

LINCOLNSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Held at Church House, Louth on Sunday 9th September 2018, 3pm

MINUTES

Attending: John Grasham, Mike Colebrook, Pete Holman, Denis Georgiou, William Orr, Nigel Birtwistle, Francis Bowers, Ben Mason, Peter Sherlock, Frank Robinson and Ian Scott.

Apologies: Robert Stokes, Keith Noons, Peter Damms

1. MINUTES OF 2017 AGM

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were circulated to attendees before the meeting and these were voted as an accurate record of the 2017 meeting with one amendment. Denis Georgiou was present at the last AGM but this not recorded in the minutes.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT (John Grasham)

Firstly, some sad news is the death of the vice president of the Lincolnshire Chess Association, David Carew in January at the age of 78. David was also the secretary of Spalding Chess Club. Unfortunately, I did not know David that well but I have been told that he was a popular figure in Lincolnshire chess for many years and had led a full and interesting life.

The season opened with the George Renison Memorial Jamboree in October. This was organised by Scunthorpe Chess Club at Age Concern. For the first time the trophy went outside the county, with Newark winning the title. Let's hope the title can be brought back to Lincolnshire at this year's event in Grimsby!

The Alf Newman Memorial Quickplay Chess Tournament was a success again this year with 28 players taking part. Keith and Charles ran another successful tournament at a new venue, The Woolpack. Joe Kilshaw won the title on sum of progressive scores from Sam Milson. Ayman Hammam and Nigel Birtwistle finished joint third. New players Andreas Sivachenko and Matthew England won the grading prizes, two players to be wary of in the Lincs League next season. Adam Cook won the Nottingham Shield. However, the real winner on the day was the buffet lunch.

This year's County Championships saw a reduction in entries from the previous year. The open section attracted 9 entrants and the under 150 section saw 12 players taking part. Jason Dilley regained his county championship title with 4 out of 5 finishing ahead of Sam Milson in second and Murray Smith in third. Adam Robinson's success in the under 150 section continued as he won outright this year with 4 out of 5 ahead of Qais Karimi in second. Thanks go to Peter Sherlock who ran a successful tournament and Herman Kok who provided the venue.

Also, more sad news is the closure of Horncastle Chess Club through lack of members. The remaining players will join other clubs in Lincolnshire but the club will not participate in the Lincs League next season. I thoroughly enjoyed my five and a half years at the club and it has been one of my proudest achievements to help set the club up.

I will be happy to continue as secretary next season.

4. LEAGUE SECRETARY'S REPORT (John Grasham)

Grimsby regained their Division 1 title this season, it looked as if they were going to win it by a large margin until they suffered a 4-1 home defeat by Louth. This left them needing to win their final game against Lincoln which they did by a 3-2 margin.

Division 2 North was very tight this year. It looked as if Louth would win it by a canter after they won their first four games. However, the wheels fell off and their only point in the second half of the season came in a draw

at Scunthorpe. As all the other teams kept beating each other, Louth held on to win the title on points difference ahead of Scunthorpe.

Division 2 South was more straightforward. Lincoln and Grantham were vying for the title. The result came down to the decisive second meeting between the two teams which resulted in a 3-1 win for Grantham, thus giving them the trophy.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT (Peter Sherlock)

This season I am reporting a small surplus of £3.99 compared with a small loss of £1.54 last season so again roughly breaking even. However, our balance of £1581.05 remains healthy.

The subscriptions are slightly down on last season as Scunthorpe fielded only 1 team in Division 2 North. A further loss of £60 is expected next year as Horncastle Chess Club has folded.

The county championships made a profit of just under £100 with an entry less than last year not helped by late withdrawals two of which were caused by an accident en route. We are fortunate that the Lindum Group provide the venue free of charge, sponsor the event by £100 and Herman Kok returned his £30 prize money as a donation. Without this the event would not be viable with the current level of entry. I encourage players to support this event as it is a valuable source of income for the county.

The county supported the 3 teams with the Minor reaching the final losing to a strong Surrey team but the U140 and U120 teams were unable to qualify for the ECF stages. Expenses were slightly down on last season.

The change of rules for Game Fee meant that we were only charged £16 which was for Matthew Turner who played for the Minor team in the ECF stages without having paid his ECF membership.

I am recommending no increase in subscription fees as we have a healthy balance in the bank but will review the situation next year.

Nigel Birtwistle pointed out that Matthew Turner's grading fees were paid out of expenses so no cost was incurred to the county.

6. OPEN TEAM MATCH CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Nigel Birtwistle)

Having won the Minor Counties Competition last season my aim as captain was for Lincolnshire to qualify for the knockout stages in the New Year and hope that we could use that as a starting point to fight our way to the final and defend the trophy. However before that we had to make sure that we qualified from the MCCU group stages. This would be no easy task as the matches in the MCCU are always hard fought. This season would not be any easier due to the fact that in alternate seasons we do not have any matches on home soil and this season we would have to play all of our matches away from home.

We began the season away to Leicestershire in October and fielded a very strong team getting off to a great start winning 9½-6½. In our next encounter in November against Worcestershire we were without several players but produced another fine victory this time triumphing by 11½-4½.

Our next match in January saw us face old rivals Nottinghamshire. Nottinghamshire were looking to avenge a heavy defeat from the previous season and fielded a strong team. However another solid team performance saw us win by the narrowest of margins 8½-7½. Having already made certain of qualification for the knockout stages of the Minor Counties competition we needed to see off Warwickshire in our final match in March. Heavy snow forced the cancellation of the original fixture on March 3RD but I managed to get everything rearranged for the new date of March 24th. Another consistent team performance resulted in a 10-6 win and a clean sweep of the group.

The quarter final draw saw us paired against Norfolk at Peterborough. Norfolk were our opponents in last season's semi-final a match we won narrowly on board count. This time the match went much more smoothly and we ran out winners 9½-6½. This victory set up a semi-final against Devon who were newcomers to the competition. The team had a long distance to travel to the neutral venue of Kemerton in Gloucestershire but the journey was worth it as we won the match 10-6. The decisive battleground was in the middle to bottom boards where despite being out graded we destroyed our opponents by a three point margin.

In the final at Warwick we faced Surrey who are usually competitors in the Open competition. This match proved to be our downfall however and despite a battling performance we went down to a 9-7 defeat a result which brought Lincolnshire's run of eleven consecutive victories to an end.

On reflection this was a match that we probably ought to have won because we were always leading the match until well in to the last hour of play. However several games that were looking promising turned in favour of our opponents. Even then it was possible that we could still win the match on board count if we scored a win and a draw from the last two games in play but unfortunately this time it wasn't to be. We narrowly failed to hold on to the trophy that we won last season but despite this the team should be proud of their achievement in reaching a third successive final. Most of the other counties that we compete against have more resources in terms of players to choose from. Although we have a small squad we continue to defy the odds and punch above our weight. This is due to a blend of team spirit, commitment to play on a regular basis and hard work at the board to achieve the best possible result for the team. Although I am obviously disappointed not to have retained the trophy my enthusiasm remains undiminished and I will be happy to continue in my role as captain for the 2018-19 season if asked to do so.

Peter Sherlock congratulated Nigel Birtwistle on his performance as captain in the past season.

7. UNDER 140 TEAM MATCH CAPTAIN'S REPORT (William Orr)

The U140 team played 3 matches in the MCCU competition and a friendly away match against an East Yorkshire side, organised by David Mills. In the run-up to the latter match the 140 grading limit was interpreted increasingly loosely by both sides, and several stronger players made an appearance. The final result was a 7-6 win by Lincolnshire.

In the MCCU competition the team's 3 matches didn't sound like a lot sound like a lot, but many of the players were also representing the U120 side, with a further six matches to play. I guessed this might lead to some fixture congestion, and this was demonstrated when the Worcestershire captain subsequently asked for a change of date for our match. We were unable to find a free weekend in the fixture lists that would work for both sides and the match was played as originally scheduled.

With few players available towards the top of the grading range, we were unable to field strong sides but still managed to be competitive in each match. The team lost all three by narrow margins: by 8½-7½ to both Derbyshire and Worcestershire, and by 9-7 to a very strong Nottinghamshire team. I think those are decent scores considering the relative strength of the other teams. We were helped by good performances from several players. Behzad Parnian played once and won, and was our only player with a 100% record. Bill Egan, Paul Fischer and Peter Damms scored 1½ from their two games. Jules Brown, scored 2 from 3, and John Grasham was undefeated with a very good 2½ from his 3 games. I'd like to record my thanks to them and everyone else who played.

Finally, the captain scored zero from two, was dropped for the final match, and although a potential replacement was interviewed during the summer, the powers that be have foolishly decided to renew his contract for another season.

8. UNDER 120 TEAM MATCH CAPTAIN'S REPORT (John Grasham)

I was unable to attend the first match of the season, due to attending an arbiter's course. Andrew Watson deputised in the captaincy duties. The team suffered a heavy 9-3 defeat. There were two wins for Frank Robinson and John Pocock and draws for juniors Amogh Pilani and Kieran Burt.

We got our second match of the season underway in the new year with a tough looking match against Worcestershire. However hopes were high after we were able to field a strong team. Early defeats for Chris Cumbers and Kieran Burt were cancelled out by wins for Frank Robinson and Paul Fischer. Kiat Huang won on his debut for the county after coming through a tight knight and pawns endgame. Then defeats for Robert Stokes and John Grasham who lost from a superior position and a pawn up left Lincolnshire behind. Paul Rutter was able to convert a rook and three pawns against a rook and one pawn and Kishore Murugesh from a king and four pawns each put us ahead at 5-4. However four fewer pawns meant a defeat for Mark Newstead and then Terry Bennett agreed a draw in a level position. This left the match hanging on the result of our youngest player Adam Cook. He had a very big time advantage and a rook for three pawns. He was eventually able to pick off all the pawns and his opponent's time ran out. This gave Lincolnshire the win by the narrowest of margins.

After a strong performance in our last match, Lincolnshire went into their fixture against Warwickshire in a confident mood. Early draws for Mark Newstead, Terry Bennett and Adam Cook got us off the mark and captain John Grasham put Lincolnshire ahead after his opponent failed to move a rook that was being attacked. The score was levelled after Chris Cumbers poor run of form continued. Chris has promised me that he is saving himself for later matches! Soon after draws for Kishore Muruges and Paul Fischer as well as wins for Andrew Watson and Kiat Huang left us in a strong position at 5 ½ to 3 ½ . The match was decided in our favour when Amogh Pilani took advantage by taking a rook that was protected by a pinned pawn. Paul Rutter tried to attack down the kingside in a two rooks and pawns endgame and this cost him his game. However John Pocock made the score look convincing after winning a piece and exposing his opponents king and she couldn't stop his devastating attack.

Lincolnshire were dealt a blow ahead of their match against Staffordshire when board 2 Kishore Muruges had to withdraw due to illness before the match and we had to play with 11 players. Quick defeats for Chris Cumbers and Amogh Pilani left us 3-0 down, with a mountain to climb. A draw for Paul Rutter got us off the mark and then wins for Adam Cook and Terry Bennett got us back in contention. Defeat for Charlie Moss left us two behind but my intense pressure on top board to force home a passed c pawn and Kiat Huang winning put us level. Paul Fischer's queen advantage put us ahead but an extra bishop told in Andrew Watson's endgame to draw level. A very tight endgame with opposite coloured bishops should have meant honours even in Mark Newstead's game but under time pressure and going for a win meant Mark lost and so did Lincolnshire.

For the second match running, Lincolnshire started a match with only 11 players after Paul Rutter withdrew due to work commitments. Derbyshire started 1-0 up and with a very strong team. As my match was the last to finish, I saw very little of the other games however we had already won the match. Mark Newstead, Paul Fischer, Terry Bennett, Frank Robinson and Amogh Pilani all won and Andrew Watson, Kiat Huang and Charles Moss drew left us with an unassailable lead. John Pocock and Adam Cook both lost. Back to the captain, whose London system involved castling queenside and pushing a pawn to h5 forced the king into the centre and a couple of pins saw be go two pawns ahead. Swapping down to an opposite coloured bishop and pawns endgame left me with a defended pawn on the seventh rank which allowed my king to maraud around the board winning an extra pawn and forcing a win. A 7.5 to 4.5 win means that a win or a draw in our last match against Nottinghamshire meant we would qualify for the national stages.

The final match against Nottinghamshire was awarded 12-0 in favour of Nottinghamshire on appeal.

I would like to thank all players who played and especially those who provided transport to matches this season. Due to work commitments, I will not be captaining any county teams next season. It has been a pleasure to captain a Lincolnshire team for the past seven years and I wish William Orr and Nigel Birtwistle and their respective teams best wishes for the forthcoming season.

Francis Bowers said that Lara Barnes had told him that Lincolnshire would have won their appeal if they had shaded in the squares on the boards. John Grasham said Lara Barnes was not involved in the appeals process.

9. GRADING OFFICER'S REPORT (Peter Sherlock)

Results were forwarded for grading for

Lincolnshire League
County Championship
U-18 Rapidplay events
Scunthorpe & District League
Louth Rapidplay
George Renison Jamboree
Internal club results for Horncastle, Lincoln, Louth, Grimsby & Scunthorpe.

Results were submitted in December and June in line with the twice yearly grading lists.

10. NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT (Peter Sherlock)

The county newsletter was published at the end of July after the County Championship.

11. CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY'S REPORT (Peter Sherlock)

Lincolnshire again entered a team in the national correspondence chess competition organised by the ICCF (International Correspondence Chess Federation). We finished in 4th place in Division 3 with 9.5 points just missing out on promotion to Division 2. Harry Russell, Joe Kilshaw, Ian Scott and Alex Ashworth all won both their games.

Harry Russell 2.0
Joe Kilshaw 2.0
Herman Kok 1.5
Ian Scott 2.0
James Irwin 0.0
Alex Ashworth 2.0
Peter Sherlock 0.0
Paul Fischer 0.0

Total 9.5

The Division was won by Nottinghamshire with Worcestershire A also being promoted to Division 2. All the players are happy to play again this season so the team is unchanged.

12. ECF DELEGATE'S REPORT (Francis Bowers)

Peter Hornsby presented himself well with Julie Denning on the Ropes. Peter then throw in the towel, hence Julie elected.

Someone had the idea of copying FIDE with monthly grades in theory but in practice they will stick to 6 monthly grades.

I attended the April 2018 meeting in London minutes are not published yet for that meeting yet.

Junior membership in the first year if they are new to chess is free then Bronze or Silver Membership is £5.00

They tried to get rid of the Minor counties championships but that failed.

I did support the idea of all county matches being FIDE graded but that failed due to costs.

Merging Bronze membership with Silver membership failed due to cost. A lot of members are bronze and did not want to pay more money to play club chess.

I shall be attending in October 2018 as ECF Platinum rep and willing to take Lincolnshire's vote.

We did have a minute silence for David Carew, Alistair Summers and Nigel Holroyd

In October I am going to propose Adrian Elwin for Home Director.

Nigel Birtwistle commented that if the Minor Counties were abolished, counties wouldn't enter the open, they would just withdraw from the national stages. This is what Lincolnshire would do.

13. MCCU DELEGATE'S REPORT (Peter Sherlock)

John Grasham and myself attended the MCCU AGM held on June 30 at the Rolls Royce Chess Club in Derby, John in his capacity as Secretary of the MCCU and myself as Lincolnshire representative, Grading Director and Controller of the Inter Counties competition.

Ray Dolan reported that the MCCU had held 3 Congresses during the year all of which had proved to be successful.

Andrew Leadbetter, the treasurer, reported no significant items of expenditure and recommended no change in the levy at £7 per point.

I presented my Grading Director's report which showed a significant increase in the number of games played with 45 games being graded compared to 36 last year. I also presented a list of players who had not joined the ECF.

I also gave my report as Counties Controller. The main point was the controversy following the U120 match between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. The problems started when John Grasham had forgotten to bring the boards. He tried to remedy the situation by drawing boards on flip chart paper but the Nottinghamshire players refused to carry on and claimed the game.

Feeling that Nottinghamshire could have done more to get the match played I declared the match a draw. Nottinghamshire objected and called for the Disputes Committee to adjudicate. Their objection was upheld and Nottinghamshire were awarded the match 12-0.

As a consequence of this and also due to pressure of work John Grasham has stood down as county captain and as MCCU secretary. I offered to take on the captaincy of the U140 team whilst offering to stand down as county controller but was persuaded to reconsider by CEO Ray Dolan. However the meeting seemed happy for me to be both a county captain and county controller on the understanding that I would pass on any disputes involving Lincolnshire on to Ray Dolan.

Also, and somewhat unexpectedly, both John and myself were awarded Honorary Life Presidencies.

However, when receiving the entries from other counties it transpired that Leicestershire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire had entered the U140 section meaning that there were 7 counties in both the U140 and U120 sections. I felt that, as there were a number of players who played in both the Lincolnshire U120 and U140 teams that asking them to play 12 matches was too much so I suggested to John and William that the U140 team be withdrawn. However, John and William suggested that it would be better to withdraw the U120 team instead, which we have done with William taking over the captaincy of the U140 team.

The rule changes put forward by Leicestershire to amend the time controls were rejected by the meeting although it was agreed that a proposal to move to Fischer timings on clocks would be drawn up for next year similar to those currently used in the National stages.

Rule changes proposed by Nottinghamshire clarifying the position that any county omitting to provide equipment, having previously agreed to do so, would forfeit the match, was accepted.

I was re-elected as both Grading officer and County Controller. At the time of writing no-one had come forward to replace John Grasham as MCCU Secretary.

Nigel Birtwistle commented that he was finding captaincy hard work by bringing all equipment and refreshments and organising venues for the matches. He said this would further penalise a team who tried to provide equipment if the player bringing the equipment was involved in a car crash for example.

14. PRIVACY POLICY

John Grasham read out the new Lincolnshire Chess Association Privacy Policy to the meeting. He said it would be available on the Lincolnshire Chess Association website.

Denis Georgiou requested that all officers of the Lincolnshire Chess Association including match captains send emails out bcc in future.

15. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2018 – 2019 SEASON

John Grasham looked at the constitution and it makes no mention of a vice president. The proposal that the post of vice president be abolished was accepted by the meeting.

President:	Denis Georgiou
Honorary Secretary:	John Grasham
League Secretary:	John Grasham
Honorary Treasurer:	Peter Sherlock
Open Team Match Captain:	Nigel Birtwistle
Under 140 Team Match Captain:	William Orr
Grading Officer:	Peter Sherlock
Newsletter Editor:	Peter Sherlock

Correspondence Secretary:
ECF Delegate:
MCCU Delegates:

Peter Sherlock
Francis Bowers
Peter Sherlock (MCCU1), John Grasham
(MCCU2), Ian Scott (MCCU3)

Webmaster:
Life Members:

David Coates
Mike Colebrook, Robert Dale, Keith Palmer

15. PROGRAMME FOR 2018 – 2019

Jamboree Hosts	Grimsby – 16 th September 2018
County Championships	Lincoln – July 2019
Louth Quickplay	Louth – June 2019
County AGM	8/9/19

16. ANY PROPOSALS

No proposals were submitted to the secretary to be discussed at the meeting.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

18. TROPHY PRESENTATION

Denis Georgiou presented the Division 1 trophy to Nick Stead (Grimsby), the Division 2 North Trophy to John Grasham (Louth) and the Division 2 South Trophy to Ben Mason (Grantham)

The meeting was closed at 3.52pm.