

Dorset County Chess Association AGM Minutes

Thursday 30th June 2016 held at Poole Royal British Legion.

Those present were: Ian Clark, Martin Simons, Malcolm Steevens, Steve Peirson, Brian Beard, David Burt, David Aldwinckle, Chris Johns, Mike Jay, Phil Wallace, Allan Pleasants, Tony Buckfield and Nigel Purry.

IC opened the meeting and welcomed everyone at 7.40 pm.

Apologies received from: Derek Mount, Graham White, Eric Sachs, Keith Spooner and John Harris.

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved by the meeting and signed as accurate minutes by IC.

There were no other matters arising.

The President's opening remarks were as follows:

“This year marks a memorable year for Dorset in hosting the British Chess Championships in Bournemouth. The Championship will be the strongest for many years with Michael Adams and 9 other GMs playing. So far there are 30 local players including 9 juniors. We look forward to the competition and I would like to thank all those individuals and clubs who assisted with finance for the venue.

The junior chess scene has gone from strength to strength with the excellent work organised by Eric Sachs and helped by many others. The more senior players we have to help; the better.

I would also like to thank Mike Jay for all his work in setting up a new website for Dorset and B&DCL”.

Secretary's Report

MSt notified that there was nothing to report apart from a lost property item reported ie a “Marshall Chess Club NY” red baseball cap lost on the train between Bath and Weymouth earlier in the month.

Treasurer's Report

- Number of teams down from 16 to 15
- Dorset Closed being incorporated into the Dorset Open in December 2016
- Dorset Open made a profit of £749
- 4th Bournemouth Grand made an overall profit of £1739
- Surplus monies in account of £2,379

Match Captains Report

N/A

League Controller's Report

Division One was won by Weymouth A, Division Two by Purbeck A and Division Three by Wimborne C.

GW reported "I am stepping down from this position after 4 years service. I have enjoyed the performance of the job, it is a very friendly league and I would like to thank the support that I have had from clubs".

A vote of thanks was given to GW in his absence.

Congress Secretary's Report

IC reported that the congress was held in the Carrington Hotel in Bournemouth (although we will need to change hotel again next year) and there were 125 entrants, which is a record.

The prize monies were raised this year due to the number of entries and the fact that it was the 50th anniversary of the congress.

The Open was won by GM Cherniaev with 5/5. The Major was won by Richard Desmedt with 4/5. The Intermediate was won by A Pitcher on 4.5/5 and the Minor was shared by M Whitworth and W Curry both with 4.5/5.

Other Events

The Dorset Rapidplay (see MJ's report), played in March, had 50 entrants and these places were unexpectedly filled by the end of January. Keith Gregory (Fareham) won with 5.5/6 but as he is not a Dorset player the trophy is being shared by the joint runners up Kevin Goater and Osca Garcia.

Graham Willetts & Kenny Harman shared the veterans trophy

The entry fee was raised to £12 and £320 was paid out in prize money and just under 60% of players won a prize!

The intention is to keep the same entry fee next year, increase the prizes, and replace the Rapidplay Trophy as its looking shabby. SP has sourced one at a good price!

MSimons reported that the team handicap tournament was won by Highcliffe, even after losing to Weymouth 0.5-5.5 in the final, as Weymouth needed to win 6-0!!

MSimons also reported that we now have over 800 entries for the BCC and we could well beat the record set at the University of Warwick in 2015 of just under 1200. He also said that the ECF are looking for local volunteers to help enter games onto the web.

The Bournemouth Grand is being postponed this year due to the BCC being held locally at the end of July.

Junior Secretary

See ES's report dated June 2016.

There is also a Saturday morning session at Bournemouth Library with an average of 20 children ages 6-15 attending.

There were 76 entrants to the 2016 Dorset Junior Championships held at Ferndown in January, which was again a record number.

Harewood College won the 2015 Mayor of Bournemouth schools tournament and Bournemouth Grammar School won the seniors and Baden-Powell again won the Juniors. The Mayor of Bournemouth awarded both trophies.

The 1st Bournemouth Junior congress took place on 11th June at Harewood College and there were 36 entrants. As a result 8 of the winners and most deserving entrants have been entered into the British Chess Championships next month.

Looking for someone to further develop chess for juniors in the Bournemouth area and West Dorset.,

Overall the development of chess for children in the area is going very well and could be even better.

Thanks to all helpers particularly Paul & Simon Errington, Simon Fox, Toby Miller and Ian Clark

Grading Officer

PW reported that there were no problems and that the next grades were due at the end of July.

He did say that ECF are serious about implementing monthly gradings via a "league management system" in the very near future, possibly within 2 years.

Dorset Closed Congress

N/A

Webmaster's Report

See separate report

MJ reported that the new website; www.dorsetchess.co.uk is coming along well and the idea is that the old website, designed and managed by PTB is to be gradually de-commissioned and probably switched off completely at the year end.

Mike has volunteered to be the new League Controller as this will give him the chance to oversee the introduction of the entering of league match results direct onto the website by team captains.

Finally, Mike wanted to place on record everyone's appreciation for the immense work of Phil Taylor-Bowd, creating and maintaining Dorset chess websites for over 10 years and to very high standards.

WECU Delegate Report

MSt mentioned the ECF Educational Trust and asked if there were any potential beneficiaries in Dorset. He will speak with ES about nominating a local school. He will also enquire about an enquiry regarding possible coaching in an un-named local West Dorset School.

MSt also reported that WECU would like us to explore the possibility of re-entering the County Championship. He suggested entering a Junior team, if a senior team were unwilling to commit.

ECF Delegate Report

IC reported that the ECF wanted to put their fees up but this proposal was voted down and will therefore not happen for at least 2 years.

At this point CJ proposed a vote of thanks to the committee.

Presentations

The following trophies were presented:

Division One Winners: Weymouth A-(Allan Pleasants)

Division Two Winners: Purbeck A (Steve Peirson)

Division Three Winners: Wimborne C-(Tony Buckfield)

B&D Handicap Trophy: Highcliffe (Not presented as mislaid)

Best County Player: N/A

Election of Officers

Officers elected were:

President: Ian Clark
Secretary: Malcolm Steevens
Treasurer: Steve Peirson
Match Captain/Secretary: N/A
Grading Officer: Phil Wallace
Webmaster: Mike Jay
League Controller: Mike Jay
Congress Secretary: Ian Clark
Dorset Closed Congress: N/A
Auditor: Martin Simons
Junior Secretary: Eric Sachs
WECU Delegates: Malcolm Steevens & David Aldwinkle
ECF: Ian Clark
Special Events Officer: Martin Simons

Plans for the coming season

As no match captain forthcoming it was agreed that Dorset would again sadly not enter a team in the county championship.

SP suggested that, due to the healthy state of the finances, that there be no increase in team fees for the league ie maintain at £20 per team.

It was proposed by Tony Buckfield and seconded by Brian Beard that the average grade for Division 3 should be 125 and this was agreed, to encourage more participation from lower graded players.

The Rapidplay will be on Sunday 12th March.

The Dorset Open will be at the Ocean View Hotel from December 2-4.

The Dorset Junior Championship will probably be in November.

AOB

SP suggested experimenting with the time control in league matches by having an additional 20 second increment after every move made. This would be done only with the agreement of the opposition.

MSt suggesting using the “Verne Prison” board as a prize in the Dorset Congress and IC suggested awarding it to the winner of the minor section.

The meeting closed at 9.13 pm
MJS 01/07/16

