

**Bradford DCA Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting held 6th March 2014 at the Central Division Club**

**Present:** J Holliday, C Wood, D Barlow, A Bak, W Lilburn-Quick

**Apologies:** K Marsh, L Crawford

**1 Previous month’s meeting minutes**

The previous month’s meeting minutes were approved.

**2 Matters Arising**

None

**3. Treasurer’s Report**

College have paid all their outstanding league fees for last season and this season in full.

Most other clubs have already paid this year’s league fees – DB will provide an update at April’s meeting.

ECF still haven’t yet sent a bill either for the Congress or for the ECF Grading of Division 1 until January.

**4. Secretary’s Report**

AB to confirm the venues for the Hepolite Final (13th May) and Team Lightning (27th May). Preference is to have Bradford Latvian Club for Hepolite as it was held at Central Division last year.

South Bradford B and Legion of the Damned have rearrange their league match for May 6th due to LotD being short of players. Noted that South Bradford should be thanked for their cooperation at such late notice.

AB has received a couple of informal complaints about the playing conditions at the Polish Club, home to College. In particular the venue is very cold. The lighting has previously been a problem but this seems to have been resolved.

Hepolite – The Hepolite has not been as successful as the BDCA would have liked, with several defaulted matches. CW also noted the lack of “giant-killing” opportunities for the lower teams due to the current format. The committee discussed ideas for potentially revamping the competition to try and discourage defaults and allow for Division 3 teams to upset Division 1 teams once again.

JH articulated an idea formulated an idea proposed by Keith Marsh – there would be eight randomly drawn groups of 3 teams who play an APA once. The winners of the groups progress to the Cup where there will be a KO format as currently exists. 2nd place finishers progress to the Plate and 3rd place finishers progress to a new competition – the Hepolite Shield?

AB to ask captains/secretaries on this issue ahead of the AGM.

**5. Competition Controller Report**

WW not present, but it was noted that the Individual results had still not been sent to Chessnuts or circulated.

**6.Charles Wood proposed rule change for next season**

*“Rule 9a. For the first time that a team defaults any boards other than the bottom boards in ascending order in one season no action shall be taken against the team. For all subsequent occurrences that a team defaults any other than the bottom boards in ascending order, the team shall be deducted* ***1 League point****.”*

CW felt that the current penalty for receiving a red card was too lenient and didn’t provide enough of a deterrent or punishment for breaking the rule. CW is also going to amend this proposal so that the first offence (Yellow Card) receives a 1 board point penalty (the current red card punishment)

DB and AB noted that the current rules maybe have provided enough of a deterrent as there have only been a couple of breaches of the rule since the first three weeks of the season, which saw five breaches.

Proposal to be amended and circulated ahead of the AGM.

**7. Bradford Chesstival**

DB and WLQ provided encouraging news for this year’s Bradford Chesstival. Bradford Council have already set aside a date – 13th September to once again coincide with the Heritage Festivities. Council also seem to be willing to provide a similar level of funding to last year.

WLQ has received the forms for the bidding process. He will fill in the bid and circulate round the committee before submission.

The Chesstival subcommittee should go ahead and publicise the date as early as possible in order to give others plenty of notice to have the Chesstival in their diaries.

Important to get more people involved this time. Nick Nixon and Andy Wainwright would like an expanded role this year and need to be utilised.

**Next meeting April 3rd 2014 at Central Division WMC, 8pm.**