

AGM of Oxfordshire Chess Association

Thursday 13 September 2018 at 7.30pm

Rose Hill Methodist Church, Oxford

Present: David Robson (Chair, Cowley), Alan Gentry (Witney), Ian Bush (Cumnor), David Sayers (MCS/Blackbirds), Steve Rumsby (Banbury), Will Burt (Cowley), Matt Rose (Oxford City), Kevin Henbest (Oxford University), Andrew Varney (Cumnor), Rod Langham (Oxford City), Roger Thetford (Didcot), Jimmy Blair (Banbury), Steve Bennett (Cumnor)

1. Apologies for Absence

Gerard O'Reilly (Cowley), George Spalding (Wantage), Simon King (Oxford City), Mike Truran (Witney), James Jackson (Banbury).

2. Presentation of Trophies

This was brought forward so that the Lester Millin trophy could be presented to Hari Selvaraj in person. Then the trophies for teams that won divisions and the winning team in the FWS (Frank Wood Shield) were distributed, along with the individual awards for each division.

3/4. Minutes of the Previous AGM and Matters Arising

Since the Secretary, who is also the Minutes Secretary, has become indisposed at short notice these were not available so could not be discussed. Will Burt volunteered to take notes for this meeting.

5. Chair's Report (David Robson)

The Chair read out his report. Throughout these minutes please refer to the accompanying papers for the various reports and proposals discussed.

He commented on the success of the new FWS format, the need for clubs to be more proactive in organising teams for the FWS and thanked outgoing Secretary George Spalding for handling the small number of disputes in the local league. Clubs are urged to have copies of all relevant rules and guidance to hand at matches. As he has reached the end of his maximum three year tenure he thanked the OCA (Oxfordshire Chess Association) for the honour of having been Chair.

In response to the Chair's comments on the success of the new format of the FWS the Witney club representative said his club would prefer an open knockout competition rather than the heavily handicapped system we started using last season.

6. Secretary's Report (George Spalding)

In the absence of the Secretary David Sayers read out his report. He also commented on the dispute between Cowley 5 and University 3 over the latter team's board order and whether we should have a more explicit rule, as we already do for the FWS. Gerard O'Reilly and Roger Thetford were actioned to look at this for consideration by next May's committee meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report (Simon King)

In the absence of the Treasurer the Chair read out his report. There is a substantial debt owed by the University club, which does not appear to tally with the detailed breakdown of what they owe. University representative Kevin Henbest said his club had recently sent cheques to cover affiliation fees and ECF (English Chess Federation) fees for last year. Their club has a new treasurer who is trying to collect further ECF fees and they hope to clear their debt to the association in the next two months.

A smaller debt is owed by the now inactive Cowley Workers club. The Treasurer was actioned to approach David Buckland, who often represented the club at these meetings, to see if it is practicable to recover this debt or whether it should be written off.

8. Other Oxfordshire Chess Reports

County Open Team (Rod Langham): see Rod's report. Rod asked for a £30 subsidy to cover the additional costs of home fixtures in the coming season and the meeting approved this.

County U160 Team (Steve Rumsby): see Steve's report, which he briefly summarised. In the coming season this will become an U150 team.

Grading Officer (Peter Hemmings): the Grading Officer was not present. See his report, which was briefly summarised for the meeting.

ECF Representative's Report (Mike Truran): The ECF Representative was not present and no report has been received.

Junior Representative's Report (Andrew Varney): see his report for more detail. In particular Andrew pointed out that a number of organisers in the county are stepping down and invited anyone interested in taking on these roles to approach him. A small Oxfordshire Girls' Chess Festival is taking place next month with a bigger event planned for 2019. There may be some funding for venue hire available and Andrew also appealed for people to help with chess teaching.

9. Election of Officers

County captains have already been appointed at the May committee meeting. Ian Bush was proposed as Chair by David Robson, seconded by Kevin Henbest and approved by the meeting. Ian then presided over the election. David Robson proposed a vote of thanks to outgoing Secretary George Spalding for his longstanding work for the association. This was seconded by Ian Bush. Volunteers came forward for the vacant posts: Will Burt as Minutes Secretary and Roger Thetford as Secretary. They were proposed by Rod Langham and seconded by Ian Bush. The proposed list of officers was thus:

Chair:	Ian Bush (Cumnor)
Vice-Chair:	Kevin Henbest (University)
Secretary:	Roger Thetford (Didcot)
Treasurer:	Simon King (City)
Minutes Secretary:	Will Burt (Cowley)
Fixtures Secretary:	Asif Hameed (Cowley)
Grading Officer:	Peter Hemmings (Wantage)
Open Team Captain:	Rod Langham (Wantage)
U150 Team Captain:	Steve Rumsby (Banbury)
ECF Representative:	Mike Truran (Witney)
Junior Liaison Officer:	Andrew Varney (Cumnor)
Webmaster:	Roger Thetford (Didcot)
County Individual Championship Organiser:	Gerard O'Reilly (Cowley)
University Representative:	Kevin Henbest (University)

This list was proposed by Ian Bush, seconded by Rod Langham and approved by the meeting. It was noted that the OCA constitution does not include a post of 'League Secretary' but that such a role is frequently mentioned in the rules document. We will ask Gerard O'Reilly if he can help us clarify this.

10. OCA Rule Change Proposals

Starred Players: a small amendment was made to the start of the proposed rule 2.3.3 from "If any player participates in fewer than four games" to "If any player nominated by the club participates in fewer than four games". This was proposed formally by Rod Langham, seconded and this amended version of the full proposal was passed by the meeting.

Voided matches: this proposal, amending rule 4 on defaulted matches to cover matches that, by agreement of the captains and the league secretary, are not actually played was passed by the meeting.

Incremental time limits: this proposal would introduce incremental time controls (75 minutes plus a 10 second increment per move) in some matches in the top two divisions if teams express a preference, with two variants of how this might be implemented. Other matches would continue to be played at the current rate of 90 minutes for all moves.

There was a wide ranging discussion of the proposal and related issues and a vote was made on the general principle of introducing such incremental time controls. This was tied at four votes each. As the OCA constitution does not include any provision for a casting vote the meeting could not proceed to any more detailed discussion and so the proposal was dropped.

11. Treasurer's Recommendations

The Treasurer has proposed there be no change to the affiliation fee paid by clubs for each team they enter in the league. The meeting approved this.

12. Formation of the League

No new teams wish to join the league so the formation of the league as represented by the current draft of the fixtures list was accepted.

13. Ray Starkie Memorial Award

The committee meeting in May proposed that an annual best game award be instituted in Ray's memory. The meeting approved this with the following procedure suggested: games (which must be from OCA events in the relevant season) to be submitted to the Secretary in PGN (Portable Game Notation) format, published on the OCA website and, after a cut off date of the May committee meeting, judged by Matt Rose.

14. Any Other Business

The issue of compliance with the new GDPR rules (General Data Protection Regulations) was discussed. The ECF has produced guidance which could be adapted and posted to our website by the Webmaster. Advice could also be sought from John Place (MCS/Blackbirds).

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Will Burt – Minutes Secretary (incoming)