

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk County Chess Association held on Tuesday 21 May 2019 at Ipswich Chess Club, 7:30 pm

In attendance:

Ipswich – Kevin Greenacre (KG), Ted Mathewson (TM), Tim Lunn (TL), Roger Holt (RH), Ken Lunn (KL), Ian Wallis (IW), Simon Riley (SRi)

Bury St Edmunds – Bob Jones (BJ), Steve Lovell (SL),

Manningtree – Leon Burnett (LB), John McAllister (JM), Adrian Sanderson (AS)

Saxmundham – John Feavoyour (JF), Sarah Rowles (SR)

Stowmarket – David Green (DG) Vicky Allen (VA), John Barratt (JB)

Felixstowe – Ed Kirkham (EK), Dave Wild (DW)

Sudbury – Rob Sanders (RS), Cameron Little (CL)

Woodridge – Ed Kirkham (EK), Samuel Gaffney (SG)

Suffolk Junior Chess – Tim Kent (TK)

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from:

Bob Stephens (BS), Jim Buis (JB) - Manningtree

Steve Ruthen, (SRu) – Bury St Edmunds

John Lambert (JL), Melvin Steele (MS) - Clacton

2. Minutes of the last SCCA AGM held on 29 May 2018

LB asked if there were any comments resulting from these; there were none. All were in favour of agreeing these minutes.

3. Matters Arising

4.4 – Updated inventory of trophies. BJ confirmed there were still some gaps in the whereabouts of some county trophies, especially those relating to Junior Chess. BJ and AS will continue to follow this up with a view to compiling an up-to-date and complete inventory of trophies. It would be helpful if clubs could check to see if they hold any county trophies and if so, advise BJ and AS accordingly. BJ has been able to locate the old Division 4 trophy.

10 – Safeguarding Children Policy – TK had sent a draft SCP to clubs and committee members; this is also an agenda item for later.

8.3 – Fischer Timings. LB said that Division 2 had seen a trial for Fischer Timing to be used as the default and this needed to be reviewed at the AGM. Confirmed trial had been successful so would now be made permanent. There was a proposal to do the same for Division 3.

Any Other Business – AS mentioned the payment of county expenses from county profits to match captains in accordance with the decision made at the 2018 AGM – this would be discussed later.

4. Officers' Reports

4.1 President (LB)

LB said this had been his first year as SCCA President and he felt he had learnt quite a lot over this period.

He said he had introduced an interim SCCA committee meeting that was held on 1 March 2019 with a view to getting a sense of how things were going.

He had maintained a fairly low-key presence as County President; he felt that there was a general reluctance for change within the SCCA. He had suggested potential changes but none had been adopted.

He thanked committee members for their work during the past season – in particular, TK, DG and KG.

There had been a number of exciting finishes especially in Division 1 and Division 2 which had both been close run until the very end.

Both county teams had good seasons – the First Team had reached the semi-final stage of the Minor Counties where they would play Devon whilst the U-160 team had won their quarter-final match so both had done well.

Looking ahead, there would soon be a need for some of the committee members to be replaced as they were stepping down from their posts so LB would be looking for potential replacements. He thanked DW, DG and AS who had agreed to continue in their posts for one further season.

LB concluded by giving attendees a heads-up that there were some significant changes to the ECF grading system in the pipeline.

4.2 Vice President (LB)

The post is currently vacant.

4.3 Admin Secretary (KG)

Again, it had been a fairly quiet year. KG had produced and distributed the minutes from the 2018 AGM, had also produced an agenda for the Committee Meeting held earlier in the season and the minutes had been forwarded to members and club secretaries.

He had arranged an agenda for the interim committee meeting held in March and had also prepared and sent out minutes to members and club secretaries.

KG confirmed he was stepping down as Admin Secretary after four years in the post and thanked committee members and clubs for all the help they had provided over this period. He would prepare and send out minutes to the 2019 AGM once these had been agreed by LB.

LB thanked KG for his support in organising meetings and producing detailed minutes of what had been discussed.

4.4 Treasurer (AS)

AS had produced a report for attendees and this was distributed.

The accounts would need to be updated in due course as the AGM was being held before the end of May which was the year-end for accounts.

He was still waiting for details of county match day expenses from the team captains so there were possible adjustments to the final figures but there was currently a surplus of £56, following the decision to meet the costs of running county teams, compared to £339 in the previous year.

Team fees had been maintained at £16 as agreed at the 2018 AGM.

With team fees for the upcoming season, this might need to be reviewed. AS had prepared a draft budget with the limited information currently available. Should the county enter teams in other competitions e.g., U-140, U-120 or U-100, there would be a shortage of income to cover reimbursing match day expenses.

AS thanked DG for all the work he had done during the season.

The EACU levy is currently £70 based on two County teams entered into inter-County competitions. The more teams we enter, the higher the cost would be.

No public liability insurance had been paid for again as a result of a decision made at the 2012 AGM as the SCCA do not hold any events to which non-members of clubs take part.

Some of the county trophies had quite high values when they were last valued so AS was continuing to try and compile an up-to-date inventory of the locations of trophies with the

assistance of BJ. Three of the most expensive trophies and a shield have not yet been located.

No equipment had been purchased.

4.5 Competitions Secretary (DG)

DG said that the season had started with a problem after the deadline for team entries had passed, as two teams had dropped out of Division 3 before playing any matches. This was clearly not ideal and had caused DG extra work. In the end, Division 3 teams played just 10 matches despite having 8 teams whereas in Divisions 1 and 2, 14 matches had been played with each Division having 8 teams.

All competitions had been completed and the results entered and approved.

Unfortunately, the number of defaults had been quite high during the season with Bury St Edmunds having around 60%. This was due partly to long term illness of two of their players during the first half of the season and partly to the new, tightened substitution rules which had also probably also impacted on the club. Defaults are always unwelcome and can affect the integrity of the competition and, indeed, Division 2 was decided by a default. The Cup and Plate had also been plagued by four-board defaults.

TL said he remembered there had been quite a lengthy discussion in the past about the 1 player / 1 division rule and whether it applied to Division 3.

DG said he had issued an interpretation of the rules as he saw them but did not, in fact, have the authority to do so under the current SCCA regulations.

Postponements had also increased and one team had been 4 matches behind the rest of the Division due to repeated postponements.

DG added that many captains were ignoring the requirement to agree a new date for a postponed match to be played before contacting him; this had led him to chase up clubs for match results for postponed matches because the results system had not been updated as no new date had been agreed. Again, this had led to unnecessary time being spent chasing up clubs.

DG said he had thought this would be his final season in post but he had agreed to stay on for a further season as otherwise DW would have borne the brunt of teaching the new Competition Secretary the role and so out of respect for DW, DG would now step down at the end of the 2019 – 2020 season.

DG concluded that he hoped there would be an introduction of some younger blood on the SCCA committee at the end of next season.

LB thanked DG for all his hard work in what can be a difficult job.

4.6 Cup & Plate Organiser (RS)

RS reported that 12 teams had entered; in the end, only 10 teams had competed due to 2 teams dropping out before playing any matches.

In the Cup Final, Manningtree A had beaten Ipswich D.

In the Plate Final, Bury St Edmunds D had beaten Ipswich F.

RS said that when the Cup and Plate competition had first been run, 14 teams had entered and subsequently there had usually been between 12 and 14. He felt that enthusiasm had waned a little and he had heard criticism about mismatches at an early stage and defaults. He also felt there was not much interest in the Plate.

RS asked whether it was it time to replace the Cup and Plate and said that he would be making a proposal for discussion later at the AGM.

4.7 Results Officer (DW)

DW said he had needed to make a number of changes to the Results database to cater for the introduction of the new ECF Membership System, changes to the restrictions on who was allowed to play for which team, and the end of support for the PHP software which the system uses.

DH had introduced a new facility to allow for someone in each club to decide who can enter results for each team and thought this had led to a reduction of issues referred to him.

DW had submitted results of completed events for grading; there were just a couple outstanding – Norfolk and Suffolk Cup and the Stowmarket Club Championship. The N & S Cup Final between Ipswich and Broadland was taking place on 30 June 2019.

In October, the ECF will decide whether to move to an Elo style grade and monthly grading. The SCCA has 5 votes but he did not know the voting intention. LB wondered if the attendees had any thoughts; DW confirmed these votes could be given to someone else to vote on behalf of the SCCA.

Due to the scheduled introduction of the ECF League Management System, DG mentioned that it was important for someone to volunteer to be involved in this for the SCCA and DW agreed this was important to ensure a smooth transition of systems.

SLo said he thought the LMS was very good but wondered if it would not have specific features that we had been used to having with DW's system.

The attendees felt it was important for one or more volunteers to be sought to get involved in the introduction of the LMS. IW asked what it involved to volunteer and DW said there was lots of information about the LMS on the ECF website.

ECF membership fees were increasing slightly.

4.8 First Team Captain (SR)

In SR's absence, KG read out a report. The First Team had qualified comfortably for the knockout stage of the Minor Counties, losing only their final match when already safely through; SR thanked all the players, in particular IW for helping with the logistics of getting Ipswich players to matches. After a bye in the quarter final, the First Team would be playing Devon on 8 June 2019 but unfortunately there was a real danger of Suffolk having to concede the match, due to the length of the journey and the lack of availability of players on that date.

Should Suffolk concede the match, there was the potential for both the county and the EACU to be fined.

4.9 U160 Captain (BJ)

BJ said the U-160 Team had qualified as champions but it had been very close and had all come down to the very last game to be completed; this had resulted in a win from a lost position. Suffolk had then played Greater Manchester in the quarter final and had won a close match 9 – 7. In the semi-final, Suffolk would play Essex at Wanstead on 9 June 2019 and 17 players had already confirmed their availability.

4.10 Correspondence Captain (BS)

In the absence of BS, KG read out a report he had received; this confirmed Suffolk had not entered a team. BS had also sent in his resignation from the post. After a brief discussion, LB suggested this post did not need filling at this stage as there appeared little or no likelihood that a team would be entered in the future and the attendees agreed to this suggestion.

BS was thanked for his work in this post.

4.10 Junior Organiser (TK)

TK thanked a number of people for their help during the last year with Junior Chess in the county.

There had been an increase in the number of tournaments organised, especially those in Martlesham arranged by Dagne Ciuksyte (DC). Unfortunately, the attendance at some Junior events had been disappointing.

Activity at the Bury St Edmunds Junior Club continued to go from strength to strength and it would be great if this was reflected elsewhere.

Schools chess continued to be rather intermittent and relied on a teacher or volunteer(s) organising activity.

Chess activity had been going on at the Felixstowe Academy and a number of students were taking part in chess but it was a shame that none had so far come to any of the tournaments that had been run.

TK wondered if there was a need to hold an event for intermediate level players.

IW mentioned the national chess tournament – the UK Chess Challenge. TK said he hoped some schools in the county would compete in this next season. IW said he had helped at a recent Giga Final in Surrey and there had been lots of players so it would be good if some local schools were able to enter a team.

TK also reminded attendees about the Chess Kid website – www.chesskid.com – where there was a Suffolk Chess Club set up.

TK said he had also arranged for a U-11 team to take part in the regional stage of a competition and the players had all enjoyed this; he thanked parents for helping him with this.

5 Election of Officers

LB had completed his first year as County President and asked KG to take over the Chair to allow his continuation to be confirmed. There was no other candidate so on a show of hands, this was confirmed and LB resumed as Chair.

KG was stepping down after the AGM but would prepare the minutes.

DW, DG and AS would be stepping down at the end of next season.

All other current officers were standing for re-election.

LB said no other nominations had been received and suggested that a show of hands vote should be taken to re-elect the other members en bloc. This was carried unanimously.

To replace KG, JM had volunteered to be Admin Secretary. LB proposed JM and this was seconded by DG. On a show of hands, this appointment was passed.

There was no current Ladies Organiser and VA said she thought there was no real need for someone in this post at present. VA asked about the number of ladies playing chess in the county and SR confirmed she had played league chess during the season. VA said lots of girls played chess at school but this stopped as they got older.

DW asked if the constitution could be amended to reflect the current state of posts; IW thought that it was okay to leave posts vacant if there was no need for these to be filled so it was agreed the constitution need not be amended.

Action Point – Discuss the vacant posts for Ladies Organiser and Correspondence Captain to see if there is a need for these to be filled.

Volunteers would need to be sought for the posts becoming vacant at the end of next season; DG has a job specification for the Competition Secretary. IW wondered if the Suffolk Chess website could be updated to advertise these upcoming vacancies.

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6 Norfolk & Suffolk Cup

A discussion was held on the rules for the N & S Cup.

IW asked how the final is decided in the event of a draw. Currently this is on board elimination but in the past, this had been on board count and this had affected the winner.

Norfolk favour board count.

LB asked how we can change the rules and when these had been written.

TL confirmed that board count used to be in force and when there is a six-board match, this can matter.

BJ thought there was a need to speak with Norfolk and IW thought this was a good idea.

The attendees were in favour of board count.

LB asked, as this was an inter-county event, do Suffolk rules apply?

DG mentioned a possible inconsistency within our rules.

LB thought there was a need to be consistent with Norfolk as far as is possible and IW confirmed that Norfolk are keen for this to be decided upon.

It was agreed that IW would contact John Wickham with a view to agreeing a common system.

Action Point – IW to contact John Wickham to arrange a consistent method for resolving drawn matches and advise the SCCA committee for discussion.

7 Suffolk Cup and Plate Competition

RS said that he wanted to discuss a possible change to this competition.

Originally, 14 teams had entered but this had dropped to 12 and then 10.

RS said his aim was always to provide a good competition for players but he had struggled to get interest from some clubs. In other counties, they have a league and a cup event. In Suffolk, we have a league that everyone plays in but we have not had a cup event that everyone plays in.

We also have U-125 and U-145 events.

IW wondered if one of the reasons for the lack of interest might be that some players and clubs are involved in other leagues, for example the Bury Area Chess League and North Essex League – perhaps this meant they did not feel they needed to play in more events. He thought that participation in any Cup competition should be voluntary.

RS said he was looking for teams to play in both the league and a cup event but there would be an opt-out option.

His proposal was 8 teams in each of the 3 Divisions; 8 teams was a good number for any cup competition so he envisaged 3 Divisional Cup events. There would therefore be a quarter final with the winners going through to a semi final before the two winners took part in the final. This would lead to half the teams playing 1 cup match, a quarter playing 2 cup matches and a quarter playing 3 cup matches. RS thought this would not lead to many additional matches and could add interest for teams as there were unlikely to be any significant mismatches.

RS suggested the Cup event could be a rapid play format of 2 individual games with 4 players in each team. Possible time limits could be 30 minutes for the whole game or 25 minutes plus a 5 second increment per move for the whole game.

BK suggested the board order would need to be the same to allow for 1 white / 1 black per player.

There was a discussion on possible switches to the board order and whether this was another option. BJ thought there wouldn't be a huge disparity between players and TL mentioned the possibility of switching players if there was a perceived mismatch in the board order. SLo said he liked the idea of changing team members between the 2 games. RH asked whether this would allow the opponents to also change board order and wondered if players would prefer to play a different opponent.

DG asked if there was a change to the team line up between games, would DW need to do something on the Results database to reflect this, as it could lead to complications.

DG asked whether the Cup competition would count for the Player of the Year award. Confirmed no as this was based on standard play games and not quickplay.

EK asked about how a tied match would be decided – for example a 2.5 – 1.5 result in the first game and then a 1.5 – 2.5 result in the second so a 4 – 4 draw overall. Agreed this would be on board count.

RS had compiled a set of rules for the proposed rapid play competitions for the Division 1 Cup, Division 2 Cup and Division 3 Cup, to replace the existing Appendix 1.

LB asked for a show of hands to see who was in favour of running a Cup competition based on rapid play games. In favour – 15. Against – 0. Passed.

8 Proposals

Rule 2.4 – Division 1 and Division 2 incremental timing. To replace the current wording with the proposed wording – ‘In Division 1 and 2, incremental (‘Fischer’) timing will be the default method of time control with each player having 75 minutes for the game plus an increment of 15 seconds for every move. The standard timings as listed in Rule 2.3a can only be used if both players agree.’

Show of hands – 8 for, 1 against – approved.

Rule 2.5 – Trial of incremental timings in Division 3. To replace the current wording with the proposed wording – ‘Division 3 will trial the same incremental (‘Fischer’) timing as Division 1 and 2 as the default method of time control with a review at the 2020 AGM.’

Show of hands – 9 for, 1 against – approved.

Both players would need to agree if standard timings were used rather than incremental.

Confirmed if there are no electronic clocks available, players would have to use manual clocks and use standard timing.

Rule 3.2 – Postponed matches. To replace the current wording with the proposed wording – ‘A match may be postponed by agreement between the two captains, provided they agree on a new date and notify the Competitions Secretary before the original date for the fixture. Where any two teams wish to arrange a postponement then the postponed match may not be scheduled for a date that would make it the last match of the season for either team. A captain is under no obligation to agree a new date and may decline, in which case the match will be played on the original date’.

This was discussed by the attendees.

IW asked how difficult it was to arrange the teams in the same club to play each other at the start of the season. DG advised that this could upset pairings.

LB said that in Division 1, one team had got quite a long way behind the other teams in playing matches and that made it difficult for those teams to know near the end of the season the number of points they needed to win the division or to escape relegation

DG said the rules on postponements had been relaxed several years ago following a decision made at an AGM to allow captains to agree to postpone matches; originally this had been restricted to poor weather, travel issues and so on.

There are no penalties for ignoring the requirement to advise the Competitions Secretary of the rearranged date for a postponed match.

BJ thought there was a need to decide what to do now rather than to revisit a previous change in the rules.

RS said he thought it important that teams did not have a number of matches left when all other teams had finished their matches as it gave an unfair advantage to the team with matches left as they would know what they needed to do pointwise. The proposed rule change would stop this happening.

BJ mentioned that as Bury St Edmunds play their home matches on a Thursday, they do have an advantage over clubs who play on an earlier night of the week. DG said there was always a need for an exception to be made.

Show of hands – 9 for, 3 against – approved.

Rule 3.9 – new rule. Proposed wording ‘Where a team or teams default repeatedly, a warning will be issued by the Competitions Secretary that the defaulting team’s results will be discounted in the calculations for that division if the defaults persist’.

This was discussed by the attendees and the general consensus was the wording needed to be tighter to make it clearer. It was designed to stop defaults having a significant impact on deciding who won competitions, especially in the league. DG confirmed teams could continue to play in the event if they did default a match. JM asked if the ECF League Management System could handle this scenario, DW thought it probably could.

VA said there should be no need for defaults as team captains had the ability to rearrange matches and advise the Competitions Secretary accordingly. BJ said that both captains needed to agree to this and there was no obligation for a team captain to agree to a postponement. He agreed that there had been a problem with Bury St Edmunds clubs defaulting some matches during the season; the club had got things wrong but he did not think this would happen again in the future.

The proposed wording was therefore amended to read – ‘Where a team defaults on one occasion, a warning will be issued; should a further default occur, the defaulting team’s results will be discounted in the calculations for that Division’.

Show of hands – 6 for, 8 against – rejected.

Rule 5.1 – nominated players. The proposed wording had already been amended to remove the sentence ‘A player may only play for one team in Divisions 1 and 2’. No further action required.

Rule 5.4 – ineligible substitutions. This rule change had already been made by removing 5.4 as it is covered in Table 1. No further action required.

Rule 10.2 – Quickplay finish. Proposed wording ‘In a Quickplay finish, if a player has less than two minutes on the clock, he or she may stop the clock and claim a draw if it is believed that the opponent either cannot win by normal means or is making no effort to win by normal means. If their own games have been completed, the two captains may jointly arbitrate in

this matter and if necessary, should allow the game to continue until flag fall in order properly evaluate the claim’.

As only the words ‘In a Quickplay finish’ had been added to the existing rule, this was merely designed to clarify the rule. This was approved by the attendees without a vote.

Rule 12.1 – Amendments to the rules. Proposed wording – ‘Proposals to change these rules will be considered at the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting called specifically for that purpose, Those attending the AGM or EGM may decide to recommend that the SCCA committee is authorised to formulate the exact wording of any change to the rules approved at the said meeting’.

This proposal reflected a need for a precise wording to allow the SCCA committee to formulate exact wording of any rule change approved by an AGM or EGM. This was approved by the attendees without a vote.

9 Changes to the Constitution

To meet match fees from county funds (change to Constitution 8.5) as proposed by the SCCA Committee).

The proposed wording is - 8.5 County Matches

‘The SCCA will fund the venues and light refreshments for all county matches by reimbursing the County team captains for any expenditure they make. A claim for these expenses will have to be made to the Treasurer by the County team captains, supported by documents showing the expenditure and the Treasurer will then release the funds. A contribution towards the travel costs to County matches that reach the national level will be made to a level set by the Treasurer and agreed at each Annual General Meeting’.

LB confirmed a formal wording needed to be agreed to allow for the Constitution to be amended.

SLo said one of the reasons for this change had been due to a surplus in county funds and although he agreed it might be difficult to budget exactly for a future cost, this could be based on the previous year’s figures.

AS confirmed, he had prepared a budget based on a ‘normal’ year - £20 team fees and £8 for the Suffolk League.

BJ suggested using the figure for this year's match fees in next year's budget to give an indication of the cost involved.

IW recommended that a contribution to travel costs relating to the national level should have 'will be made' in the wording. AS said if this was the decision, he would need information to help with budgeting and IW said the level set could be based on sensible judgement and could then be agreed at the AGM.

The attendees approved the proposed wording by a show of hands – unanimous.

10 Safeguarding Children Policy

TK had done quite a lot of work on this and had circulated a proposal for discussion at the AGM.

He said that Suffolk did not have an SCP and this meant we were out of step with other counties.

The English Chess Federation does have an SCP but he did not feel it was very well written and not all the posts mentioned were currently filled.

TK had been working with BJ on a Suffolk SCP; they had reviewed the ECF's and had taken out what they considered to be unmanageable. TK said he realised the proposed Suffolk SCP might not be perfect but if we waited for this, we may never actually have a SCP; there was a need to have one.

DG mentioned the SCCA SCP would cover children attending events and asked if this was binding on clubs who had already drawn up their own SCP; BJ said that the final line in the proposed SCP would cover this.

IW said he thought it was an excellent piece of work.

LB asked about the frequency of monitoring the proposed SCP as there was a mention of an annual review and also that the policy would be reviewed, where necessary.

BJ confirmed that the proposed SCP would need to be reviewed on a regular basis; any updates could be made and the date noted.

TK clarified what to do if there were any concerns – details would be provided on whom to contact and the process to follow.

It was agreed the review of the SCP should be a standing item on future AGM agendas.

There was one small typo on the 4th bullet point – should read ‘...who is the designated...’

LB thanked TK and BJ for all their work on this.

The introduction of the Suffolk SCP was agreed by attendees.

11. Presentation of trophies

Trophies were presented to the following –

Division 1 – Bury St Edmunds B

Division 2 – Ipswich B

Division 3 – Manningtree C

Suffolk Cup – Manningtree A

Suffolk Plate – Bury St Edmunds D

U-125 Cup – Clacton

U-145 – Bury St Edmunds

Division 1 Player of the Year – Mark Le Vine (Bury St Edmunds) & Michael Cook (Ipswich)

Division 2 Player of the Year – Tim Lunn & Angus Irving (both Ipswich)

Division 3 Player of the Year – John Price (Manningtree)

First Team Player of the Year – Steve Gregory & Stephen Lewis

U-160 Team Player of the Year – Phil Hutchings (Manningtree)

LB advised the meeting that unfortunately the incorrect player had received the Division 1 Player of the Year trophy in 2017-2018; John Peters had been awarded the trophy as a result of scoring 10 points but this should have gone to Andy Lewis (AL) who had scored 9.5 points plus a default. The rules confirmed that defaults counted for the POTY so AL had actually scored 10.5 points. LB had informed both players. It was agreed by the attendees that KG purchase a suitable new trophy for AL.

Action Point – KG to purchase a new trophy for 2017 – 2018 Division 1 Player of the Year to present to AL.

12 Teams for next season

Clubs were asked for an indication of the number of teams they would be entering into competitions next season – there was also a reminder for clubs that the deadline for entering teams into the 2019 - 2020 season was 31 July 2019; information needs to be sent to DG.

Ipswich – 7 teams plus U125, U145, Cup and Plate

Bury St Edmunds – will need to be considered, currently 5 teams in the league with a possibility of another team

Saxmundham – 3 teams

Manningtree – 3 teams

Felixstowe – 2 teams

Woodbridge – 3 teams

Clacton – not sure, possibly 1 team

Sudbury – 1 team

Stowmarket – 1 team

There was also a possibility that Woodbridge School might enter a team into the U-125 Cup; Ipswich Junior Club were also possibly interested but they might need an earlier start time for matches.

This totals about 26 possible teams for next season.

13 Any Other Business

AS mentioned possible charges for next season, based on an estimate he thought these could be in the region of £20 team fees, £8 for rapidplay (perhaps a little less), £6 for U-145 and £2 for N & S Cup. EM asked about the potential percentage increase, AS estimated around 25%. This would generate around £650. IW asked if there was a need for an increase, AS said these would cover potential county match day expenses which were estimated to be in the region of £350. The possible increase would allow the county to at least break even with a possible small surplus.

SLo reminded attendees about the Suffolk Chess website; there had not been much activity of late as it remained difficult to find content so he asked for any items to be sent to either himself, BJ or Ed Player (EP).

The meeting ended at 21:45. LB thanked all attendees and the Committee for their work during the previous season.