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CHES ARBITERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, August 3rd 2002 at the BCF Championships in Torquay.

Present: John Robinson, Geoff Jones, David Welch, Steve Boniface, Stewart Reuben, Neville Beinfante, Tony Corfe, Lara Barnes, Neil Graham, Sue Hale, David Woodruff, Priscilla Morris, Paul Bielby, John Dunleavy, Gerry Walsh, Julie Leonard, Adrian Elwin, Richard Furness, Jerry Humphreys. John Robinson started the meeting as Chairman, Geoff Jones as Secretary.

1. Apologies. Apologies were received from Alex McFarlane, Peter Purland, Ian Cowen, Alec Webster, David Sedgwick, Marda Dixon, Alan Ruffle, Simon Woodcock, Sue Howell, Chris Howell, Francis Bowers, John Swain, Peter Gibbs, Cyril Johnson, Julie Johnson, Eric Croker, Roger Edwards, Tim Thurstan, Jack Spiegel. .
2. Minutes. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, August 4th, 2001 at the Scarborough, were accepted as a true record. Proposed Gerry Walsh Seconded Neil Graham.
3. Matters arising. a.) Positive Vetting, Peter Turner came into the meeting and gave a report on where the government vetting scheme was up to. The scheme, he reported was in some confusion with many more request being made to the agency than had been anticipated. People already in place and dealing with "at risk groups", the agency would not be concerned with and accepted for the time being, only new people coming through would be expected to referred to the vetting scheme Fuller information can be obtained from Peter or the government web site www.crb.gov.uk. The BCF is still expected to register and act as a fulcrum for the chess world.
b.) Honorary Membership of the Association. It was agreed that this should be left upto the recommendation of the committee '
4. Chairman's Report. a.) The Association independence from the BCF was questioned with an incident that will be discussed latter on the agenda,
b.) A discussion occurred over whether disabled chess players should be docked time for not keeping a game score of the match. It was left up to the arbiters discretion but the recommendation is that disabled players, although not being allowed to gain an advantage, should not be unduly penalised and the game made harder for them.
c.) Arbiting Matters. A lack of articles was the main reason that the usual output had not been maintained.
5. Treasurer's Report. The accounts and treasurer's report for the last financial year was circulated with the agenda. provided there is no undue risk. Steve Boniface suggests a contingency of a thousand pound would be sufficient to meet most emergencies. - - Tony Corfe proposed that the report be accepted, seconded by Richard Fumess. Finally Steve's proposal that the fees remain the same for the forth-coming year was accepted,
6. Chief Arbiter's Report. Dave Welch reported that three arbiters had been confirmed by the BCF; Marda Dixon, Scott Freeman and Rob Hart, all members of this association. Our

congratulations go to these three. Neil Graham stated again that the BCF were unsure which arbiters had received badges or certificates but was trying to make sure that they all received them. The new yearbook entry for arbiters simplified the Chief Arbiters' job on the renewal of the Arbiting title as it was clear that those in the C.A.A. were up to date with the laws and developments in chess. The Chief arbiter pointed out that there was now no appeal under 10.2 that this was the main area for the few disputes that he had received. He asked arbiters to pause before giving a clear decision, followed by a line of reasoning. Concern was voiced that one of our members had received a solicitors letter following a dispute at one event. The advice to all arbiters is that they should ensure that the entry form states the players agree to the rules and regulations of the event and is signed by the players, even players receiving free entry.

7. The BCF delegate gave a report of the two BCF Council meeting that he had attended. He reported that the BCF had been restructured and that the motion agreed at last year's CAA AGM that all BCF arbiters should be members of their national association had been shelved through lack of time.

8. 8. Election of Officers.

(Office)	(Nominee)	(Proposer)	(Second)
Chairman	John Robinson	David Woodruff	David Welch
Secretary	Geoff Jones	Stewart Reuben	Gerry Walsh
Treasurer	Steve Boniface	Stewart Reuben	Richard Furness
Chief Arbiter	David Welch	Gerry Walsh	Richard Furness
Information Officer	Alan Ruffle	Steve Boniface	David Woodruff
Committee proposed on block	Stewart Reuben	Neil Graham	
	Alex McFarlane		
	Neville Belinfante		
	Peter Dodsworth		
Auditor	David Sedgwick	Neil Graham	Gerry Walsh
BCF Delegate	Neville Belinfante	Gerry Walsh	David Welch

A vote of thanks to last years officials was proposed by Stewart Reuben, seconded by Richard Furness

9. C.A.A. Constitution. David Sedgwick had sent in, along with his apologies, a copy of a constitution he had found in his files. He thought that there had been no changes to this but it was apparent that there was two at least. It was agreed that this should again be left over until next years AGM and this amended constitution circulated.

10. Disputes Committees. A discussion took place over a dispute that occurred earlier this year. One of our members was approached to form a disputes committee. This member duly formed a disputes committee of (himself and two other CAA members) but he was compromised before forming a decision. Fortunately the other two members of the committee, unaware of this occurrence, were in agreement and reached a decision. The meeting was clear on the principals involved: 1./ The decision from any disputes committee should go back to the original requestor, 2./All appeals should be through the Chief Arbiter, 3./ The independence and impartiality of the CAA. must be maintained.

Following on from this discussion the following proposal, proposed by Neil Graham seconded by Dave Welch, was carried:

A motion should be placed on the Agenda for the next BCF Council Meeting, this should read; .

"The Council should instruct the British Chess Federation Management Board to thoroughly review and revise all its playing rules and regulations, reporting progress back to the next annual council meeting."

The C.A.A. offers its services to assist the management board in this review.

John Dunleavy on behalf of the West of England Chess Union agreed to support this

11. Any Other Business. Stewart Reuben reported that the next Olympiad would shortly be held in Bled and although there was no money set aside to support arbiters going, if any one was interested, if they contact Stewart quickly, a small amount might be found to assist in defraying some of an arbiters expenses. The secretary reported that we had our own bursaries which could also be used. Anyone interested should act quickly and contact Stewart direct. It was pointed out that usually the second week is of more interest to arbiters.

It was suggested that the minutes should be published on the web and indeed our own site be set up. The secretary agreed to look into this, also linking with the BCF site.

It was pointed out again that to publish "Arbiting Matters" regularly, the information officer needed help by us all supplying suitable articles as soon as possible. The information officer's new address is:-

Alan Ruffle, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

There being no further matters the meeting closed at 5.35p.m.