

LINCOLNSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Held at Lindum Training Centre, Lincoln on Saturday 10th September 2022, 1.00pm

MINUTES

Attending: Nigel Birtwistle (Chair), Peter Sherlock, Christopher Holt, Nick Stead, Denis Georgiu, Andrew Watson, Ben Mason, Bernard Pratten, Peter Holman.

Apologies: Keith Noons, John Mainwaring

1. MINUTES OF 2021 AGM

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were circulated to attendees, and these were voted as an accurate record of the meeting.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT (Chris Holt)

The meeting also voiced its appreciation for Herman Kok for arranging at the venue at Lindum.

It has been a quiet year in my inaugural year in post. I attended ECF meetings as the association's representative.

Reflecting on the governance structure and comparing it to the Nottinghamshire association, we do not have a League Management Committee nor an Executive committee. I would like to bring together a group of the main office holders as an executive committee which, as a body, can make decisions or act between annual meetings.

There followed a discussion on this point, and it was generally welcomed. As there was no formal proposal, the secretary said they would bring that to next year's AGM.

Andrew Watson then talked about the need for a more integrated and proactive marketing and publicity strategy, based upon the success that he has had at club level. It was agreed that Andrew should take up the role for Lincolnshire and co-ordinate the association and clubs across social media.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (Peter Sherlock)

- *The accounts are appended to these minutes.*

This season I am happy to report a surplus of £171.02, similar to the surplus of £170.40 in the period 2019/21. This mainly due to the profit made on the County Championships held in July when 22 players took part.

You will notice an entry in expenditure of Bank Charges to the value of £10. During the year HSBC announced that they were going to charge £5 per month plus 40p per transaction. I took steps to transfer our account to Natwest but not before we incurred two months worth of charges. I did ask for volunteers to be signatories on the new account but was disappointed that only Denis Georgiou came forward.

During the transfer the deposit account was consolidated into the current account so we no longer receive interest although we did receive 2p before the transfer.

Given the surplus for the year I am recommending that county subscriptions remain unchanged at £40 for Division 1 teams and £30 for teams in Division 2.

The meeting accepted that the accounts were a true and fair representation of the association's affairs *nem con*. Proposed: Andrew Watson Seconded: Ben Mason

Matters Arising:

With the unfortunate passing of long-standing and life member, Mike Colebrook, it was proposed that a £50 donation be made at his funeral on behalf of the association. This was proposed by Peter Holman and seconded by Nigel Birtwistle and passed *nem con*.

5. GRADING OFFICER (Peter Sherlock)

The position of grading officer has changed significantly. Previously, I used to collect the results, compile them into spreadsheets and then submit them to the ECF. Now, the results are entered into the League Management System and, if set up correctly, transferred to the ECF automatically.

I have entered results for the County Championships and for Lincoln Chess Club internal results. I would suggest that those responsible for collecting results also submit them to LMS as I know some of you already do.

Thus the position of grading officer is now an advisory role.

As suggested at the last AGM I am happy to stand down as Grading Officer.

The chair placed on record a vote of thanks to Peter for all of his hard work over the years.

6. MCCU DELEGATE (Peter Sherlock)

I attended the MCCU AGM in June, the first to take place since 2019, in my capacity of Lincolnshire representative, County Controller and Grading Director.

The MCCU County Matches took place with only 11 teams entering, a disappointing but understandable number given that we had just come out of lockdown. This season I have received

Last season I decided that I would vet the results and enter them onto LMS myself. This worked well and I intend to carry on with this this season.

The Chair noted the feeling of the meeting that the MCCU is failing to provide a competitive arena.

7. CORRESPONDENCE CHESS (Peter Sherlock)

The match nearing completion at the last AGM was completed with Neil Roberts drawing his outstanding game. Thus we finished in 4th place on 9.5 points.

Nick Stead	0.0
Joe Kilshaw	2.0
Andrew Herbert	0.0
Herman Kok	2.0

James Irwin	2.0
Ian Scott	2.0
Neil Roberts	1.0
Peter Sherlock	0.5
Total	9.5

When I asked if players wished to play in the next competition only 4 came forward. I therefore decided to withdraw the county from Correspondence Chess.

7. ECF Delegate (Chris Holt)

I attended the ECF AGM in October 2021.

The meeting was chaotic with calls for press to be invited into the event proving to be the first flash point of many.

There has been quite a fractious attempt by Malcom Pein to wrest control from Mike Truran. They had managed to resolve their differences and issue a joint statement before the meeting.

Being new to this forum, I was not au fait with the different factions and positions, but had been heavily lobbied before the meeting and had sought guidance and opinions from several office holders in the association.

Despite several people trying to oust the board, some in rather theatrical style, there were no major changes. However, it is clear to me that the board is in some disarray and lots of friction between members.

The hybrid format of zoom and in-person participation did not really work as those of us attending virtually were pretty much ignored. All-in-all no wonder the ECF is seen as a shambles.

The ECF Finance meeting was due to take place on 23rd of April and I again attended by Zoom.

The Finance Director reported that the ECF has weathered the pandemic better than expected – and recorded a draft profit of some £19k against a budgeted loss of £5k. The speedy return to over the board play post-pandemic has resulted in income being ahead of target; memberships trajectory was exceeding those of 2019/2020.

The biggest change was the proposal to introduce a rolling membership, which passed quite easily.

The next AGM is on 11th of October, hopefully a quieter affair but I am already being lobbied by several candidates for votes.

10. LEAGUE SECRETARY'S REPORT (Andrew Watson)

Andrew gave a verbal update on his very quiet first season as League Secretary with no issues to report; there having been no matches!

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

There being no county competition organised, there is nothing to report but Nigel was hopeful for the coming season in the minor or even the open section.

12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022 – 2023 SEASON

President:	Nigel Birtwistle
Honorary Secretary:	Chris Holt
League Secretary:	Andrew Watson
Honorary Treasurer:	Peter Sherlock
Open Team Match Captain:	Nigel Birtwistle
Under 140 Team Match Captain:	TBC
ECF Delegate:	Chris Holt
MCCU Delegates:	Peter Sherlock (MCCU1), Ben Mason (MCCU2)
Webmaster:	David Coates
Life Members:	Robert Dale, Keith Palmer

13. PROGRAMME FOR 2022 – 2023

A. The Cleethorpes Rapid Play

The chair reported a successful inaugural June event, with 86 people and £1,200 in sponsorship (including a generous £500 from Andrew Dice). Nigel will be looking to run the event at the same time in 2023.

B. League for 2022/23

There had been extensive correspondence before the meeting about the number of teams entering and how the divisions might be organised. It had been decided by the fixtures meeting that:

- Division 2 would be under 1900 Elo rating, as this replaced the old ECF grading structure.
- The rating from the September list would be used for the entire season.
- 4 persons per team.
- White on odd boards
- Start times of 7:30
- Time control to stay as is.
- Results to be emailed to the League Secretary and placed on the LMS.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chris Holt talked about the very generous bequest from Robert Richmond to the Nottinghamshire Chess Assn of £500k and the charitable trust that had been set up.

Nigel thanked Peter for nominating him to play at the recent British Championships via the MCCU and providing sponsorship that allowed him to play.

The next AGM was set for **Saturday 16th of September at 11:30** (this should be the scheduled Fixture meeting). Venue to be agreed but, hopefully, could be the training centre at Lindum again.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm