

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on the 31st May 2016 at the Central Division Club

**Meeting opened at 19.35**

Present: Wil Lilburn-Quick (Chair), David Barlow (Treasurer), Andrew Bak (Secretary), Sam Scurfield (President), Adrian Arthur (Vice-Chair), Karim Khan (Competition Controller) Keith Marsh (Website Editor), Simon Jones (Bradford), Les Johnson, AJ Lightowler, Stephen Burton, Phil Drury (Central Division), Lee Crawford, David Adam (Ilkley), Daniel Dufton (Keighley), Paul Clarke, Sam Scurfield (South Bradford), Andy Walker, Ian Jewsbury, Paul Budahazi, Paul Kadzionis, Mike Bramson, Mike Round, Andrew Wainwright (Undercliffe)

1. **Apologies**

Julian Toothill, Nigel Redmond, Ihor Lewyk, Derrick Mason

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**

WLQ reported that chess in Bradford was in good health with more than 2000 games being played, in addition to hundreds of games being played on the giant chess sets in Bradford town centre.

Bradford Destroyer’s difficulties were concerning and would need to be addressed.

Thanked the committee for their hard work and noted the general good spirit and sportsmanship shown in the league.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

AB confirmed the winners of the League, Clough and Hepolite.

Noted the withdrawal of Bradford Destroyers and College Undergraduates fielding several defaults towards the end of the season and this might have implications for the league next season.

Hepolite continued to contain many defaulted matches – the format for this year to be discussed later.

The Clough had an incredibly close finish with the top three teams finishing within half a point of each other. This competition is running well.

1. **Competition Controller’s Report**

Winners:

Barnett – Phil Watson and Mark Crowther – 10 entries

Parkinson – Jamie Kubisa – 13 entries

Hutchinson Trophy – Les Johnson – 8 entries

Bak Trophy – Simon Jones – 9 entries

In total – 40 entries with a couple of new competitors.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

* We’re projecting a year-end balance of £2,591.40 compared with £2,556.90 in 2016
* BDCA has not yet been billed for the engraving for the 2015-16 season but DB has taken this into account when projecting end of year balance.
* In addition to the City Park giant board that the BDCA bought, the Council also bought another one.
* The Congress had two or three players who were not ECF members at the time of registration and did not pay the game fee.
* For next season, the Pay to Play fee for the Congress is going up to £7.50 for non-ECF members.

Accounts were approved by the floor.

1. **Election of officers**

**Chairman** Wil Lilburn-Quick was re-elected unanimously

**Vice Chairman** Adrian Arthur was re-elected unanimously

**President** Sam Scurfield was re-elected unanimously

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

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

**Competition Controller** Karim Khan was re-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 was re-elected unanimously

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1. **League Format**

AB requested feedback on the league format if teams were to drop out of the league.

A wide-ranging discussion ensued about the future of the league in general and how to attract more players and keep their interest in playing local chess with ideas discussed including:

* Forming a “superclub” based at a central venue to attract a wider range of players. Have several clubs merge to play at this venue so there is a centre for chess in Bradford.
* Continue to progress and expand Chess in Schools to encourage kids to play league chess
* Find ways to attract players who perhaps formally used to play at school or competitively but have since left.

Returning to the discussion of what the league format should be if both Bradford Destroyers and College Undergraduates are unable to field teams next year, it would be left to the Committee to decide on the format once it was determined which teams would be entering next season.

1. **ECF Grading of Division 1**

AB and Stephen Burton reported that the ECF were changing the system for collecting fees from non-ECF members. ECF are abolishing the Game Fee. Instead, non-ECF members can play 3 games in each league they play in for free. Once they play a 4th game, £16 will be charged.

There was a large consensus to keep ECF grading of Division 1.

Paul Clarke has becoming the ECF grading officer for the Bradford League, taking over from Jon Griffith.

1. **Proposals**

**League**

* 5 players in teams in all divisions.
* Remove the coin toss to determine colour. Instead the home team shall have White on all boards.

*Both proposed by Andy Wainwright*

**NOT PASSED - Both rejected by a large majority**

**Clough**

**Current Rule 54**

Byes requested by a team score 2.5 points. Such a Bye must be requested before the draw for that round is made. No requested Byes allowed in the final round of matches. No team allowed more than one Bye throughout the competition. ***Table for 4-board teams based on the published end-of-season YCA Grades****.* 4 Game points and 3 Handicap points allocated to every match

**Amended Rule 54**

Byes requested by a team score 2.5 points. Such a Bye must be requested before the draw for that round is made. No requested Byes allowed in the final round of matches. No team allowed more than one Bye throughout the competition. ***Table for 4-board teams based on the published YCA Grades****.* 4 Game points and 3 Handicap points allocated to every match

**Current Rule 57**

Boards should be played in Grade order (highest graded player on board 1 etc.). Any players who fail to do so and all boards below them lose their Game points to the opposing team. The original results of these games are only preserved for grading the players affected. ***The published end-of-season YCA grades will apply***

**Amended Rule 57**

Boards should be played in Grade order (highest graded player on board 1 etc.). Any players who fail to do so and all boards below them lose their Game points to the opposing team. The original results of these games are only preserved for grading the players affected. ***The latest published YCA grades will apply***

*Proposed by Daniel Dufton*

**PASSED – 15 Yes, 2 No**

**Hepolite**

* Remove Section E “Hepolite Competitions” (rules 42-49).

*Proposed by Andrew Bak*

**NOT PASSED - Unanimous**

Various options for an alternative format were discussed. Ultimately it was agreed that the Hepolite would run in the following format, with detailed rules to be decided by the Committee:

* Rapid play – 30 minutes for each player per game
* Matches to take place over 3 boards with each player playing their opposite number twice.
* Ran as a Swiss League format, initially over one Division with the possibility of having promotion/relegation in future seasons
* Games eligible for YCA Rapidplay Grading

**PASSED**

1. **Bradford Congress**

Taking place on 15th-17th September. Setting up online entry in addition to paper entry.

1. **AOB**

The Bob Burns will commence on 20th June fortnightly with Bradford Chess Club hosting other events on the off nights.

**Meeting closed at 21.45**