

**Bradford DCA Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting held 2nd October 2014 at the Central Division Club**

**Present:** D Barlow (Treasurer), A Bak (Secretary), Winston Williams (Competition Controller), W Lilburn-Quick (Press Officer), K Marsh (Website Editor), S Swire, R Swire

**Apologies:** J Holliday, C Wood, L Crawford, I Lewyk

**Start time: 20:00**

**1 Previous month’s meeting minutes**

The previous month’s meeting minutes were approved.

**2 Matters Arising**

None.

**3. Bradford Congress**

The Congress received 115 entries – a very healthy number. The playing hall could not fit too many more entries in. The entry form for next season will state that the event will be capped to 120 players. A possible suggestion of moving the bookstall out of the playing hall was felt to be unfair to the bookstall and unnecessary as the entries this year were sufficient.

The Congress made an estimated surplus of £70, depending on the ECF game fee bill.

Although postage costs are increasing, the mailing list attracted 40 entries from forms that were returned. In future, more emailing and fewer letters sent out might be preferable.

Stuart and Rose had difficulties dealing with players who entered without completing entry forms as they had to complete the entry forms themselves which was time consuming and inconvenient. An online form will be considered to try assist in this regard.

Eight players claimed the £6 discount for ECF membership but had not renewed their membership prior to the start of the Congress. DB had spoken to the ECF office who acknowledged that the dates of the Congress only coming shortly after the expiry date of the previous season’s memberships meant that not everyone had yet renewed their membership. The ECF have allowed the Congress a grace period to allow time for everyone to join before they will charge Game Fee to the Congress. For this season, everyone has now either joined the ECF or the ECF will not charge game fee for players it expects will become members imminently.

For future, the Congress will have to be vigilant to ensure that players are ECF members. The Congress might be able to take payments for people to become ECF members. It is impractical to charge people the £6 which won’t be refunded until they can prove they are members because many people pay their entry fee before their ECF membership has expired.

The Congress was not added to the ECF Calendar until late in the day. AB agreed to ensure that the Congress was on there in plenty of time for 2015. The dates for the next Congress will be 18th-20th September 2015. Entry fees will remain at the same level.

**4. BDCA Presidency**

John Holliday has indicated his intention to resign the BDCA Presidency at the end of the 2014-15 season.

**5. Treasurer’s Report**

Congress funds are covered in section 3.

Chesstival – certain fees have had to be paid out of the BDCA fund which will be refunded when the Council send their funds upon completion of the Evaluation documentation. There are also certain outstanding debts which will also be paid upon receipt of the funds from Bradford Council.

The BDCA underspent on the Council’s budget by £861. We may receive this surplus when the Council forward the funds to the BDCA as last year, but this is yet to be determined.

The remaining outstanding league fees for the 2013/14 season have now been paid.

The ECF game fees for Division 1 have not yet been paid. DB will send out bills to clubs for players who played in Division 1 who were not ECF members.

**6. Secretary’s Report**

Ilkley won the Boyd Trophy.

The league season started. Legion of the Damned defaulted their first fixture but KM ensured that they are in good shape to field teams for the rest of the season.

The Hepolite got off to an encouraging start with no defaulted matches and several upsets, which the new rules were designed to promote. However many teams only fielded five boards; AB will keep an eye on this for future rounds.

**7. Clough Trophy Draw**

Legion of the Damned vs Central Laners

Ilkley CC vs Undercliffe C

Keighley Kibosh vs Shipley Raiders

Enigma vs Bradford Heroes and Villans

Central Darkhorses vs Bradford 1853

Redmonds vs Wibsey Woodpushers

Bee Gees vs Shipley Predators

Keighley Killers vs Keighley Knights

Khan’s Wrath – 4 Point Bye

**8. Competition Controller Report**

WW sent out invitations for the Individual Competitions to be held at the Bradford Latvian Club. KM posted this on the website.

**9. Website Editor Report**

All league and Hepolite details are up to date. Photos from the Chesstival have been posted. Hopefully report from the Congress and Chesstival will be sent to KM to put on the site.

**10. Bradford Chesstival**

The Chesstival was another great success, with the majority of aspects of the event running smoothly and according to plan on the day. WLQ estimated that overall numbers attending the Chesstival were similar to last year, although fewer people took part in the simultaneous exhibitions. It was noted that the less pleasant weather and the much reduced Bradford Heritage activities might have contributed to the slightly smaller attendance than hoped for.

DB noted that players who they met at the various events in the Interchange and with the Giant Sets in City Park did not attend the Chesstival. This was a bit disappointing but it was felt that these events were probably still beneficial in the wider sense of publicising chess in Bradford.

The numbers for the simultaneous exhibition were disappointing and there was only sporadic support from local areas outside of Bradford.

Organising an event of such scale as the Chesstival was stressful and time consuming to organise and once again the burden of the organisational tasks was left to a handful of people. Perhaps in future, a smaller-scale event might be the direction we should be heading in, utilising some of the more popular aspects.

Ideas include having chess sets in local cafes where people can play, utilising the giant sets and perhaps placing them in different locations around the city centre. Perhaps smaller events could be ran more frequently than annually.

The Chesstival has proved successful in rekindling people’s casual interest in chess. However, having rekindled that interest, the only avenue the BDCA can offer is formal league chess, which might not be suitable for casual players, where smaller events in social spaces might target these people.

WLQ and DB have completed the Evaluation forms. Once these have been completed and sent in, the BDCA should receive the remainder of the Council’s funds within 28 days.

**11.AOB**

AB to finalise the details for the Individual Lightning sooner than last year in order that details can be disseminated sooner to attract more entries.

Bob Burns – DB to complete payments of Grading Prizes etc.

Next meeting – Thursday 6th November at 20.00 at Central Division WMC.

**Meeting closed at 22.30**