

MINUTES OF ANNUAL AUSCJ MEETING

The annual meeting of the Association of U.S. Chess Journalists was called to order by President John Larkins at 9 a.m. on August 2, 1979, at the Palmer House Hotel, Chicago.

ATTENDANCE. Present were Raymond Alexis, Newton Berry, George Carian, Fred Cramer, Stephen Dann, Bobby G. Dudley, Gerard Dullea, Richard E. Fauber, Milton Fine, William Goichberg, Jerome Hanken, Burt Hochberg, Homer Jones, George Koltanowski, John Larkins, Myron Lieberman, Russell Miller, Lindsay Phillips, Barry Spiegel, Robert Sutter, Jr., Helen Warren, and Harold Winston. Others in attendance included Mike Goodall, Carol Hochberg, Marshall Rohland, Gary Sperling, Suzanne Sperling and Michael Zacate.

The minutes of the 1978 meeting were approved as published in the Fall, 1978 issue Chess Journalist.

TREASURER'S REPORT. A cash balance of \$222.21 was reported as of July 31, 1979 with \$20.97 owed to President Larkins for expenses and \$3 unreported receipts submitted by Editor Dann for a net balance of \$204.24. Month-by-month cash positions were also included in the report submitted to the president. The report was accepted.

EDITOR'S REPORT. Stephen Dann gave a brief report on the Chess Journalist. He stated that there were 72 pages in volume 7's four issues. There are now about 175 members as opposed to the 165 one year ago.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. John Larkins indicated he had written a letter to the U.S. Chess Federation on the subject of advertising chess magazines in CL&R. He stated there were close to 200 entries submitted this year for awards, and wanted to obtain three unbiased judges to help with the awards to be issued Monday, August 6. He displayed a copy of the new award certificate supplied by member Ray Alexis.

BYLAWS PREVIEW. John Larkins made some comments on Ross Williams' techniques for obtaining his expanded committee. He apparently obtained the names from the replies to the questionnaires, using favorable to his own view respondents. When these were not signed, he used zip codes

on the postmark to determine the probable sender. Where comments were written on the questionnaire, these were interpreted by Ross Williams. No one has seen the results of the survey other than Williams. We have this question before us, Larkins added. Not a single item of the present bylaws is left unchanged.

A number of comments were made from the floor on the bylaws. The first comment was that divisiveness was increasing. We should determine what the true feelings of the members are. This was answered that most members do want to vote for the officers, but otherwise no major changes are desired. The second comment was that the proposed set of bylaws was invalid and should not be considered. A motion was proposed to table which was later conditioned. A third comment was that it may be all right to have to distinct organizations. The dues paid to the two separate organizations would be the most valid method of voting that could be found; the organization with the lesser financial support would not be able to continue due to financial strain. Comment by Homer Jones was that the key point in the Williams' bylaws seemed to be the obtaining of an Internal Revenue tax exemption under IRS code 501 (c) (3), which would have some financial advantages particularly in mailing CJ.

AWARDS REPORT. Burt Hochberg spoke on his offer to use award winning material in Chess Life & Review. The award committee for 1979 was selected from volunteers Hochberg, Robert Sutter, Jr., and Myron Lieberman and was approved unanimously. It was decided that there would be one merit award for top entry in each category, with one or two honorable mentions depending on quality. Awards would be sent by mail (when printed) in response to a vote of the members.

BYLAWS REPORT. John Larkins explained some of the background of the bylaws controversy. After the meeting in Phoenix, Stephen Dann received a long letter from Ross Williams complaining of various matters. Some were unhappiness with the election and with recipients of awards being on the Awards Committee. As the current bylaws are very brief, and since changes related to elections and

awards could not be made without a major overhaul of these bylaws, President Larkins proposed a new bylaws committee, and after discussing the matter with Ross Williams, appointed him as its chairman. He has put in an enormous amount of effort as indicated by the amount of text reproduced in the Summer, 1979 Chess Journalist in the "final draft" of the proposed bylaws. The end product, however, was not that helpful, according to Larkins. During the course of developing the bylaws, Williams made use of a survey. Since about 2/3 of the respondents answered the question "Do you think the bylaws should be approved by mail?" favorably, the chairman claimed that this was really a vote and therefore amends the bylaws, to permit a direct ballot on the merits of the new bylaws. As he threatened to mail out the new bylaws for a direct ratification without proceeding through the established procedure of the AUSCJ, he was dismissed as chairman of the committee by President Larkins. In turn, Williams dismissed Larkins as president of the AUSCJ, presumably in his role as acting president of the new revised bylaws version of the "AUSCJ", now known as the "Chess Journalists of America (CJA)". A new 10-page letter was written by Williams mentioning that if this meeting does not do the right things, he will send out his bylaws directly and possibly will set up his own organization. He also stated the version of the bylaws in the Chess Journalist was not the complete proposed bylaws, but is only the "final draft," without the inclusion of five pages of arguments why these were good bylaws.

He further stated that at the annual meeting these bylaws and no changes be considered: 1) Bylaws committee shall submit the bylaws to entire membership, 2) A date should be set for return of ballots, 3) The committee mailing should be at Association expense, 4) New officers elected at the annual meeting shall serve depending on the outcome of the balloting, 5) A new selection of officers will be made by mail ballot, 6) If 60% or more of the ballots favor the new bylaws, they would be declared valid. If less than 60% approve, a new draft would be pre-

pared and a new ballot submitted until finally a valid set of bylaws is produced.

BYLAWS MOTION #1: Lindsay Phillips of TX moved that the bylaws question be referred to a committee appointed by the president, be restudied and brought up at the next annual meeting." The motion was seconded and passed 14-1. The new president shall select the committee.

BYLAWS RESOLUTION #1: John Larkins proposed "Resolved that the members of AUSCJ do not accept the results of the bylaws survey as being representative of the membership." This passed by a vote of 13-1.

BYLAWS MOTION #2: Fred Cramer proposed, Lindsay Phillips seconded the motion that "The work of the bylaws committee having been completed and its report draft having been received, the AUSCJ extends its appreciation and thanks for the efforts of the committee and the members are discharged from further obligation." This motion passed, 19-0.

ELECTION BYLAW: Myron Lieberman proposed and Harold Winston seconded an amendment to the bylaws dealing with the position of editor of the Chess Journalist: "The bylaws be amended to appoint an editor." After some discussion, this motion was withdrawn and the following proposed bylaw substituted: "The President has the authority to appoint an editor." This was approved 19-0.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Homer Jones and Helen Warren announced their intentions not to run for office. John Larkins was the only nomination for president. Russell "Rusty" Miller of WA was nominated for Vice President by Fred Cramer, seconded by Ray Alexis. Fred Cramer was nominated for secretary-treasurer by Lindsay Phillips, seconded by Helen Warren. Burt Hochberg nominated Harold Winston which was seconded by Newton Berry. Cramer then withdrew his candidacy. As no elections were contested, the candidates were elected by acclamation 19-0. New officers are John Larkins, President; Russell Miller, Vice President; Harold Winston, Secretary-Treasurer. John Larkins then appointed Stephen Dann as Chess Journalist editor.

DUES INCREASE. A discussion on dues brought out that current dues (\$3 per year) were too low--barely sufficient

to issue the Chess Journalist four times per year. Russell Miller proposed and Harold Winston seconded a motion to raise the dues as follows: "The yearly dues are to be \$5 a year starting November 1, 1979." This passed 19-0.

NAME CHANGE. A discussion of a possible organizational name change led to suggestions such as Chess Journalist Association, Chess Journalists of America, American Journalists Association, etc. This raised the question of association membership requirements. Should non-American chess journalists be restricted in winning awards, etc.? The international association of chess journalists, (AIPE), considers this to be the United States chapter of that organization. It was pointed out that we are preempting functions of the bylaws committee and at that point plans to take a poll of members in the next Chess Journalist were dropped.

GAIGE CATALOG. Stephen Dann then elaborated on his story in the Summer '79 issue of CJ relating to Jeremy Gaige's catalog of American players and problemists. This would be the most definitive listing of its kind ever made and would be of use to journalists in obtaining facts about masters whose games they may publish. John Larkins wanted to know if the AUSCJ wants such a service. Burt Hochberg proposed and Helen Warren seconded the following motion: "That Stephen Dann investigate the possibility of publishing the Gaige booklet of American chess personalities, and be a one-man committee to investigate possible funded of this without use of AUSCJ funds." This passed, 15-1.

CHESS LIFE & REVIEW EDITOR: It was announced that Burt Hochberg is resigning his position as editor and that Roger Cox resigned his position as managing editor of CL&R, and that the input of the AUSCJ was requested by the USCF Policy Board members present at the annual AUSCJ meeting. Burt Hochberg issued just one statement: "I have resigned to accept the position of Executive Editor of RHM Publications. I will still be in chess work." Helen Warren said she deeply regretted the resignation of Burt Hochberg. He had been on the hot spot more than any other editor. Changes have occurred, but the maga-

zine seems to be headed in the right direction. She said she had been critical in the past, but her views have changed markedly. We USCF members need a strong editor. Burt Hochberg's qualifications are of technical precision, dedication, and a sense of independence. Her hat is off to Hochberg, with thanks for his service. Gary Sperling was asked about a new CL&R editor. He said he would welcome advice for the Policy Board meeting on August 6. Newton Berry also admired the independence of Hochberg and suggested removing the position of managing editor, now vacant to reduce expenses. Sperling pointed out the membership seems to disagree.

Hochberg traced his tenure as CL&R editor since his appointment in 1966. At first it was relatively simple, but now it would be difficult to do alone. Hochberg modestly stated that other editors could have done as well with a \$250,000 a year budget, but that regional chess was not covered well in a national publication. Hochberg said he generated the copy, Cox implemented the production of CL&R.

Sperling asked for directions the Policy Board should be giving to the CL&R editor. He said the new editor would have a role in setting the Tournament Life announcement size, like Hochberg did. He said the multiple role of CL&R makes it both a house organ and journal or record. These roles cause a dynamic tension and there is the expectation that more can be done than the budget of CL&R allows.

HISTORICAL RECORDS. Stephen Dann said that USCF sends copies of bulletins to the Cleveland Public Library after six months in the New Windsor office. He said he received a copy of publications received by the library from USCF.

REVIEW COPIES. The question arose as to how journalists get on lists of publishers for review copies of books. Burt Hochberg said publishers are notoriously inefficient, and the AUSCJ could be helpful in this regard.

BYLAWS VOLUNTEERS. Burt Hochberg and Russell Miller volunteered for the new bylaws committee.

ETHICAL PRACTICES. Gary Sperling said there should be a neutral

standard for chess journalists (see 1974 AUSCJ ethics code) in regard to ethics. He asked that AUSCJ be able to determine cases where an editor has violated the ethics code.

Burt Hochberg moved that "The Association establish an ethics committee and set up guidelines for procedure by the ethics committee and be empowered to recommend changes to the code of ethics." This motion passed 17-0. Burt Hochberg, Myron Lieberman and George Carian were appointed members of the new committee with Hochberg volunteering to serve as chairman.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

(Taken by Homer Jones, edited for space by Stephen Dann--full minutes available on request.)

1979 AUSCJ MERIT AWARDS REPORT

The judges were Burt Hochberg, Myron Lieberman and Robert Sutter. Decisions were by majority vote.

BEST STATE MAGAZINE: Chess Horizons, MA and Chess Voice, CA, equal 1st.

BEST POSTAL MAGAZINE: APCT Bulletin.

BEST INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE: Chess 'n Stuff and Wisconsin Chess News, equal 1st.

BEST TOURNAMENT REPORT (Newspaper): Newton Berry, "Of Pawns & Kings," May 6, 1979.

BEST INTERVIEW: "Ken Rogoff," by Nora Harris, Chess Horizons, and "Bent Larsen," by Richard Fauber, Chess Voice, equal 1st.

BEST BOOK REVIEW: Richard Fauber, "Golombek's Encyclopedia," Chess Voice.

BEST EDITORIAL: George Carian, "PCA" Wisconsin Chess News.

BEST HUMAN INTEREST STORY: John Larkins, "Will Bobby Fischer Rise Again?", Chess Voice.

BEST HUMOROUS CONTRIBUTION: Richard Fauber, "Quiet in the Hall," Chess Voice.

BEST REGULAR COLUMN: John Larkins, "Grapevine," Chess Voice.

BEST ANNOTATED GAME: Edmar Mednis, "Mednis-Lombardy," Chess Life & Review.

BEST ANALYSIS: Silman and Burkett, Chess Voice.

BEST INSTRUCTION: Whitehouse, "Let the Opening Fit the Time," APCT Bulletin.

BEST REGIONAL TOURNAMENT COVERAGE: No award.

BEST COVERAGE OF THE USCF: Chess Voice.

BEST COVER: Wisconsin Chess News, March, 1979. Second place: Chess 'n Stuff, August, 1978.

BEST LAYOUT: Chess 'n Stuff. Second place: Wisconsin Chess News.

BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS: No award.

BEST PRESENTATION OF ANALYSIS: No award.

BEST CARTOON: Special award to Jim Greenwald for series in "What's Going on in U.S. Chess."

BEST CHESS ART: Jules Stern in Illinois Chess Bulletin.

BEST CHESS PHOTO: Richard Shorman, "Kolti Gets a Kiss," Chess Voice.

BEST TOURNAMENT AD OR FLYER: Chess Voice, Feb/Mar, 1979.

BEST SYNDICATED COLUMN: No entries.

BEST METROPOLITAN COLUMN: Richard Fauber, Sacramento Bee.

BEST LOCAL COLUMN: Dan Heisman, Levittown, PA. Honorable mention: Leif Riesach, Melfort, Sask., Can.

BEST TOURNAMENT REPORT: Richard Fauber, CalChess Masters Open, Chess Voice.

BEST LOCAL COVERAGE: Newton Berry, "Of Pawns and Kings," and Stephen Gordon, Anchorage Times, equal 1st.

BEST NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE: No award.

BEST CHESS PROMOTION: Richard Fauber, Berkeley, Jan. 14, 1979.

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Award certificates were to be prepared by Ray Alexis and sent out as soon as possible to the above winners and honorable mentions. All entries were kept by the AUSCJ, although some have been donated to the Cleveland Public Library for display use.

Stephen Dann