



Minutes of Annual General Meeting 19/08/2012

Location: Premier Inn, Charing Cross Glasgow

Time: 12:00

Attendees : Michael Hanley (Chair) (MH), IM Douglas Bryson (DB), Derek Howie (DH), IA Alex McFarlane (AM), IA Lara Barnes (LB), Donald Wilson (DW), Paul MacDonald (PM), Christopher Hampton (CH), John Montgomery (JM), FA Andy Howie (AH), Richard Heathwood (RH), IA Ken Stewart (KS), David Congalton (DC), Mac McKenzie (MM), David Deary (DD), David Gillespie (DG), Pat McGovern (PM), Hamish Glen (HG), Linda McCusker (LM), Peter Woods (PW), Ryan Foster (RF), Robin Moore (RM), Gilbert Alomenu (GA), Alastair White (AW), Jacqui Thomas (JT), Phil Thomas (PT)

26 attendees, 25 members.

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Trevor Davies, Steven Hilton, Graeme Forbes, Alan Borwell, Gerald Loble, Alan Jelfs, Andy Muir, Andrew McHarg

2 Minutes of last AGM and matters arising therefrom

Accuracy

RH Noted that the date was incorrect on the minutes and apologised for not emailing the notice around. The 6 weeks had landed in the middle of the Scottish which had been a busy time.

AH noted that he had received a few minor corrections from CH that he would amend on the minutes

Matters Arising

CH asked if a committee had been formed for the Scottish Championship

AM replied that there had been insufficient volunteers. There had been a committee of sorts with the 3 main people all in communication with each other.

CH asked about the setting of the live board fees

AH replied that it had been done at the Council meeting.

CH asked about PT's complaint about the SJCAET website, had there been any changes?

PM replied that the website had since been amended



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CH asked if there had been any results from having a marketing director, 1 year on?

AH stated there had been none as Paul Blair had been ill.

JM commented that with regards to the Standards code, the meeting took place 6 months later and wondered why it was not showing on the website?

AH stated he did not know but would find out and get back to JM.

Minutes proposed CH, seconded DW carried *Nem Con*

The meeting then broke for an SGM to consider the single motion allowing the AGM to consider motions to amend the constitution. Attendees are as before.

AH addressed the meeting explaining the rationale behind the motion, during the council meeting it was discovered that the AGM could not actually amend the constitution, it had to be done with an SGM. Both AH and Steven Mannion Snr had found this quite strange as the clue was in the name General Meeting. This motion was to address this.

JM noted that the notification had not appeared on the website 2 weeks before and that if we are going to be discussing fundamental changes, there has to be sufficient time to get the views of leagues, clubs and individuals. Proxy votes have to be in 1 week before so there is not enough time.

AH commented that the SGM was part of this year's AGM

DW replied that the SGM is not part of the AGM as the AGM is suspended.

DB noted that the information had been received in time, unfortunately he had been away and AH had not realised.

DH noted that it was a point that needed to be taken on board.

Motion carried by a majority.

SGM ended and AGM continued

AH apologised for deviating from the Agenda but explained that the next section was supposed to be covered under AOCB but due to the person having a prior engagement we wanted to bring this forward.

Presidents Awards

MH stated that he had 3 awards to give out. All for outstanding service to Junior Chess in Scotland. The first two are unable to be at the AGM and will be presented at a later date, Eric Stallard and Joe McAdam. The award we are presenting today is for two people who have given countless hours to our juniors over the years, Maureen and Norrie Mathie.



Maureen accepted the award from MH to applause from the AGM. Maureen then thanked the AGM and Mike for the award.

3 Approval of Annual Report, including accounts for year ending 30 April 2012

Finance Report

JM asked if the other organisations had been approached about us funding them as per the council meeting

MM replied that correspondence had agreed to waive this year as they have another source of funding. The Treasurer is also the Delegate so is paid for attending the World Organisation meetings. As long as they have this in place they are happy to waive.

JM asked if we were happy they may ask for funding at a later date?

MM replied that we have listed them as a source. It puts us in a favourable light with the government as we are the only body that gets grant money for chess.

JM asked if they may be looking for money in the future

MM replied that they may be.

DH asked if we were obliged to pay it?

MM replied that it can be changed by council.

JM asked if we identified any other area where we could save money?

MM confirmed that they had not found any and as the budget was now approved, expenditure for the year is fixed.

International Directors Report

LB asked why there were no nominations for the British this year.

AH replied that as Andy Muir was not at the meeting he would ask

DB noted that he had seen a request from Andy on the noticeboard asking for interest.

Membership Secretary Report

RH noted that in the past he has posted the monthly updates in the discussion forum. They now will appear on the CS website on their own page.



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There has been a change to the way passwords are generated for new and returning members. It used to be sent to Andrew McHarg for generation but Andrew and RH have worked together to develop a system which means RH can generate as needed. It is now done same day.

Championship Director Report

AH proposed a vote of thanks to AM for an outstanding Scottish this year. AM proposed a vote of thanks for the mystery benefactor. Both were heartily accepted.

DB asked about the tiebreak method as it had been agreed at an AGM that it would be tournament performance.

AM noted that depending which way you did the calculation, you would get a different winner. You don't want a situation where someone else can claim after the event. We used W-We which is a measure of tournament performance.

DB asked why does it favour the lower graded player?

AM replied that no tie break is good other than a play-off. The problems with organising that are significant. He stated that he only liked tie-breaks where there was more than two or three equal firsts. Tie breaks were brought in on a decision by Council. There is no perfect solution, whichever method is used can be shown to be unsatisfactory under various circumstances.

DB requested that the tie break method be clearly displayed beforehand

Webmaster / Grading Report

DB proposed a motion of thanks to Andrew McHarg for the work he has done on the CS website.

MH commented that the free grading trial had worked as he had a junior who had drifted off the scene return having looked at his grade online and noticed his peers were ahead of him!

AM noted that one thing he would like to see is a list of recent topics as on the EC Forum.

AH promised to look into it.

DW asked if the Grand Prix rules had been amended to cap the scores for single day all play alls (apa)

DB noted that they had been looking at a cap top prevent single day allegro apa events getting a higher score than a weekend tournament has had happened at Perth. It would be discussed with the Home Junior Director

CH asked if it would not be a bad idea to have a note of whether a tournament is provisional or confirmed on the calendar?



RH replied that in his view nothing should be in the calendar unless it had been confirmed

JT noted that she had brought this up before as she felt that there should be a bolded or shaded for a provisional event. It was so that annual tournaments that use set dates do not have other tournaments running the same day has had happened this year with the Primary Individual and Jonathan Edwards Lightning event.

DH advised he would speak to Andrew McHarg

JM asked if the constitution was on the website

AH replied that it was, in the CS Info section

Standards Committee Report

PT objected to the report on two grounds. Firstly the number of complaints is of interest to the chair as it gives an indication to exec board of what is happening. We know by definition that there are some rejected, not all will be frivolous.

PT continued that he was aware of two complaints investigated not one. The number should be two or more and he requested that the meeting rejects the report and requests its rewrite.

JM noted that the report did not mention the Council meeting where the issues Ayrshire had had been resolved.

LB stated that she had not seen the report and for that reason alone it should be rejected.

KS agreed with LB and commented that he we not aware of the other issues {note, both Ken and Lara have since contacted me with a correction, they have in fact received the report but had not realised that is what it was}

AM noted that he disagreed slightly with Phil in that he felt we needed more than just statistics although conceded that it might not be as simple as that.

AM suggested that we need to build in a timescale of six weeks with full cooperation with Standards Committee

Proposal to reject PT seconded PM carried Nem com

PVG Report

RH noted that he was happy to answer questions and pointed out that we now have chess club coaches for people who want to coach chess in their local clubs but are not members of Chess Scotland. They are disclosed through our PVG scheme but will not show on the official coaches list.



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AH noted that the PVG numbers seemed a bit low and asked how many were we allowed to process a month.

RH replied that implementation had been delayed and we are only allowed to submit 5 a month.

JM asked if we are prioritising the older ones

RH replied that we are

Disability Officers Report

AH apologised as it appears that he did not receive the report but he would put it on the website for members to view. We cannot vote on this report today.

Reports, with exception of Standards Committee Report and Disability Officers Report proposed PT seconded DD carried Nem con

4. Elections

AH apologised for moving off the Agenda paper for the second time that day and paid tribute to Mac McKenzie for the loyalty and long service he had given Chess Scotland. There was then a presentation of an inscribed Quaich and a bottle of whisky from MH

MM responded "that most of the time it has been enjoyable, I didn't realise I would do this for such a long period. I wanted to do it and enjoyed myself. I have met so many wonderful people. Thank you very much"

President: Hamish Glen

HG noted that he wanted to thank MH and KS for his nomination. He is looking forward to working with AH with his main area of focus being constitutional reform.

HG noted for continuity he had asked MH to remain in the chair until the end of the meeting.

DH asked what Hamish's three main objectives were

HG replied 1. To progress CS, 2. To work closely with the Adults and Juniors to further these aims. 3, To fix the constitution.

Nominated Michael Hanley Seconded Ken Stewart
Elected Nem Con.

Executive Director: Andy Howie

Nominated Michael Hanley Seconded Jacqui Thomas
Elected Nem Con.



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Finance Director: David Congalton

DC noted that he intends to continue the good work that MM had done.

JM asked if he could have an idea of DC's background

DC advised that he had put his full background on the CS noticeboard when discussing the role. He had worked in a family run business for the last 7 years as a financial controller.

Nominated Mac McKenzie Seconded Michael Hanley
Elected Nem Con.

Marketing Director: Stephen Hilton

AH stated that Stephen had been looking for a new challenge having been a director for three years now. As Marketing had been vacant for some time, he wanted to see if he could bring something to the role. Stephen had also offered to cover the Home Director role if there was no one available.

AH pointed out that Stephen could have a positive impact, and gave the example of him presenting to a company that chess can be played equally by all or Stephen presenting that and posed the question "who would give the bigger impact?"

LM asked what experience Stephen has?

AH replied that he had been quite successful at gaining sponsorship for events abroad.

LB noted it would be good for someone else to help

LM agreed stating that as the job is so important it might make sense to have a marketing committee

KS pointed out that it was quite normal for a director to set up a committee and was well within its remit.

AH agreed to speak to Stephen about setting up a committee and tying in with DC who had expressed interest in doing the role prior to the AGM.

Nominated; Michael Hanley Seconded Andy Howie

Elected 12-3

Home Director (Open)

No candidates were forthcoming and the AGM directed the board to consider candidates



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Home Director(Junior): Michael Hanley

LM stated she would support Michael as he has been doing a lot of good work in primary schools for Junior chess.

DB asked what are we doing about secondary schools chess?

AH stated that after the meetings with Parliament, they were looking to bring it in with Chess in Schools.

DH noted that the secondary schools issue was getting worse. In the Glasgow Schools League, only 5 secondary schools took part.

LM observed that she had 30 children in her chess club and asked if we should be approaching the councils.

MH stated that they had 100% support of the council and 0% of the funding!

Proposed Andy Howie Seconded Jacqui Thomas
Elected nem con

Customer Services Director

No candidates were forthcoming and the AGM directed the board to consider candidates

International Director (Open): Andy Muir
Nominated Michael Hanley Seconded Andy Howie
Elected 3-2

International Director (Junior): Paul McDonald (Robin Moore acting as Alternate)

RM Stated that next season they would be considering alternative tournaments instead of the worlds as it was in the United Arab Emirates and would be quite prohibitive on costs

DH asked if we could get a firm plan on these tournaments.

RM replied that it was down to budget. After the Olympiad RM will sit down with DC and work out what they have left and where they can spend it. Looking at a couple of events, one being Benidorm in November / December. It is an event RM has played in and in a good location.

LM noted as a parent Benidorm would not appeal for two reasons. Firstly there are no funded places whereas there are at the Worlds and the Euros. Secondly it will be hard to get the Children out of school. It is easy for the official events as they are seen to be representing their country.



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RM replied that in Benidorm, children under 16 stay free with two adults.

LM stated that she travels alone so would be paying full price.

DH agrees that he would be happy for his son to play in the Euros but would not be happy with a tournament like Benidorm.

AM noted that in the past when the events were in an “awkward” place, then we just did not send anyone

AH agreed recalling a few years ago when one of the events was held in Argentina and we did not send anyone

Proposed Michael Hanley Seconded Andy Howie

Elected Nem Con.

Schools Development Director: Graeme Forbes

DH Asked what the remit was

JT replied that the main focus was the development of chess in schools, for example setting up coaching.

JT had suggested in the past that the Schools events come under the SDD so they can be seen to be taking a more active part. Other main part of duties was the distribution of documents and Dino Chess which has now been taken over by Tom Hay.

AH noted that Graeme had offered to relinquish the post if someone was interested

LM stated that she would be interested in taking the post.

AGM directed to elect LM as an Alternate then for AH to approach Graeme to ask if he did want to step down.

Amended proposal Nominated AM Seconded AH

Elected Nem con {Note. I spoke to Graeme after the AGM and he confirmed he was happy to step down and allow Linda to take over}

Scottish Championship Director: Alex McFarlane

JM asked if we had sponsorship for next year

AM replied that we had

JM asked how much of the sensory board money had been replaced.

MM replied that we were on target and all had been replaced.



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DD asked how the personal donations had gone

MM replied that we had some larger ones and some smaller ones but on the whole had gone well.

JM asked if the fees had been set

AH replied yes £50 at the Council meeting

RH stated that last year Edinburgh had given a donation and he had felt like piggy in the middle. If there is going to be a charge then congresses should be able to decline the use.

MM stated it would be up to the congresses to request the boards. The fee will be added to the grading fee.

AH noted he would make sure anyone requesting is aware of the fee

Nominated Michael Hanley Seconded Andy Howie
Elected Nem con

Technical Director: Ken Stewart

Nominated Michael Hanley Seconded Andy Howie
Elected Nem con

FIDE/ECU delegate: Andy Howie

AH advised that due to a family issue, he was unable to attend the FIDE congress. LB had been approached and had agreed to attend on his behalf.

LB asked for guidance on the motion to expel the ECF and 6 other federations.

After a discussion it was decided to advise we vote against the motion but allow LB to make a decision based on the information she has at the meeting.

Proposed Michael Hanley Seconded Jacqui Thomas

Elected Nem Con.

Auditor AH to approach Jim McGranaghan, failing that to be To be decided by the Board.

Proposal carried 8-1

The meeting then broke for coffee at 14:44 and resumed at 15:09



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Four representatives of Club Members, at least one of which must be a school

St Peters, Edinburgh
Stewarton Chess Club
Pentland Hills Chess Club
East Kilbride Chess Club

Proposed AM Seconded DD

Elected Nem Con.

Two representatives of registered congresses

Lothians
Prestwick

Proposed KS seconded AH

Elected Nem Con.

Four individual members, one of whom must be female and one under age 18.

Peter Devenny
IM Douglas Bryson
Board to find two more members

Proposed KS seconded AM

Elected Nem Con.

Standards Committee Chairman: Richard Heathwood

RH stated that he has a real interest in the role and hopes he is successful. He has been working with Steve Mannion Snr with PVG

RH sees the role as dealing with important issues for example electronic cheating and preventing acrimonious disputes. RH has quite a bit of experience of working with committees and will be very much consultative and will not have a high handed chairmanship.

RH noted that with the situation where the report has been rejected, it would be wrong to take over until that is resolved. It really should be in 6 weeks time.

JM asked if that was the case, what would happen should a new case come in within that 6 week period?

RH agreed that the new chair and committee would deal with that. A lot of thought has gone into the committee and Trevor Davies has done a good job with a lot of aspects of the role.



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JM stated that at council, issues had been raised and the standards committee were supposed to look at amending the rules. An example would be meeting once a year.

RH replied that he had no strong views on meeting once a year. There are costs involved and the committee will speak throughout the year. There is no burning ambition to change things unless they are needed changed.

JM agreed that this is the kind of thing that we need to change.

Proposed Michael Hanley Seconded Andy Howie
Elected Nem Con.

Committee members

Ken Stewart

Lara Barnes

Pat McGovern

Remainder to be selected by RH as no other volunteers were forthcoming at the AGM

Proposed Andy Howie Seconded David Deary
Elected Nem Con.

Appeals Chairman: Steven Mannion Snr

JM asked if we can include a nil report as part of the standards committee report should there be no appeals

RH agreed to add it from the next report.

Proposed Michael Hanley Seconded Andy Howie
Elected Nem Con.

5. Motions raised by members

Motion 1

Proposed Andy Howie Seconded Michael Hanley

Provided the EGM motion is approved then we further move to add a motion to ensure that any motion presented to the AGM is carefully thought out and requires a 2/3 majority to be passed.

Proposal is 13.8 Any motion amending the constitution at an Annual General Meeting shall be carried if and only if two thirds or more of those voting assent thereto. Only those motions detailed in the relevant requisition, or amendments thereto, shall be discussed and voted upon at the AGM.

DH proposed that the word Minor be inserted so it now reads “, or minor amendments thereto”



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HG commented that this is simply an enabling motion

AM commented that he was in favour of intention of the amendment but opposed to the different wording for an EGM and AGM

KS stated that it would be up to the chair to determine what a minor amendment was

Amendment proposed DH seconded JM

Vote was 6-6. MH in chair used the casting vote for the amendment therefore the amendment was accepted

Amended motion was carried 10-0

Motion 2

Proposed Andy Howie Seconded Michael Hanley

The following two motions are because of a failed attempt to gain lottery funding. We have been advised that they need to be changed if we want to be successful in the future. Amendment is in bold.

We wish to amend 14.7 to read "A Special General Meeting may be called for the purpose of dissolving Chess Scotland following the procedure of 14.1 or 14.2 . Should a motion to dissolve succeed, any assets would be transferred to the British Chess Federation in trust until such time as a new organisation in Scotland is formed.

KS suggested that we remove the acronyms and use the real names {has been done above}

DH noted that he had raised a question on the forum on this and did not get an answer. He had since spoken to AH but the answer was not seen by everyone

AH apologised but given the recent issues on the noticeboard he had kept clear for a while.

LB noted that the BCF are no longer going to be a charity

DW stated that even with that being the case, there is no problem with the motion standing as the organisation can be amended.

AW observed that the grants body are looking for a 3rd party organisation

MM asked about SJCAET

AH replied they were not independent of us.

Motion carried nem con



Motion 3

Proposed: Andy Howie Seconded: Michael Hanley

6.1 Any candidate for Individual, Club or Affiliate membership must apply and must pay the prescribed fee. Corporate members must either pay the prescribed fee or be nominated for membership by COUNCIL. COUNCIL has the right to refuse membership, or to refuse renewal of membership. Reasons for refusal will be given on submission to the relevant official. COUNCIL may delegate acceptance of membership to an Office Bearer.

KS asked how it was possible for someone to determine the reason for refusal.

AH replied that for a refusal there had to be a reason for it. The reason could be in fact a simple vote

DD asked if it had ever happened

AH after conferring with DW, MM and KS replied that it had not

RH noted that the wording of a reply could be tricky

Motion carried nem con

Motion 4. Proposed: Jacqui Thomas Seconded: Michael Hanley

I propose that CS disallows a notice to be put out on the website asking for juniors availability to attend Internationals.

Explanation:

It takes away the honour of being invited to represent their country on the merit of their selection using the selection criteria already published on the CS website. It becomes a lobbying process. If parents don't see the notice & therefore do not respond their child may lose out because they will be deemed as unavailable & therefore will never know that they might have had an opportunity. There will be those that may not think their child is in with a chance of selection & therefore not put their name forward. Those that do put their name forward take the risk of disappointment by not being selected after being given hope as they have noted an interest.

JT stated that she felt that we were taking away the privilege of being selected. The current way is not the way to go. Some parents feel that their children are not good enough and so don't put their names forward. This takes away the privilege and excitement of getting that mail telling you, you have been selected for your country and can lead to disappointment when you have put your name forward and are not selected.

LM disagreed stating she was happy to put her childrens names up. She felt that the honour was still there.



JT asked what about children that miss out as they are not put forward and gave the example of the U16 Olympiad. She did not put her son forward for that event and despite the method that has been given, was not checked up on. If you don't see the event then they will miss out. We need to be fair to all our juniors.

JT noted that Hamish had proposed an amendment, the motion would read "I propose that CS allows a notice to be put out on the website asking for juniors unavailability to attend Internationals.

CH noted that his concern what happens when a parent of a child puts their name forwards and is not good enough. How do you think the child feels.

AM asked what happens if no one is deemed good enough for selection but people have been put forward?

HG noted that his idea was to stand the motion on its head and ask parents to advise if their children were not available for selection.

AH noted that PM was nodding throughout this and invited PM and RM to speak.

RM explained the existing system. A link is put on the website and parents are asked to get in touch. Email any candidates that have not responded then put together committee, if any names come out of the committee that have not responded, chase up. Select, inform parents of selections and non selections. RM feels that this motion takes away important part of the role.

DB asked why we were doing this

RH noted he thinks it is wrong for us to be setting rules for directors like this. We are asking them to be directors therefore they need to direct

AM noted that we do have to set parameters and reiterated his concern for a child who misses out to none of the above. For a Junior this can be bad.

LM stated that you cannot protect children from disappointment and asked what we are protecting them from

JM asked if any other directors have rules

AM replied Finance director

Amendment was carried 10 – 3

Amended motion was rejected 4 – 11



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Motion 5 Proposed: Andy Muir

If a player has an ELO-rating with a country other than SCO then they are not eligible to be Scottish Champion.

AH noted that the seconder had withdrawn and asked if there was anyone willing to second the motion. PT agreed to second the motion to allow a debate

AM noted that ELO rating is meaningless as is SCO as FIDE do not have a policy for nationality

DB agreed it was a legitimate point for discussion

DC stated that given the fact that the proposer of the motion had stated on the forum that the motion was racist then we have to reject it

DB advised that Andy Muir had used a poor choice of words, he meant nationalist not racist

AM agreed that there was merit in discussing this but the proposal was poorly worded

DC commented that he liked the way we did it as it was quite inclusive

DB noted that looking at other federations, for example Denmark and France, most have a rule like this in place.

Motion was unanimously rejected

6. Any Other Competent Business

6.1 Spens

AH advised of correspondence he had received from Stephen Hilton that Ayrshire were celebrating their 75th anniversary and would like to put a combined team into the Spens as a one off.

MH asked if Ayrshire could consider hosting an inter county as well as part of the celebrations

After a discussion, the meeting voted 7-4 to allow the team provided there are no objections from the other teams entering

6.2 Mclsaac / Nancy Elder

AH advised again he had received correspondence about the two tournaments and the question had been raised as to whether they were viable.



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PT noted as a participant, he would want it to go ahead

JM asked what the uptake had been

CH replied 5 in each

JM asked how they can put a player in as they do not have club champion

AH replied that the club can nominate 2 players, one for each. They don't have to be club champion.

PM asked if this could be publicized.

CH stated that both tournaments should continue as they are unique

Meeting voted overwhelmingly to retain the tournaments

6.3 Application from the Foster Family

AH explained that when someone wishes to transfer to Chess Scotland from another Federation, it is discussed at the nearest meeting, be it EGM, AGM, Council meeting or Director meeting. In this case, it has fallen on the AGM.

AH invited RF to address the AGM

RF explained that his family were moving to Scotland in 2013 and moving to Ayrshire. He had been brought up here and they were unhappy with the way things were going with the ECF so wished to transfer to Scotland.

Meeting approved the transfer. AH will contact FIDE to see if there is anything we can do about the fees.

6.4 Over 60's

AW pointed out that 40 years ago, we had the Bobby Fischer era. This has led to a boom in Seniors chess. AW asked if we can consider having some Seniors on board.

AH pointed out at the age of 41 he was the youngest Director and many of them were 60's or there about

JM proposed a vote of thanks for the chair

Meeting ended 16:50