

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the London Civil Service, Post Office and Municipal Chess League held at 6.30pm on 13th May 2010 in the Greycoat Room in the Civil Service Recreation Centre, 1 Chadwick Street, London SW1P 2EP.

Present: I M Pheby (Chairman); Graham Andrews; Matthew Baker; A Barron; P Beech; P Biggs; N Blades; M J Cowley; M Edbury; P Efstathiou; N D Fleming; D Gilbert ; L Hedges; J Robinson; Ms. M Sant; M Smith; R Smith; J M G Toon. 9 of the 10 clubs were represented .

1. **Chairman's Remarks** – Ian welcomed members to the meeting. Two members had passed away during the year .

Roy Greenfield (Revenue & Customs) and John Rowe (GLCC). Roland paid a tribute to Roy who even at the age of 88 was playing exceptional postal chess. He twice won the Star Trophy. Roy was in the team which won the British Postal Chess Championship in 1978, 1984, 1985 & 1995, winning a Best Game Prize and only losing 3 games out of 50 and none after 1992. Roy had an exceptional career rising to Deputy Controller of the Capital Taxes Office and for many years was Editor of Dymond's Death Duties .and other publications.

John Rowe (GLCC) – Paul Efstathiou (GLCC) paid a tribute to John who had been a member of GLCC for very many years.

2. **Apologies for absence** – A C Ashby, D Edney, R J Fries, N Harrison, D T Johnson, R Johnson, D Kingston-Smith, J Lazaris, W Moore, B O'Gorman, R J Pomeroy; C J Reeve, C A Roeder, K J Thurlow, G White, P Zammit.
3. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th May 2009**

These were approved and signed.

4. **Matters arising**

Other activities – A question was raised about the 'Other activities' which were discussed at the previous AGM. The Chairman replied that these will be considered further by the Executive Committee once the AGM has agreed to the Blitz Grand Prix and it has operated for a year.

Centenary Book – The Executive Committee will review the progress at its meeting in the autumn and in the spring of 2011.

5. **Treasurer's Report** – The accounts were adopted subject to audit. A vote of thanks was passed for the sterling work done by Chris. We hope that his wife soon recovers from her fall.

Ian reported that he was currently in discussion with the CSSC regarding their funding for the League which currently includes the production of the Handbook and the Correspondence Match Captain's fees. If the CSSC do not pay for the Handbooks from 2011 it was suggested that they be produced electronically although some members may need a printed copy. It was agreed to leave this on the table for consideration by the Executive Committee after the negotiations with

CSSC were finalised. The question of insuring the CSSC and CSCA trophies may also arise.

6. Secretary's Report – It was Roland's pleasant duty to congratulate Ian on receiving the ECF Presidents Award for 40 years service to chess and to receiving from the ICCF the title of International Arbiter. The meeting showed its appreciation by acclamation.

7. Senior Recorder's Report – Copy attached – Although the number of clubs is down, both the number of teams and players has increased. The number of adjudications has doubled, and this could be avoided if stronger players looked at all positions. James Toon suggested that an article should appear in the Handbook giving members advice about adjudications, and that he was prepared to produce it. The Senior Recorder thanked James for his kind offer, and the meeting agreed this would be useful.

8. Grader's Report and ECF Game Fee

No report had been submitted as the Grader is on holiday. Ian mentioned that all games had been graded apart from some internal games which the Grader will shortly receive from GLCC. Ian reported that the ECF Council had increased Game Fee by £0.04 per player per game at its April meeting, an increase of 8%. This increase will mean that the League will need to pay approximately an additional £60 to the ECF.

9. Report on Blitz Tournaments – The Individual Blitz held in September 2009 was again won by Arne Eilers (Met. Police) with a 100% score of 9/9 against an exceptionally strong entry. The Team Blitz for the Barford Trophy held on 6 May 2010 was won by Home Office & Justice I. Copy attached. Despite the date clashing with the General Election it was another good entry and as usual was very well organised by Nigel Blades. The possibility of 'Major' and 'Minor' sections will be considered by the Executive Committee.

10. Proposals from Clubs

GLCC – copy attached – This proposal was seconded by Jim Earwicker (Treasury). GLCC explained the background to their proposal which stemmed from Revenue & Customs conceding their match by default to Met. Police which meant GLCC were relegated. They fully understood the Revenue's reasons for defaulting. Roland added a bit more background.

The proposal failed – voting 2 For 8 Against

11. Discussion paper submitted by PHSO

Copy attached. Lea Hedges explained why PHSO had submitted the discussion paper. However, many of the comments from other clubs were against the suggestion because the team captains invariably warn clubs when they know that one of their team will default and this is done on bottom board. The exceptions are where the captain is unaware that a player will default.

PHSO accepted that their understanding of the position throughout the League was misconceived and Lea will report to his Club accordingly.

12. Executive Committee proposal to introduce a “Grand Prix” of Team Blitz events.

A copy of the draft Rules is attached. The members agreed nem con to hold the Grand Prix with tournaments in September or October, January and May. Ian announced that he will also endeavour to keep a week free at the end of both the first half and second half of the season for postponed matches to be played. James Toon will be Controller of all 3 Grand Prix events, and Nigel Blades offered to help in addition to continuing as Controller of the Individual Blitz which is arranged for 16 September 2010.

As the entry for the Individual Blitz had dropped it was suggested that a prize be awarded for the entrants with a lower grade e.g. those with grades below 150. The Executive Committee will consider this, and Roland offered to provide a trophy if this was approved.

13. Executive Committee proposals – Rule changes

A copy is attached .

Section 1 is simply a tidying up and to remove ambiguity. The main change was an alteration in the numbers needed for a meeting to be quorate. The numbers were originally fixed when there were many more clubs and players and it was essential that meetings could proceed rather than be recalled a week later. Proposed changes were accepted nem con.

Section 2 Rule 11 passed nem con and **Rule 17** agreed with 1 against.

Rules 23, 24 and Bonar Law Rule 4 – voting 7-4 in favour but failed to reach the two thirds majority.

14. Election of President and Vice-Presidents – The President and Vice-Presidents were re-elected.

15. Election of Executive Committee and Auditor – the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and all the officers and members of the Executive Committee and Auditor were re-elected. There was an additional appointment James Toon (Controller, Grand Prix)

16. Presentation of Trophies and Awards

Div 1 UNATS	Div 2 DHSS	Div 3 Home Office & Justice 2
Bonar Law Home Office & Justice !		Post Annual UNATS 2
Bond Trophy A Eilers (Met Police)		
Divisional Awards	Div 1 Matthew Baker (Home Office & Justice)	
	2 Gary Cook (DHSS)	
	3 Dan Staples (PHSO)	
Tony Ashby Award	M J Cowley (UNATS)	

17. Club entries for 2010-2011

Ian received the entries and announced that there would be 4 divisions. DHSS 4 had agreed to play in Div 4 rather than DHSS fielding 3 teams in a 5 team Div 3. Ian thanked DHSS for their kind offer.

- 18. Any Other Business** – James Toon had earlier in the season conducted a survey about improving the website. He had received several useful suggestions how it could be improved and he will deal with these in due course. James was given a vote of thanks for his valuable work on the website.

David Gilbert suggested that a minute's applause should be held instead of a minute's silence when we honour members who have sadly died. The Chairman replied that the Executive Committee would consider this suggestion for the future.

Nigel Blades raised the question about more equipment for the Blitz events. The Chairman replied that the Executive Committee would consider this matter.

The meeting closed at 20.24.

Signed

(Chairman)

Date