Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation, 2018 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Sunday 25th November

Premier Inn, Cardiff City Centre (Meeting Room One), 10 Churchill Way, Cardiff.

Present

- Peter Bevan (President)
- Russell Sherwood (International Secretary, Treasurer, and BCCA representative)
- Austin Lockwood (Secretary and SchemingMind representative)
- Paul Scott (Co-opted EC member)
- Ian Jones (Co-opted EC member)
- Robert Hurn
- Edwin Allen
- John Claridge

Apologies for absence

Apologies were noted from Adam Davies.

Approval of the 2017 minutes

The draft minutes were approved with no amendments.

Matters arising

It was noted that Adam Davies would investigate sponsorship opportunities, no updates on this were available.

Proposed new constitution

The proposed constitution was presented and was well received. It was noted that although there were eight individuals present at the AGM, only two were eligible to vote under the current constitution. The new constitution would give all Welsh players the option to vote.

Some concern was expressed about the absence of representatives of two of the member organisations, given the implications for their status; assurances were given by the secretary that all member organisations had been informed of the meeting and given a copy of the agenda and proposed constitution.

The new constitution was accepted by the meeting (Votes for: SchemingMind, votes against: none, abstentions: BCCA).

It was noted that there were some omissions, notably some definition of the purpose of the AGM, and a lack of provision for extraordinary meetings; these will be addressed as proposals to the 2019 AGM.

The secretary will write to Natcor and SCCA to inform them of the new arrangements. **(Action AL)**

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The website will need to be updated to reflect the current membership arrangements and to allow online subscriptions. **(Action AL)**

Election of Officials

All current officials were re-elected unanimously

- President: Peter Bevan
- International Secretary and Delegate to ICCF: Russell Sherwood
- Secretary: Austin Lockwood
- Treasurer: Russell Sherwood

Nominations for Honorary/Life Membership

Anthony Balshaw was nominated for honorary membership of WCCF, in recognition of his playing achievements and of a recent generous donation to the federation.

The nomination was accepted unanimously.

Financial Matters

The treasurer presented the current financial situation, we currently have sufficient funds for three full seasons at the current rate of expenditure, this was considered by the meeting to be a healthy state of affairs, however prudence was recommended.

It was decided that the free one-time entries to ICCF Open Promotion or Aspirer tournaments for new players would continue, however these would be limited to premium members only.

The treasurer will chase up players who are in arrears. **(Action RS)**

Given the generous donations received by WCCF for the Llandudno Congress, it was agreed that we should pass on a donation to the next Congress organisers (Lithuania); a sum of £250.00 was agreed.

Entry fees to ICCF events will be reviewed following recent exchange rate fluctuations, and with the introduction of the new ICCF norm optimised tournaments. **(Action RS)**

Tournament Calendar

RS raised the prospect of an ICCF and zonal tournament logjam in 2019 with several major events having close start dates.

Domestic Tournaments

The 2019/20 Welsh CC Championship is due to start next summer; the Executive Committee will select a suitable date. It was agreed that the free entries should continue, but for premium members only; there will be an entry fee for National members. **(Action AL)**

It was agreed that the Welsh Trios should continue and be free for premium members up to two tournaments per year; an entry fee would need to be paid by National members.

The Member Organisations Team Tournament will be discontinued now that WCCF no longer has member organisations.

Feedback from EFCC suggests that there is an unwillingness on their part to continue the British Counties and Districts as an international event, despite previous assurances given under the Cardiff Agreement; the experimental States and Regions tournament was introduced last season to mitigate against the possible future discontinuation of the Counties and Districts, or the possible termination of the involvement of Welsh teams. The States and Regions was moderately successful, and we

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have had some enquiries about future seasons, however it was felt that the Hutton format was unsuitable for modern correspondence chess, given its sensitivity to defaulted games and board order manipulation.

The 2019 States and Regions will take a more conventional format of four player teams, with thirteen teams in each section to allow for realistic title norms. ICCF approval will be sought. **(Action RS)**

The British Webserver Team Tournament will continue as planned towards the end of 2019, however it was acknowledged that teams representing our former member organisations may be less committed as a result of our organisational changes. ICCF approval will be sought. **(Action RS)**

International Matters

ICCF Congress 2019

We currently have three elected ICCF officials (RS, Marketing Director; PS, Auditor; AL, Services Director). WCCF will support any member who wishes to run for office in 2019.

It was noted that under the new constitution, we are obliged to give all premium members the opportunity to consider ICCF Congress proposals and have some influence over the Welsh vote, as well as submitting new proposals via the WCCF EC.

Wales will be represented at the next ICCF Congress by RS as Welsh delegate and ICCF Marketing Director. AL may attend as ICCF Services Director. PS may be asked by ICCF to deliver a report, however as expenses are generally not offered to the ICCF auditor, this may be in the form of a written report only.

Friendly Matches

A friendly match has been agreed against the Czech Republic.

A friendly match against Russia was suggested; IJ will contact the Russian Federation in the New Year. **(Action IJ)**

International Events

The WCCF invitation series will continue, RS to make the necessary application to the ICCF World Tournament Director. **(Action RS)**

A new Welsh Open tournament will be organised; this will be a “members only” tournament for WCCF premium and international members. RS to make the necessary application to the ICCF World Tournament Director. **(Action RS)**

It was proposed and accepted unanimously that one of the above events should be played as a memorial to T. Llew Jones, who played many international postal correspondence games over several years.

RS (in his capacity as WCCF representative to the British Correspondence Chess Championship tri-nations committee) noted that new rules for the BCCC were under development and would be available for WCCF ratification shortly.

There had been no Tri-Nations tournament in 2018 (there having been tournaments started in 2014, 15, 16 and 17); EFCC had been contacted but we were informed that they would get back to us in late 2018, however we have not yet been contacted. It was decided to wait for England or Scotland to take the initiative.

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Premium membership will now be a consideration when nominating players for the World Correspondence Chess Championship cycle.

Major Events

Qualification for the final of the eleventh European Team Championship remains a possibility with just 24 games left to complete in the event.

Qualification for the final of the Esko Nuutilainen Memorial Team Tournament now looks to be virtually assured; winning our semi-final is still a possibility with just seven games to complete in the event.

As winners of the seventh edition of the 7th North Atlantic Team Tournament, it will be our responsibility to organise the eighth edition. RS will make the necessary application for approval to ICCF. **(Action RS)**

It was noted that premium membership will now be a consideration when selecting players for major international team events.

Zonal Matters

Following a detailed analysis of the benefits of possible World Zone membership, it was decided that a decision would be deferred until after qualification for the final of the eleventh European Team Championship had been decided.

The EC were asked to consider a poll of members before submitting any zonal transfer request to ICCF. It was noted that moving before the 2019 ICCF Congress would give us the opportunity to take part in the nomination of officials, and to vote in the subsequent election.

Development

Progress towards international titles is steady, with several possible International Master and SIM titles looking likely over the next year or two.

AL was recently awarded the International Arbiter title; Marc Wakeham and Andrew Smith are progressing well towards the title.

Website and Magazine

The website goes from strength to strength with an average now of over 100 unique visitors every day, mostly from the UK, but increasingly from around the world.

Given the success of the website as a platform for disseminating information, it was decided to discontinue the magazine, “Dragon’s Fire”.

Any Other Business

None.

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