

## Leicestershire & Rutland Chess Association 2014 AGM Minutes

Wednesday June 4<sup>th</sup> 2014 - at Kirby Muxloe Bowls Club

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:45, a short time after the intended 7:30 start, due to the unavailability of the keys to the venue; for which the Kirby Castlers contact Jim Kellock sent his apologies.

### 1. Present and apologies for absence.

	<u>Club</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Apologies</u>
1	Ashby	Richard Vann (RV);	
2	Braunstone	Jim Bingham (JTB); Paul Colburn (PJC)	Mike Salisbury (MWS)
3	Heathcote Arms	Graham Booley (GB)	
4	Kirby Castlers	Jim Cowley (JC)	
5	Latimer	Brian Slater (BS)	
6	Loughborough	John Mitchell (JM)	Mike Fraser, Stewart Gordon
7	Melton	Tom Reynolds; Shaun Cope	
8	Oadby	Mike Thornton (MAT)	
9	Red Admiral	Paul Findley (PF); Laurence Findley (LF);	
10	Syston		
11	Wigston	Neil Beasley (NB); Ben Vaughan (BV); Non-delegates :- Iain Dodds (ID); Andy Morley (AJM);	
12	Thurnby	John Pattinson (JP); Bob Collins (BC)	

**John Pattinson** chaired the meeting; **Jim Bingham** took the minutes.

### 2. Minutes Of The LRCA Annual General Meeting held on 23rd May 2012

These were taken as read as they had been distributed with the notification of the AGM in the email from the Gen Sec on 29May14. NB proposed that they were an accurate reflection of the 2013 AGM, and MAT seconded the proposal.

### 3. Matters Arising

JP pointed out that on the 2013 AGM Agenda the item referring to the General Secretary's report had been omitted.

MAT mentioned that the investigation (undertaken by JP & MWS) into the use of some computer software for help in producing the fixture list had been unsuccessful because the software available had not been sufficiently flexible. It was simply not able to cope with all the variables which the manual method currently deals with.

### 4. Officer's Reports.

#### 4.1. Chairman [John Pattinson]

JP expressed his thanks once again to all the officers for the hard work over the year, and to Kirby Castlers for hosting the AGM for another year.

He continued his comments as follows :-

The annual charity evening which was held at Syston raised £182 for LOROS, which is a great sum, so thanks for all the entries on the evening and for the DVD sales of The Master Game donated by Alan Byron.

The league expanded by a couple of teams last year, so that were generally 9 teams in each division, rather than the previous average of about 8. This naturally resulted in more chess everyone.

The George Winterton minor league also kicked off this year and my thanks to the junior committee for helping out, and to Stewart Gordon for recording the results for the website. Congratulations go to Braunstone Bears for winning the cup in its inaugural season.

The 3 county teams that were run this year were fairly successful, with 2 teams getting through to the national stages, and the U100 which was mainly being run to give juniors experience, nearly got through to the national stages.

Many thanks must go to Andy Morley for running the Indian summer event, which as well as being an enjoyable occasion, I think resulted in a couple of players joining clubs. I personally certainly had a couple of good friendlies as well as handing out a lot of contact lists to new players. Andy is also to be thanked for the efficient running of the County Championships; and must also be congratulated for winning the 2013 event. I would also like to thank Andy for his highly competent controlling of the HE Atkins congress, which continued to be well attended, even with the change of dates. This current year the event is scheduled to run at the end of November, so I will hopefully get to play, which I'm sure will be more fun than watching England get thrashed at the Ashes!

Some good news we had from the ECF is that their membership fees are going to be held at the current levels for another season as their finances have now stabilised.

The open day and charity evening will be held at the end of September, so we would be grateful to hear from anyone who has a suitable venue that can hold 30 – 40 games of chess.

Finally, anyone who is interested in helping run anything in LRCA please contact Jim Bingham as we have plenty of vacancies.

In answer to a query from JC about the current situation regarding ECF fees for juniors, JP said that he expected that the ECF to continue with their arrangement of having no fees for the first year of a juniors' registration.

### **3.2. Secretary [Jim Bingham]**

As unusual step for this year JTB decided to provide a short report, as there were a couple of issues that had been raised in recent emails which he felt it worth re-emphasising at the meeting.

Firstly, and most importantly, he believed there is increasing urgency about the need to identify some new (and hopefully younger!) people to ultimately take on the roles of the LRCA officers who would soon like to reduce their commitments within the organisation.

JTB then reported that to his knowledge there are at least four officers who are in the aforementioned situation and who would like to offload some of their responsibilities, at the very latest by the end of this coming season. He then summarised the roles which are likely fall into this category as follows :-

1. JTB's position as General Secretary
2. The subsidiary roles currently carried out by the League Chairman, as fixtures secretary and the monitoring of the league results for compliance with the rules.
3. The League Secretary position.
4. ECF memberships administrator.

Besides these, JTB also reminded the meeting that the Publicity Committee Chairman position continues to be vacant.

If we are to continue to have those well-run activities which are enjoyed by all the members, then it is clearly imperative that this situation must be addressed

The other matter which JTB felt could be due for some attention, are some aspects of the Constitution where updates might be timely to take account of the rapid means of communication that now exist.

### **3.3. Treasurer [Bob Collins]**

As BC's report (appended to these minutes) had been circulated to everyone previously, the meeting moved on to discuss its contents and BC's account summaries.

BC mentioned that there were several items that had arisen too late to be included in this year's accounts so would appear in next year's. These were :-

1. A £50 fee expected from Regency Chess for the inclusion of their advert on the LRCA website, for the next 2 years.
2. The outstanding debt(s) we have with Clandis Sports for the trophies they supplied in 2013, and (possibly) 2012. It seems fairly certain that these item(s) had not been brought to the attention of either BC or JTB (the previous Treasurer) and (surprisingly) not chased up by Clandis. So BC said that the LRCA will definitely need to meet the 2013 bill for £306 and may have a further similar bill for 2012 to pay - though this actually seems quite unlikely. BC reassured the meeting that the LRCA funds were sufficiently healthy to meet these outstanding payments.
3. As a result of the success of the County teams in the current season (as mentioned by GB) there are some outstanding expenses relating to the matches already played and the future Final Stages matches. BC was already aware of these, and together with JP, reassurance was given that all expenses can, and will be met.

In the absence of the Congress Committee Treasurer (Sean Hewitt) BC pointed out that the Congress accounts are administered totally separately, and a summary of these accounts were circulated by JTB (also appended to these minutes). They had also formed part of the audit performed by Martin Burrows (MB) – see below.

Acceptance of the accounts was then proposed by JTB and seconded by SC, and were duly passed unanimously.

Although MB, the Auditor, was not present at the meeting, BC was able confirm that MB had audited the accounts and was perfectly satisfied with them. As a result the meeting accepted this Audit Statement by proxy, without dissent.

## **4. Committee Chairman's Reports**

### **4.1 County Teams [Graham Booley]**

GB's 1<sup>st</sup> team, and JP's U160 reports (appended to these minutes) had been circulated to everyone previously, and this item was closed after some brief comments by both captains about their team's performances.

### **4.2 League Secretary's Report [Mike Salisbury]**

MWS's reports (appended to these minutes) had been circulated to everyone previously, and in his absence MAT agreed to field any questions.

The most controversial point was MWS's statement that league matches had been completed satisfactorily, whereas NB, JC and BS felt that this wasn't strictly true. It seems that there were some matches where the results were simply "agreed", and this could have meant that had these been played then the final divisional tables could have been importantly different. However there was agreement that this should be minuted as a point of dissatisfaction but then left to the LMC to reflect on as it sees fit.

Also there was some discussion about some matches where the players fielded were somewhat "unexpected", implying that clubs might have been acting in a possibly dubious fashion. MAT proposed that in the future where such situations seem to have arisen then the League Secretary should have the authority to interrogate the relevant clubs; and this proposal was passed nem con.

As MWS had also supplied a webmaster's report (appended), in his absence JTB read it out to the meeting.

### **4.3 Congress**

As the Congress report (appended to these minutes) had been circulated to everyone previously, AJM just commented on some of its main points; as follows :-

1. He emphasised the fact that it is important that we regard the event as belonging to the LRCA and that as many of our members as possible play in it. And he cited the Braunstone Club as an excellent example of the support he would like to see as typical.
2. As mentioned in the report, the 2014 Congress will be held at the end of November in the Regent College again.
3. In answer to a query from PJC, AJM said that he would be delighted to have a junior section of the Congress (on the Saturday, say) providing it can be adequately accommodated.

AJM then said that the Congress committee had decided that as their finances were particular healthy they would buy a trophy, plus some backdated engraving, to replace the one which was previously designated for Division 3, but which had gone missing. JP, with the tacit support of the meeting, thanked AJM for this generous gesture.

In his capacity as the County Championship administrator AJM mentioned about Wigston's clean sweep of the 2013 tournaments, and then exhorted those present to be active in trying to encourage more players to enter this summer event in future (2015....)

AJM then thanked those responsible (MWS and MF) for maintaining the websites - getting unanimous support for his praise about the high standard and usefulness of the sites. And he also mentioned in passing that he didn't feel that there was much reason to consider merging the two sites, as was suggested in MWS' Webmaster report.

### **4.4 Juniors [John Mitchell]**

As the Junior Chess report (appended to these minutes) had been circulated to everyone previously, JM, supported by PF and PJC just added some general comments, mainly just indicating how successful this year had been and with a very satisfying increase in the amount interest amongst the juniors.

Some discussion followed about how it was only a few clubs in particular who were facilitating the interest in junior chess; though, in their defence, although some clubs are supportive and grateful that it is happening, they simply don't have suitable premises for bringing juniors into their clubs. JTB did wonder whether these clubs might consider organising additional premises

to meet this specific purpose, but it was felt that this would, in general, be quite difficult to put into practice.

JM finished this agenda item by reporting that although the Minor League had attracted only 4 teams, it had provided a lot of enjoyment to those involved, and was certainly helping to retain their interest.

#### **4.5 Publicity Chairman Report [vacant]**

Despite the lack of a report, some discussion took place on our current situation regarding publicity. Firstly it was recognised that the level of interest by the newspapers in having a chess column had continually diminished over recent years, to the point where local papers are no longer prepared to provide any space for a column.

The question of using internet social media (e.g. Facebook and Twitter) to publicise chess in Leics was raised, but the need to find someone to administer these activities would probably make this an unlikely development.

### **5. Report of ECF Delegate**

In the absence of the ECF delegate (Sean Hewitt), GB mentioned that he understood that there had been some upheaval at the ECF resulting from a clash of views amongst the officials, and the President elected last year had resigned. As a result, there was some uncertainty regarding Sean's position, though JP mentioned that he has carried out his ECF Delegate's duties perfectly well this year, and has not given any indication of wishing to discontinue in this role.

Whilst discussing the ECF, JM took the opportunity to mention about the annual ECF Junior Tournament and how he'd been involved in trying to find a venue for the 2013 event. Ultimately he dropped out of these discussions, but he pointed out to our AGM that it could be very rewarding to us if we could find a venue in our area for this event, but the biggest hurdle is the need for it to be able to accommodate 400 players.

### **6. Report from MCCU Delegate**

The MCCU Delegate report was prepared by JP (appended to these minutes) and had been circulated to everyone previously. JP mentioned that as the MCCU AGM was only a couple of weeks after the LRCA AGM last year, it had been sensible for the 2012/3 delegates (Julie & Cyril Johnson) to make their final appearance at this AGM, rather than have the newly installed delegates attend. [P.S. by JTB : Maybe the LRCA Constitution should provide for the incumbent MCCU delegates to always complete their term in office at the next MCCU AGM]

The only information provided by JP in addition to that in his report (appended to these minutes), was that the MCCU was considering resurrecting its annual tournament in the forthcoming season; with Birmingham as the likely venue.

### **7. Report from Grading Officer [Stewart Gordon]**

In the absence of the Stewart, JTB read out his report (appended to these minutes), and then just responded to the meeting's view that Stewart's continued to perform his role in an entirely competent manner.

## **8. Election Of Officers**

JTB explained to the meeting that he had emailed all of the LRCA Officers requesting an indication by them if they were no longer prepared to remain in office, and (fortunately) there had been no negative responses.

With this information in mind NB proposed that the election of the officers should be made en bloc, and this motion was seconded by ??? and then passed unanimously by the meeting.

It was then pointed out that there was an error in the Officials List included in last year's minutes, as John Pattinson's name should have appeared as the County Teams Delegate instead of Pete Harrison & David Reynolds. JP also proposed that because of their organisation of the U100 and Junior county teams Paul Findley and Paul Colburn should automatically be included on the County Teams committee, and this was duly endorsed by the meeting.

With amendments made in accordance with the above points, this means that the elected officers for the coming year are as listed below.

<b>LRCA Policy Committee</b>		
Position	Appointed	Previous incumbent
Chairman	John Pattinson	John Pattinson
General Secretary	Jim Bingham	Jim Bingham
Treasurer	Bob Collins	Bob Collins
League Secretary	Mike Salisbury	Mike Salisbury
<b>LRCA Policy Committee (contd.)</b>		
Position	Appointed	Previous incumbent
<b><u>Committee Chairmen</u></b>		
Congress	Andy Morley	Andy Morley
League	Mike Thornton	Mike Thornton
County teams	Graham Booley	Graham Booley
Publicity	vacant	vacant
Junior Chess Directors :-		
- Clubs (& Chairman)	John Mitchell	John Mitchell
- Schools	Paul Findley	N/A
- County	Paul Colburn	N/A
<b>Delegates and other officers</b>		
MCCU delegates	Graham Booley; John Mitchell; Sean Hewitt ; John Pattinson	Julie Johnson, Cyril Johnson; Sean Hewitt
ECF delegate	Sean Hewitt	Sean Hewitt
<b><u>County Teams</u></b>		
Chairman	Graham Booley	Graham Booley
Delegates :-	John Pattinson Paul Findley Paul Colburn	John Pattinson
Grading Officer	Stewart Gordon	Stewart Gordon
Webmasters	Mike Salisbury - information content Mike Fraser - results	Mike Salisbury - information content Mike Fraser - results
Independent Auditor	Martin Burrows	Martin Burrows

## 9. Subscriptions for 2012-2013

In spite of the unpaid items that have recently come to light, BC continued to maintain his view that our current financial situation is healthy enough for his proposal regarding the subscription levels should remain unchanged (appended to these minutes). Subsequent to this AJM proposed that these subscription levels should be accepted; and following this being seconded by PF the proposal was passed unanimously.

## 10. Any Other Business

### 1. Updates to the Constitution : proposed by JTB.

In response to JTB's view that proposals for the AGM should effectively only be made by the Clubs and the Policy Committee – AJM pointed that this would too exclusive. JTB accepted this point, as he hadn't appreciated that that was why it was worded so. [P.S. by JTB – Maybe AJM's view is rather academic, as there is no mechanism for non-club players to join the Association anyway, is there? AGM notifications are actually already exclusive, being only sent the LRCA Officers and Club Secs.]

JTB's proposal for reducing the times that the clubs receive their notifications of the AGM was considered too restrictive; especially for those clubs who have their AGMs within this period. [P.S. by JTB – I suspect that there has been a continual failure to abide by the 2 months notification period for some time now; and no-one has raised any objections!]

It was ultimately agreed that if the Constitution is due for an overhaul, then the Policy Committee should take this action on board, and present their proposals to the 2015 AGM.

### 2. Ashby Club's suggestions for league rule changes (see Appendix)

After some discussion there was general agreement that difficulties can arise for away team players who are unfamiliar with the use of Fischer timing, when their home team opponents choose to use this option. The main area of confusion is apparently caused by the invisibility of the 10sec increments for each move; though the lack of familiarity with this timing is also a cause for concern. It was ultimately decided that the LMC should try to find an acceptable solution to this thorny issue, if possible.

On the question of trying to make better provisions for juniors playing in the adult events (e.g. the league), there was again the view that the LMC could consider this situation, and probably, at the very least, make some improvements to rules and their presentation in the Handbook.

### 2. Melton Club's proposal for the league time control rules. (see Appendix)

Melton's proposal initiated a repeat of the sort of debate on time controls which occurred at the 2013 AGM, so firstly MT summarised for us the outcome of that debate. He explained that despite the fact that a show of hands last year indicated that there was a consensus in favour of just having a single time control, later feedback from the clubs totally overturned this preference. Which is why the rules were left unchanged.

Since this issue is still very contentious BS ultimately proposed that the LMC should conduct a more thorough survey, possibly of all the LRCA players, to try to obtain a definitive conclusion. If this does take place then NB pointed out that it would highly desirable for any resulting rule changes to be known about before the clubs decide how many teams they intend to enter in the league.

Some salient points supporting the various views were :-

Single time controls would allow radical simplification of the rules. (TR)

Reducing the times to those suggested by Melton would probably lower the standard of the chess games played. (AJM)

Not using multiple time controls in league games would detrimentally impact on the LRCA players' skills when involved in games elsewhere (e.g. county matches and congresses). (JP)

During the discussions there appeared to be an agreement that there are inconsistencies in the Handbook which ought to be rectified.

Eventually this item became another issue from the AGM to be considered in detail by the LMC.

Pertinent to this point, JC wanted to know how LMC decisions were disseminated to all the players: the answer being, by the inclusion of all the minutes of meetings on the website.

A helpful offer that AJM made in this discussion relating to clocks, was that he would be perfectly willing to make a block order for clocks for clubs, in order to obtain a discount. [P.S. by JTB – presumably this needs the club secs to keep AJM informed about their likely clock requirements]

Having completed the fairly heated discussion about the time control rules BV then lightened the atmosphere somewhat by making a donation of boards and clocks, on behalf of the Wigston Club, to PF, the custodian of the kit for junior events. And naturally, these were gratefully received, and Paul also expressed his thanks to the representatives of Heathcote Arms and Latimer who had made donations of kit sometime previously.

AJM and JP then reminded the meeting that the Indian Summer Event was scheduled to be held on Saturday June 28th at the Curve Theatre.

#### 11. Date of Next Meeting

With BC and NB emphasising the advantage of setting a specific date for our next AGM, citing their experience of other organisations, it was decided to ensure against a clash with the May bank holiday and like this year, hold next year's AGM in the first week in June.

Consequently JTB decided to minute the fact that the initial AGM notification needs to be made at the end of March.

JP then declared the meeting closed at just before 10:15pm.

## COUNTY 1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM REPORT

For the first time in many years the midlands title was fought out as a proper open event, rather than an open & minor open, Nottinghamshire re-joined after a year's absence and with the big guns of Staffordshire & Warwickshire joining up I thought we would once again struggle to reach the national stages, however with the tournament split between East and West Midlands it meant we had to qualify from the East zone before worrying about the big teams from the West.

We started our campaign with a tentative 8.5-7.5 win against Derbyshire, with many regular players missing our weakened side ground out this very tough opening match.

This was followed by our first match against Nottinghamshire in over 10 years, once again hampered by several absentees including 3 of our top 6. We were not able to hold out this time and lost narrowly 7-9 to a strong Nott's side.

Next up was Lincolnshire, who have been our arch rivals and conquerors over recent years but with the return of many of top players we were able to secure a comfortable 10-6 win.

This secured us 2nd place in the East, which meant a semi-final match against the winners of the West zone, would this be against the might of Warwickshire or Staffordshire who regularly feature a number of players over 200 in their ranks?

No! Greater Manchester had managed to overcome both teams and top the West section.

So the usual argument about venues proceeded our match but I eventually managed to secure a decent venue in Checkley, much more neutral than Newcastle under Lyme.

Back to almost full strength for this match the 2 teams looked quite evenly matched on paper, but with Mark Hebden making his seasonal debut the team were inspired to a surprisingly comfortable win 10.5-5.5, we had 7.5 points before losing any boards (see LRCA website for full match report).

So we had reached our first Midlands open final in many years, would we have to face the might of Staffordshire? Surprisingly Nott's had managed to defeat a Staffordshire side with an average grade of 187 to ensure a rematch for the final.

Unfortunately without Mark to inspire us and a couple more top players missing we lost a very tense match by the narrowest of margins 8.5-7.5, the result being decided on the last board with only 3 minutes of the match left.

We missed out on the Midlands title but still had a national ¼ final to play against Sussex.

The match was arranged for a venue in Hertfordshire and a 1.00pm start, however the opposing captain had told his players 2.00pm, being very sporting we didn't start the clocks until 1.45pm,

This delay may have affected some of our players as we struggled impose ourselves on a team that we completely out graded on the bottom half of the team, but the top half of the team managed to see us home to a 8.5-7.5 victory, ( see website for full match report).

So this result takes us to the national semi-final and who awaits us on 7th June? Nottinghamshire Another epic battle to look forward to but hopefully a different result, the match takes place at Syston Social Club, 1.00pm Saturday 7th June.

Keep an eye on Website for result or come along and watch.

Quite an exciting season and I was pleased to welcome a couple of new faces to the team this season in Alan Agnew and Sven Reimaa.

My thanks to all the players, especially those who fill in as reserves and are an important part of the squad, thanks to all the drivers without we wouldn't get anywhere

And a final mention to some outstanding performances, excellent wins by Alan Agnew, Graham Sharpe, Ray Burgess & Sean Sheahan to see us through against Sussex and also to

Alan Agnew, Brian Galligan & Sean Sheahan who remain unbeaten for season, lets hope it stays that way

U160 County teams report by John Pattinson.

Our first year back in the Midlands U160 competition and we were rewarded with 3 away fixtures. But we had 3 very close hard fought games and finished with 2 wins against Warwickshire and Gtr Manchester and a draw against Notts. This was enough to win the Midlands title.

We entered the national stages and lost narrowly against Cambridgeshire in the quarter finals. It was an excellent first year back in the competition and every board in every match was a close contest. I'd like to thank all the players who played for the team over the year and the drivers who ferried the non drivers to the away venues.

## **Leicestershire and Rutland Chess Association League Report season 2013 – 2014**

The season has been a considerable success with all the fixtures in all 5 divisions being completed on time and with virtually no last minute defaults. There were 43 teams entered in the league, an increase of 2 from the previous year, and these were equally spread across 5 divisions.

This year there was not one occasion when a team defaulted, and there were only 16 boards defaulted across all 43 teams in 5 divisions – a remarkably low number compared to previous years. As usual there was the odd problem with the “barred players” rules and their interpretation. However with the barred players list now on the main lrca website and being regularly updated there were no disputes at all during the season.

Thanks must be paid to Michael Fraser for all his hard work in running the league results website - in terms of up to date results and information it is superb.

Congratulations to the divisional winners:

- Division 1 – Wigston 1
- Division 2 – Heathcote Arms 1
- Division 3 – Heathcote Arms 2
- Division 4 – Braunstone 3
- Division 5 – Braunstone 6

It is my intention to continue as league secretary for one more year before stepping down unless of course anyone wishes to take over immediately.

*Mike Salisbury  
League Secretary*

## **Webmaster report 2013-14**

The Irca website continues to be used for news, club directory, county championships, junior events and county teams and is regularly updated as information gets passed to me.

In particular there has been a significant increase in the amount of “Junior” news and information being submitted by those running and organising junior events both locally and nationally.

The county championship draw and results etc are also on the Irca website rather than being hosted by Sean’s e2e4 website.

There has been a steady stream of news over the year, thanks to all who have contributed, the news is updated when I can get information from clubs, etc

There is advertising from Regency Chess which will bring in £50 revenue this year

Ideally the site needs redesigning and combining with the results site.

*Mike Salisbury*  
*LRCA Webmaster*

## **Results Webmaster Report : Michael Fraser 30May2014**

The results site has worked well again this season. I have been a little slower responding to queries this year - due to lack of time. I apologise for any inconvenience this has caused.

I can think of two areas where the results process would work better.

- captains should ensure that new players are assigned a grade before a match is played. They should also ensure that the player is on the results website before hand. I appreciate that this may not always be possible due to last minute arrangements.

- please inform me of post-postponements and re-arranged fixtures asap. There is a tendency to only do this when the result submissions reminder starts sending emails.

Results appear on the website as soon as they are submitted by a captain. They are accurate and provide great information to club members.

If anyone has any ideas on how to improve the site then please let me know.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2013/2014**

The Financial Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014 (excluding the Congress Accounts, which are prepared by Sean Hewitt) are attached.

My comments on the Accounts are as follows:-

1. League fees were up on the previous year due to an increase in the number of entries.
2. ECF/MCCU fees expenditure was higher than last year due to a £50 fine by the ECF for the U-120 Counties team defaulting a match due to a lack of players.
3. Sponsorship monies of £250 were made by Biopolymer Solutions Limited in the 2012/13 accounts for the development of junior chess over future seasons, of which £125 was spent in the 2013/14 season.
4. The Charity Evening in September produced a bigger surplus which went to Loros, as in the previous season.
5. No website advertisement fee was received, as that paid in 2012 was for two years. It is hoped that the advertisement will be renewed this year.
6. The cost of engraving trophies has been included, although not yet reimbursed, with a provision made under Creditors.
7. The net result has been a small surplus of £12, much reduced from the surplus of £448 last year, which was largely the result of the sponsorship donation and website fee.
8. The Accounts (excluding the Congress Accounts) show a very healthy balance of £2,624.

Bob Collins

## **PROPOSED SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2014/2015**

In the light of the healthy financial situation, I propose that the fees should be kept unchanged, as follows:-

League - Top Divisions: 5 player teams: £14.00 per team  
League - Lower Divisions: 4 player teams: £11.20 per team  
Summer Cup Competitions: £6.00 per team

Bob Collins

## LRCA AGM June 4, 2014

### Report of the Congress Committee chairman Andy Morley.

The 2013 H.E. Atkins memorial tournament was held at the same venue as for the last 5 years, the Regent College, Regent Road. The date was changed from end September/early October to the last weekend in November. (Nov 29, 30, Dec 1). The reason for this was that I was concerned about the major building works taking place very close to the main playing hall. These were scheduled to finish in mid September and I was worried that if the work was not complete, the contractors would be required to work at weekends to finish it. These fears were well founded as the work was not fully complete by the end of November, although the major items had been done.

The number of entries was satisfactory, close to the usual numbers, with 98 entries (2012: 111; 2011: 102). Once again there were 3 sections to the tournament.

The breakdown of the entries was:

OPEN - (FIDE rated)	25
Major - (grade below 160)	29
Minor - (grade below 130)	44

The prize fund was £1,510 and a full list of the prize winners is attached to this report. The Open was won once again by Mark Hebden, and there was other local success too: Richard Hanscombe (Braunstone) was joint winner of the Major, with Jim Bingham (also Braunstone) winning a prize, and Stephen Hamby and Conor Reid (also both Braunstone!) won prizes in the Minor section. There were a total of 25 local players taking part. As I have mentioned in previous reports, it would be nice to see more players, especially those who don't usually play tournaments, taking the opportunity to play in an event which is local for them.

The event achieved a surplus of £445, which after deducting the cost of 16 digital clocks purchased for the County, (£720) left the total funds in the H.E. Atkins account as £1,553 – a very satisfactory reserve to support future tournaments, and other initiatives. The profit and loss account and the balance sheet appear elsewhere on the agenda for the AGM.

Sean Hewitt did his usual hard work behind the scenes in advance of the tournament taking entries, dealing with queries etc and was present at the event to do plenty of work there too. Thanks also to Dave Ricketts for helping to get the event set up on the Friday, and for being available to act as a “filler” (ie to provide an opponent for participants who would otherwise have a bye and not get a game). Several other players arrived early on Friday to help set things up, so thanks to them too. Ben Vaughan was also around for much of the weekend and he too acted as a filler, as well as helping with other aspects of the controlling.

The refreshments this year were a bit problematic, as the Chief Caterer in 2012 (my wife, Judy) was unavailable for most of the weekend. But tea, coffee, other drinks and some rolls and other snacks were available – often on a “self service” and honesty box basis - and this worked reasonably well.

The 2014 tournament will again be at the Regent College on the weekend of November 28, 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>. Save the date, and be there for an enjoyable weekend of chess.

PRIZE WINNERS 2013:

#### OPEN

Rank	Name	Location/Club	Score
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1st	<a href="#">GM Hebden, Mark L</a>	Leicester	4.5
2nd=	<a href="#">IM Vuilleumier, Alexandre</a>	Switzerland	4
2nd=	<a href="#">Prior, Stephen C V</a>	Lincolnshire	4
1st RP	<a href="#">Murphy, Hugh W</a>	Rushden	3.5
2nd RP	<a href="#">Homer, Neil S</a>	E2e4	2

#### MAJOR

Rank	Name	Flags	Score
1st=	<a href="#">Hanscombe, Richard</a>	Braunstone	4
1st=	<a href="#">Bennett, Rhys</a>	Newport	4
1st=	<a href="#">Lake, Andrew N</a>	Boldmere St Mic	4
U150	<a href="#">Bingham, James T</a>	Braunstone	3.5
U150	<a href="#">Connor, Michael I</a>	Great Lever	3.5
U150	<a href="#">Hartley, Dean M</a>	Amber Valley	3.5
U140	<a href="#">Ruffle, Alan P</a>	Swadlincote	3.5

#### MINOR

Rank	Name	Flags	Score
1st	<a href="#">Weller, Colin</a>	Scarborough	4.5
2nd=	<a href="#">Oliver, Peter JR</a>	Tamworth	4
2nd=	<a href="#">Solloway, Colin J</a>	Milton Keynes	4
2nd=	<a href="#">Reid, Conor JP</a>	Braunstone	4
2nd=	<a href="#">Hamby, Stephen</a>	Braunstone	4
U121	<a href="#">Wheatley, David</a>	Broadstairs	3
U121	<a href="#">Fraser, Chris A</a>	West Bridgford	3
U106	<a href="#">Abrahart, R (Bob)</a>	West Bridgford	3
U106	<a href="#">Miller, Max C</a>	Chesspoint	3

## Junior Chess Report June 2014

Leicestershire Junior Chess continues to thrive with significant progress in three areas.

### *County Chess*

Leicestershire Junior teams were entered into the ECF U13 (Minor Section) Jamboree which took place near Watford on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June. This was our first adventure in such a junior county competition for a number of years. The A team finished in 7<sup>th</sup> position above teams who have regularly played in this competition and have done well in the past. We were in fact only 2 points off second place. Our B team managed not to finish bottom and did secure as many wins as Oxfordshire. Special Mention must go to Daniel Hill who won all three of his matches for the A team.

We ran an u100 County team to give opportunities for the juniors to get some experience of playing for the county side. We finished third (out of four) in the group stages with a win, draw & a defeat. We managed to give games to 16 different juniors over the 3 matches. Our first match was a bit of a shock to the system with a 12-0 loss to Nottinghamshire. After that match we decided to blend some experienced adults with the juniors and it paid dividends with a 7-5 win over Warwickshire. Our final match was at Staffordshire and although we lost the match 4.5 – 7.5, as they fielded an illegible player after penalties the score was a 5.5 – 5.5 draw. Overall it was a very positive experience and all of the juniors acquitted themselves very well. Special mention must go to Drew Harbidge who was the only junior to win all of his matches.

### *Chess in Schools*

This academic year has seen an increase in the amount of Leicestershire schools playing chess. Not only through the efforts of Paul Findley but also other individuals making themselves known who help to run chess clubs within our county schools. Added to this the Saturday training squad has seen its numbers double to an average of 40 children attending throughout the 2 sessions offered on each Saturday. .

The increase in standards at school level can be seen through the recent performance in the Rockingham Megafinal of the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge. On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May over 50 Leicestershire junior chess players with ages ranging from 7 to 17 travelled to Northamptonshire to compete against their peers from Buckinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Rutland and Warwickshire in a 6 round Swiss competition, 20 minutes on each clock, with the objective of qualifying for the National finals. To do this a score of 4 out of 6 is required. The top scoring girl and boy in each age category (7-18) would be awarded a trophy and crowned "Suprema" and "Supremo". This year there will be more Leicestershire junior chess players going to the national finals than ever before. Out of the potential 24 trophies and titles of Suprema and Supremo, Leicestershire junior chess players took no less than 13. Onwards to the national finals in July.

### *Minor League*

For the first time a Minor League was run to compete for the George Winterton cup. The grading limit to play in this competition was 90 so it was an opportunity to attract players of all ages to league chess including parents of juniors. Two games were played in an evening under rapid play rules. There were four teams that took part this season: Loughborough, Red Admiral and two teams from Braunstone. It was good to get so many different juniors playing competitive matches and there were some very interesting and close matches. The juniors will have learnt and enjoyed the experience. Overall the league was won by the Braunstone Bears team. It is hoped that we will be able to attract some more teams to compete next season as it remains a challenge to convert our success at junior level to increased activity in the clubs.

Talented youngsters are beginning to filter through to the clubs who have a structure in place to cater for them but crucially a club needs to be able to have member(s) prepared to assist and coach during this transition from junior to club chess.

Finally it is appropriate to thank all the parents and volunteers who gave up their time to make this a successful junior chess year.

Paul Colburn (County Chess), Paul Findley (Chess in Schools), John Mitchell

## **MCCU Delegate report.**

Unfortunately there has not been a meeting since we were elected but the next AGM is 14<sup>th</sup> June at Syston. The county competition merged the major and minor sections this year which gave more regional games. There is a petition to restart an MCCU congress.

## **LRCA AGM June 4, 2014**

### **Report of the Grading Officer : Stewart Gordon.**

All results from the main Leicestershire League have been submitted. I am currently in the process of dealing with the Minor League results, and this has been a challenge partly because of the number of new players, mostly juniors, that this competition has attracted.

I have realised that I think I may be missing some dates of birth of junior players - this is something that I will need to give to the ECF. I would therefore like to ask all clubs to give me the DOBs of all their junior members who have played in the League, Minor League, Summer Cups or any other gradable events over the last year, or expect to in the near future. This would be anybody born on or after 1 September 1995.

Other than that, the grading season has progressed without any significant problems.

Some Suggestions From Richard Vann (Ashby Ivanhoe Chess Club Secretary)

Re the Agenda, my suggestion is that the use of Fischer clocks be declared before the start of the season. Because they are used in all serious competitions nowadays, I cannot see any fundamental objection by LRCA players.

But for those who have not used Fischer clocks, and who do not play on the internet, the Fischer clock can be hard to understand. So before start of play the club using the clock should allow 10 minutes to explain and demonstrate ( eg in a 5 minute + 10 seconds (Fischer) game ) exactly how the clock works on this time control.

Note that Rule 5 on page 10 needs to be changed, because the home team can at present insist on Fischer Clocks.

Could you also put **Juniors** on the agenda. Some clubs have juniors and some of them are strong enough to play in the normal teams. My concern is that they be accommodated if possible. I acknowledge there is already some mention of Juniors in the Rules, eg rule 10.

It may be helpful if the **Junior Option is put under a separate Rule** heading so that clubs can be clear about this. At present there is the Junior Option of a 2 hour game, but it's not clear to me how this should actually work. Is this a 30 move game, or a Fischer clock game, or can the teams agree the time limits?

Note it may suit Ashby if all junior matches or Junior Option matches were played at the same venue, eg Braunstone.

Could you also put the need to attract under 40 year olds on the agenda, because it seems there are more over 60s than under 60s playing!

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Melton Chess Club would like to propose changes to the time control rules used within LRCA leagues. If this proposal is not appropriate to the AGM may it please be considered a matter for the League Management Committee, if so we would be grateful if you would forward it for their consideration prior to the start of the 2014-15 season.

We believe that the current rules are unnecessarily complicated and rather outdated. We propose:

*There are 3 time controls available - "Fischer", "Long" and "Short". Captains can mutually agree to use any of these but if there is no agreement, the "Short" option is the default.*

In this context we would recommend that:

"Long" = 90 mins each for all moves (with no intermediate time control).

"Short" = 75 mins each (also, without intermediate time control). We have no firm opinion on the best "Fischer" option.

This would extremely simplify the rules:

- 1) No need to include a large number of exceptions for travelling times (debatable to say the least).
- 2) No need to reference different divisions.
- 3) No need to reference to vacate premises early.
- 4) No need to reference Junior involvement.
- 5) No need to reference the availability of digital clocks.
- 6) Analogue clocks would no longer be required to be reset.
- 7) The standard of play may well be improved by the absence of a punitive first time control.
- 8) Finally the extra 10 mins that could be saved using the "Short" option may well be appreciated by many teams with longer distances to travel.

We would also recommend that each clubs starting times are rigorously adhered to:

*Each club should specify a specific start time for their home matches and that clocks are started at that time – the home team to forfeit time if they are not present to do this.*

This could greatly reduce the present malaise of clubs (including ourselves) of not starting on time.

There could be a caveat whereby if the travelling team are going to be late due to traffic / weather and notify the home team prior to the agreed start time, that the time is delayed by up to 15 mins (if the home club can accommodate this time extension – should not be an issue when using the new 'short' time option).

Proposed on behalf of Melton Chess Club by Tom Reynolds and seconded by Bob Wallace.

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