to the British Chess Federation" to "Seeking ties with National Federations within the British Isles where we have sufficient members." 2.) After the definition of a full member adds, "Only these members are entitled to wear clothing bearing the CAA badge." 3.) The secretary shall call a general meeting of all members once a year where the officials of the association shall be elected. An auditor shall be appointed. The fees for the forth-coming year shall be set at this meeting. 4.) The office of Treasurer/Information Officer be spilt and Chief Arbiter added to the committee. The full constitution is attached with these minutes for members to comment on and amend at next years AGM. The proposal was unanimously accepted.
 - c.) The BCF had investigated the matter of congresses game fees' and the matter was settled.
4. Chairman's Report. The chairman had little to report other than the unfortunate death of Ian Cowen. The meeting observed a minutes silence in his memory. The chairman's report was accepted.
5. Treasurer's Report. A copy of the treasurer's report is attached. The treasurer's report had not been audited but was accepted subject to the auditor's report. Proposed John Robinson, seconded Alex McFarlane.
6. Chief Arbiter's Report. Dave Welch reported that one of the issues that had come up this year was Paul Buswell's request the captain's role be specified. Attached are the base rules that he had come up with and with which the meeting had agreed. Leagues could then add their own additions were appropriate. Another subject was awarding titles below the rank of "Arbiter" to control county matches

etc. After a discussion it was thought that this could be acceptable provided that the full arbiters' syllabus, except Swiss draws, had been covered which included tournament experience. Match Referees was suggested as a title but this was not thought appropriate and left open for consideration. Dave also reported that the new laws were out and that he had done three versions; one for the BCF website, one for Chessmoves and one, which had been circulated, to all our members. The Chief Arbiters report was accepted.

7. Information Officers report. The Information Officer had emailed the following report: Since taking on the editor role of the newsletter the number of articles I've received from people other than the usual suspects (Steve B et al) stands at less than 2 (plus 1 cartoon). The first issue of the newsletter under my production was actually 16 pages (out of necessity). The next edition due out when I return from holiday will be 8. I would like to thank Steve and co for the valuable assistance in publishing the first edition, and hopefully we can continue this next year. I have had other positive feedback, but people seem to be missing the point that members of the CAA are supposed to be the 'journalists' and I'm the editor. I've written a couple of articles myself, but I don't want them all put in at once otherwise the newsletter could look like my own personal device.

I have reserved a web address www.arbiters.org.uk for the purposes of giving the CAA an on-line presence. I don't have time or the technology to develop the site myself. If the CAA can find someone (maybe Neville B?) to host it and take it on then I can arrange to transfer it to them. Note that all that is reserved is the web address. There is no webspace, but whoever takes it on should be able to sort that out.

To conclude I am willing to continue to try and get the newsletter published more frequently, but will understand if the CAA want to let someone else have a go.

The Information Officers report was accepted.

8. Election of Officers

(Office)	(Nominee)	(Proposer)	(Seconder)
Chairman	Lara Barnes	Peter Purland	David Welch
Secretary	Geoff Jones	Alex McFarlane	John Robinson
Treasurer	Steve Boniface	David Welch	Alex McFarlane
Chief Arbiter	David Welch	Peter Purland	Alex McFarlane
Information Officer	Wilf Arnold	Peter Purland	Steve Boniface
Committee proposed on block	David Welch	David Welch	Geoff Jones
	Alex McFarlane		
	John Robinson		
	Neville Belinfante		
Auditor	David Sedgwick	David Welch	Alex McFarlane
BCF Delegate	Neville Belinfante	David Welch	Alex McFarlane

9. Any Other Business

The role of a non-player keeping score was brought up and it was agreed that although we should not stop it, no claim under the laws could be allowed if made relying on this score. When the game is over this score could be used by an appeal arbiter if both players agree.

The BCF was changing its name to ECF (English Chess Federation). The CAA had a small stock of shirts and it was agreed that the CAA logo be embroidered on these. Lara to design this logo.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.59p.m.