CHESS ARBITERS’ ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 5th May 2013 at Hinckley Island at 10.30am

The post of Secretary was brought forward. There was discussion and a vote while the candidates were absent. Alan Ruffle was nominated and Cyril Johnson was thanked for his interest.

Present: Alex McFarlane, Lara Barnes, David Welch, Tom Thorpe, Alex Howolczak, Neville Belinfante,

Tyson Mordue, Alan Ruffle, Matthew Carr, Adrian Elwin, Jack Rudd, Geoff Gammon, Tony Corfe,

David Sedgwick, Ryan Foster, Priscilla Morris, Neil Graham, Stewart Reuben.

1. Apologies. Apologies had been received from Carl Tillotson, Phil Meade, Francis Bowers,

Ewart Smith, Peter Purland, Cyril Johnson, Wilf Arnold, Mike Adams, Alec Webster, Richard Jones,

Kevin Markey, Gerald Jacobs, Paul Bielby, Gerry Jepps, John Whickham, Andrew Howarth.

2. Minutes. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 29th July 2012 at North Shields

were accepted as a true record.

1. Matters arising. Alex Holowczak-Ref 11b asked that specific figures be shown where expenses had

been claimed. Lara Barnes reported in reply that she had attended various Commissions at the Olympiad in Istanbul, Turkey. She stated that her financial claims on the CAA had been nil but she had been offered £400 and had in fact incurred expense to herself to the value of £800-00 in lost revenue. She had attended in the role of non playing captain of the Scotland Ladies team and had been able to claim her air fare from Chess Scotland.

1. Chairman’s Report – Lara Barnes reported that the Tournament Organisers Meetings were very

interesting attended by National representatives of varying degrees of experience from novice up to fifty years of chess involvement. The FIDE Chairman led a debate regarding professionalism and tax collection in chess arbiting. Lara made the point that English Arbiters were almost entirely volunteers.

David Sedgwick and Stewart Reuben led the debate regarding the attendance of future FIDE arbiters’ meetings emphasizing that only properly experienced persons with the required specialist knowledge should attend. £500-00 maximum figure was suggested to cover expenses. It was noted that it is likely that annual membership subscriptions would cover this figure, but not every year.

1. Treasurer’s Report. A copy of the Treasurer’s Report was circulated prior to the meeting. Wilf Arnold was thanked for his hard work as Treasurer and Tony Corfe agreed to accept the role of assistant treasurer with special responsibility for the collection of subscriptions and to gradually take over the role.

Membership fees were to remain the same. Richard Jones was to be re-elected as the independent examiner.

1. Chief Arbiter’s Report. Alex McFarlane reported that he was waiting for directions from FIDE regarding rule changes; it was understood that the ones published were mainly in connection with rapid play. There was also ongoing discussion at Presidential Board level with regard to telephone chess; 10/2 appeal procedures with or without the attendance of an arbiter.

He further reported that the CAA web site had been corrupted and work was ongoing regarding its reimplementation.

Regarding the Gawain Jones blog regarding the incident at Southend Congress Alex reported that

this appeared as a poor decision by an unqualified arbiter.

Alex reported that Arbiters’ training was to be reviewed.

It was also reported that Chess Scotland had lost its grant.

7. Delegates’ reports. Alex Holowczak provided details of ‘Proposed New Arbiters Regulations’ from The ECF. David Welch pointed out the impracticalities of producing a multiple choice exam paper. It was noted that Chess Scotland and The Welsh Chess Union would not allow FIDE licensing for anyone without an Arbiter Qualification.

David Sedgwick pointed out that arbiters of the ECF had been, since the change from BCF to ECF, required to pass a written exam, work under supervision of qualified arbiters and most importantly be CRB checked. There was eyebrow raising when he went on to state that the proposed level 1 arbiters although recognised as competent organisers but without any recognised qualification, would be licensed as arbiters by FIDE upon payment of £20-00.

Neville Belinfante reported that the ECF was seeking to split into two sections, professional and amateur. This would allow the amateur part to seek charity status. This is currently being debated

at council.

1. Election of Officers. A proposal to elect the officers en-bloc was accepted.

Office Nominee

Chairman Lara Barnes

Secretary Alan Ruffle

Treasurer Wilf Arnold

Assistant Treasurer Tony Corfe

Chief Arbiter Alex McFarlane

Information Officer Alex McFarlane

Committee David Welch

Kevin Staveley

Neville Belinfante

ECF Delegate Neville Belinfante

Chess Scotland Delegate Alex McFarlane

Welsh Chess Union Kevin Staveley

Independent Examiner Richard Jones

1. Any Other Business. There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.50pm.