

LINCOLNSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Held at Lindum Training Centre, Lincoln on Saturday 11th September 2021, 1.00pm

MINUTES

Attending: Nigel Birtwistle (Chair), Peter Sherlock, Christopher Holt, Nick Stead, John Mainwaring, Robert Arthurton, Callum Cosens, Iulia Covaci

Apologies: Keith Noons, Ben Mason, Peter Beveridge, Keith Palmer

1. MINUTES OF 2019 AGM

The minutes of the 2019 AGM, being the previous AGM due to the COVID pandemic, were circulated to attendees and these were voted as an accurate record of the 2019 meeting.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT (Denis Georgiu)

Denis has stepped back from his role due to his recent bereavement. Chris Holt from Grantham has stepped into the role and is chairing this meeting. Everyone present thanked Denis for his service and sincerest condolences on his loss.

The meeting also voiced its appreciation for Herman Kok for arranging at the venue at Lindum.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (Peter Sherlock)

- *The accounts are appended to these minutes.*

I have combined the years 2019/20 and 2020/21 into one for ease of comparison with the year 2018/19. The only income and expenditure in the 2020/21 season were some fines for non payment of ECF membership which balance out, £15 entry fee for Correspondence Chess and the grand sum of 4p interest.

Thus the combined seasons of 2019/21 made a surplus of £170.40 compared with a small loss of £1.87 made in 2018/19.

We welcomed Skegness to the fold who joined Division 2 North and so subscriptions increased from £400 to £430.

There was some confusion at Louth where a number of players did not pay their ECF membership subscriptions and so incurred game fees. These were reclaimed and passed on.

The County Championships did not take place so we missed out on the £150 or so that was made last year.

The surplus, therefore, is mainly down to the reduction in expenditure. The expenses paid to the county captains was down by about £100 as neither team played any matches in the National stages.

Lincolnshire Chess Association 2021 AGM

Also, as the league season was not completed, no trophies have been ordered, saving another £150.

Given the surplus for the year I am recommending that county subscriptions remain unchanged at £40 for Division teams and £30 for teams in Division 2.

5. Grading Officer (Peter Sherlock)

Results were forwarded for grading for

Lincolnshire League
Scunthorpe & District League
Internal club results for Lincoln, Louth, Grimsby, Scunthorpe & Skegness.

Results were submitted in December 2019 and June 2020 in line with the twice yearly grading lists.

Since then the ECF has completely overhauled the grading system. The 3 figure ECF grades have been replaced by 4 figure FIDE ratings. Also, they have introduced monthly updating of ratings. To accommodate this it is my intention to submit results into the Lincolnshire Chess Association organisation on the League Management System with the system set to automatically transfer results on a monthly basis.

I am pleased that Ben Mason has agreed to shadow me in the forthcoming season and maybe it would be an opportune time to hand over the reigns at the 2022 AGM.

- Following the report there was a discussion on the need for physical checks on new players to determine identity and eligibility but no decisions or proposals.
- There was also a discussion on moving fully across to the ECF League Management System (LMS), in anticipation of the League Secretary's report. It was felt that this was a future decision to be made.

6. MCCU Delegate (Peter Sherlock)

The MCCU AGM, due to take place in June 2020, did not take place due to the lockdown. I submitted my reports as County Controller and Grading Director. I did not see any reports from other officers.

In the 2019/20 MCCU qualifying competitions all the matches were completed, just before the lockdown. There was, again, an increase in the number of matches with 59 being played compared with 52 the previous season and 45 in the 2017/18 season.

Lincolnshire's team in the Open/Minor section came equal first with Warwickshire. Being reigning champions of the National Minor Counties, Nigel decided not to defend the title but instead enter the Open section. However, due to the lockdown none of the National stage matches took place.

William Orr has assembled a competitive team in the U140 section and were rewarded with 3rd place and a place in the National stages. Again the national stages were cancelled.

A National online tournament was organised by Mark Murrell, the National Controller, with Lincolnshire entering a team in both the Open and U1850 sections.

Lincolnshire Chess Association 2021 AGM

I ran an MCCU online event starting in October using Lichess as the platform. Only Greater Manchester, Worcestershire and Shropshire entered.

Again, there was no AGM this year, Zoom or otherwise, so I presume that I am to continue as both Grading officer and County Controller. No idea if anyone has come forward to replace John Grasham as MCCU Secretary.

I have generated the fixtures for the MCCU qualifying competition but in a much reduced field only 14 teams have been entered compared with 31 in 2019/20 resulting in 13 fixtures being generated. I received no entries from Lincolnshire.

7. ECF Delegate (Peter Sherlock)

Francis Bowers attended the ECF AGM in October 2019 but stood down in June,

His report reads – The meeting agreed to set up a limited company called the English Chess Federation limited to shares. The BCF had assets of about £2 million invested in stocks and shares. They have given most of the money away and donated to the Chess Trust charity. A very complicated procedure but best for Tax avoidance.

The ECF is split into two parts – one is the Board of Directors who run the company, the second is the Council which Lincolnshire and the MCCU are members of. So we have 2 Council meetings a year, lots of friction between Board members and Council Members as the Council Members normally out vote the Board Members.

The ECF/BCF Finance meeting was due to take place in April but was postponed due to the lockdown. This was held in July via Zoom which I was happy to attend.

The Finance Director reported that the ECF is financially stable – and have good reserves invested in the Permanent Invested Fund and Chess Centre Limited.

The Management Accounts show a break even position but the board is concerned that, since March, income has dried up with no over-the-board events taking place. The office staff have been furloughed with government grants covering the costs.

The budget was put forward and there was extensive discussions about this amongst the members. Nobody, board and members, really knew what the future held in terms of Over-the-board chess.

Hopefully, the ECF members will renew their memberships. The rise in online chess has generated some income from the ECF Supporters Scheme. Those playing in rated events, such as the County Online Championships, have to be ECF Supporters (£5 per year, about to increase to £10 per year) or ECF Members.

I attended both the October 2020 and April 2021 meetings, both on Zoom. The financial position continues to be on hold but will hopefully improve as over-the-board chess resumes and more members renew their subscriptions.

The biggest change came in the implementation of the new rating system. The new grading bands for the county championship was on the agenda in April but time ran out so a special meeting was convened to discuss and agree on the new bands of 2050, 1850, 1650 and 1450.

I am happy to continue as the ECF representative although, at the moment, I won't be able to attend the meeting on October 16 as I have been invited to a wedding.

8. Correspondence Chess (Peter Sherlock)

Lincolnshire again entered a team in the national correspondence chess competition organised by the ICCF (International Correspondence Chess Federation).

Having been promoted last season into Division 2 we found life difficult finishing bottom of the league on 4 points. Neil Roberts from Lincoln, in his first season replacing Harry Russell, won both his games. Four draws was all that the rest of the team could muster.

Joe Kilshaw	0.5
Herman Kok	0.0
Ian Scott	0.5
James Irwin	0.0
Alex Ashworth	0.0
Neil Roberts	2.0
Peter Sherlock	1.0
Paul Fischer	0.0
Total	4.0

Hampshire and West Wales B were promotion. Essex C, who were promoted also with Lincolnshire last season, gained 5.5 points and are relegated along with Lincolnshire.

We entered the competition this season in Division 3 and with one game outstanding involving Neil Roberts we lie in fourth place with an outside chance of promotion. The individual results are as follows.

Nick Stead	0.0
Joe Kilshaw	2.0
Andrew Herbert	0.0
Herman Kok	2.0
James Irwin	2.0
Ian Scott	2.0
Neil Roberts	0.5 *
Peter Sherlock	0.5
Total	9.0

9. Newsletter (Peter Sherlock)

The county newsletter was published early September 2020 after the completion of the National Online County Championships.

No newsletter was published this year. Next year I intend sending the newsletter out online.

- It was the meeting's opinion that with Peter having many responsibilities, that the newsletter be discontinued and a discussion in AOB on more online engagement.

10. LEAGUE SECRETARY'S REPORT (John Mainwaring)

The league had been running pretty smoothly – I think!! – until COVID. The last game score I received was a LL1 game between Lincoln and Grimsby on 11th March 2020. I believe that there was only 1 board default across all 3 leagues in the LL1 match between Grimsby & Lincoln. I question why the rules award the team defaulted against an extra half point on the game score, in

Lincolnshire Chess Association 2021 AGM

the event that the title could be decided on points difference. In the rules 2.b it states, "A half-point penalty shall be awarded against a team defaulting a board unless the opposing captain has been informed "before the start of play" (1994). I propose that this be removed as you cannot legislate for all circumstances that prevents a team losing a board(s) late in the day. Or amend the rule so that the team defaulting loses half a point from their end of season total.

At the time of the suspension of matches, the number of games remaining to be played were as follows:

LL1 – 3
LL2 N – 9
LL2 S – 7

We had discussed at the last AGM using the League Management System on the ECF website which we have done in parallel with my circulating results and tables. Do we have a view on whether we continue with this ploy for the new season or just use the LMS system?

The tables at the time of suspension are attached.

- There followed a discussion on amending rule 2.b. It was agreed there were 4 options;
 - Do nothing
 - Swap the half point
 - Reverse the burden of proof
 - Amend the rule as suggested

John Manwaring proposed amending the rule. Seconded by Nigel Birtwistle, this was carried.

2019 - 2020 Season

Tables

Division 1

Pos.	Team	Pld.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Ded.	P.D.	Pts
1	Lincoln	6	4	1	1	19	11.5		7.5	9
2	Grimsby	4	2	1	1	12	8.5		3.5	5
3	Louth	4	0	3	1	8	12		-4	3
4	Scunthorpe	4	0	1	3	6.5	13.5		-7	1

Division 2 North

Pos.	Team	Pld.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Ded.	P.D.	Pts
1	Scunthorpe	4	3	1	0	10.5	5.5		5	7
2	Lincoln	6	2	2	2	12.5	11.5		1	6
3	Skegness	4	2	1	1	9	7		2	5
4	Grimsby D	4	2	0	2	8	8		0	4
5	Louth	4	0	0	4	4	12		-8	0

Division 2 South

Pos.	Team	Pld.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Ded.	P.D.	Pts
1	Lincoln A	5	5	0	0	13.5	6.5		7	10
2	Grantham	4	3	0	1	12	4		8	6
3	Spalding	6	3	0	3	11.5	12.5		-1	6
4	Louth	6	1	1	4	8.5	15.5		-7	3
5	Lincoln B	5	0	1	4	6.5	13.5		-7	1

11. OPEN TEAM MATCH CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Nigel Birtwistle)

There is unfortunately little to report about County Chess for the 2020-21 season. All OTB chess was suspended due to the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown that followed. There were no County Championship matches played OTB this season. The ECF once again ran an online version of the County Championships. Last season Lincolnshire teams had reached the final of both the Open and the U1825 Online County Championships. However, this season the Online County captains, myself and Kevin McCarthy stepped down from our roles due to huge workload involved with the online version. The player support for online chess was once again there but nobody was willing to take over either of the captaincy roles so with regret the decision was made not to enter any teams for the online 20-21 season.

12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021 – 2022 SEASON

President:	Nigel Birtwistle
Honorary Secretary:	Chris Holt
League Secretary:	John Mainwaring
Honorary Treasurer:	Peter Sherlock
Open Team Match Captain:	Nigel Birtwistle
Under 140 Team Match Captain:	William Orr (TBC)
Grading Officer:	Peter Sherlock/Ben Mason
Newsletter Editor:	*Removed*
Correspondence Secretary:	Peter Sherlock
ECF Delegate:	Chris Holt
MCCU Delegates:	Peter Sherlock (MCCU1), Ian Scott (MCCU2), William Orr (MCCU3)
Webmaster:	David Coates
Life Members:	Mike Colebrook, Robert Dale, Keith Palmer

13. PROGRAMME FOR 2021 – 2022

There was a lengthy discussion on a programme for the coming season. The fixture meeting had to be postponed prior to the AGM as there was a lack of clarity from clubs about their situation. For example, Scunthorpe had about 50% of their previous membership and there was some doubt on club venues. Grimsby had lost their venue and had suspended operations while a new one was located. Skegness was healthy and could easily run a team but was worried that new members would not last. One bright spot was the Lincoln students who had secured £500 for new kit from the University and was hoping to capitalise on the popularity of online chess and the Netflix drama 'The Queen's Gambit'.

It was felt that it was too early to get a season underway. It was decided that a fixture meeting to run a truncated season was to be convened at 1pm on the 4th of December, hopefully at Lindum, would be arranged. Entries would be required by the end of November to check if it was viable.

There was also discussion about possible one day events, but no proposals were forthcoming.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Kevin McCarthy had asked to speak about online presence and social channels for clubs and the association. Unfortunately, he was not present to talk about his ideas.

The representatives from Lincoln University spoke about their social media presence and marketing. Iulia Covaci has a master's degree in digital marketing and offered the benefit of experience and expertise with the society. People spoke about their club's new member recruitment through Facebook and other channels, and it was agreed that the association should consider setting up at least a Facebook group to add to the website and this was a better use of resources than the newsletter.

The next AGM was set for **Saturday 10th 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 3.30pm