**WCU AGM 2017**

**Chairman Selectors Report**

The committee has not met since the AGM in June last year when my report was largely concerned with the selection of the Open and Women’s team for the Baku Olympiad. As things turned out both teams finished 14 places above their seedings, no player did badly and Carl Strugnell and Imogen Camp in particular performed well above expectations based on their current ratings. The detailed results are attached.

The Open Team’s result was distinctly better than those recorded recently, especially given the strength of the opposition they faced. Their campaign began with the extraction of 1 point from the match against the very strong Norwegian team, perhaps making them regret resting Magnus Carlsen. There followed a series of excellent results, including a 3-1 win against Ireland, then a bad patch broken by a vital last round win. Without Jane Richmond this Olympiad was always going to be a challenge for our women’s team. But, with three youngsters on the bottom boards, everybody rose to the occasion and again a last round win ensured a very satisfactory placing. This results augurs very well for the future.

With financial support from the WCU and a contribution from the players, for the first time professional coaches were engaged for both teams, IGM Marian Petrov for the Open Section team and IM Lawrence Cooper for our talented young team in the Women’s Section. Both have reported very positively. For various reasons I think we were lucky to obtain their services for the fees we paid. Certainly they were the only professional applicants for the posts. It is also unsatisfactory that for the honour of representing their country the players not only had to meet their own travel costs but also fork out a proportion of the costs of the coaches. In future, sponsorship must be the answer if it can be found.

I have also been involved in putting together two squads, representing parts of Wales, for the 2017 World Seniors Team Championships (Crete in April/May), one for the over-65 section and one for the over-50 section. As the number of players expressing interest corresponded exactly with the numbers needed to form the two squads, no selection as such was required.

Howard Williams

**Welsh Performances in Baku**

**Women’s Team:** Seeded 84th; Finished 70th (one place below 2014). Captain: Lawrence Cooper

**Open Team:** Seeded 99th; Finished 85th (20 places better than 2014). Captain: Marian Petrov

**Women**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Name** | **Rtg** | **FED** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **Pts.**  | **Games** | **Rating Performance** |
| 1 | WFM | Smith Olivia  | 2002 | WLS | 0 | ½ | 1 | ½ | ½ | 0 | ½ | 1 | 1 | 0 | ½ | 6 | 11 | 2015 |
| 2 | WCM | Roberts Lynda  | 1888 | WLS | 0 |   |   | ½ | ½ | 0 | 0 | 1 |   | 0 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 1867 |
| 3 |   | Camp Imogen  | 1718 | WLS | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |   | 0 | ½ |   | ½ | ½ | 1 | 5 | 9 | 1876 |
| 4 |   | Sivarajasingam Shayanna  | 1687 | WLS |   | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |   | ½ | 1 | 1 | 0 |   | 5 | 8 | 1703 |
| 5 |   | Sivarajasingam Venetia  | 1631 | WLS | 0 | 1 | 0 |   | 1 | 0 |   | 1 | 0 |   | 1 | 4 | 8 | 1723 |

**Open**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bo.** |  | **Name** | **Rtg** | **FED** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **Pts.**  |  | **Games** | **Rating Performance** |
| 1 | IM | Jones Richard S.  | 2396 | WLS | ½ | 1 | ½ | 0  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 |  | 11 | 2413 |
| 2 | FM | Strugnell Carl  | 2239 | WLS | 0 | 1 | 1 |  0 |   | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 |  | 10 | 2400 |
| 3 |   | Kett Tim  | 2227 | WLS | 0 | 1 | ½ |   | ½ | ½ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |  | 10 | 2268 |
| 4 |   | Morris Charles  | 2127 | WLS | ½ | ½ |   |  0 | ½ | ½ | 0 |   |   | 0 |   | 2 |  | 7 | 2126 |
| 5 |   | Sands David A  | 2122 | WLS |   |   | 0 |  0 | ½ |   |   | ½ | ½ |   | ½ | 2 |  | 6 | 2174 |