

## SHROPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : WEDNESDAY 8/9/99

*Venue*            **Coddon Chess Club**

*Start of Meeting*        **19.45**

<i>Attendees</i>	David Everington	Phil Cameron	Richard Thompson	Colin Roberts
	Glyn Pugh	Iain Wilson	Bryan Brown	Roger Brown
	Sellick Davies	Alan Silver	Derrick Powell	Jim Wilkinson
	Carl Portman	Toby Neal	Nick Rutter	Andrew Corish
	John Westhead	Windsor Peck	Graham Shepherd	Alan Shaw
	Richard Bryant	John Hill	Matthew Clark	Nick Graham
	John Tunks	David Foster		

1.    *Apologies*        | Ron Thomson, Su Portman

2.    *Minutes of the 1998 AGM*

*Action*

2.1    The minutes were adopted as a true record of the previous meeting.

3.    *Officer's Reports*

3.1    *General Secretary (Phil Cameron)*

No formal report was presented; instead Phil said he would provide information at relevant items in the agenda.

At this time he also announced his resignation from the position of General Secretary due to pressures at work and other commitments at home.

3.2    *League Controller (Colin Roberts)*

- Division 1 Champions : Newport A, ahead of Telepost A.
- Relegated from Division 1 : Church Stretton A and Shifnal A
- Division 2 Champions : Oswestry A, also promoted Telford A
- Relegated from Division 2 : Shrewsbury B and Newport B
- Division 3 Champions : Wellington C, also promoted Coddon C

Colin reported that the new quickplay finish rules had not caused problems during the season.

- 3.3 *Treasurer (Richard Thompson)*  
A statement of accounts was distributed to the meeting. This showed a deficit for the year of £94.34. Also the Congress Account showed a deficit of £392.09 as once again the entries were fewer than anticipated.
- The accounts had not been audited at this time but would be in due course.
- To attempt to correct the General Account deficit Richard proposed that the league fees should be increased from £35.00 to £39.00 for each team. This proposal was accepted by the meeting.
- 3.4 *Auditor (Glyn Pugh)*  
Glyn assured the meeting that the accounts would be audited in the near future.
- 3.5 *Grading Officer (Nick Rutter)*  
The half-yearly grading list promised by the BCF for January 1999 did not materialise. Apparently the software they were using was inadequate and in fact the computer list produced in June contained hardly any of the results submitted for grading.
- Nick added that the BCF subsequently promised the grades for 4<sup>th</sup> August, then 31<sup>st</sup> August and now say that they are at the printers. As soon as they are received he will post them on his website :-  
[Http://members.aol.com/nickrut/private/chess.html](http://members.aol.com/nickrut/private/chess.html)
- 3.6 *County Individual (Nick Rutter)*  
The County Champion was John Jeggo with runners-up being Trevor Brotherton and Dave Gostelow. This was a major achievement for John who is not one of the county's higher graded players and he was congratulated by the committee for his performance.
- Nick was thanked for taking over the post of County Individual organiser part-way through the season.
- 3.7 *Oswestry Quickplay (Ron Thomson)*  
The tournament was held at Oswestry's club The joint winners were Richard Bryant and Richard Morris who outscored the other 30 entrants.
- A provisional date of 31<sup>st</sup> October is proposed for this year's event.
- 3.8 *Correspondence Chess (Jim Wilkinson)*  
Jim informed the meeting that last year's results showed an improvement in terms of points scored and we finished a creditable third. The winners were Warwickshire (25), second Leicestershire (23½) and third Shropshire (19½), well ahead of Greater Manchester.

		<i>Action</i>
3.9	<p><i>Cox &amp; Minor Trophies (Derrick Powell)</i></p> <p>In the Cox trophy 19 of the 25 teams in the league took part. The winners were Newport A who defeated Shifnal A in the final by the score of 4 - 1.</p> <p>In the Minor competition Shrewsbury B beat Shifnal B by the score of 3½ - 1½.</p> <p>The games this year finished with a 20 minute quickplay which seemed successful.</p> <p>Derrick asked the winners of the minor trophy to bring the engraving up to date to show Shifnal A as the 1997 winners and Church Stretton A as the 1998 winners. The association will of course pay for the engraving as it does for the other trophies.</p>	
3.10	<p><i>Publicity Officer (Toby Neal)</i></p> <p>Once again Toby had regularly promoted chess with his articles in the Shropshire Star and as usual he appealed for people to send him news, games etc to enhance the reports.</p>	
3.11	<p><i>Congress Organiser (Iain Wilson)</i></p> <p>This year's tournament featured a new venue, Lilleshall National Sports Centre and date 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> March 1999.</p> <p>The venue was highly successful but the date was not, clashing with two Midland Counties fixtures and being just a week before the Blackpool congress. In mitigation the committee had only a limited choice of dates available to fit in this tournament.</p> <p>The attendance dropped from 94 to 88 but interestingly the Open entry rose by 6, including 2 grandmasters, who ultimately ended as joint winners</p> <p>Notable Shropshire performances came from Nick Rutter (3<sup>rd</sup> equal in the Open), Gerald Link (1<sup>st</sup> equal in the Major) and Gary White (2<sup>nd</sup> equal in the Minor).</p> <p>Iain stated that the congress committee have 4 main objectives for 2000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To secure Lilleshall for future events</li> <li>• To establish a settled date</li> <li>• To increase entries to at least 130 - break-even point</li> <li>• To obtain sponsorship</li> </ul>	
3.12	<p><i>County Junior Organiser (Matthew Clark)</i></p> <p>Matthew said that there were a number of talented youngsters in the county who needed to be encouraged and developed. Unfortunately he was finding it difficult to give the required time due to a number of other commitments and would be unable to take on this post next year. However, he offered to continue trying to promote chess at secondary schools.</p>	

		<i>Action</i>
3.13	<p><i>County 1st Team Captain (Iain Wilson)</i> Iain reported that his second season as County captain was much more encouraging than the first. The team lost all their matches but some were close encounters as they lost 9 - 7 to Worcestershire and 10 - 6 to Warwickshire.</p> <p>The four highest graded players, Nick Rutter, Nigel Ferrington, Richard Bryant and Trevor Brotherton all commendably exceeded 50%. While only five of the lower graded players achieved 50%, these being Windsor and Roger Peck, Graham Shepherd, Matthew Clark and Iain Wilson.</p> <p>This year the Counties rapidplay in is Sheffield and as we have been unable to raise a team for the last two years Iain recommended that we ignore the event this year.</p>	
3.14	<p><i>County U150 Team Captain (Windsor Peck)</i> He reported that his first year as captain was not a great success, defaulting against Greater Manchester because of lack of players and losing the other three. However the results were close as they lost 6 - 10 to both Staffordshire and Worcestershire and in a very tight match against Warwickshire the score was 7½- 8½.</p>	
3.15	<p><i>County U125 Team Captain (Roger Brown)</i> This season was not as good as usual, Roger told the meeting. The matches resulted in one win, two losses and a default against Greater Manchester.</p>	
3.16	<p><i>County U100 Team Captains (Sellick Davies / Bryan Brown)</i> The format for the tournament this season was a seven-county jamboree with two matches on the same day. The Shropshire team did well enough to qualify for the national stages, where they lost to Essex.</p> <p>The joint captaincy has been a success and so with Sellick standing down there is a need for a new captain. Ian Davies has offered to take on this role for the coming year.</p> <p>Sellick was thanked for his services to the county U100 team.</p>	
3.17	<p><i>MCCU Delegates (Iain Wilson / Richard Thompson)</i> Iain was pleased to announce that he had actually attended the meeting this year.</p> <p>Some points of interest to Shropshire are :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MCCU are keen to see each county appoint a Junior Organiser</li> <li>• The Under 100 Jamboree format has been abandoned</li> <li>• Proposed changes to the time control for county matches was defeated as county captains had not been consulted.</li> <li>• The MCCU favours just one grading list per year</li> </ul>	
3.18	<p><i>BCF Delegate (Richard Thompson)</i> Richard had nothing of significance to report at this time.</p>	

4.	<b><i>Presentation of Trophies</i></b>	<b><i>Action</i></b>
	At this time the President, David Everington, presented the trophies to the victorious teams in the Shropshire league and cup competitions.	
5.	<b><i>Election of Officers.</i></b>	
5.1	Both the President and General Secretary of the association had previously announced their intention of resigning at this meeting. In spite of this no volunteers were forthcoming for these important positions within the structure of the Shropshire Chess Association, leaving both positions vacant at the close of the meeting.  NB - Subsequently Iain Wilson offered his services as President and this was gratefully accepted.	
5.2	The position of joint Under 100 captain, formerly held by Sellick Davies, was taken over by Ian Davies.	
5.3	Alan Shaw took on the mantle of junior chess organiser following the resignation of Matthew Clark.	
5.4	Iain Wilson agreed to take overall responsibility for organisation of the congress as replacement for Dave Gostellow.	
5.5	All other officers were duly re-elected.	
5.6	The meeting warmly thanked David Everington for his many years as President of the county association.	
6.	<b><i>Proposals for League Rule Amendments.</i></b>	
6.1	A proposal by Derrick Powell to increase the quickplay finish time control to 20 minutes was defeated.	
6.2	A proposal by Sellick Davies to permit players graded below 75 to play for any of a club's teams in division 3 without restriction was carried.	
6.3	Roger Brown proposed that the above rule should be extended to players graded below 90 in division 2, this was again carried.	
6.4	A proposal was made that a club fielding a team consisting only of juniors should be allowed to play all matches at home, this was carried.	
7.	<b><i>Proposals for Constitution Amendments.</i></b>	
7.1	None	

8. *Any Other Business.*

*Action*

8.1 Carl Portman had produced a document suggesting ways of improving the structure of chess within the county. He was thanked for his efforts.

8.2 A lengthy discussion took place on the future of junior chess in the county. Both Nick Graham and Alan Shaw expressed their views on ways that the county could help with the development of junior chess.

It was decided to set up a working party to formulate ways of improving the development of junior players.

The meeting closed at 22.05

Philip Cameron  
Former General Secretary

31<sup>st</sup> May 2000