

**Bradford DCA Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting held 3rd October 2013 at the Central Division Club**

**Present:** J Holliday (President) , C Wood (Chairman), D Barlow (Treasurer), A Bak (Secretary), W Lilburn-Quick (Press Officer), K Marsh (Website Editor), I Lewyk, S Swire, A Swire, K Khan

**Start time: 20:10**

**1 Previous month’s meeting minutes**

The previous month’s meeting minutes were approved.

**2 Matters Arising**

**2.1 Bradford Congress**

SS reported that the Congress had on the whole ran smoothly. The Congress received 100 entries, down by about 10-15 on recent years. There were several possible reasons for this including two other Congresses (Northumberland and e2e4 Bedford) on the same weekend. Event was also not advertised on ECF Calendar. Results had been sent to Jon Griffith’s old postal address, but they have now reached him so should be on Chessnuts shortly. SS thanked all the organisers, controllers and everyone who helped run the Congress. Phil Watson’s assistance in packing away on Sunday night was particularly thanked, he has done this for the last few years and it is very rare for someone from the Open to help out in this way.

IL concurred that the event ran smoothly, despite the absence of Peter Purland. Rupert Jones filled in expertly and all the sections ran without problems. It was also pleasing that all three sections were won by BDCA players. Peter Purland has already pencilled the dates in his diary to arbiter next year’s Congress alongside IL and Winston Williams. Latvian Club were also very happy, they sold out of all their food due to its popularity.

DB estimated that the Congress would lose about £90 this year, as the typical break-even number of entries is approximately 105. This figure is difficult to calculate as not all players who claimed the ECF membership discount have yet renewed their memberships. The previous couple of years had seen surpluses of £150-£300. DB expressed gratitude for the generous donations in the entries and prizes donated back to the Congress.

SS had produced provisional leaflets for next year’s Congress on 19th-21st September. Postal costs had risen significantly over the last year and this had a significant impact on finances. SS and KK both echoed sentiments that the Congress entry fees were among the cheapest in the country. The Committee agreed with SS that entry fees should increase by £2 for all sections next year to cover the rising costs. AS noted that the bus routes also needed amending on the entry form. SS to include Chesstival leaflets with entry forms if the Chesstival takes place next year.

**2.2 John Brooke**

SS informed the Committee that despite the refusal of John Brooke’s (JB) entry, he arrived just before the start and said to SS “You have two minutes to get me into this Congress” accompanied with similar legal threats to his recent correspondence with the BDCA. SS still refused his entry.

CW lamented that the JB has been the only cloud on what has been a brilliant few months for the BDCA after hard-fought chess all season and a superb Chesstival. CW had emailed JB and his solicitor, Philip Hirst to attend the meeting and it was unfortunate that JB chose not to attend.

KK reminded all that all people want to do is play chess, including JB. All the organisers are volunteers doing it for enjoyment and people shouldn’t be falling out. An amicable solution ought to be sought and apologies from both sides might help to draw a line under this. CW stated that while the BDCA acts in the interests of its members, it must also protect the volunteers who give up their time to act on the main Committee and the many sub-committees that the BDCA has, including the Bradford Congress sub-committee.

IL recounted last year’s events. It was noted that the Controller’s decision is final and Ihor decided to refuse his entry for two years. IL ran it by the Committee to ensure he was not acting unreasonably. In light of JB’s refusal to acknowledge IL in any capacity and JB’s subsequent conduct, IL saw no reason to change this stance. Neither IL nor SS wanted someone in the tournament who might disrupt it for the remaining 100 players.

CW brought up JB’s subsequent actions at 2013 Congress, particularly the letter that he distributed to players on each day of the Congress. AB had typed up the letter for the benefit of those who were not present at the Congress. CW asserted that allegations that IL and the BDCA as a whole were equated with Stalinism and Nazism was offensive and hurtful as the BDCA makes all efforts to not be secretive and is inclusive to all comers regardless of disability, race etc.

In light of this, CW deferred to put in a proposal for November’s meeting that JB be banned for life from all BDCA events and competitions, including the Bradford Congress. Deferring the proposal would allow further discussions to be had between all parties concerned and for an amicable solution to be reached before the next meeting. CW would more than happy to withdraw the proposal if progress has been made. JB will once again be invited to November’s meeting where he will have the opportunity to speak uninterrupted to say all that he wants to say.

The Committee do not wish for this issue to disrupt our meeting with Vanessa Mitchell from Bradford Council about the Chesstival. VM will arrive to start the meeting at 7.30pm, we will discuss JB after she leaves.

**3. Treasurer’s Report**

College have still to pay last year’s league fees. DB is chasing Nigel Redmond for this.

**4. Secretary’s Report**

AB was happy that several new players had entered the league as a direct result of the Chesstival – players had joined Central, College and Keighley. KM also reported that the Bradford Knights Academy were about to receive a new player for the new term.

It is a shame that two matches had already been defaulted so early in the season. Hopefully this was just a blip and the situation would improve as the season goes on. Also the first instance of the breaking of the new Rule 9 was committed by Spitfires. AB confirmed he had communicated this fact to the captain. KM to put an extra column on each league table on the website with a “yellow card” to acknowledge that this rule had been broken. AB confirmed that the purpose of this rule was to encourage communication between the captains and their players and that the rule would be applied prima facie, although AB will always speak to the captain first.

Not everybody is sending results to AB. AB will send an email round to remind all captains to include him when sending results. KM to put AB’s address on the scorecard. AB also reported that some people are having trouble using the online scorecard. KM suggested that this might be because the file is saved in a modern format that might not work with older computers or software. KM to try and fix this.

AB had contacted all clubs and 18 teams had now entered the Clough and all clubs had entered at least one team. JH mentioned that the recently formed Baildon Chess Club might wish to enter a team. JH will chase this up and AB will be willing to extend the deadline to allow Baildon time to discuss. AB to send KM list of entries for website.

**5. Competition Controller Report**

Nothing to report.

**6. Website Editor Report**

Results from league and Hepolite are up to date. AB agreed to write Congress report for website once results had been posted to Chessnuts. WLQ to send KM pictures from Chesstival. DB to send KM links to external media sites referencing the Chesstival.

**7. Hepolite Draws**

Hepolite Cup Rd 2: All fixtures to be played 19th November

Undercliffe B vs Keighley A

Bradford 160 vs Ilkley A

Undercliffe A vs Shipley

Bingley Bees A vs Central Laners

Bradford Knights vs South Bradford A

Central Darkhorses vs Undercliffe C

Ilkley B vs College Graduates

Ilkley C vs Bingley Bees B

Hepolite Plate Rd 1: All fixtures to be played February 11th

Bradford Spitfires vs Enigma

South Bradford B vs College Undergraduates

Legion Of the Damned vs Central Outcasts

Bradford Destroyers vs Keighley B

**8. Bradford Chesstival**

CW reiterated what an amazing success the Chesstival was and thanked everybody involved for their hard work. Confirmed that Vanessa Mitchell from Bradford Council Events Team had agreed to meet with BDCA Committee on November 7th at 7.30pm to discuss this year and potential for an event next year.

WLQ provisionally filled in an Evaluation Form to go back to Council. BDCA Committee to review and provide feedback before DB will send on Monday. AB to circulate minutes from the sub-committee meeting last Thursday.

**9.AOB**

None

Next meeting – Thursday 7th November at **19.30** at Central Division WMC.

**Meeting closed at 22.40**