

## **LINCOLNSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023**

Held at Lindum Training Centre, Lincoln on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 11.30am

### **MINUTES**

Attending: Nigel Birtwistle (Chair), Peter Sherlock, Christopher Holt, Nick Stead, Andrew Watson, Ben Mason.

Apologies: Keith Noons, Denis Georgiou

#### **1. MINUTES OF 2022 AGM**

The minutes of the 2022 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 voiced its appreciation for Herman Kok for arranging at the venue at Lindum once again.

It has been a quiet year overall. I attended ECF meetings as the association's representative.

There followed a discussion about social media use by clubs and people coming to clubs who had picked up chess during the pandemic.

#### **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 £335.00 compared to a surplus of £171.02 in the period 2021/22. This is mainly due to the profit of £147 made on the County Championships held in July when 28 players took part.

The £50 donation was given to charity when we attended the funeral of Mike Colebrook.

£90 was paid to Nigel to cover the Open team expenses. The £18 Game Fee was in anticipation of the game fee charge for Allan Marshall when playing for the open team. So far I have not received this charge.

With 3 teams being fielded this year expenses may well increase but with a balance of £2,255.60 I am sure we can cover these.

Given the surplus for the year and the healthy balance 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*.

Nigel proposed that we have a 2nd Division trophy. This was seconded by Chris Holt and was passed *nem con*.

#### **5. MCCU DELEGATE (Peter Sherlock)**

I attended the MCCU AGM in June in my capacity of Lincolnshire representative, County Controller and Grading Director.

The MCCU County Matches took place with only 8 teams entering even fewer than the 11 last year. This season I have received 3 entries so far from Lincolnshire (Open, U1850 & U1650), Staffordshire (U1850 & U1450) and Worcestershire (Open, U1650 & U1450).

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.

#### **6. ECF Delegate (Chris Holt)**

I have attended ECF Council meetings over the last couple of years as Lincolnshire representative and I have also doubled up as the Nottinghamshire delegate as well. Last year's AGM was a much quieter affair than the previous one, which was chaotic. The clashes between Malcom Pein and Mike Truran as candidates for CEO elections (and the Chess Trust) was patched up before the meeting began. I know that some members are regulars on the ECF forum, and so will have seen that the April finance council had several discussion points:

1. The ECF finances are in good health as the forecast memberships for the previous year exceeded pre-COVID levels with the increasing popularity of chess.
2. There was scrutiny of the level of expenditure on the Chennai Olympiad.
3. The council was asked to vote on three options proposed in a paper reviewing the membership offer. Those options should go forward to the AGM in Q3.

They are:

The outcome of the votes in order of preference was:

- No change
- Single membership rate
- Merger of the Silver and Gold categories

The rationale seemed to be less about cost and efficiency than I would have expected, and more to do with trying to encourage more FIDE-rated events, the lack of which is impacting juniors.

You may have seen the emails from the ECF asking for views about the changes and I urge all members to make their voices known.

## **7. LEAGUE SECRETARY'S REPORT (Andrew Watson)**

Overall Division 1 ran smoothly in comparison to Division 2 which was disrupted by several issues. Initially Lincoln University expressed interest in joining Division 2 but most Captains could not get a response to emails or texts in relation to organising fixtures. With a limited timescale for the university to play their fixtures a decision was eventually made to remove them from the league as this threatened to cause problems with the fixtures that were already organised within this limited time frame.

One default did occur in Division 1 on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April when the match was awarded to Grantham against Grimsby. Division 2 however had 4 defaulted matches 3 of which involved Grimsby who struggled to produce a viable team throughout the season. This also included a no show by Grimsby at the neutral venue of Lincoln against Grantham on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January. Grantham finished top of Division 1 with a maximum of 6 out of 6 wins giving a total of 12 points. Lincoln came 2<sup>nd</sup> with 3 wins and 3 losses giving a total of 6 points. Appleby Frodingham came 3<sup>rd</sup> with 2 wins and 4 losses giving a total of 4 points. Grimsby came 4<sup>th</sup> with 1 win and 5 losses giving a total of 2 points. Notable players in this division were Stephen Prior who had a 100% win score across 5 games. Alex Royle also had a 100% win score across 3 games. Both these players played for Grantham which contributed to their success in the league. Rod Wardlaw who played for Appleby Frodingham also had a good season winning 3.5 out of 4 games giving him a win rate of 87.5%. Peter Sherlock from Lincoln also had a good season in Division 1 winning 3 out of 4 games giving him a win rate of 75% which strangely was a much better result for him than in Division 2.

Lincoln A dominated Division 2 winning all 8 matches with strong players consistently playing across all 4 boards. Skegness came 2<sup>nd</sup> with 7 points just beating Lincoln B into 3<sup>rd</sup> place by winning 1 more and losing 1 less game but they too finished the season on 7 points. Grantham finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place on 6 points winning 2 and drawing 2 out of 8 games. Grimsby finished last place on 4 points mainly due to the number of defaults. Stand out players in Division 2 included Jules Brown playing for Lincoln A who managed a win score of 100 per cent over 7 games which was the best individual result across both divisions. Nick Sykes who also played for Lincoln A managed to win 5 and draw 1 out of 6 games giving him a win rate of 92%. Ian McDonald also achieved 3 wins and a draw out of 4 games. William Orr also played well for Lincoln A achieving a 83.3% win rate as did Graham Johnson who played for Grantham-both these players won 2 and drew 1 game out of 3. Paul Terry playing for Skegness also achieved a 100% win rate but this was achieved from just 2 games.

The main areas of concern were a lack of speedy communication from one or two captains and on one occasion not being aware of what fixtures dates are showing on the LMS. In what is a large county with well dispersed, small clubs driving and availability of cars always seems to be an issue. If more players could volunteer in this respect it would help to keep the leagues running smoother.

#### Matters Arising

There was a discussion on defaults and some organisational issues. Also, the use of halfway venues, for example Lincoln for Grantham matches, given the low number of entries for next season and, therefore, no division 2 south in 23/24. There were no proposals.

### **8. OPEN TEAM MATCH CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Nigel Birtwistle)**

After an absence of three seasons finally Lincolnshire returned to competitive action in the MCCU competition. However, most of the other MCCU Counties declined to enter teams into the Open section which meant we would only have two fixtures against Worcestershire and Warwickshire. Both matches were held at our usual neutral venue of Syston in Leicestershire. The team against Warwickshire in early December showed a few changes since we last played post pandemic as some of our former players had either stopped playing or moved away from the area. But despite this we were able to recruit some new faces and produced a strong performance to win 10½-5½. In the second match against Worcestershire in mid-January we were rocked by the withdrawal of four players the day before the match but somehow, I managed to persuade enough players to play at very short notice to plug the gaps. The enforced changes seemed to do little harm and another fine performance saw Lincolnshire run out winners by a 10-6 margin. This result meant that we were MCCU champions again and saw us qualify for the knockout stages of the Minor Counties Competition.

In the Quarter Final we received a walkover when our opponents Somerset were unable to raise a team. Against Norfolk in the Semi Final our opponents fielded a very strong team and although the team battled extremely hard, we eventually lost 10-6. I would like to thank everybody who played this season for their efforts, and I am happy to stand as captain again for the 23/24 season.

### **9. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cleethorpes Rapidplay Nigel Birtwistle & Kevin McCarthy**

A total of 99 entrants gathered on a glorious sunny day at the Cleethorpes Leisure Centre for the annual Cleethorpes Rapidplay event. The Open had a small but strong field led by GM Daniel Gormally who secured first place with a flawless 6/6 score and a performance rating of 3038. Along the way he overcame both IM Gediminas Sarakauskas and Kamila Hryshchenko (The current British Ladies Rapidplay Champion), who shared second place on 4/6.

In the Major U1900 section it was a tight battle right to the end, with Raven Morello remaining unbeaten on 5/6 to take first place, half a point clear of joint runners-up M John Cawston, George Boothman and Richard Desmedt. Even tighter was the Minor U1600 where no less than 5 players shared first place on 5/6 Rosa Morello, Richard Harrison, Jacob Smith, Peter

Taylor and Robert Arthurton all took home £65 as their share of the prize fund. Thanks to kind sponsorship from Select Cars Grimsby, Keith May Accounting Services and Andrew Watson of Giftware Solutions Ltd we were able to offer a prize fund of just under £1400, including 6 Grading prizes. Thanks too for the excellent venue provided by Lincs Inspire and the hard work by Gavin Johnstone and staff at the centre. Arbiters Douglas Vleeshouwer and Jo Hutchinson ensured the event ran smoothly all day.

We will be running the Cleethorpes Rapidplay again next year at a date to be confirmed in either June or July. But before that we are launching a new Rapidplay event which will be held in Lincoln on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

## 10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2023 – 2024 SEASON

<b>President:</b>	Nigel Birtwistle
<b>Honorary Secretary:</b>	Chris Holt
<b>League Secretary:</b>	Andrew Watson
<b>Honorary Treasurer:</b>	Peter Sherlock
<b>Open Team Match Captain:</b>	Nigel Birtwistle
<b>Social Media Officer :</b>	Andrew Watson
<b>ECF Delegate:</b>	Chris Holt
<b>MCCU Delegates:</b>	Peter Sherlock (MCCU1), Ben Mason (MCCU2)
<b>Webmaster:</b>	David Coates
<b>Life Members:</b>	Robert Dale, Keith Palmer

This was taken unopposed en bloc, proposed by Peter Sherlock and seconded by Nigel Birtwistle.

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## 11. PROGRAMME FOR 2023 – 2024

### A. The Cleethorpes Rapid Play

Nigel will be looking to run the event at the same time this season.

### B. League for 2023/24

There was a discussion and agreement on having just a division 1 and 2 given the low number of entries.

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nigel talked about the recent government grant that the ECF was hoping to secure and if any of it could be used in the county.

The next AGM was set for **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 1:30pm

### LINCOLNSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION

#### ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2021/22 INCOME	2022/23	2021/22 EXPENDITURE	2022/23
<b>Subscriptions</b>		<b>Levies</b>	
- Grantham	70.00	18.00 Game Fees	-
- Grimsby	70.00	- MCCU Levy	-
- Lincoln	100.00	<b>18.00 Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>
- Louth	-		
- Scunthorpe	40.00	<b>Expenses</b>	
- Skegness	30.00	- Minor	90.00
- Spalding	-	- Other teams	-
<b>0.00 Total</b>	<b>310.00</b>	<b>0.00 Total</b>	<b>90.00</b>
<b>Game Fees</b>		<b>10.00 Bank Charges</b>	-
- Barton	-	- ECF Yearbook	-
- Boston	18.00	- AGM Venue	-
- Grimsby	-	- Donations	50.00
- Lincoln	-	- Correspondence Team	-
- Louth	-	- Web-site	-
- Scunthorpe	-		
- Skegness	-	<b>County Championship</b>	
- Spalding	-	- Prizes	345.00
- Minor	-	- Expenses	20.00
<b>0.00 Total</b>	<b>18.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>365.00</b>

			<b>Trophies</b>	
			- Trophies	424.00 Entry
<b>County Championship</b>				
fees/donations	512.00	-	Extra Minor trophies	-
100.00 Sponsorship		-	<b>Total</b>	-
<b>524.00 Total</b>	<b>512.00</b>			
			<b>Officers</b>	
<b>0.02 Interest</b>	<b>0.00</b>	-	P.Sherlock (Treas)	-
			<b>Total</b>	-
<b>524.02 General Fund</b>	<b>840.00</b>	<b>373.00 General Fund</b>		<b>505.00</b>
- <b>Special Fund</b>	-	- <b>Special Fund</b>		- <b>524.02</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>840.00</b>	<b>373.00 Total</b>		<b>505.00</b>

**LINCOLNSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION**

**BALANCE SHEET as at 31 AUGUST 2023**

	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
Balance B/F	1749.58	1920.60
General Fund – Income	524.02	840.00
- Expenditure	373.00	505.00
Profit/(Loss) for year	171.02	335.00
Balance C/F	1920.60	2255.60
Balance made up of		
Current Balance at Bank		
Current Account	1920.60	2255.60
Deposit Account	0.00	0.00
Total	1920.60	2255.60
Less Debtors	-	-
Plus Creditors	-	-
Total	1920.60	2255.60

P.G.Sherlock  
Hon Treasurer

9 September 2023