

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING ASSOCIATION OF U.S. CHESS JOURNALISTS, 8/15/77

1. Call to order: The annual meeting of the Association of U.S. Chess Journalists was called to order at 8:50 a.m. on August 15, 1977 in Columbus, Ohio by Acting President Stephen Dann.
2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 1976 annual meeting were read by Secretary-Treasurer Homer Jones and were approved as read.
3. Attendance: A roll was circulated and it was determined that the following members and guests were present: B.G. Dudley, Ben McCreedy, M.A. Lieberman, George Cunningham, Andrew Margrave, Robert Erkes, Bob Raven, George Tiers (representing Warren Stenberg), Royal Franklin, Helen E. Warren, Ken Collins, Cleo Mooday, George Mirijanian, Les LeRoy Smith, Stephen Dann, Jim Marfia, Homer Jones and Burt Hochberg.
4. Reports of Officers: Stephen Dann became acting president when George Mirijanian resigned about March, 1977. He proposed a possible extension of memberships in order to compensate members for the inactive period prior to his assuming the presidency. He indicated that the magazine The Chess Journalist has been continued and is hopefully in a new improved format. He mentioned the personal pleasure he has derived in publishing the Chess Journalist. Communications is one of the chief problems among journalists and while we get a few copies of various newspapers and magazines, AUSCJ should receive the work of all journalists. A new membership card will have to be designed because the old cards are running low and contain the logos of the USCF and AIPE, which we have been advised to no longer use. The Treasurer reported that the balance sheet as of August 20, 1976 showed a previous total of \$158.69 as the only asset, which was broken down on the other side of the balance sheet as Liabilities: \$170 for prepaid subscriptions (including an allowance of \$120 for 10 honorary life memberships @ \$12 each) and a deficit of \$11.31. As of August 15, 1977 AUSCJ had assets of \$203.96 in the form of cash, with offsetting liabilities of \$174 (including an allowance of \$120 for 10 honorary life memberships @ \$12 each) and a surplus of \$29.96 for a total of \$203.96. The net income for the year was \$41.27. Gross receipts amounted to \$272, of which \$40 was prepaid in the carryover from 1976, while total expenses amounted to \$186.73 (Printing: \$114.15, mailing: \$69, misc: \$3.58) which gave a gross income of \$85.27. Prepaid dues and subscriptions paid during 1977 year were \$44, which when subtracted from the gross income left the net of \$41.27. The report was accepted as read.
5. Journalistic Awards: B.G. Dudley gave the report of the Journalistic Awards committee. The recipient of entries of the 1977 display was not able to arrive until Sunday, Aug. 14, which caused the delay in setting up the exhibition. Mr. Dudley recommended the remarks concerning the conditions for entering exhibits need to be expanded. The restriction of two entries per member was not observed well. Late publications kept arriving since no deadline was given. The editor should indicate which item he is submitting out of a publication, rather than ask the committee to determine which is best. There are problems with the "most improved" category, since it is necessary to compare a non-existent (in most cases) 1976 publication with a current one. In this respect, AUSCJ has some copies left over from the 1976 exhibit in Fairfax which are held by the secretary-treasurer which may provide the missing issues. The display arrangement this year was done by categories in the order printed on the listing of awards. This listing is to be used as the ballot. Non-member representatives can not vote in the selection, which is limited to members of the AUSCJ only. There was no entry in "best new publication". AUSCJ is not required to make an award if there is insufficient merit in the entries submitted. Publications are still eligible for awards even if the author of the particular item is not a member of AUSCJ, provided it is submitted by a member. A discussion of a tournament book was held, and it was continued...

decided that it could be submitted into the category "best publication appearing less than quarterly" since it related to an annual tournament. Eighteen members voted in the 1976 election. It was then recommended that the deadline for voting in this year's display be made Wednesday, August 17 at 10 p.m. The report was accepted as read.

6. Membership Services: Bob Erkes reported that AUSCJ members would like the right to use cartoons in Chess Review magazine, before the merger with Chess Life. This possibility had been discussed with Mr. Morrison, who said he would pass on the permission to AUSCJ journalists in some instances if requested. He indicated that Mrs. Horowitz has an equal interest in the republication rights for material once appearing in Chess Review. The report was accepted as read.

7. Bylaw amendments: Mr. Lieberman proposed and Mr. Mirijanian seconded that the current procedure relating to expiration of membership in September be replaced by one in which a one year membership shall expire 12 months from the date of receipt by the treasurer. This eliminated the second paragraph of the related bylaw. This was later approved. In answer to a question about a quorum, the president ruled that there is no requirement for a quorum. Those members present in person form a quorum.

Helen Warren seconded the Dudley motion to increase dues from \$2 to \$3 per year effective immediately. This motion passed unanimously in light of the desires of the members to keep a good publication without making the treasury insolvent.

Homer Jones offered a motion to extend present memberships six months and to adjust the expiration dates of prepaid members backward in the time scale so as to reflect the increased dues, i.e. a three-year membership would be reduced to two years, etc. After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Discussion was then suspended for an address by David Levy of England who spoke on the advantages of membership in AIPE, the international journalists society. He said that members who join AIPE receive

tournament news four to five months ahead of conventional reports, and that a non-member cannot consider themselves a serious journalist. Instructions were given on how to join.

The meeting resumed and the motion of Lieberman and Mirijanian was amended to provide for a three-month extension of membership for all members who joined before Jan. 1, 1977. Those who joined after this date would have their memberships expire 12 months from the date of purchase. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

8. New Business: The nomination of J.C. Thompson of Texas as an honorary life member was considered. This developed into a discussion of association policy with respect to honorary life members. A letter from one life member, Walter Korn, stated that while he thanked us for the free publication, but asked that he be billed each year for the annual dues. One proposal was considered to send a sample copy of the Chess Journalist to each new honorary life member, and not to send further copies unless requested by the member. This proposal was withdrawn without a formal vote. Mr. Lieberman made a substitute motion to the effect that in consideration of the fact that the Helms award had not been awarded in the previous year, that any new candidates for honorary life membership receive the Helms award instead. This was then withdrawn. The motion was then made to table the discussion on Mr. Thompson's life membership. This was defeated. Mr. Lieberman then proposed that special recognition be given for Mr. Thompson's service to chess journalism. It was agreed that Mr. Thompson would get recognition in a form not yet determined.

Mr. Hochberg stated that the deadline for the USCF Yearbook was the end of September. Mr. Dann agreed to prepare a story on AUSCJ for the yearbook.

Budget for 1977-78 was deferred in light of the need to recompute expenses due to a bylaw change relating to dues and expiration dates of memberships.

Regarding advertising rated for

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the Chess Journalist, it was decided that the president/editor should be given authority to set a reasonable rate, with a preferential rate for chess-related ads.

Other new business items were quickly touched upon due to the late hour. A letter from AIPUE would be posted. This dealt with the workings of the organization. It was decided to drop our USCF affiliation when it expires. It was recommended that the president print 1,000 or membership cards without the logos of other organizations.

Mr. Mirijanian moved that AUSCJ dispense with the newly created Paul Morphy and Jerry Spann awards. This motion was seconded and passed by a vote of 7-1.

9. Elections: Votes were taken by acclamation with no candidate being opposed. Stephen Dann was elected president. Kennedy Poyser was named vice president and assistant editor. Homer Jones, after an announcement that he could not attend the 1978 annual meeting, was elected secretary and treasurer.

A discussion on a possible code of ethics improvement was held, with no decision being made. The meeting was then adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Homer Jones
Secretary

REPORT ON THE 1977 AUSCJ MERIT AWARDS

By Bob Dudley

The AUSCJ conducted its annual meeting during the U.S. Open at Columbus, Ohio, in August, and as has been its custom exhibited the work of its members and conducted voting by its members to recognize those whose work exhibited notable merit. The exhibit did not go as smoothly as the committee would have liked, but in the end the objectives were met.

The Merit Awards Committee believed that entries for the annual display should be received by a local person in case there should be any difficulty experienced by the committee members in arriving in time to put up the display in a timely fashion. As it worked out, fate determined that this was a mistake. The editor of

the Ohio Chess Bulletin kindly volunteered to serve as a mailing address for the display, even though he had only just taken on the editorship, and had not yet had the opportunity to join the AUSCJ. Several emergencies and other commitments prevented our volunteer from delivering the materials to the committee in Columbus until the afternoon before the AUSCJ meeting. It is most desirable that the display be made public during the entire U.S. Open, both for the publicity for the organization and its members, and for the opportunity to carefully examine the exhibits before voting. The late arrival of the materials deprived some members of their opportunity of participating in the balloting as they had to depart immediately after the conclusion of the USCF meetings on Sunday. The USCF Policy Board scheduled an additional meeting for itself in the room which had been scheduled for the exhibit, and the Merit Awards Committee spent much of Sunday evening trying to get the hotel to assign it an alternative site so that the exhibit could be installed. Needless to say, the committee and several volunteers worked past midnight putting up the exhibit so that it would be available for our early Monday morning meeting. All of these difficulties should be carefully avoided at our Phoenix meeting.

The instructions unfortunately stated that submissions could merely indicate where within a magazine the material was which was to be judged. This was a bad mistake. The ONLY way in which material can be judged is to display it upon a wall with other items in its category. Those judging do not have the time to leisurely thumb through a large number of magazines searching for the entries. Next year's exhibit will require that every entry be removed and labeled so that the committee only has to affix it to the display area. The committee spent much time doing this task for many entries this year at the last minute. There were some 230 entries and it is simply too much to expect the AUSCJ members to attempt to judge such a large display without it being properly organized. Some