



## **YCA AGM 29/06/2024**

**14:10**

**Sheffield Chess Centre, Coleford Rd, Darnall, Sheffield, S9 5NF**

**Present:** Jonathan Arnott (Sheffield), Geoff Brown (Sheffield), Jim Burnett (Sheffield CA), Stephen Burton (West Leeds), Peter Catt (Doncaster), Dale Cullum (Rose Forgrove), Jon Griffith (York), Mike Handley (Sheffield), Bernie Hare (Leeds), John Hipshon (Alwoodley), Rupert Jones (Leeds), Steve Mann (Doncaster), Peter Shaw (Wakefield), Jacob Smith (Ilkley Chess Centre), Andrew Wainwright (Ilkley Chess Centre), Charlie Wainwright (Ilkley Chess Centre), Douglas Vleeshouwer (Hull & East Riding), Simon Watson (Bradford), Steve Westmoreland (Holmfirth).

**Total:** 19

### **1. Apologies**

Peter Ackley, Phil Beckett, Clive Davies, Robert Dennington, Randy Donoghue, Paul Johnson, Chris Matthews, David Mills, Rob Mitchell, David Pedro, Ben Rich, Andrew Zigmond

### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Three changes raised for attendee list, one name and two clubs were incorrect.

### **3. Matters arising from the minutes**

None.

### **4. Officials Report**

a) President – Andrew Wainwright reiterated some of the points raised in his report, which was circulated ahead of the meeting. See Annex A.

b) Secretary – No report.

c) Treasurer – Stephen Burton noted that the accounts have been circulated among the YCA. See Annex B. Stephen also noted that, if elected again, 2024 – 2025 would be his final year as Treasurer. A role he has done for 32 years.

Jim Burnett asked about the money spent on trophies. The Committee explained this decision was because the trophies were aimed for junior events

where players are motivated by trophies. These are not annual expenses because the trophies will last decades.

Andrew Wainwright thanked Stephen for his long service as Treasurer and for giving a year's notice. If anybody is interested in being the Treasurer, they should let the Committee know because there is a year to work with them and allow a structured handover from Stephen Burton.

Douglas Vleeshouwer said he would speak to Joe Varley about his Yorkshire Champions prize money.

d) Competitions Controller – Andrew Zigmund was not able to attend the AGM due to work commitments. A report had been circulated in advance of the AGM. See Annex C.

e) Controller for Correspondence Chess – Phil Beckett sent his apologies. He had circulated a report advance of the meeting. See Annex D.

f) County Match Captains – The following reports were given for the following country teams:

Open: Captain Randy Donaghue sent his apologies; however, Rupert Jones noted that Randy had done a good job and that there were challenges in getting a full team. The Open was knocked out by Surrey on 8 June. The Committee expressed its thanks to Randy for being captain.

U2050: Captain Andrew Wainwright noted that this year was a lot harder to get players out. There were no players from York, Hull or Sheffield in the Cleveland match, and if not for Harrogate turning out in numbers for that match the U2050 team would not have been able to play against Cleveland.

U1850: Captain Rupert Jones reported that U1850s were knocked out in the semifinals and played six games, winning four and losing to Greater Manchester and then Herefordshire. Team selection was smooth with lots of availability.

U1650: Captain Jacob Smith reported that the U1650 team won last season and they perform well again this year, playing in the final against Greater Manchester on 6 July. Jacob also noted the importance of junior players in the U1650 team.

U1450: Captain Steve Westmoreland reported that the U1450 team had nine juniors in their last match. Those juniors are increasingly getting stronger too.

g) NCCU Delegates – The YCA have two delegates. John Holliday resigned part way through the year, making Rupert Jones the sole delegate. Rupert reported that is has been very quiet and that he is currently acting Secretary. There is a meeting on 20 July. Andy Wainwright further added that the YCA re-nominated Tim Wall as President.

h) ECF Delegates – Andrew Wainwright apologised for not attending the relevant ECF meeting in April 2024 because it clashed with a YCA event. There

were some important things, membership in particular, ECF memberships going forward. This is on ECF website.

Andrew Wainwright noted that leagues, competitions and congresses can get a vote at ECF meetings if they apply and that the Committee encourages YCA members to do so.

i) Website Controller – Andrew Wainwright reported that he is still running the yorkshirechess.com website as a basic shop front window for the Association.

There was some discussion about the information currently on this website. The action points from this were:

- If required, to make the links to the ECF League Management System (LMS) clearer, potentially including a new section, especially with consideration for new players.
- To make sure that the venues of all participating clubs have relevant information available and if provided by clubs also include relevant travel information, such as parking. This will either be put on the website or this information will be up to date and included in the circulation that Andrew Zigmond, the Competition's Controller, distributes.
- It was noted that venue addresses and information can also be shared on LMS and Andrew Wainwright will speak to Andrew Zigmond about this.

j) Secretary for Junior Chess – John Hipshon circulated a report ahead of the meeting. See Annex E.

## **5. Presentation of Trophies**

a) Woodhouse Cup: Hull and East Riding A, accepted by Douglas Vleeshouwer.

b) IM Brown Shield: Rose Forgrove A, accepted by Dale Cullum.

c) Silver Rook: Doncaster, the trophy was not available to be accepted. York D won the trophy last year. The Committee will follow this up and aim to present it at the British Chess Championships.

d) Hardcastle Shield: Stephen Greep, accepted by Douglas Vleeshouwer on behalf of Stephen.

e) Individual Champions: Joe Varley, who had already been given the trophy.

Further to the usual trophy presentation, the following additional trophies were awarded:

f) NCCU trophy 1450, accepted by Steve Westmoreland.

g) Pennine Cup, NCCU u18s Championship, accepted by John Hipshon.

h) West Yorkshire secondary school tournament trophy to be awarded to the Grammar School at Leeds.

i) YCA u18s Division 1: Hull and East Riding A, accepted by Douglas Vleeshhouwer.

j) YCA u18s Division 2: Sheffield B, accepted by Jonathan Arnott.

In addition to the trophies being presented:

- It was agreed to continue placing shields on the back of bigger trophies when space was no longer available on the front, such as the IM Brown.
- Douglas Vleeshhouwer agreed to have the Woodhouse Cup valued following a request from Rupert Jones.

## 6. Fees and Subscriptions

At the previous AGM there were plans to revise fees and subscriptions; however, because this would likely be Stephen Burton's last year as Treasurer, it was decided to wait until the next AGM.

There are no changes proposed for this year.

## 7. Format of the Yorkshire League

YCA u18s League - The U18s had been discussed in a juniors meeting before the AGM. This will hopefully expand to three divisions next season.

YCA League - It was proposed that this year there would be four divisions, as proposed in Andrew Zigmond's Competition Controller Report (Annex C), with a team distribution of 10/10/8/8. The league would run as previous years. This was agreed.

## 8. Proposed Amendments

Proposed changes were distributed among the YCA on 24 June. It was accepted that changes to include reference to the A.G. Sunderland, the fourth division of the expanded Yorkshire league, and number changes were non-contentious and agreed.

There was concern among a number of attendees that not enough notice had been given on the proposed rule changes to consider them. Some members had noted that this was not constitutional; however the constitution on rule changes states:

**12** No alteration or amendment shall be made to this Constitution or the YCA League Rules save at an A.G.M and only then provided:

- a)** that notice has been given in writing to the Hon. Secretary not later than April 30th preceding the AGM and
- b)** each proposal is seconded by another person;
- c)** that not less than two thirds of those present and voting are in favour of the alteration for a constitutional amendment, or a simple majority of those present and voting for changes to the YCA League Rules.

It was accepted that rule changes should be moved to the next AGM when there could be more time for them to be considered among clubs. However, because the proposed changes on the rule about mobile phones had been received by the

Secretary from Stephen Westmoreland before the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, and because of events in the Yorkshire League this season, it was agreed that there should be a decision on this.

The proposal was to remove the following YCA League rule:

A30 Mobile phones and other electronic devices should be switched off prior to the start of the match. If such a device makes a sound while the match is in play the player concerned shall be warned. If the device then sounds for a second time the game will be forfeited. Dispensation from this rule can be agreed by the controller or by mutual agreement between the captains prior to the start of the match. The controller reserves the right to apply a more severe penalty for gross breaches of this rule.

Removing this rule would mean that the YCA operates on the same rules as FIDE:

If a player's mobile phone or such device produces a sound, the player shall lose the game. The opponent shall win. However, if the opponent cannot win the game by any series of legal moves, his score shall be a draw.

***NOTE:*** *It was not proposed to implement the FIDE rule that no mobile phone or other electronic device be allowed in the playing venue. Douglas Vleeshouwer advising that several eminent congresses allow this if the phone is left face down on the playing table.*

There was some debate on this and a vote was held. The proposed rule was passed on a simple majority as per the YCA constitution: 9 votes in favour, 7 against and 3 abstains.

c) that not less than two thirds of those present and voting are in favour of the alteration for a constitutional amendment, or a simple majority of those present and voting for changes to the YCA League Rules.

## **9. Congress to host Yorkshire Champion**

It was proposed to host 2024 at the Sheffield Congress, and then because the Yorkshire FIDE events will be running over 2024 – 2025 to host 2025 in Harrogate. This would mean two payments this year. This was approved by the YCA.

## **10. Election of Officers**

a) President: Andrew Wainwright – passed without objection (PWO).

Andrew Wainwright raised a point of note, that there had been some negative comments in the week leading up to the AGM among a small group of people, but that his priority has always been grassroots and junior development, as detailed in the minutes of the AGM where he was originally elected to serve (2023). Second hand comments and conjecture on websites had been upsetting to several committee members, and this does nothing to help promote and grow Chess in Yorkshire. Andrew is available for contact and urged all

parties to get in touch with him to discuss any concerns and ideas in further detail. He will happily stand down in the future if a better candidate can be fielded. He thanked the Committee for their support.

b) Deputy President: Jonathan Arnott – PWO.

Steve Westmoreland stepped down because of ill health. Andrew Wainwright thanked him for his support and service over the past couple of years.

c) Secretary: Dale Cullum – PWO.

d) Minutes Secretary: Dale Cullum – PWO. (Action meeting, it was noted that this role should be abolished and merged next AGM)

e) Treasurer: Stephen Burton – PWO.

f) Competitions controller: Andrew Zigmond – PWO.

g) Correspondence Chess Controller: Phil Beckett – PWO.

h) Secretary for Junior Chess: John Hipshon – PWO.

## 11. Election of County Captains

a) Open: Randy Donaghue – PWO.

b) Under 2050: Andrew Wainwright – PWO.

Andrew Wainwright noted that this will be his last year as Captain and that he will only be doing the administration, with Mike Bramson functioning as captain.

It was raised that vacant, or soon to be vacant YCA positions, should be advertised on the YCA website. This was agreed.

c) Under 1850: Rupert Jones – PWO.

Rupert also noted that this would be his final year as captain. It was proposed that he should work with Jacob Smith, who has been a successful captain of the U1650s, because his rating has gone up above 1650.

d) Under 1650: Vacant, no volunteers. Interested YCA members are encouraged to speak to the YCA committee about this role.

e) Under 1450: Andrew Wainwright – PWO.

## 12. Other Appointments

a) Delegates to NCCU (2): Rupert Jones and Stephen Mann – PWO.

b) Delegate to ECF: Stephen Westmoreland – PWO.

c) Website manager: Andrew Wainwright – PWO.

d) Auditor: Simon Watson – PWO.

e) Honorary life members: no nominations this year.

Andrew Wainwright has done some on the work on the list of life members to include on the website. He will work with Stephen Mann further on this.

### 13. Any Other Business

The following other items were raised:

- Andrew Wainwright informed the YCA that the ECF have been granted £140k from the government. £50k of this will stay in a central pot for national work. The remaining £90k will be divided among nine regions, including Yorkshire and Humberside who will received £10k. The ECF has approached Andrew Wainwright about this, asking him to act as a regional co-ordinator for this funding. Andrew has formed a sub-committee, representing the four constituent parts of the territory: Ben Rich, Jon Arnott, John Hipshon and Chris Matthews. The purpose of this sub-committee is to look at all applications made to the ECF to access this money and make proposals to the ECF on prioritisation and appropriateness. There will be a form on ECF website soon. This money will be for grassroot work, not elite chess. This money needs to be spent within two years.
- Stephen Burton/Brent Kitson will no longer be able to run the Yorkshire Rapidplay and have asked that the organisation of this pass to Andrew Wainwright, to be run through The Chess Centre.
- The next YCA AGM will aim to take place in Hull & East Riding in June 2025.

Meeting closed.

16:37

## Annex A – President's Report

Dear Yorkshire Chess Clubs, Members, Players and Supporters,

The 2023/2024 season has been a great year for Chess in Yorkshire, with a broad range of great competitions and fantastic Chess games being played the length and breadth of our great White Rose County. My thanks on behalf of the YCA, and the wider Yorkshire Chess community, to the army of organisers, volunteers, captains, coaches, teachers, arbiters, parents and other supporters who are helping to support and grow the game of Chess in Yorkshire. Without your tireless, and often overlooked, efforts we would not be in the fantastic position that we find ourselves in today.

My particular highlights over the last 12 months include:

- **Yorkshire u18s League:** In its second year of competition the u18s league has extended to 20 teams, and two full divisions. Our junior development programme is thriving in all corners of the county and we anticipate further growth in the years to come.
- **New Teams and Clubs:** New entrants to the league in the 2023/2024 season included Saltaire, Leeds B, Meltham and the return of Doncaster. It is great to see so many faces, both new and old, playing in our league this year and we hope that all enjoyed a competitive and enjoyable season. We anticipate further growth next year and hopefully the return to 4 Divisions in the YCA league.
- **New tournaments:** Our tournament scene continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs of a growing number of competitive players in the county. New tournaments this year included the Sheffield Congress, the Yorkshire Rapidplay, the British Teams Championship in Hull and the West Yorkshire Secondary Schools tournament. We are also delighted to see new events scheduled in the coming months such as the 1st Yorkshire Blitz in Bradford, and the 1st Yorkshire FIDE congress in Harrogate. Coupled with the work being done in dedicated Chess Centres such as Ilkley and Sheffield, we are very much ahead of the curve in Yorkshire in the development of our Chess activities.
- **National Events:** Much praise and recognition should be given to the amazing team in Hull and East Riding who continue to set the bar high in terms of both their grass roots development and their excellent tournaments. They have been successful in attracting both the British Championship and the Glorney Cup to Hull in summer 2024, and amazing achievement for both Hull and Yorkshire! We hope that the British will be well attended by players from across Yorkshire.
- **International Events:** In addition to the aforementioned Glorney Cup, we will also be hosting another junior international event in Yorkshire in March 2025, when Ben Rich and the team in York will be hosting the International European Chess Mates tournament. Again, we wish them well for this prestigious event and hope that the Yorkshire Chess community will support their endeavours and associated events running alongside the main competition.
- **Counties Chess:** Our counties teams continue to compete well at both NCCU and National stages. Our u1650s (reigning national champions) will defend their title



in the Finals of the Counties Championship at the start of July. Good luck to captain Jacob Smith and his excellent squad for this match. Additionally, our u18s were winners of this year's Pennine Cup and Yorkshire will now host this NCCU event in 2024/2025.

Enjoy the summer all, and we will see you in September for the start of another great year of competition!

Andrew Wainwright

President

YCA

## Annex B – YCA Accounts 1.6.2023 - 31.5.2024

	<u>2023/2024</u>	<u>2022/2023</u>
<b>Opening Balance:</b>	£4,187.50	£3,996.39
 <b><u>Revenue</u></b>		
<b>Club Fees:</b>	£1,341.00	£1,345.00
<b>County Chess:</b>	£491.00	£16.94
<b>U18s League:</b>	£400.00	£0.00
<b>Bank Credit:</b>	£6.00	£0.00
 <b><i>Total Revenue:</i></b>	 <b>£2,238.00</b>	 <b>£1,361.94</b>
 <b><u>Overheads</u></b>		
<b>Counties Chess:</b>	£342.50	£306.13
<b>ECF Fees:</b>	£152.00	£90.00
<b>NCCU Fees:</b>	£185.25	£167.25
<b>Trophies:</b>	£942.09	£442.15
<b>Website &amp; Emails:</b>	£143.86	£165.30
<b>AGM:</b>	£90.00	£0.00
<b>Bank Costs:</b>	£17.00	£0.00
 <b><i>Total Overheads:</i></b>	 <b>£1,872.70</b>	 <b>£1,170.83</b>
 <b><i>Closing Balance:</i></b>	 <b>£4,552.80</b>	 <b>£4,187.50</b>

### **Notes:**

- £50.00 owed to Joe Varley – Yorkshire Champion – bank details/email needed.

## **Annex C – Competition Controller’s Report**

This going to be an unusually lengthy report but it has been a very eventful season. Before I begin I would like to make clear that any views expressed are entirely my own and should not be seen as representative of the YCA as a whole.

The season arguably began at the 2023 AGM when I was quite surprised and humbled to receive the Hardcastle Shield for services to Yorkshire Chess. This is one of the greatest honours of my life and made me more determined to repay the trust the YCA have placed in me. I suspect there are some who will feel that this season I have fallen short of that.

There were challenges early on when the AGM voted to impose an experimental structure on the third division which created numerous logistical problems, not helped by a decision to admit an extra team, leading to a lopsided structure. Because this proposal came from the floor it was not possible to discuss the format in detail. With further new entries for 2024-25 it is now possible to revert fully to four divisions for the first time since 2003.

At this point I should note something I have mentioned many times before. The biggest challenge I have when doing the fixtures is trying to accommodate the venue requirements of different clubs – some clubs want their teams always drawn at home together, others need them drawn alternately home and away. This is achieved, at least in the top two divisions, by arranging for A and B teams to occupy the same position in the Berger table or in positions that will have them split on most weekends.

It is important that the following points are understood

- A) This is harder to do now that there are only 10 teams in each divisions, rather than 12 as it was pre Covid.
- B) The more the format is tampered with the harder it becomes.
- C) If you think it’s easy I challenge you to do it yourself. You make a change to accommodate one club and throw another’s requirements out of sync.

Now I’ve got that off my chest ...

For the initial few months of the seasons things progressed smoothly with exciting matches being played and a steady stream of new players, including many juniors, entering the league and the rating database for the first time. While perhaps not strictly relevant to this report as a whole, in my Harrogate capacity I was finding myself with spare players for some matches and arranging with opposing teams for them to bring reserves so that more rated games could be played. Harrogate would play four “mini matches” under this format.

Then on February 17th the wheels fell off with no less than three disputes across that weekend. I do not intend to detail the substance of these disputes here. Suffice to say that one involved the laws of chess, one involved the rules of the league and the third was somewhere between the two. It was unfortunate that the initial emails reached my inbox at 12:45 on the Sunday when I was about to start a late shift at work and was not in a position to reply immediately. I then had ten hours of my phone buzzing with

increasingly ill tempered emails (across all three disputes) and I was completely powerless to intervene. I was then up until 3AM in the morning trying to fulfil my duty as controller, then woken up by a related phone call at 8AM together with further irate emails from various parties.

Obviously it goes without saying that dealing with disputes (and not pleasing everybody) goes with the territory of being league controller. However I regret to say that the events of 17/2 (to re-iterate – this statement concerns all three disputes and not any particular one) have negated the season and taken away much of the pleasure of seeing my young students thrive and improve in the league.

The rules of the league will likely come in for quite detailed discussion at the AGM. My view after twelve years as controller (and my four year tenure as controller of the national county championships – for my sins) has left me with the view that the Yorkshire League should be kept as free of restrictions and penalties as much as possible. If regulations become as important, or perhaps more important, than the actual chess then something has gone wrong somewhere. That said, if there is too much “fudge with nuts” in the current rules then I take ownership of this.

In conclusion – if anybody has gone away dissatisfied with the Yorkshire league this season then I can only apologise. I have given my position some thought but I have decided that I will put myself forward for re-election – I suspect this will not be universally welcomed.

## **Annex D – YCA Correspondence Chess Report**

The County teams took part in the Intercounties Competition and finished as follows

Yorkshire A finished 3rd equal in Division 1 with Lancashire behind Essex A and West Wales A

Yorkshire B finished 3rd in Division 2 with Yorkshire C finishing 7th

Yorkshire D finished in 6th in Division 3 with Yorkshire E 7th

The Teams also played in the Scottish League

A team were runners up in Division 1

B team finished fourth in Division 2

C team finished third in Division 3

In the Individual Kitchin Memorial Oliver Graham won by a clear point

## **Annex E – Junior Secretary Report**

### 15<sup>th</sup> Grand Prix

149 juniors took part this year which is up again from last year. Average attendance was 82, which is the second highest ever. However, number of girls down again – just 18 this year.

Winner this year was Aaron Rich.

All events sold out well in advance.

UKCC MegaFinal – held in York again and again sold out well in advance - very good event this year and well staffed – thanks to everyone. 112 took part (entry was 120).

### Yorkshire Junior League

Thanks to Andy Wainwright for running this.

20 teams this year with Hull just edging Leeds Juniors out for the division one title on game points. Great competition with 123 taking part.

### EPSCA U11 team

The Yorkshire team won the zonal competition easily in Manchester this year defeating teams from the Northern region. However, a number of the top 10 players said they weren't available for the final so I withdrew the team – which was very disappointing. The format of the EPSCA competition is under review so that teams are reduced from 20 boards to 12. It is important that we make it clear that if we enter the competition that it is a commitment to play in both zones and final.

### Yorkshire U18 teams

This year we entered 3 teams in the Pennine Cup. This demonstrated a great strength in depth as all teams were competent, and our A team won the competition beating off stiff opposition from Liverpool and Manchester, who both out graded us. I couldn't be at the competition for the full day so thanks to Andy for looking after, but in the time I was there the kids were so focussed and intent on winning it, and really supported each other which was great to see.

### Junior Clubs

There is continued growth of junior clubs in the county and lots of competitions eg the Ilkley events run by Andy.

### Recommendations

We appoint someone to specifically look at girls' chess and to run girls only events.

We appoint team managers for U11

The expansion of the junior league providing we can find suitable venues.

We run a Yorkshire Championship event which has age group champions and girls' champions.

### Finally

It is not the role of the junior sec to run every event and team for juniors in the county, but to oversee the junior scene and select youngsters to play for Yorkshire. The more events the better, and any individual who wants to run any event or league or oversee any team is welcomed. Indeed, we need more volunteers and parents to do this. I am busy – I run the biggest junior club in the county, I run Alwoodley Chess Club, I run the Grand Prix and megafinal and I sit on three committees for various clubs/organisations, and I have another life coaching netball which is also time consuming. I do have a lot of years' experience in junior chess and am happy to offer advice and guidance, but I can't DO everything. If anyone thinks they can, they are welcome to take the role.

John Hipshon