

Huddersfield & District Chess Association

Web site <http://www.geoffpeake.co.uk/HDCA/>

Secretary

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AGM

Wednesday 3 June 2009

at Lindley Liberal Club, 7.45 pm

Present

President	WF Lumley
Secretary	GM Peake
Treasurer	D Firth
Brighouse	-
David Browns	A Ward
West Bretton	AR Tuddenham, D. Toulson
Huddersfield	E Priestley, {D Firth}, P Czerwinski, R.S. Boylan, E. Mellor, G. Eagleton, N. Hepworth, D Tooley, C Booth
Dewsbury	-
Netherton	P Shaw, {WF Lumley}, J. Eagers, J. Newsome
Holme Valley	{GM Peake}, N Batty, R Keely,
Wakefield	M Shelmerdine
	Non registered: D Patrick, D. Colledge

1. Absent Friends: James Rushton

Edgar Priestley spoke to members about James Rushton's life.

James Rushton was an articulate man. He was born in Edinburgh. He went to Lancaster University and gained a B. Sc. and a B.A. He became a director of ICI and Head of ICI India. He joined Huddersfield Chess Club in 1944. He spent 12 years in Huddersfield. When he was Secretary of Huddersfield CC he sent personal invitations to all the members of the teams for matches. He was secretary of YCA for a number of years. He was secretary of the Northern Counties Chess Union 1973-76. He became President of BCF, and president of YCF later.

The **H.E. Atkins Memorial Trophy** was presented to the Club by James Rushton, for competition among junior members. Its use has since been extended to include 'developing members', as it has been awarded to the winner of the Club's bottom section of the major winter tournament

2. APOLOGIES

Joe Froggatt, Dave Gray, Chris Stratford, Stewart Thompson, Bill Bardelang, Granville Boot, Paul Jackson

3. MINUTES OF 2008 AGM - APPROVAL

Roger Tuddenham proposed as a true record, seconded by Edgar Priestley
- unanimous

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bill Lumley said that he was still recovering from his horrendous journey {road works}. He remarked that he was smartly dressed, as he knew that Geoff would be putting photographs of the trophy presentation on the web within 24 hours !

Bill said previous Presidents were expected to serve for 5 years. He was not sure that he would do that so anyone thinking of stepping into his shoes should come forward. He thanked treasurer David Firth for his quiet but efficient manner. He thanked Geoff for his excellent web site.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Thanks

To **David Firth** for his help and support, work as treasurer. Unsung hero !
Thanks to **Bill Lumley** for his work as President, and the years he spent as secretary. Respect has to be earned, and he has certainly earned our respect and thanks.

Roger Tuddenham for his advice and comments. Another two trophies this year !

Nigel Hepworth who has done a fantastic job with Huddersfield Congress, Rapidplay, Blitz and work with Huddersfield Juniors. He now has a Huddersfield Club website running. Huddersfield has a variety of in house competitions such as Summer Tournament, Swiss Championship etc.

Stewart Thompson for his positive attitude, and advice, for which he gets greatly abused on my website!

Peter Czerwinski for spotting various errors and his help with hosting Rapidplay, booking rooms, Individual KO. Another unsung hero !

Edgar Priestley who is a mine of information about HDCA chess.

Paddy Senior for his excellent Yorkshire web site {though now, I understand, he is dropping out of the chess scene}.

John Newsome. He may be small in stature, but a colossus of a man !
Thanks for his advice, and the work he did for the Bill Lumley Rapidplay finals,

Paul Jackson for his help and common sense. John will tell us how much Paul has helped Netherton.

Thanks to Holme Valley, Netherton, David Browns and Huddersfield for hosting the **Rapidplays**.

Thanks to all the **Captains**. Remember being a Captain is a very responsible position. It should not be entered into lightly, and undertaken with great care.

Also thanks to the secretaries, car drivers.

You have to look after the people that I have mentioned you know.

They are the ones that make these wonderful chess events happen.

If you just turn up and play, remember that without these organisers the events just would not take place, and we should show our appreciation for their hard work. Congratulations to all our Winners.

Congratulations Captains for excellent organisation work ! There was only the David Brown **wrong board order problem**

Defaults,

Team defaults: West Bretton had to concede a match to Holme Valley.

Brighouse dropped out of the Rapidplay at very short notice.

Nigel had one of his moments **AGAIN** ! failing to turn up for a Rapidplay round of 2 matches.

List of Individual defaults [Watkinson + Examiner}

Holme Valley 0 !!

West Bretton 1, Wakefield 1, Hudd Dragons 1, Knights 1,

Netherton 1st 1, Netherton 2nd 3, Netherton A 2, Netherton B 2

David Browns 9 ??

David Browns turned up with only three players for the Rapidplay finals.

Yorkshire League

Congratulations to Huddersfield for staying in the Woodhouse.

Grading

I graded all leagues games, Individual KO, Netherton Club games, Huddersfield Tournaments, Huddersfield Congress, Yorkshire League games, Calderdale League games

Rapidplay results for the last five years graded.

The Web site

I've tried to keep all the information such as fixtures, results, tables, grades etc. up to date.

You can view many photos as well as playing through many games on line, and links to other chess events.

Apologies

For any mistakes I may have made

FW Brown trophy The HDCA registered player who achieved the highest grade in the Huddersfield CC Rapidplay 2008 was Jos Woolley.

Email

Email and the web is the future. If anyone here has email, and is not on the Chess distribution list, the please contact me after the meeting.

Absence

I shall probably be away at some stage during the season. Contact Roger Tuddenham if there are problems while I am away.

Review

We should always look at what went wrong, what went right. Why? What can be improved ? Out of this comes the propositions each year.

I hope that people view the **new Watkinson format** as a success.

The Conduct of the players

The good news is that we did not need to use the legislation we introduced last year !

New Grades

I have provided information about new grades on my web site – more about that later.

The future of Chess

What is the future of chess ?

What is the future for this league ? Is it a continued decline ?

Dave Tooley thinks it may be ultimate amalgamation with the **Calderdale league**.

There has been a growth of **Rapidplay** chess

Computers and chess - I like to think that I have always welcomed change and development. I've been using computers since 1982. There has been a tremendous growth in computer use with chess.

Email chess has replaced correspondence chess.

I think that **chess clocks** will inevitably change in the future to use the Fischer clock. I wonder how long it will be before that filters down from World Tournament chess to Yorkshire Leagues.

Finally

Byron said "**Life's too short for chess**". He missed the point. The point is how much pleasure chess gives you in your life.

H.G. Wells said "If you want to destroy a man, teach him chess !" Well, yes a man can bring upon himself all kinds of torment and pain through playing chess. But gentlemen, **the fault lies within ourselves**, not with chess !

"New Grades"

Some of you may have read about "New Grades".

Grades were analysed recently and it was apparent that results did not match the theoretical expectations. Players who outgraded their opponents by 10 points were scoring approximately 58% rather than the expected 60%. The system had become "stretched" at the lower end. The grades of players lower down the grading list had become pulled down lower than they should be.

Grades are being reviewed and "New Grades" will be produced.

The aim is to review the system and restore the old standard that a 10 point grade difference gives an expectation of 6/10 and so on.

The purpose of the review is to correct any **drifting** and to eliminate the **distorting effects** from improving juniors which is one of the causes of the "stretching".

Grading calculation will be done exactly the same way as previously, but grades will be amended to produce new starting grades to eliminate the stretching, drifting and distortion..

Incidentally this will make the HDCA Rating system for Handicap matches more accurate.

How will starting grades change ?

Well players around 150 may be approximately 10 points higher;

players around 130 may be around 15 points higher;
players around 110 may be around 20 points higher;
players around 100 may be around 23 points higher;
players around 90 may be around 25 points higher;
players around 80 may be around 27 points higher;
players around 70 may be around 30 points higher.

This sounds a lot - but look at the example below:

Previous Grade		"New Grades"
100	versus 90 expected % = 60%	becomes 123 versus 115 expected % = 58% .

The **difference** between the grades has only changed by 2 points.

I stress that the above is very approximate. I will inform you as the situation becomes clearer.

ECF grades will change.

The Yorkshire Grader Jon Griffiths has stated that for next season YCA will publish both old and new grades.

HDCA must decide which they are going to adopt. If new grades are adopted we need to consider whether to alter bandings for the Individual KO.

Why are some players not graded ?

The Grading season runs from **1st June to 31st May**. This Grading List includes all players who have had nine or more games recorded on the system in the last three seasons, including at least one in the most recent season. Players **not** meeting this requirement are **ungraded**, and do not appear.

The President thanked the Secretary for his report and pointed out that we were not pointing the finger at Alec Ward. There was no implied criticism of David Browns.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

There had been a gradual withdrawing of Clubs in recent years, with consequent loss of fees. The cost of engraving had increased this year because of price increase of suppliers [not engraving costs].

Nevertheless the treasurer proposed that fees be kept the same as last year.

Edgar Priestley proposed report accepted, seconded by Richard Boylan - unanimous.

8. CONFIRMATION OF LEAGUE FEES 2009-2010

Confirmed same as last year {see above}

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

2009	Watkinson Trophy	Huddersfield Knights
2009	Littlewood Shield	West Bretton
2009	Team K.O. Cup	West Bretton
2009	Examiner Plate	Huddersfield Rooks
2009	Bill Lumley Rapidplay	Huddersfield
2009	Individual K.O. Cup (Section 1)	G. Eagleton
2009	Individual K.O. Cup (Section 2a)	N. Hepworth
2009	Ind K.O. Cup (2b David Woodhead)	P.H. Jackson
2009	Individual K.O. Cup (Section 3)	J. Eagers
2009	FW Brown Trophy	Unplayed *

*Huddersfield Rapidplay played 7/6/09, FW Brown trophy awarded to Peter Shaw

Huddersfield K.O. Champion	2009	G Eagleton
Section 2a K.O. Champion	2009	N. Hepworth
Section 2b K.O.Champion	2009	P H Jackson
Section 3 K.O. Champion	2009	J Eagers
Section 1 K.O. Finalist	2009	C.P. Booth
Section 2a K.O. Finalist	2009	D Gray
Section 2b K.O. Finalist	2009	A Ward
Section 3 K.O. Finalist	2009	N Battye

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President : Bill Lumley {proposed Geoff Peake, seconded by J.V. Newsome}

Secretary : Geoff Peake {proposed by J.V. Newsome seconded by Richard Boylan}

Treasurer : David Firth {proposed by J.V. Newsome seconded by Mark Shelmerdine}

All elected unanimously.

10. ELECTION OF COMPETITION (HANDICAP) COMMITTEE

Unchanged: WF Lumley , AR Tuddenham, PH Jackson, G M Peake.
{proposed by J.V. Newsome seconded by E. Mellor}

12. PROPOSITION 1 Adopt "New Grades" next season. (G M Peake/ A.R. Tuddenham)

Background : Both "new" and old grades are being published by the Yorkshire Grader next season [details on my web site].

Passed {unanimous}

PROPOSITION 2 Adopt Rapidplay Grades for the Bill Lumley Competition. (G M Peake/ A.R. Tuddenham)

Passed {unanimous}

PROPOSITION 3 (G M Peake/ A.R. Tuddenham)

Amend

8. Players must have played a minimum of two league games for the Club in that season to be eligible for play-off games or the Watkinson finals * [note they may have played these games for the Club in the Examiner or in the Watkinson].

*[The Watkinson Finals are the extra rounds of games played at the end of the season]

To apply only to players above 110 grade.

Amended to be "New Grade equivalent of 110" {Roger Tuddenham, Alec Ward}*

Passed - Vote for 14, against 5, abstain 1.

*110 "Old Grade" =131 "New Grade"

PROPOSITION 4 Admit new Calderdale Team [Halifax] to Examiner handicap League (D Tooley / G. M. Peake)

Background - a Halifax team has expressed an interest in joining our Handicap Competition.

Passed {unanimous}

PROPOSITION 5 Delegate Fixtures to D Tooley (G M Peake / D Tooley)

Background : There is great pressure on the Huddersfield venue at Lindley because of Calderdale league matches as well as HDCA matches. Huddersfield are looking into the possibility of playing home matches for both Huddersfield teams in the HDCA simultaneously, and Dave Tooley has volunteered to do the Fixtures. Dave Tooley pointed out that the secretary would still have overall control and responsibility with regard to the fixtures.

Passed {unanimous}

13. Possible Blitz Tournament

The Secretary reported the success of the Barnsley Blitz Team of 4 competition, and asked if members were interested in a similar competition being organised for HDCA. John Newsome had expressed a willingness to help.

Nigel Hepworth and Dave Tooley reported that a Blitz competition was already being organised by Huddersfield.

14. Defaults

The secretary asked if members wanted to take any action against defaults. Mark Shelmerdine felt that the situation had improved - that advanced communication between Captains and goodwill

between clubs made further action unnecessary. This was accepted by the members.

15. F W Brown Trophy

The Secretary reported that Jos Woolley had won the trophy last season [in the Huddersfield Rapidplay held after the AGM]. The secretary felt that the current system- "Awarding the trophy to the Huddersfield registered play who has the highest grade for his/her performance in the annual Huddersfield Rapid Play Congress" was too unwieldy. This meant the trophy could not be awarded on the day. The secretary felt that a simpler system needed to be devised so that the trophy could be awarded immediately at the Rapidplay. Members were asked to consider this and send in proposals for the next AGM.

16. Team KO Draw

There was uncertainty as to which teams were entering the Team Knock Out so the draw was deferred.

17. Youth Policy

The secretary was concerned that there was no firm Youth policy in place. There were problems with young players playing in matches [particularly away matches] because of the late finish and unsuitable venues. John Newsome and Mark Shelmerdine reported that they were encouraged by the youth participation in Netherton / Wakefield. Nigel Hepworth reported on the Huddersfield Junior Club meetings each Friday, and the success of the Huddersfield Dragons Junior team. Members also mentioned the tremendous work of Alan Coupe in Junior chess, and so felt that enough was being done.

18. A.O.B

There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 9.50pm.