Report on AGM 4 August 2018 held at Ferens Art Gallery, Hull starting 11.05am

1: Present: Lara Barnes, Alex McFarlane, Kevin Markey, Bruce Holland, Tom Thorpe, Adrian Elwin, David Eustice, Arnold Lutton, Brian Towers, Neil Graham, Stewart Reuben, Mike Forster, David Sedgwick, Alan Atkinson (from 11.40)

Apologies: Geoff Gammon, Francis Bowers, Alan Ruffle, Alan Hustwayte, Jack Rudd, Peter Purland, Dave Thomas, Kevin Staveley.

2: With some correction of typos the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3: Matters Arising:

Quickplay Finishes were unlikely to form any part of the Laws from 2021. It was clarified that it would still be possible to play with analogue clocks but positions such as K+N v K+N would be decided by whose clock fell first.

FIDE Proposals: Proposals for continuous assessment of arbiters by FIDE had changed considerably. The annual proposal had been replaced by a four-year cycle of assessment but no progress had been made on this and instead FIDE were now proposing a form (IT4) to be used to assess arbiters in FIDE events and norm tournaments.

The requirement to use recognised software for pairings had been removed. The Qualifications Commission had refused to insist on this despite the Pairings Commission wanting it.

Other items such as Safeguarding and GDPR would be discussed under agenda items.

4: Reports:

The Chairman referenced her written report and mentioned that IA Rod McShane had also passed away. A moments silence was held for him and Simon Woodcock.

The possibility of fixed terms for officers was raised. The general feeling was that there were few enough volunteers that that none of them exercised real power so the annual election was the most suitable process for the CAA.

No Report had been received from the Secretary.

The Chief Arbiter/Information Officer in his report commented on the problems with having two Laws of Chess since the last meeting. Stewart Reuben concurred and blamed the FIDE Presidential Board for unconstitutional interference which had caused problems. It was requested that the documents under discussion be put on the website. With minor corrections this will be done.

Details of how to join the CAA, which were deliberately missing, would be added to the website.

5: The Treasurer gave his report. An increase of funds of almost £600 was shown following the collection of outstanding memberships. The accounts had not been inspected as the Treasurer had not been able to make contact with the Independent Examiner. David Sedgwick volunteered to follow this up.

The Treasurer suggested that due to bank fees a life membership for £50 should be awarded to members living abroad. The idea was modified to a long term membership of 5 or 10 years to be decided by the Committee.

There were currently over 30 members many due to renew in September.

Membership Fees remained unchanged at £10 for Members and £5 for Associates. A discounted membership for physically disabled was discussed but rejected, though the Committee would look further into this.

6: The Committee was re-elected with the exception of the vacancy for Secretary which was filled by Alan Atkinson. (See back page.)

At this point Stewart Reuben suggested Geoff Gammon be made an Honorary Member. This was passed.

7: Revised Constitution. Some comments were given on this. One was that nominations for positions should be in the main constitution and not in the bye laws. This was noted. A suggestion was made that we should approve the constitution and amend where necessary next year. Subject to the above, the revised Constitution and Bye-Laws were accepted nem con.

8: Fees. There was strong feeling that fees should be based on the living wage though it was appreciated that many events could not afford to pay these amounts. It was suggested that higher figures should apply for London events. There was a suggestion that the amount should be twice the entry fee. It was also thought that it might be better to describe the structure as an Honorarium.

It was accepted that the table would stand with emphasis that this was a minimum fee structure. The committee would look at revising the figures.

9: Memorandum of Understanding. This has been agreed with the ECF Board. There was some discussion about slight changes. It was felt that the agreement needed better publicity.

10: GDPR. The effect of this new law was discussed. It was agreed that it should be confirmed that we did not have to register with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO).  It was agreed that the appeals committees would be formed on an ad hoc basis by invitation from the Chair, members being drawn from the general membership.

It was agreed that all members present had given permission for their data to be stored. Others would be asked to confirm on re-joining.

11: Safeguarding Policy. It was confirmed that this applied not just to young people but also to vulnerable adults. It was confirmed that vulnerable in this case applied to, for example, those with a physical or mental disability. It was not the same definition as used by utility companies which included anyone over 60. Those working on a weekly basis with children should have DBS (or equivalent) clearance. Children should not be told that what they were saying would be treated in confidence as that simply was not possible. If it was discovered that anyone had given such a guarantee, then they could be in serious trouble if it was later discovered. Any serious claims made should be passed on immediately to either social services or the police rather than our own Safeguarding Officer. Many venues would have their own such person who could be approached. In no circumstances should any matter raised be discussed with other members of the control team. It was reported that DBS did not exist in Scotland where the equivalent thing was PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups). This scheme had the advantage that if a person was registered to an organisation through this scheme that organisation would be informed of any cause for concern.

12: AOCB. David Sedgwick had a number of items but in view of the time he would format them in a way suitable for AMToo.

Neil Graham raised the matter of the limited responsibility of Captains in the Counties Championship. It was agreed that recent changes would be reviewed against earlier rules and the new ECF Home Director when in post would be approached.

It was also noted that the assumption that the Home Director would be appointed by Council in October may not be the case as it was a mid-term appointment and may simply be a Board appointment.

13: The date of the next meeting was discussed. Two possibilities were mooted. It may again be possible to hold it at the British Championships but since the venue was not certain that could not be decided upon. Another possibility was to hold it in the morning at the venue for the Counties Finals. In this case the dates were not certain. The Management Committee were charged with dealing with this matter.

The meeting ended at 13.20 with a vote of thanks to the outgoing committee for the work done in the previous year.