



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at the Owlet Hall, Shipley

**Meeting opened at 19.50**

Present: Adrian Arthur (Chair), David Barlow (Treasurer), Lee Crawford (Grading Officer), Keith Marsh, Peter Rooney, Robert Dennington, Simon Watson, Phil Watson, Julian Toothill, Ian Jewsbury, Andrew Walker, Derrick Mason, David Sykes, Dave College, Les Johnson, Ihor Lewyk

**1. Apologies**

Wil Quick, Andrew Wainwright, John Holliday, Andrew Bak, Matthew Webb, Richard Bowman, Geoff Briggs, Nick Waite

**2. Constitutional Point of Order**

It was noted that the meeting did not constitute a quorum as the minimum requirement of 20 members was not present. It was agreed that the meeting should go ahead and points raised on the agenda would be discussed and voted upon, with subsequent agreement required from the wider community.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

DB presented the accounts to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Points of note included the funds received from the estate of Sam Scurfield, the outlay of £600 towards chess sets for local schools and the payment of £74 towards 2019-20 ECF league fees. The accounts were approved.

**4. Election of Officers**

- President – Matthew Webb was re-elected unanimously
- Chairman – Adrian Arthur was re-elected unanimously
- Vice Chairman – John Holliday was re-elected unanimously (\*)
- Association Secretary – Wil Quick was re-elected unanimously (\*)
- League Controller – Andy Bak stepped down, Robert Dennington was elected unanimously
- Honorary Treasurer – David Barlow was re-elected unanimously
- Competition Controller – Karim Khan stepped down, Andy Bak was elected Unanimously (\*)
- Grading Officer – Lee Crawford was re-elected unanimously
- Press Officer – Andrew Wainwright stepped down; the position remains vacant
- Web Master – Lee Crawford was re-elected unanimously
- Trophy Secretary – Andrew Wainwright stepped down; the position remains vacant

(\*) – The officer elected to confirm their agreement to take on the role

The committee thanked all those stepping down for their invaluable contribution to the committee

## 5. 2021/22 League Structure and Calendar

Using a combination of information provided at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July and discussions during the evening, it was suggested that clubs would expect to be able to field the following teams:

ShIPLEY	1 x 6 man team
Bingley	1 x 4 man team
Central	1 x 4 man team
Undercliffe	2 x 6 man teams
South Bradford	2 x 4 man teams
Ilkley	2 x 6 man teams
Saltaire	1 x 6 man team
Bradford	3 x 4 man teams
Cue Gardens	2 x 6 man teams + 1 x 4 man team
Ilkley Chess Centre	2 x 4 man teams

With the above data, it was agreed that for the following season the structure would be that there would be one 6-board league and one 4-board league to run independently with equal value. It was discussed that certain venues may struggle to fit multiple teams in their venues and that the league controller may need to plan appropriately.

It was agreed that the initial calendar dates would be as follows:

- 31/08/2021 – Deadline for league entries
- 14/09/2021 – An introductory Boyd-style event to take place at Shipley
- 21/09/2021 – Clough 1<sup>st</sup> Round
- 28/09/2021 – Hepolite 1<sup>st</sup> Round
- 05/10/2021 – League 1<sup>st</sup> Round

This would give the new league controller time to set up the calendar and the pairings.

It was agreed that due to the later start, the individual tournament may reduce the number of rounds if necessary to accommodate the league, clough and hepolite competitions.

## 6. Covid

It was discussed that face coverings are not currently mandatory and that the ECF currently recommend following government guidelines. It was suggested that the wearing of face coverings should be voluntary. If a player insists on only playing an opponent with a mask, the player's captain would need to contact the opposing team's captain prior to the match to request either that the player's opponent wear a mask, or that the board order be adjusted so that both players are agreeable to wearing a mask. If no agreement can be reached, the game will not be played and the board will be recorded as a draw. This was agreed as a reasonable course of action, giving time for both teams to find an amicable and timely solution, without penalising either team.

There was a subsequent discussion on mandated double vaccination. There were strong views from some that all players should have both vaccines, and other conversations on whether a lateral flow test from a non-vaccinated person would suffice. A vote was carried out on the insistence of double vaccination for all players, except for players under 18 years of age and those with a medical exemption. This was agreed with 10 for and 5 against.

Other general points agreed were that players should not turn if they display any symptoms, boards and pieces should be cleaned, hand gel should be used, hand shakes should not happen, and social distancing should be respected, especially if observing other boards. If any player subsequently contracts covid, they have a responsibility to let both captains know.

**7. Minute's silence**

A minute's silence was held for all those who had passed away since the 2019 AGM.

**8. Message from the chairman**

AA wanted to thank the committee for their work.

**9. Rules surrounding the league structure**

WLQ provided by email a comprehensive list of new and adjusted rules in order to run the various competitions under these interim circumstances. These rules were voted through in total.

It was agreed that the main league trophies would be suspended for the 2021/22 season so as not to offer any suggestion of a premium against one of the proposed leagues

**10. AOB**

It was agreed that the discussions and agreed proposals would be communicated by email to all league secretaries.

DB encouraged all members to sign up for ECF membership from September 2021.

D Mason requested for people to assist with the setting up of boards and pieces at Shipley from 7pm on 13<sup>th</sup> September for the Boyd style competition. Clocks will be required but can be provided by the committee

**Meeting closed at 21.40**