

Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation

2020 Annual General Meeting

Saturday 19th September 2020

Online via Zoom 13:00 – 17:00 (AGM from 14:00)

Please note that these minutes have been approved for release by the WCCF Executive Committee; however, should be considered as draft until approved formally by the 2021 AGM.

Before the meeting started, Russell Sherwood gave participants an interesting update of current chess engine technology. This presentation was recorded and will be made available to members.

The AGM proper started at 14:00

Present

- Peter Bevan as WCCF President
- Russell Sherwood as WCCF International Secretary and Treasurer
- Austin Lockwood as WCCF Secretary
- Paul Scott as Co-opted EC member
- John Claridge as Co-opted EC member
- Gareth Yeo as National Member (non-voting)
- Thomas Nash as International Member (non-voting)

Apologies for Absence

- Ian Jones
- Tony Balshaw
- Andrew Smith
- Peter Bevan (left the meeting early)

Approval of the 2019 Minutes

The 2019 minutes were approved unanimously and with no amendments as being a true record of the 2019 WCCF AGM.

Election of Officials

As no nominations had been received in advance for official positions, the following officials were re-elected unopposed:

- President: Peter Bevan
- Secretary: Austin Lockwood
- International Secretary: Russell Sherwood
- Treasurer: Russell Sherwood

Co-option of Executive Committee Members

The following were co-opted as members of the Executive Committee

- Paul Scott

- Andrew Smith
- Ian Jones
- John Claridge
- Marc Wakeham

Andrew Smith will continue to act as Wales' friendly match coordinator and has already arranged several matches, including one against the nascent Philippine Correspondence Chess Federation which is in the process of applying for ICCF membership.

Ian Jones will be offered the position of Player Onboarding Officer.

Nominations for Honorary/Life Membership

None received

Awards Received

The AGM offered congratulations to the following recipients of ICCF awards recognised by the 2020 ICCF virtual congress:

Senior International Master (SIM)

- John Claridge

International Master (IM)

- Ian Jones

Correspondence Chess Master (CCM)

- William Bishop
- Adam Davies
- Glyn Sinnett

Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE)

- William Bishop
- Sean Denton
- Andrew Smith

International Arbiter (IA)

- Marc Wakeham

Financial Matters

The treasurer presented the financial report, the accounts remain in a healthy position.

As the meeting was held virtually, there were no expense claims for official's attendance.

The continuation of the free Open Class or Aspirer tournament entry for new players was approved; this is a good introduction for new players and represents good value for money for WCCF.

There had been no non-payments for tournament entries since the last AGM.

Unfortunately, the previously agreed donation to the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association to support their hosting of the 2020 ICCF Congress was not made as Congress had been cancelled. A proposal was made to roll this donation over to support SCCA's hosting of the 2021 Congress if it

should go ahead. The proposal was accepted, and details will be agreed by the Executive Committee.

Because the federation's ability to offer tournaments to international members will be affected by new limitations on the number of open tournaments we can offer, there was a proposal to remove the international membership section. The AGM agreed to retain the international membership for 2021 and to use one of our open "slots" to keep the trios running as international events.

ICCF tournament fees will be reduced from 1st January 2021. The treasurer will propose a new fee structure for WCCF to be approved by the Executive Committee **(Action RS)**.

The number of members is now over 100, this raises the ICCF affiliation fee slightly, but also gives us further nominations to the World Correspondence Chess Championship cycle. The ICCF Finance Director will be informed **(Action RS)**.

ICCF 2020 Congress Proposals – Implications for WCCF

Online voting for the 2020 ICCF proposals has been completed; a number of these had some significance for WCCF and were discussed in some detail.

2020-010 Clarifying a Requirement for a Title Tournament

Correspondence chess "clubs" are no longer allowed to run title tournaments; this will have some impact on at least one WCCF affiliated organisation, BCCA.

2020-011 Congress Allowances for ICCF Auditor

PS will be able to attend future ICCF Congresses as ICCF Auditor and claim full expenses.

2020-013 Lowering Entry Fees

As reported above, the treasurer will propose a new fee structure to the EC in January.

2020-019 New Tournament Format

It is not anticipated that WCCF will run any tournaments using the new format.

2020-020 Special Provisions for the 70th ICCF Jubilee Events

JC expressed some interest in playing in the Chess960 Elite event; AL to make enquires to Mariusz Wojnar, the tournament organiser.

2020-024 Establish "Regional" Tournaments

WCCF have no plans to run any regional tournaments, however it is likely that we will be invited to approve some events as co-signatories. We will scrutinise the details of any request and apply the same standards we apply to our own tournaments before offering our approval.

Natcor have already submitted their 2021 events to WLS, SCO and ENG, and these have now been approved by ICCF.

The situation with BCCA is unclear.

It is not known whether EFCC will run the Counties and Districts as an invitational, open, or regional tournament; we look forward to receiving further information.

2020-034 Limitations to the Number of Open Tournaments Organised by MFs

From 2021 onwards member federations will only be allowed to run two open tournaments per year. WCCF's usual cycle is to offer the States and Regions and the British Webserver Team

Tournament in alternate years, and the Welsh Open in even numbered years; this leaves an open slot for 2021. It was decided to continue the Welsh Trios as international open tournaments for 2021 and delay the decision about international membership until it was no longer possible to offer these tournaments.

2020-036 New Tournament: World Team Cup

Following our success in qualifying for the quarter finals of the European team knockout event, Wales will enter a team into this tournament.

Tournaments

Domestic

The Welsh Championship will run again in 2021; the AGM has approved this as a free tournament.

Welsh Trios will continue as international open events through 2021 if approved by ICCF

The Welsh Team Club Championship proposed last year was not run as a tournament organiser could not be identified. There are no plans to resurrect this event.

WCCF Special (Christmas Blitz) was a one-off tournament organised at the end of 2019 to use our free games quota, similar tournaments could be run again, but this should not be seen as a series.

International Tournaments Run by WCCF

- **Welsh Open** is going well
- **States and Regions Championship (S&RCCC)** will be brought forward to December 2020
- **The British Webserver Team Tournament** is due to start again in 2022
- **North Atlantic Team Tournament (8)** will be planned once the schedule for the next European Team Tournaments is known
- **Invitational Series** A strong GM tournament will be organised for the benefit of 2450+ WCCF members seeking GM norms; further CCE and CCM events will also be organised.

Currently Suspended Events

- **Member organisations Team Tournament** will continue to be suspended as the benefit to WCCF members has been negligible.
- **Tri Nations** will be discussed further with representatives of the Scottish and English member federations (**Action RS**).

International Matters

International Team Events and Selection

- European Team Championship 12 Semi Finals
- **European Team Championship 11 Final** Wales has qualified for this final, along with Scotland
- Olympiad
- U2300 Team Tournaments
- Euro Team Cup
- World Team Cup
- Friendly matches
- Champions League

International Individual Events

- **British Correspondence Chess Championship** is now a Category 7 tournament, the strongest in living memory.
- National nominations for WCCC cycle will be made by the Executive Committee, with preference given to premium members.
- ICCF Jubilee Events

Player Development

Recruitment of new players has slowed a little, as expected.

A number of players are progressing well towards ICCF titles.

Marc Wakeham has achieved the IA title; Andrew Smith is making steady progress towards the title.

The Welsh team has qualified for the final of the 11th European Team Championship, currently +1 in the 22nd Olympiad preliminaries; unfortunately, we have finished in last place in the u2300 team event.

Marketing

AL to check that tweets are being sent properly when new articles are posted.