

Staffordshire Chess Association AGM 2017

Held @ Stafford Chess Club. Amasal Sports & Social Club, St Albans Road Industrial Estate

1) Meeting Opened: 7.30 on Tuesday 18th July 2017.

Those present: Robert Perry (Meir/NSDCA), Peter Windows (Meir), David Anderton (Walsall Kipping), Peter Nixon (Walsall Kipping), Eunice Dolan (CDCL /MCCU/Norton Canes), Ray Dolan (CDCL/MCCU/ Stafford/Norton Canes), David Fone (WDCL/ Lichfield), Stuart Hall (Fenton), Robert West (U100 Captain/Fenton), Steve Emmerton (Fenton/Tournament Secretary/Web Master), Andrew Leadbetter (Stafford/Treasurer SCA/ MCCU), Robert Milner (President/Cheddleton).

Apologies: Traci Whitfield, Peter Evans, Andrew Davies.

2) Minutes of Last AGM (24th August 2016)

Members complained they did not get notification of AGM and Copy of Minutes. That was the reason for poor turn out. Minutes approved.

Proposed: David Anderton, Seconded: David Fone

3) Matters Arising

Peter Windows reported that the U140 team did not run due to lack of interest. David Fone contacted all Clubs in the Wolverhampton League to no avail. Accordingly, the team was withdrawn.

4) Officer's Reports

a) General Secretary: A. Davies – No Report

b) Treasurer & Finance: A. Leadbetter.

This year all our income came from the clubs via the leagues, apart from £7.68 building society interest. Our expenditure rose because of ECF fines from the previous year which is a one off. The loss for the year was £250.

On-going new expenditure includes charges for using the function room for cup finals and meetings, and the new website expenses. If we manage to raise an U160 team the entry fee will be a further £24.

From next season, the Wolverhampton & District League will no longer collect subscriptions from Staffs clubs. The North Staffs and Cannock Leagues will still collect from Staffs clubs. The proposed rate is £1 per club member to a max of £30. The Staffs clubs in the Wolverhampton League will have to be billed separately unless they play in another Staffordshire League.

The proposed draft budget shows a likely income of £240 and an expenditure of £490, this will be unsustainable for future years.

Many other counties rely on donations from vice presidents we should consider this. The Accounts

have not been audited. I will contact Auditor Roger Butters to do the audit.

Accounts true record subject to audit. Proposed: David Anderton, Seconded: Steve Emmerton.

c) Congress: M. Carr – No Report

President reported that the Staffordshire Congress will take place on 16th & 17th September 2017 @ St Edwards Hall in Leek.

d) Junior Chess: T. Whitfield – No Report Request: (Date for Junior Congress).

e) Tournament Secretary: S Emmerton

All of the Finals took place at Stafford Chess Club. The winners were as follows:

Hickman Cup - Stafford

Gothard Cup - Sutton Cold field

Jackson Cup - Lichfield

Withnall Trophy - Walsall Kipping

f) Inter Counties

U120 Captain Peter Evans

U100 Captain Robert West

Both reports, and match results, are on the website. Special thanks to both Captains for a job well done.

Request from P Evans to MCCU Controller - Could you please avoid match pairings in the month of October 2017, as I will not be available, plus to avoid the Blackpool Congress, which many of our Members play in.

g) MCCU: A Leadbetter: Congress will be held this year @ West Bromwich on 11th / 12th / 13th August 2017. Junior Congress @ Leicester on Saturday 22nd July 2017.

Our President Peter Gibbs Retired after 9 years in the post. Members signed a thank you card, and a Gift Card was presented to him as some thanks for all he has done for chess, by Ray Dolan CEO & Eunice Dolan Non-Executive Director, on behalf of you all. Photo on MCCU Web site. New Appointments President John Pakenham, Chairman Paul Sharrett. Safe Guarding Officer Andrew Davies.

Proposed: David Anderton, Seconded: Peter Nixon

h) ECF: A Leadbetter: The ECF is working much better now, more harmonious with an independent Chair Person chairing Meetings. The Game Fee has been abolished. There will be no charge for up to 3

games per League. If any non-ECF member plays more than 3 games the ECF will charge the League for Bronze Membership. Bronze Membership has increased by £1.00, Silver by £1.50 and Gold by £2.00. The increase for Platinum Membership is £10. I recommend paying for Gold instead, plus a donation. This helps the ECF because VAT is only charged on Membership.

Proposed: Steve Emmerton, Seconded: Peter Windows

i) President: Robert Milner - I Was hoping for more members at this meeting. (verbal)

My report: I would like again to thank all officers of the Association for all their hard work during the year and everyone else who has contributed to the county's affairs. Much has happened this year in the form of the introduction of a debate over the very future of the Association.

This is something that has needed to be discussed for many years and I am pleased that it has finally come to the surface.

A General Meeting was held in May and I trust that much of what was talked over at that meeting will be followed up at the AGM and, with luck, will bring about some useful changes in the way the Association will be run in future.

All other aspects of the Association's affairs pale into insignificance beside this discussion and I trust that the results of it will form the basis of a long and interesting President's Report next year of an astoundingly successful year.

4) Presentation of Trophies:

Hickman Cup - Stafford (Andrew Leadbetter)

Gothard Cup - Sutton Coldfield (Ray Dolan On Behalf of Sutton Coldfield)

Jackson Cup - Lichfield (David Fone)

Withnall Trophy - Walsall Kipping (Peter Nixon)

**Club of the Year Award 2017 - Rugeley Chess Club. (For reaching a milestone of 50 years as a Club).
Presentation by Ray Dolan on our Behalf, to be arranged.**

Staffordshire Sports Personality of the Year award 2017 - Mike Groombridge

(For 19 years' service, as General Secretary of the WDCL and 30 years and in post as Secretary of Walsall Kipping Chess Club) Presentation by former President David Anderton to be arranged on our behalf.

5) Election of Officers: David Anderton takes the Chair for Election of President.

President: Robert Milner.

Proposed Steve Emmerton, Seconded: Stuart Hull

General Secretary: Ray Dolan

Proposed: Steve Emmerton, Seconded: Andrew Leadbetter

Correspondence Chess Secretary: Ray Dolan

Proposed: Robert Milner, Seconded: David Anderton

Following Officers Elected En Bloc:

Proposed: David Anderton, Seconded: Eunice Dolan

Treasurer: Andrew Leadbetter

Junior Chess Organizer: Traci Whitfield

Congress Secretary: Matthew Carr

Tournament Secretary: Steve Emmerton

Webmaster: Steve Emmerton

6) Appointment of Auditors

Staffordshire Chess Association Accounts: Roger Butters

Junior Chess Accounts: Robert Shaw

Congress Accounts: Robert Shaw

All 3 Of Above Proposed: Robert Milner, Seconded: David Anderton

7) Appointment of Safeguarding Officers

Safeguarding Lead: Traci Whitfield

Safeguarding Officer: Traci Whitfield

Both of The Above Proposed: Robert Milner, Seconded: David Anderton

8) Appointment of Reps:

MCCU: (Up to 4 - Normally: President, General Secretary, Treasurer, & currently Congress Secretary).

ECF: Andrew Leadbetter

Proposed: David Anderton, Seconded: Steve Emmerton

9) Inter-County Teams 2017/8

Under 160: *A Captain is sought to run a Staffordshire U160 team*

Under 120: Peter Evans

Proposed: Peter Windows, Seconded: Andrew Leadbetter

Under 100: Robert West

Proposed: Andrew Leadbetter, Seconded: Peter Windows

10) County Cups (proposals submitted 30th May 2017)

i) The Number of Players per team shall be as follows:

Hickman - 6 Players, Gothard - 4 Players, Jackson - 4 Players, Withnall - 4 players.

Proposed: David Fone, Seconded: Peter Windows

ii) Entry to the competitions is open to all clubs who play in the WDCL, NDSCA and CDCL, and pay an affiliation fee to Staffordshire. Clubs who do not pay Staffordshire affiliation fees shall be liable to an entry fee of £5 per team per competition.

Proposed: Steve Emmerton, Seconded: Peter Windows

11) Budget:

The fee for a Club affiliated to Staffordshire Chess Association shall be £1 for each Player registered to play for that Club, up to a maximum of £30.

Proposed: David Anderton, Seconded: David Fone

To deal with the likely deficit each year, David Anderton proposed inviting people to become Friends of Staffordshire Chess (Support your County by making a donation of £25).

Proposed: David Anderton, Seconded: David Fone

Donations: Junior Chess £200

12) Any Other Business:

Ray Dolan: On a good note, I only found out yesterday, a great milestone has been reached by Andrew Leadbetter, 26 Years as Finance Director MCCU, 40 Years as Treasurer Staffordshire, 41 Years as ECF Delegate representing Both Staffordshire and 3 Leagues.

Andrew Leadbetter: Could we send a Letter of Thanks to Andrew Davies as a thank you for 13 Years as General Secretary, Webmaster and, for a time, Correspondence Chess.

14) Date of Next AGM: Tuesday 19th June 2018 at Stafford Chess Club,

Note: Subject to room being available, it will be the week Commencing Monday 17th June

Meeting Closed @ 9.37pm Minutes by Ray Dolan, General Secretary.