**Leicestershire & Rutland Chess Association 2024 AGM Minutes**

Held at 7:30pm on Wednesday May 22nd 2024 at the Regent Sports and Social Club, 102 Regent Road, Leicester LE1 7DA

Please note all written reports are available on the LRCA website and will not be reproduced

within the minutes.

The meeting started at 7:45pm with 10 people present.

1. **Present and apologies for absence.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Club** | **Present** | **Apologies** |
| Anstey | Ben Vaughan |  |
| Ashby |  |  |
| Heathcote Arms |  |  |
| Braunstone | Jim Bingham |  |
| Kirby Castlers |  |  |
| Latimer |  |  |
| Leicester University |  |  |
| Loughborough | Stewart Gordon |  |
| Market Harborough | Rene Buttler |  |
| Melton Mowbray | Shaun Cope |  |
| Shepshed Rooks |  |  |
| Syston |  |  |
| Thurnby | John Pattinson, Bob Collins |  |
| Wigston | Iain Dodds, Andy Morley, Paul Mottram |  |

**2. Minutes of The LRCA Annual General Meeting held on 24th May 2023**

Minutes had been published since previous summer. Approval proposed by AM seconded by BV. Approved by all present.

**2.1 Matters Arising**

A new constitution based on a general council and the merging of the league and county committees. This has been widely distributed to the club secretaries and the website.

**2.2 Motion to change the constitution to a general committee structure.**

A question on if committee members should be members of the ECF. This would be considered and put in an amendment next year.

Also, there was debate if it should be one member/one vote or bigger clubs should have more votes.

New constitution was proposed as sent out by BV and seconded by BC

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain 1

**3. Officer’s Reports.**

**3.1. Chairman [Paul Mottram]**

The report is available on the website.

The British Championships held at De Montfort university were a success with good local representation. A games night at DMU was held to encourage new players.

ECF membership bronze is to increase from £19 to £20.

Silver and gold to merge with an increase of £8 for silver members.

**3.2. Secretary [John Pattinson]**

The report is available on the website.

Thank you to Bob Collins for providing the Regent Club for the meeting.

No captains for the county teams so no teams entered.

The trophies were ordered but inflation meant a large increase in the cost of them was incurred,

Thanks to Simon Gay who help to save Richard Handscombe’s life who had a heart attack during a match between Braunstone and Market Harborough.

**3.3. Treasurer [Bob Collins]**

Reports are published on the website.

Increase in income mainly due to the increase in league fees.

A large increase in insurance costs.

Junior costs still occur due to entries to competitions.

With 2 congresses this year it would be very helpful if the profits can be kept to a maximum of £500 so that we don’t incur tax.

Overall, the LRCA made a loss of £387 and the bank accounts balance is £4,375

Accounts approval proposed by AM seconded by SC carried unanimously

**3.3.1 Audit statement [Martin Burrow]**

An email was received by the chair from the auditor that the 2023-2024 accounts are a true and fair view of the association's activities during the year and the financial position at the end of the year.

**4. Committee Reports.**

**4.1 County Teams [Vacant]**

No team captains could be found so no county teams were entered into the county championship.

The MCCU stages only had 4 teams enter,

**4.2 League Secretary’s Report [Paul Mottram]**

The report is available on the website.

Winners Wigston 1 (Div 1), Wigston 2 (Div 2), Market Harborough 2 (Div 3), Wigston 4 (Div 4), Wigston 5 (Div 5).

Increase from 35 to 40 teams last season.

Large number of new players are entering the league.

**4.3 Congress (Andy Morley/Ben Vaughan/Iain Dodds)**

The reports are available on the website.

The Atkins didn’t run last year mainly due to venue costs being tripled and not being able to contact DMU. There are 2 events planned for 2024 a one-day event on the 13th July at the Cedar Academy in Birstall, and a 3-day weekend event on the 27th to the 29th September at the same venue.

The individual county championships have had a good turnout last summer and had 65 entries.

The 2023 Winners were County Champion - Shabir Okahi, Challengers - Lindsay Pyun, Major - George Gowers, Minor-– Dominic Lennon.

Only 5 clubs entered the charity evening quickplay. The general committee to discuss changes to format or night of the week to encourage greater participation.

**4.4 Juniors [Alan Agnew]**

Alan will produce a report for the website.

The Saturday club is still running with 40 members.

Sooraj is helping with the coaching.

Alan has a waiting list for coaching.

A Primary School competition and Secondary School competition are being considered.

**5. ECF Delegate (Paul Mottram)**

Increase in fees and merging of Gold and Silvers members have already been mentioned.

Also, monthly rating updates are now in operation.

**6. Report from MCCU Delegate (John Pattinson)**

Report available on the Website.

The MCCU accounts are still not available to the treasurer.

Only 3 counties entered the MCCU stages of the county championships.

Ray Dolan arranged a generation game over 56 boards, to celebrate the 125 years of the MCCU. Leicestershire was pleased to field a team.

**7 and 8. Report from Grading Officer & Webmaster [Stewart Gordon]**

Report on the website

Number of county and club competitions were sent to the ECF for grading.

The new moving grades had caused some problems with the DTS adjustment system.

A facility to enter and accept dates for the summer cups will be implemented for this summer.

**9. Election of Officers**

List of officers elected below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Elected** |
| LRCA  President  Secretary  Treasurer | **Ben Vaughan**  **Paul Mottram**  **Bob Collins** |
| Other Officers  Rating Officer  Webmaster  League Fixtures Secretary  Summer Cup Controller  Individual Competitions Officer  Junior Officer  Safeguarding Officer  Auditor | **Stewart Gordon**  **Stewart Gordon**  **Martin Burrows**  **Iain Dodds**  **Andy Morley**  **Alan Agnew**  **Paul Mottram**  Martin Burrows |

**10. Subscriptions for 2023-2024**

The treasurer recommended that as the fees remain the same at £4 per board for the league. £8 a team for the summer cup.

AM proposed seconded by PM and was carried.

**11. Any Other Business.**

The ECF fee on the accounts was queried, the treasurer assured that this was a hangover from the previous year.

ECF not registering payments for 3 members at Market Harborough, this would be queried by e-mail to office@ecf.

Rob Mitchell had multiple grades that caused issues. This has now been resolved.

PM to send invitations for club reps on the general council.

Questions on 5 boards for division 1 and 2 will be discussed by the General council.

**12. Date of next meeting**

Next year's AGM set for the 3rd Week in May, perhaps via zoom.

Meeting closed at 9:00.