Hamilton Chess Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 19th September 2013 at 7.00pm in Bothwell Bowling Club.

**1.** Members in attendance and Apologies received were as per attached Attendance Sheet.

**2.** Rod Tweedie, club president in the chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief overview of the Agenda. He advised that the minutes of the previous AGM were circulated prior to the meeting by e-mail and asked if all present had received a copy and that all present had read the minutes. He then asked that they be proposed and adopted as being an accurate summary of the events of the previous year’s AGM and this was proposed and seconded by the members present who had been in attendance at the 2012 AGM and the meeting voted for their acceptance and adoption.

**3.** Rod Tweedie, club president then delivered his president’s remarks and a written copy of his remarks is attached. He specifically highlighted that a new constitution was being prepared to meet the requirements of National lottery grant compliance and reporting requirements and that a proposed draft constitution had been circulated by e-mail along with a copy of the current constitution in advance of the AGM along with an invitation to members to submit any changes / amendments they considered relevant. He also referred to the intention that we place all pertinent documents from the AGM and other club meetings on the Hamilton Chess Club’s new website constructed by Arthur Mulholland at ChessHamilton.com.

**4.** Club treasurer, Tom Donohue distributed the statement of accounts which showed a bank balance of £382.49 and following a number of questions from the members which Tom responded to providing clarification, these were proposed for adoption by Bernard Airlie, seconded by Arthur Mulholland and adopted by the membership in attendance. Bernard Airlie proposed that we should seek to hold a prudent reserve in our account to cover unforeseen eventualities and this met with general approval and it was agreed that the executive should agree the appropriate reserve amount. Tom also distributed a proposed budget showing a number of options for fees for discussion after election of the office bearers.

**5.** Club Secretary Mike Hanley advised he would give a verbal report and stated that it had been a mixed year for the club varying between successful and disastrous. He advised that the club’s success in winning the Glasgow League Div. 1 title, the Team Lightning and that Hamilton ‘B’ were winners of the Campbell Rosebowl. He noted that we had been unsuccessful in the SNCL and in the Richardson Cup Hamilton had been treated unfairly by the Home Director of Chess Scotland who had intervened in our match against Wandering Dragons resulting in our match being played under different rules from the other teams in the tournament.

Mike was also highly critical of a number of the elected office bearers of Chess Scotland over an incident that occurred on an overseas trip involving the Chess Scotland Delegation leader and Hamilton junior member Andrew McCusker where Andrew was manhandled by the Delegation leader. Mike was equally critical of how the subsequent complaint by Linda McCusker, Andrew’s mother to Chess Scotland had been addressed and their treatment of her by a number of their elected officials. The upshot of this was that Andrew McCusker no longer played chess and it was unlikely that his mother would wish him to resume playing.

The chair had occasion to ask Mike to avoid using confrontational or unacceptable language in his verbal report or his report would be disallowed and while recognising that emotions and feeling ran high over this incident that sweeping generalisations were not acceptable nor wanted and that Mike should be specific in his comments.

Mike then advised he was disappointed in the low number of membership forms returned by club members and highlighted that these were needed to allow team selections, number of team entries by the club in various leagues, tournaments etc. and also to assist the treasurer in his budget forecasts.

The Club Championship tournament format tried this year had been ‘hit and a miss’ with varying numbers of games played by different players ranging from zero to four, but it was hoped that setting specific dates aside for the tournament would improve its outcomes.

Mike also wished to record his thanks to Arthur and David in their work in setting up the club website and Arthur confirmed the address as **ChessHamilton.com** and stated that he was working to bring it up to date and highlighted that a new website was set up specifically for juniors at **hamiltonjuniorchessclub.co.uk** and the two sites would be hyperlinked.

The chair asked Mike if he could report on the development project funded under the Big Lottery Grant and after a brief discussion Mike agreed to forward to him a copy of the written report submitted to the Big Lottery and that following scrutiny to ensure nothing of a confidential nature was incorporated that the report would be posted on the club website to allow all members to fully understand and appreciate what the project was about and why we were proposing changes to the constitution to enable future grant applications to be sought.

Mike also advised that as a legacy of the development project we had a small library of DVD’s and books which members could avail themselves of to assist in personal palying development and that a list of these were on an excel spreadsheet and this would be posted on the website.

**6.** **Election of office bearers**

The chair advised the meeting that under the existing constitution that only the president, club secretary, treasurer, junior representatives and a minute’s secretary were detailed – no mention was made of club captain nor coach. It was therefore not competent to fill the latter two posts until discussion of the proposed draft constitution had taken place later in the meeting. Therefore the following office bearers were appointed:

President: Rod Tweedie re-elected unopposed and unanimously

Club Secretary: Mike Hanley re-elected unopposed and unanimously

Treasurer: Tom Donohue re-elected unopposed and unanimously

Junior Representatives: Stuart Wynne and Fraser Kennedy re-elected unanimously

Minute Secretary: Arthur Mulholland proposed RT seconded MH elected unanimously

All of the above appointees were nominated and seconded by bona fide club members and in the case of the junior representatives posts were proposed and seconded by other junior members.

**7.** Membership Fees

Fees for the forthcoming year were discussed and Tom Donohue’s projections were of considerable assistance in allowing an informed discussion to take place. Tom responded to queries from the floor that his projections were based upon projected membership and that obviously this could vary, but that was true of almost all budget projections. Arthur Mulholland sought clarification on where SNCL income was shown and Tom confirmed it was incorporated in the membership fees income. It was also agreed that projection 1 would be planning for a significant loss on the year and that this was contrary to the earlier proposal by Bernard Airle of maintain a prudent reserve. After a vote the meeting by a significant majority agreed to adopt projection B, (a copy of the projections is attached) the result of which the following fees were agreed:

Family membership £90

Full Membership £70

Concessionary members: £40

A surcharge of £20 will apply for participation in the SNCL.

**8. Proposed Change to Club Constitution**

RT distributed copies of the previously circulated draft constitution to the meeting and gave a brief background to the reasons for a new constitution being required. He focussed upon the eligibility requirements of external grant funding bodies and the related reporting requirements as well as transparency and probity being clearly demonstrated.

RT went through the eleven sections of the draft constitution briefly giving a rationale for the inclusion of each subsection and clarifying any query raised and it was unanimously agreed by all members present that with the following revisions incorporated the new constitution would take effect immediately. Mike Hanley agreed that he would call in to RT’s home tomorrow to sign copies of the new constitution which would then be scanned and placed upon the club website.

Revisions agreed:

1) Phil Thomas proposed that Section 7 subsection a) sentence two be amended from ***Fourteen days*** to read ***A minimum of fourteen days***

2) Tom Donohue proposed that Section 9 subsection b) be amended from ***December to December*** to read ***1 May to 30 April***

RT thanked all present and advised he considered that the new constitution gave us some important structures and safeguards to all members

**9. Submitted Proposals**

MH confirmed that despite an invitation having been sent out to all members by e-mail that no competent written proposals had been received prior to the meeting

**10. AOCB**

**a)** MH proposed that we try out a new event on club nights based upon the successful Allscot Trophy tournament run by Giffnock Chess Club. This operates along the lines of any club member without a league match can turn up on the night and add his name to the tournament list for that evening. Fifteen minutes after the start of any league matches, the event controller will pair those names on the list seeking to give a reasonably balanced match (grading wise) to all of the participants and a graded match will then ensue. The event controller will use pairing cards to try to ensure that duplication is avoided and fair colour distribution achieved. After a brief discussion the meeting agreed that we should try this event for the forthcoming year.

**b)** The chair asked junior representative Stuart Wynne to address the meeting and explain the reasons behind his not participating in the Glorney Cup during the summer. Stuart advised that he had not done so as he had been selected for and represented South Lanarkshire in the sport of volleyball at the International Children’s Games held in Canada during the summer. The chair asked the meeting to join him in congratulating Stuart on his achievement which was duly done with a round of applause.

**c.** Further to Agenda Items 6. Election of office bearers and 8. Proposed Change to Club Constitution which resulted in the adoption of the new constitution the additional office bearer posts of Club Coach and Club Captain have to be agreed:

Club Coach: Pat Coffey re-elected unopposed and unanimously

Club Captain: Chris Tweedie re-elected unopposed and unanimously

the above appointees were nominated and seconded by bona fide club members

There being no other business, the chair thanked all those in attendance for their contribution and the meeting closed at 20.50