



Warwickshire Chess Association

WCA AGM Minutes 9th July 2019

The WCA AGM was held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 9th July at the Massey Ferguson Sports & Social Club (Coventry Chess Club).

The meeting was attended in person by Dave Thomas, Nigel Towers, Ed Goodwin, Alex Holowczak, Richard Buxton, Hok Chiu, Dave Fyfer, and Paul Sweatman. Ben Graff attended by phone to provide the Leamington League report.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Keith Escott who had provided a written report, Golam Ali (first team match captain), John Fahy (U180 Captain), and Paul Kelly (U120 Captain).

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted nem con.

3 Matters Arising

The action points from the meeting were reviewed with updates as follows:

Action 1 – Trustees – Nigel will contact Bernard Rogers to see if the current trustees are content to continue for another year.

Action 2 – Non Exec Directors – At the last AGM Bruce Holland indicated his willingness to be made a non-exec and was nominated for this position. Action still open for discussion at the next Directors Meeting.

Action 3 - Nigel to make contact with the remaining Life Vice President Mike Meakin. Carried forward.

4 Reports of the Directors

a) Administration including general matters - David Thomas/ Nigel Towers

Nigel reported that an annual filing had been completed for WCA Ltd. The admin report was accepted nem con.

b) Finance - Nigel Towers

Nigel indicated that the accounting period for WCA Ltd is 6th November to 5th November of the following year.

Nigel summarised key points from the accounts for November 2017 to November 2018 as follows:

Accounts for Nov 2017 to Nov 2018

The general fund made a loss of [£1,349.41] for the year 2017/2018. This was mainly as a result of the Warwickshire congress in March 2018 which made a loss of [£990.42] due to bad weather and cancelled entries. The junior fund made a further loss of [£606.91], with a nett loss for the year of [£1,956.32].

Accounts for Nov 2018 to date

General/ Senior Account income includes trustees payments in respect of trust accounts.

General expenditure items include:

- Insurance costs of £259
- County match costs of £50
- MCCU costs of £133

The Warwickshire Senior Congress was held in March 2019 with a surplus currently estimated at £169.

The general account is currently showing an overall surplus of £318.91 for the year to date.

There were 4 junior congresses held during the period Nov 2018 to date (Warwicks Junior Championships, Kenilworth Junior, Warwick Junior Open and Solihull Junior). We also entered teams for the junior 4NCL, 4 counties championships, and various EPSCA and NYCA Events.

The junior congresses have made an overall surplus, offset by junior event entry fees and match costs so that the junior accounts are currently showing an overall surplus for the year to date.

There are however a number of venue payments still to be made together with payments for the Junior Grand Prix Trophies and potential expenditure on equipment.

Summary Position

Overall the Association is in surplus for the year to date but with a number of expenses still to be met. As last year our ongoing cash position is dependant on breaking even for congresses, events and county match costs across both senior and junior funds, with continued trustees payments to offset our various fixed costs (in particular MCCU fees and ECF insurance costs).

We have sufficient reserves for our immediate expenses. However, it was agreed that we will need to look closely at planned expenditure going forwards including in particular county teams, general congress risk, and equipment purchases, and plan appropriately to avoid ongoing losses.

The Finance report was accepted nem con.

c) Senior Chess – Ed Goodwin

Warwickshire Congress 2019

104 players contested the Warwickshire Championships held at the Alan Higgs Centre in Coventry from 22nd- 24th February.

Jonah Willow won the open section for the second year in a row and Henrik Stepanyan was Warwickshire Champion for the second successive year.

Tournaments officials were Ed Goodwin (organiser), Dave Thomas, Ravi Sandhu and Chun Chiu (arbiters) and Nigel Towers (treasurer).

Detailed results were as follows:

OPEN

1st Jonah Willow (West Notts) 4½/5
2nd = Henrik Stepanyan (Sutton Coldfield) 4/5
Aditya Munshi (Nottingham)
Ranesh Ratnesan (Surbiton)
Performance prize Richard McNally (Stratford)

U1975

1st Graham Ashcroft (Preston) 4½/5
2nd Rohan Pal (Warwickshire) 4/5
Ben Graff (Kenilworth)
Adithya Pramod Paleri (Wimbledon)
Neil Homer (Northampton)
Performance prize Jerry Zheng

U140

1st= Chinmay Monga (King Edward School) 4/5
John Conway (Coventry Chess)
Kate Walker (Telepost, Shrewsbury)
Tomas Fabik (Rugby)

Grading Prize

Arman Faraahi-Far (London)
Gagandeep Sansoy (Coventry)

U110

1st John Rayner (Nuneaton) 4½/5
2nd= Ben Larkin (Stratford) 4/5
Kajus Mikalajunas (Leicestershire)

Grading Prize

Richard Buxton (Stratford)
Daniel Hilditch-Love (Newport)

The tournament is building up a tradition of featuring very short opening traps. This year it occurred in the game Douglas Bramley v John Loughnane which served up

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e5 3 de d4 4 e3 Bb4+ 5 Bd2 de 6 Bxb4 dxf2 7 Kxf2 and resigns (7 Ke2 fxg1=N +)

d) Correspondence Chess (Written Report from Keith Escott)

Keith provided a detailed report covering Correspondence Chess activities for the year with key points as follows.

2017/2018 Season

Ward-Higgs 2017-8: Results were as follows:

1 Yorks A 10.5/16; (Yorks B resigning the unfinished game with Yorks A rather than claiming a draw on adjudication);
West Wales A 10; Surrey A 9; Suffolk and East Wales A 8.5; Warks A and Essex A 8; Yorks B and Hants 6; Sussex 5.5.
Max Davis's game v W. Wales A went for adjudication and our claim for a draw was upheld.
Hants and Sussex were relegated, but neither Sussex nor Suffolk re-entered.

Sinclair: Essex B won on 11/16; Surrey B and Lancs 10; Herts A 9.5; Warks B, Essex C, Surrey C, Yorks C 8.5; Somerset 6; West Wales B 5.5; Herts B 2. Essex B declined promotion, Lancs dropped out, so Surrey B and Herts A were promoted and 2018-9 Ward-Higgs has only 9 teams. Herts B were relegated, while West Wales B dropped out. Essex dropped their D team and entered their C team in the Butler-Thomas. 2018-9 Sinclair has 8 teams.

Butler-Thomas: Results were as follows:

1 Notts 13/16; Essex D and Worcs A 11; Lincs 9.5; Yorks D, Worcs B, East Wales B 7.5; Durham and Surrey D 6; Staffs 5; Warks C 4. Notts and Worcs A promoted. Worcs B, East Wales B and Durham dropped out so 2018-9 Butler-Thomas has 7 teams.

2018/2019 Season

The 2018-9 CDCCC started late on 14 January 2019.

In the Ward-Higgs Yorks A lead on 7.5/11 from Essex A 7/10. Warks A have 3/9, but enough wins in the pipeline to avoid relegation.

In the Sinclair Warks B have 9.5/14—Notts have finished with 10.5/16 and we might overtake them, but Essex B with 9/11 are best placed. Yorks put forward a 2199-rated reserve to take over from a 1700-rated player for Yorks C. The rules may need review to prevent this in future.

In the Butler-Thomas Warks C have 5.5/15 with a won position in the last game. Essex C lead on 12/14.

After 43 years, with 3 County Championship wins, Keith has decided it is time to retire as Warks cc captain. He will continue to the end of the season in November and will co-operate with his successor in handing over necessary data and advice.

WCA wishes to express its thanks to Keith for his work over many years in support of Warwickshire Correspondence Chess.

Action 4 – Ed Goodwin to work with Keith Escott to identify a successor to take over from Keith.

County Team Reports

WCA entered the following teams in the County Championships for 2017/ 2018:

Minor Open – Capt G Ali – The Minor Open team played 4, won 2 and lost 2, coming 3rd in the Midlands

regional section.

U180 – Capt J Fahy – There were no regional games. Our team won their National Stage quarter-final against Yorkshire who defaulted the match. However we were unable to field a team for the National Stage Semi-final. John Fahy has indicated that he no longer wishes to captain a Warks team. The meeting expressed their thanks for his work as captain over a number of years.

U140 – Capt J Madden and the non-playing captain N Towers – The U140 team won 2 games, lost 4 (one by default) and finished 6th in the Midlands regional section.

U120 – No playing Captain N Towers handing over to P Kelly – The U120 team played 5 matches, won 2, drew 2, lost 1, and came joint second in the Midlands regional section.

U100 – Captain Richard Buxton – Richard reported that the team won the first match 9-3 against Notts with 10 Warwickshire players over 90 grade. Richard had more difficulties finding players for the remaining matches. The team beat Leics 7.5-4.5 in the second match in November and went on to beat Staffs in the third Match in March. This meant that the team qualified in first place for the National Stages along with Notts and Staffs. The first National Stage Game was defaulted by Yorks which meant that the team qualified for the semi-final against Notts. The semi-final went to the last game of the session which we lost with the overall result being a Notts win by 6.5-5.5.

Action 5 – NT to send potential home venue details to Richard Buxton for reference.

d) Junior Chess - Alex Holowczak

Alex reported on Warwickshire successes in a number of tournaments as follows.

- Four Counties Tournament (Nov/ Dec 2018) – This included separate sections for U18, U11, U9, and U11 girls. Warwcks won all of the tournament sections.
- Oxford Girls Tournament – Warwcks won the U18 and came fourth in the U11.
- NYCA – This was a secondary schools competition with separate sections for U18, U14, U12, and U10. Warwcks finished fourth in all sections except the U14.
- Midlands Team Championships – This included separate sections for U11, U9 and U11 girls, with Warwickshire winning all three sections.
- EPSCA Inter-Association – Warwcks won the U9 North Zone for the third year in a row with 29/36. Warwcks then finished 4th in the U9 final. We failed to defend our U11 North Zone title, but we hosted the final and finished 4th with 39.5/60. In the U11 girls we finished 12th out of 16.
- Junior 4NCL – Warwcks Juniors finished third in division 2.

International Honours

A number of Warwcks players have been selected to represent their country in 2018/19 including:

- Joy Ching Li- who played in the Olympiad for Hong Kong and won the WCM title, and has now returned to Hong Kong;
- Rohan Pal who played for England in the World School Championship in Turkey
- Kanav Monga who finished with 3.5/9 in the European Schools Championship in Romania
- Finlay Bowcott-Terry who played in the Glorney Cup
- Manvith Sandhu – who will play in the World U12 Cadets and the Glorney Cup
- Daniel Chen – who played in the Glorney Cup
- Billy Fellowes – who played in the World Cadets Rapid & Blitz

- Jude Shearsby who represented England in the U10s section of the European Youth Championship in Bratislava and won the UKCC Terafinal in 2018.

Warwickshire Tournaments

Alex has organised 4 internal Warwickshire Tournaments including Warwicks Junior Championships, Kenilworth Junior, Warwick Junior Open and Solihull Junior. The winners of the Grand Prix for these events were as follows:

Under 18 Boy: Finlay Bowcott-Terry

- Under 18 Girl: Shriya Pillay
- Under 14 Boy: Karan Kukreja
- Under 14 Girl: Imogen Dicen
- Under 11 Boy: Rohan Pal
- Under 11 Girl: Margarita Sanchez
- Under 9 Boy: Billy Fellowes
- Under 9 Girl: Elis Dicen

Alex advised that he had appointed Paul Lam as the official WCA team coach.

Alex's report was accepted by the meeting nem con.

5 Reports of the Delegates

a) ECF - Nigel Towers – Nigel outlined some of the discussions at Council in relation to membership fees and International spend, together with the ECF's focus on growing membership, developing International chess building on recent successes and developing junior and female chess.

b) MCCU – John Pakenham - There was no report from the MCCU as Jon Pakenham was not present at the meeting due to illness. The meeting expressed its best wishes to Jon for a speedy recovery. It was noted that the MCCU Congress is scheduled for the second week in August.

c) Birmingham, Coventry and Leamington Leagues

Birmingham League – Dave Thomas – Dave had nothing to report as BDCL delegate.

Coventry League – Hok Chiu – Hok explained that the Coventry league had celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a League Rapidplay.

Leamington League – Ben Graff (by phone) – The league has made a few changes to the arrangements including options for 75 minute/ 10 second increment or 90 minute time controls, along with digital clocks now being mandatory for division 1. In addition players are now allowed to play down as well as up across divisions. The league has also introduced penalties for teams defaulting boards and matches. IT was also noted that Coventry Chess Club will be joining the league, playing in division 4.

6 GDPR Arrangements – There was some discussion of GDPR arrangements with actions agreed as follows:

Action 6 - NT to distribute the privacy policy.

Action 7 - DT to carry out an information inventory and report back.

7 Web Site Refresh

It was noted that the Web site was in need of a refresh.

Action 8 - AH to discuss getting support from Ravi Sandhu, and if appropriate Peter Stiff.

8 County Team Entries for 2019/ 2020

It was agreed that the number of County Teams should be maintained around 4 with captains as follows:

- Minor Open – Golam Ali (who has agreed to continue as Minor Open Captain)
- U140 – TBC
- U120 - TBC
- U100 – Richard Buxton

Action 9 – NT to approach U140 and U120 team members to see if captains can be nominated from the current teams, and to request entries on the 3 league web sites.

9 Any Other Business

- **Equipment Purchase** – EG suggested that the Association should consider purchasing a new set of full sized semi-rigid boards to replace the current set of boards which are smaller than the standard tournament size.

Action 6 – NT to look at purchasing the boards subject to funds being available.

The meeting closed at 10-40 pm.