

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on the 2nd June 2015 at the Central Division Club

**Meeting opened at 19.35**

Present: Charles Wood(Chair), David Barlow(Treasurer), Andrew Bak (Secretary), Ihor Lewyk, Wil Lilburn-Quick (Bradford), Julian Toothill (Bingley), Les Johnson, AJ Lightowler, Keith Marsh, Adrian Arthur(Central Division), Mark Crowther (College), Lee Crawford, David Adam (Ilkley), Chris Watson, Winston Williams (Keighley), Paul Clarke, Geoff Briggs, Derrick Mason (Shipley), Phil Watson, Karim Khan, Sam Scurfield (South Bradford), Mike Bramson, Paul Kadzionis, Andy Walker, Ian Jewsbury, Mike Round (Undercliffe)

1. **Apologies**

John Holliday, Nigel Redmond, Peter Ward, Daniel Dufton

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters arising**

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted unanimously with no matters arising.

1. **Chairman’s Report**

* Leagues - There were very close finishes with all the leagues not being decided until the last fixtures of the season
* League Polarisation. The league tends to cycle between big clubs, which usually splinter off into new smaller clubs, which then recombine into larger clubs. This was the first season for some time with no one-team clubs. However next season we might be getting two new one-team clubs which may fill up the league with three Divisions of 8 teams
* Chesstival ran once again very successfully this year. Bradford Council were funding us with up to £18,000 to help us run the event. They have cut their events budget drastically and will be unable to fund another event of such a large scale. We will be looking to try and host some smaller events to keep the Chesstival spirit going over the summer.
* Vapes – there is an increase in the usage of vapes. In places that allow smoking vapes indoors, they should not be used while at the board.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

Winners:

Division 1 – Winners – South Bradford A. Relegated – Bradford 161, Keighley A

Division 2 – Winners – Ilkley B. Promoted – Ilkley C. Relegated – Bradford Destroyers, Enigma

Division 3 – Winners – Bingley Bees. Promoted – Legion of the Damned

Totty – Nermal Singh

Cocking – William Somerset

John Smith – Paul Clarke, Lee Crawford, G James Dannenberg, Karim Khan

Hepolite Cup – South Bradford A

Hepolite Plate – College Graduates

Hepolite Shield – Keighley A

Clough Trophy – Ilkley CC

Boyd Trophy – Ilkley CC

Individual Lightning – Andrew Bak and Matthew Webb

Keith Trobridge Trophy – Peter Shaw

Team Lightning – South Bradford A

The new rule 9a seemed to have its desired effect of deterrence. There were only two yellow cards awarded this season compared to 11 in the previous season.

Bringing forward the final round of league fixtures was successful with there being no defaulted games, compared to the previous season where there were several defaulted matches.

The Clough was very close as usual. The final round had the top fixtures all held at Central Division, along with a live scoreboard and digital clocks being used on all boards. This proved to be a successful venture and we’ll repeat this for next season.

Andrew Bak and Paul Clarke reminded the captains to be careful when submitting the match cards. Also it would help Paul Clarke if captains could indicate when a new player is playing and provide their full first and last name.

1. **Competition Controller’s Report**

Winners:

Barnett – Mark Crowther

Parkinson – Karim Khan

Hutchinson Trophy – Chris Stead

Bak Trophy – John Nuttall

In total there were 46 entries, a very healthy number. There were only three withdrawals, a much lower number than previous years. There were few defaults (although there were a few in the Bak) and most players managed to rearrange their games as necessary.

Unfortunately one of these withdrawals was the passing of Steven Priest. His enthusiasm for life and for chess was noted and there was a one-minute’s silence for his memory.

The Latvian Club seemed to work well as a venue. Ideally the big hall is normally used but if this is unavailable, there is enough room in the normal chess room as well as the “Yellow Room” upstairs.

The Bob Burns will be taking place this Summer at the Latvian Club on the following dates:

Rd 1: June 30th

Rd 2: July 14th

Rd 3: July 28th

Rd 4: Aug 11th

Rd 5: Aug 25th

On alternate weeks to the Bob Burns, Bradford Chess Club will be hosting a variety of fun events including Chess960, doubles, Latvian Gambit-themed, problem solving and handicap.

WW announced his intention to step down as Competition Controller after seven years in the role. The room thanked WW for his service.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

David Barlow circulated the 2015 AGM accounts and highlighted some key points:

* We’re projecting a year-end balance of£5371.15 compared with £5423.17 in 2014
* The BDCA provided Keighley with £300 of funding to help them purchase equipment to run a second team.
* The Congress received a healthy entry this year meaning we made a slight surplus.
* The 2013-14 ECF fees have been paid by the clubs concerned.
* For 2014-15 onwards, the BDCA will consider paying the ECF Game Fees for replacement players who fill in Division 1 teams on an infrequent basis. DB to draft a proposal for the EGM.
* The projected year-end balance is looking very healthy. The room discussed ways to invest this money in developing chess. With the DGT 2010 clocks now being available for £35-£40 each, there seemed to be a consensus to provide some clubs with digital clocks for the leagues.

1. **Election of officers**

**Chairman** Charles Wood was re-elected unanimously

**Vice Chairman**  Lee Crawford was re-elected unanimously

**President** Sam Scurfield was nominated for the role by Charles Wood, seconded by Winston Williams. Elected unanimously

**Secretary**  Andy Bak was re-elected unanimously

**Treasurer** David Barlow was re-elected unanimously

**Competition Controller** Karim Khan was nominated for the role by Sam Scurfield, seconded by Derrick Mason. Elected unanimously

**Grading Officer**  Paul Clarke was re-elected unanimously

**Press Officer** Wil Lilburn-Quick was re-elected unanimously

**Web Master**  Keith Marsh was re-elected unanimously

**Trophy Secretary** Karim Khan agreed to take on this role in combination with the Competition Controller’s role

1. **Hepolite Trophy Format Review**

It was agreed at last year’s AGM that the Hepolite Trophy would be reviewed after trialling the new format last season. Keith Marsh was thanked for inventing last year’s format for the Hepolite Competition. New ideas are always welcome.

The following format was agreed by a large majority vote to replace the current format:

*“The Hepolite Trophy shall be competed for by all League teams on a knock-out basis. Round 1 shall be competed for by all Division 2 and 3 teams by a random draw; Division 1 teams are given a bye. Winners of the Round 1 will proceed to the Round 2. Round 2 will contain the Round 1 winners and all the Division 1 teams and fixtures will be randomly drawn. The winners will continue in a knock-out format to compete for the Hepolite Trophy.*

*The Hepolite Plate is a knock-out competition held between the teams eliminated in Round 2 of the Hepolite Trophy.*

*The Hepolite Shield is a knock-out competition held between the teams eliminated in Round 1 of the Hepolite Trophy.”*

AB to re-write the rules based on the 2013/14 rulebook.

1. **ECF Game Fees**

Although there were no proposals to amend the status quo with the ECF Grading of Division 1, AB noted the new ECF fees for the 2015-16 season:

Platinum: £60 (unchanged)

Gold: £32 (Junior £26) (currently £28 (Junior £22)) – Covers FIDE rated events.

Silver: £22 (Junior £16) (currently £19 (Junior £13)) – Covers Congresses

Bronze: £15 (Junior £11) (currently £13 (Junior £9)) – Covers League and County Chess.

DB reminded captains to ensure that their players were signed up. Furthermore, players were encouraged to ensure that they purchased their ECF membership before entering the Bradford Congress, as this would help massively with calculating the correct amount of Game Fees owed.

1. **2015/16 League**

**A) Ilkley C declining promotion from Division 2**

Ilkley C had finished in 2nd place in Division 2 and secure promotion to Division 1. However they chose to decline promotion as they had received two “freeby” victories and would be very uncompetitive in Division 1, so much so that their players might not want to play at all if they were forced to play in Division 1.

It was noted that this decision is ultimately rests with the Executive Committee (Rule 6) but it was thought that discussing the matter at the AGM would assist the Committee with reaching their decision. At their meeting in May, the Committee decided that following the established precedent of allowing the 7th placed team in the higher division to stay up, rather than asking the 3rd place team from the lower division to take the promotion spot, Bradford 161 ought to remain in Division 1.

Representatives from Bradford and Shipley were asked to leave the room while discussions took place with neutral parties. In a show of hands, 10 people thought that Shipley should be promoted, 5 thought that Bradford 161 should remain in Division 1 and 5 abstained.

This matter would be resolved by the next Committee meeting in July, taking into account the views of the AGM. A rule may also need writing to try and cover these eventualities in future.

**B) New team – Burley Knights**

Gary Corcoran wishes to enter a new team into the Bradford League next season. They will be playing out of the Red Lion, Main Street, Burley-in-Wharfedale LS29 7BT. He has requested to enter the team into Division 2 as they will likely be too strong for Division 3.

There was skepticism about the squad that he had assembled as it includes players who currently play for other clubs. There was mixed views about whether they should be made to start in Division Three or if they could be allowed to play in Division Two.

AB is to get a firmer idea of the squad and the Committee will decide where to place this new team and who should take a place in Division 2 as necessary.

KM received an email on the day of the AGM from The Malt in Harden, they are also interested in entering a team into the league. The Committee will make further enquiries and will assign them to the league as necessary.

1. **Proposals**

**Rule 9**

Current Rule:

*Before a match starts the captains shall write their players in order of playing strength, on their match cards. Any team who fields a player in the wrong position according to current playing strength shall forfeit that board and all the boards below it.*

Proposed rule change:

*Before a match starts the captains shall write their players in order of current live YCA grades for players with current live YCA grade weighting of 10 or greater on their match cards. No player should play on a higher board than a player with a current live YCA grade that is greater than 5 or more points. For players with a current live YCA grade weighting of less than 10 the captains shall play the player in order of playing strength. Any team who fields a player in the wrong position shall forfeit that board and all the boards below it.*

Proposed by Daniel Dufton

After much discussion, this proposal was amended. References to “current live YCA grades” were replaced with “most recent end-of-month YCA grades”. Also, “...that is greater than 5 or more points” was replaced with “more than 10 points”.

**Rejected: 11 For, 12 Against, 2 Abstained**

**Rule 11**

Current Rule:

*Both captains shall send completed result cards either by post or e-mail (using the online result card) to reach the Association Secretary by the Friday morning following the match. Clubs failing to do so shall be fined £1 for each occurrence.*

Proposed Rule:

*Both captains shall send completed result cards either by post, e-mail using the online result card, or by posting the result on the BDCA results page on Facebook to reach the Association Secretary by the Friday morning following the match. Clubs failing to do so shall be fined £1 for each occurrence.*

Proposed by Daniel Dufton

**Passed by a large majority**

**Rule 48**

Current Rule:

*Players who play in the Semi Finals or Finals of the Hepolite Shield, should have played at least 2 league games for that team this season. For new players at the club this can be requested to be overridden by the committee*

Proposed Rule:

*Players with a current live YCA grade of greater than 100 and with a weighting of more than 10 who play in the Semi Finals or Finals of the Hepolite Plate or Hepolite Shield, should have played at least 2 league games for that team this season. For new players at the club this can be requested to be overridden by the committee.*

Proposed by Daniel Dufton

**Rejected – 5 For, 20 Against**

**Hepolite Trophy – New Rule**

*Teams competing in the Hepolite Trophy will consist of five boards.*

Proposed by Keith Marsh

**Rejected by a large majority**

**Fattorini Trophy – New Rule**

*Fattorini Trophy. This trophy will be awarded to the player with the highest cumulative score in the League, Hepolite, Clough and Individual Competitions.*

Proposed by Andrew Bak

Amended – “Cumulative” replaced with “aggregate”.

**Passed unanimously (with amendment)**

1. **AOB**
   1. Central Division will be hosting an informal fun chess night on Wednesday 17th June, from 6.00pm onwards. All are invited
   2. Ihor Lewyk has spoken to the VM Lounge based in the Victoria Mills in Shipley. They are hosting a Wimbledon-themed event with other activities including chess. Ihor will circulate more details.
   3. The Yorkshire Champion’s Challenge will be taking place on August 1st/2nd at the Bradford Latvian Club. This event invites all the winners and runners-up from the local Yorkshire leagues. It’s a four-round Swiss contested over four boards. Bradford Knights and South Bradford A will be invited to take part.
   4. The Bradford Congress has been booked to take place between 18th-20th September. This has already been advertised on the ECF Calendar and more details will be circulated shortly.
   5. Tony Lighthowler asked the Committee to consider the venue for next season’s Presentation Evening. A buffet held at one of the club venues might be cheaper to run and promote more socialising. The Committee will look into this next season.

**Meeting closed at 22.35**