**WCU AGM 2018**

**Chairman Selectors Report**

The committee has not met since the AGM in February last year and I therefore have little to report.

We participated successfully in the World Seniors Team Championship in Crete in 2017, with four-board teams in the over-65 section and the over-50 section. Selection from among those who responded to the notice on the web-site was not required as we were able to offer all those available a place in one or other of our two teams.

As in 2015 we did not send a team to the biennial 2017 European Team Championships. This is a very strong four-board event where countries of broadly comparable chess strength to Wales mostly stay away. In 2013 we finished comprehensively bottom and did little better in 2011. Even on boards 3/4 in the Open section the ability to play to a rating of, say, 2350 plus is necessary to be at all competitive. And most opponents on boards 1 and 2 will be grandmasters. At the moment we cannot manage that, even if the field of players available for selection were not restricted by the need for them to fund their own accommodation costs, as well as travelling. With a number of rapidly improving young players we are probably much closer to narrowing the equivalent gap in strength for the European women’s event (held at the same time). The position will be reviewed in due course for the 2019 events.

As a result of changes made to the WCU constitution at the AGM the Selection Committee is responsible for choosing players to represent Wales in junior tournaments with an age limit of over 18, principally the World Junior Championship and the World Girls Under 20 Championship. Players considered to be strong enough to benefit from particpation in these tough events were approached last August but nobody turned out to be available and therefore no representatives were sent.

The teams for the 2018 Olympiad in the Republic of Georgia, together with the captain of the Open team, will be chosen at our meeting on 15 April and preparations for the selection meeting are well advanced. We have obtained a FIDE grant to fund the appointment (by FIDE) of a coach / captain for our Women’s team. A requirement is that the appointee must come from the ranks of those with the FIDE title of Trainer or Senior Trainer. After something of a false start FIDE have recently allocated the Australian IM and Trainer, Leonid Sandler, to us.

I am prepared to continue in the post for another year if that is the wish of the meeting.

Howard Williams