**Minutes 0f 2017 Chess Arbiters’ Association**

Date: 26 Mar 2017 – Birmingham Rapidplay, Quinborne Community Centre, Birmingham.

Meeting began 13.40. David Welch arrived at 13.50.

1. **Present:** Geoff Gammon, Kevin Markey, Priscilla Morris, Alex McFarlane, Adrian Elwin, David Welch.

**Present for parts of Meeting:** Dave Thomas, Mathew Carr, Tom Thorpe

**Apologies:** Mike Forster, Francis Bowers, Peter Purland, Nathanael Lutton, Arnold Lutton, Phill Beckett, Peter Gibbs, Alan Hustwayte, Michael Flatt, Alan Ruffle, Lara Barnes, Tony Corfe, David Sedgwick, Neil Graham, Roger Edwards, Alan Atkinson.

In the absence of the Chairman, Alex McFarlane agreed to Chair the Meeting.

1. **Minutes of the last AGM:** Last minutes were circulated (from 2016)

Change AOB 4 to:

It was noted (with considerable regret in some quarters) that the ECF had abolished the Senior Arbiter ttitle for future generaons. The ttions. The meeting expressed its concerns at the way the ECF Board had handled the final batch of nominations for this ttitle. It was reported that they had been rejected because of a timescale problem which was probably generated within the ECF itself as the names appeared to have entered the processing chain early enough for the titles to have been awarded before the ‘deadline’.

**3. Matters arising from the last minutes not otherwise covered in the agenda:**

David Welch commented that Quickplay Finishes will be listed under Appendices in the new Laws of Chess. Currently QP finishes were being played in tournaments without a proper reference to the necessary rules.

 **4. Reports from Officials:**

 **4a Chairman’s report:**

Alex McFarlane reported that the Chairman had emphasised to him that the matter of the rewriting of the Constitution should receive the fullest of attention at the Meeting.

 **4b Secretary’s report**

Geoff Gammon reported that he had been given no information or documents at the last AGM when he became Secretary. He had compiled a mailing list of 38 who were or had been members and had circulated to them details of this meeting and the two editions of AM Too (20 and 21). This was done irrespective of whether or not subscriptions were currently up to date. This was a course agreed at the last AGM to try and rekindle interest in membership. Geoff said he was hoping to work with information from the new Treasurer and had received information from Kevin Markey but only on the day before the Meeting. The Treasurer was also still getting things in order, also having been appointed at the last AGM. Priscilla Morris requested that the Secretary should endeavour to establish how many members read AM Too. Geoff replied that he would

  **5 Treasurer’s report:**

Kevin Markey reported that he had established that the Association had:-

 20 paid up full members

 1 paid up associate member

 5 honorary members

It was confirmed that distinctions between paid up members and lapsed members should remain relaxed until 31st August 2017 the next subscription point. Thereafter the distinction would, once again, become definite.

The Balance is now at £2,674.21 which is £150.00 higher than at the last AGM.

Kevin said he would encourage people to pay by standing order or by Paypal.

Adrian Elwin asked what expenses the association would normally incur.

An affiliation fee of £60.00 to the ECF was mentioned which allowed the Association to send a delegate to the two ECF meeting in the Spring and the Autumn. There was also mention of entitlement to ECF publication such as the year book but no one had any knowledge of these being received. Geoff Gammon said he would enquire into the matter.

David Welch mentioned that the running of courses contributed to expenses and that a course may be necessary to update arbiters when the new FIDE Laws come into effect.

It was agreed that the timescale between meetings meant that it was not practical to produce a proper set of accounts but that these would be produced for future meetings.

 **6. Election of Officials:**

It was established that no officer had asked to stand down, and no one had indicated they wished to contest a post.

Priscilla Morris proposed the re-electing of current officials up to the next AGM. The proposal was seconded by David Welch and passed nem con.

**Officers:**

Chairman: **Lara Barnes** ECF Delegate: **Michael Forster**

Secretary: **Geoff Gammon Chess Scotland Delegate:** Alex

Treasurer: **Kevin Markey McFarlane**

Chief Arbiter: **Alex McFarlane** Welsh Chess: **Kevin Staveley**

Info Officer: **Alex McFarlane** Independent Examiner: **Richard Jones**

Committee: **David** **Welch, Michael** Safeguarding Officer: **Lara Barnes**

**Forster and Kevin Staveley** (acting)

 **7. Report on FIDE Proposals for Arbiter Assessment**

Alex McFarlane reports that FIDE are looking to introduce continuous assessments for arbiters. Although a one year cycle was considered, a four year cycle is likely to be the reality. The intention would be to test arbiters within 6 months of new Laws. Such a timescale was unlikely to apply to the 2017 revision unless these are delayed (which is a possibility). FIDE has concerns that some arbiters are not keeping their knowledge up to date.

The conversation turned to some of the new FIDE regulations to be introduced.

The FIDE pairing system will be compulsory in norm tournaments though it is unlikely that this will be forced by the intended deadline of 1st July. Reallocating player PINs will not be permitted after round 3 in tournaments.

In non norm tournaments pairings can be ‘arranged’ to avoid undesirable combinations if notification of these conditions is given beforehand and no unfairness results. The pairing may be questioned and an acceptable explanation would need to be offered. This is also possible in tournaments giving norms but may result in subsequent questioning from FIDE.

New FIDE pairing will mean all byes are regarded as downfloats.

David Welch asked if these kinds of small point of law could be concentrated in one place on the CAA website.

Alex McFarlane suggested that the situation was too fluid and keeping arbiters informed in a single item might leave changes unnoticed. Currently various points could be identified now by using the Article references for AMToo.

There was a discussion regarding the date of the next AGM and the need to consider the possible one year delay in the publication of the FIDE Laws and the need to establish the rewritten form of the Constitution. The Summer of 2018 was generally agreed upon.

Kevin Markey proposed that the subscription should remain unchanged:

Full members £10.00

Associate members £5.00

This was seconded by Alex McFarlane and passed nem con.

**8. Constitution**

Various items were discussed for inclusion in the constitution in addition to the normal election of office bearer, reports, setting of fees, etc.

It was agreed that the a duty of the organisation was to disseminate information from FIDE and National bodies. Such information to include changes to the Laws, Title regulations, pairing rules, etc.

The Association at its discretion may provide funding for arbiters to gain qualifications.

The CAA should be prepared to offer training possibly in association with national bodies and in relation to FIDE assessments if appropriate.

The CAA should produce and maintain training materials where required.

The difficulty in lobbying national bodies to have qualified arbiters was recognised but it was still regarded as desirable.

It was not felt appropriate at this time for the CAA to have its own title structure for arbiters but it was noted that this may change in the future.

Again concerns were expressed at the ECF’s decision to stop Senior Arbiter titles and the way that it was handled but it was not felt this should be a constitutional item

It was agreed that the CAA should offer advice and support to members. This may be on an individual basis.

It was not thought appropriate that the CAA should maintain a blacklist or consider disciplinary matters. It was noted that the ECF did not provide a means of dealing with such matters although both Chess Scotland and the Welsh Chess Union did.

Having a safeguarding policy had been agreed at the previous meeting.

**9. Date of next Meeting**

No date was set though there was a preference for June-August. Holding it during the British or Counties Championships was discussed.

**10. AOB**

**Meeting with representatives of the ECF Board.**

It was agreed that this should be followed up. Possible areas for discussion included.

a) Checking information received by the ECF from FIDE and the ECU (European Chess Union) to pass on to arbiters and organisers,

b) Discussing the possibility of the ECF setting up a Standards Committee similar to Chess Scotland

c) Producing training materials for arbiters/organisers

d) Discussion on arbiter qualifications/titles

 The Meeting closed at 1615.