

CHESS ARBITERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, August 7th 1999 at the Spa Centre, Scarborough.

Present: Alex McFarlane, Geoff Jones, David Eustace, David Welch, John Tumock, Steve Boniface, David Woodruff, Chris-Howell, Geoff Brown, Ewart Smith, Neville Belinfante, David Sedgwick, Tony Corfe, Lara Barnes, Neil Graham, Richard Furness, John Richards, Marc Shaw.

Alex McFarlane started the meeting as Chairman, Geoff Jones as Secretary,

1. Apologies. Apologies were received from John Dunleavy, Roger Edwards, Ken Groce, Roy Heppinstall, Stewart Reuben, Peter Purland, Ian Cowen, Alec Webster, Sue Howell, John Robinson, Gerry Walsh, Gerald Jacobs.
2. Minutes. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, August 1st, 1998 at the Riviera Centre, Torquay, were accepted as a true record. Proposed David Welch, Seconded David Woodruff.
3. Matters arising, Training, David Sedgwick stated that there was still an urgent need for an arbiter trainer in the south of England. After a discussion it was agreed that David Eustace and Steve Boniface would liaise to look at this problem.
4. Chairman's Report. Tomorrow sees the 50th anniversary of the start of the BCF Congress at Felixstowe- a date that should be engraved on every arbiters mind. Why? - It was the first BCF congress to use Swiss Pairings!! The big disappointment of the year must have been the loss of the European Team Championship. As an arbiter I would have liked to have been a part of it. It would have given several of our members an opportunity to see another type of prestigious event in progress and to meet other arbiters from throughout Europe. It would also, of course, have benefited chess in Britain to have had such a newsworthy event taking place. Last year members expressed concerns about various problems that could arise but I don't think anyone had thought of sexual harassment as being a potential problem. Richard certainly does now! It is good to see a group working on recommendations and obviously we should try to cover ourselves but it is a legal minefield. Another voluntary Organisation of which I am Chair had an incident between two employees which was very similar to the alleged incident. Legal advice was very vague (both from a lawyer and from ACAS). Whilst no-one would say anything, the implication given by both was that one minor incident should not lead to any repercussions but that a repeat of the incident should be treated with greater severity, However, when does minor become major.? Finally, congratulations to John Turnock for the three excellent editions of "Arbiting Matters" which have appeared this year. It was a hard act to follow in the footsteps of Richard Furness but John has managed it admirably.
5. Treasure's Report. Please find attached the accounts for the last financial year. On the accounts I would offer the following comments: (1) We had 46 members - and 6 associates who renewed their membership during the year; somewhat less than the 50 members and 13 associates we had last year. (2) Membership fees which are our main source of income generated £490. (3) Expenditure was lower than previous years mainly relating to costs of "Arbiting Matters" and office expenses. (4) Addition to our funds for the

year was £382. (5) Our total funds now stand at £1086. We need some activities to spend this. Volunteers to run courses? During the year a new bank account with Barclays was opened as the old account was no longer available. (6) As agreed at last years' AGM I am proposing that we ask members to renew again in September at £10 for members and £5 for associates.

6. Chief Arbiter's Report. Training had been undertaken during the year. John Robinson had worked with Guert Gijssen on the last laws revision and he had asked David Welch to propose that Geurt Gijssen be made an Honorary member of this association for his services to the laws of chess. This was seconded by Neil Graham and passed unanimously. '

7. Election of Officers.

(Off ice)	(Nominee)	(Proposer)	(Second)
Chairman	Alex McFarlane	David Welch	David Sedgwick
Secretary	Geoff Jones	David Woodruff	David Welch
Treasurer	Steve Boniface	David Eustace	David Woodruff
Chief Arbiter	David Welch	Richard Furness	Neil Graham
Info Officer	John Turnock	Neil Graham	Richard Furness
Committee	John Robinson	Richard Furness	Chris Howell
Auditor	David Sedgwick	Ewart Smith	Lara Barnes
BCF Delegate	Neville Belinfante	Neil Graham	David Woodruff.

8. Any Other Business. F.I.D.E. had already started work on the 2000 law revision. Anyone with an issue they thought should be taken further should pass it on to one of the committee, who would meet later in the year to review things. Women in chess. A certain incident had brought this issue to light and although the association would like to see more female arbiters, indeed more females in chess itself, each case has to be judged on its own merits. If an issue were to be raised with this association, the committee had the power to co-op Lara Barnes. Dave Welch was keeping his eye on matters.

Telephone Matches. It was reported that the rules for telephone matches needed up-dating, as they still included descriptive notation. Dave Welch said that it was accepted practice that the blind format (Anna. Bella) or the radio code (Alpha, Bravo) is used. It was suggested that the BCF should publish these in the yearbook.

Players playing other games during a congress whilst still playing a current round. It was agreed that this offence was serious enough that players could be defaulted.

Neil Graham said that the BCF had passed him letters asking the BCF to bar players. It was decided that the best action would be to give advice to congress organisers about wording for their entry form. A tournament blacklist could not be circulated by the BCF but tournament organisers could talk to each other. Neil Graham would again approach the BCF legal advisor on this.

Positive vetting of arbiters. It was agreed that arbiters involved with juniors should agree and help with vetting.

Junior events cannot be graded as longplay events unless they fulfil the criteria set down for longplay events. '

BCF Arbiters Shirts. It is expected that, only when they are officiating as an Arbiter at an event, members of this Association will be entitled to wear the BCF Arbiters' shirt. This was carried Nem-com.

There being no further matters the meeting closed at 4. 10p.m.