

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Suffolk County Chess Association, held at the Ipswich Institute on Tuesday 3 September 2013.

Present: Andrew Paige, Peter Chadwick (Saxmundham); Melvin Steele (MS), John Lambert (Clacton); Dave Wild (DW) (Aadalstr/Felixstowe); Dave Robertson (DR) (Felixstowe); Vicky Allen (VA) (Stowmarket); Colin Roberts (CR), Bob Jones (BJ), Steve Lovell (Bury St Edmunds); Steve Gregory, Michael Clapham, Andrew Shephard, Shaun Munson, Ian Wallis (IW) (Ipswich); Adrian Sanderson (Hadleigh) (AS); Jim Buis (JB) (Manningtree).

1. Apologies: were received: from Malcolm Lightfoot, Rob Sanders, Ted Matthewson, Tim Lunn, Mark Weidman and Mike McNaughton (MM).

ACTION

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 11 September 2012:

Proposed AP; Seconded JB that the Minutes be approved. Agreed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

4. Officers' Reports:

Written reports had been received from all current officers. These were distributed within a single document to those attending. The following comments were made additionally:

4.1. President. CR thanked members of the Executive for their assistance during the past year.

4.2. Secretary. BJ asked members to let him know of any interesting items for the Suffolk Chess website, which he hoped would be updated on a daily basis throughout the season.

4.3 Treasurer. AS presented the accounts for the year. It was noted that a total of 30 games had been played by non-ECF members, a remarkably low figure, which showed that most players had joined the ECF, as had been hoped.

The budget was considered and a vote was taken following a proposal from DR, seconded by JB, to reduce the team fees by 25% because game fee is no longer payable to the ECF. *The proposal was carried unanimously.*

AS mentioned that five digital clocks had been purchased last season with a further five being added this year. IW pointed out that the use of digital clocks was becoming the norm nationally and that the County was wise to prepare for the future in this way.

AS raised the issue of funds held by Suffolk Junior Chess; their account appeared to have been closed. It was agreed that AS should re-double his efforts to locate the former Treasurer (Richard Morbey) in order to ascertain where the money was now held. The funds, amounting to over £500, should be returned to the SCCA and utilised for junior purposes.

AS

4.4. Competition Secretary. In Mike McNaughton's absence, VA reminded the meeting of his reluctance to continue in this role and hoped that a replacement could be found, ideally now to cover for the rest of the season.

It was noted that Clacton would only be fielding one team and that some minor changes to the provisional fixture list had been made. The Suffolk Grading website would show the latest fixtures. The closing date for entries to the cup competition (31 August) has now passed. MM will complete the fixtures for these events upon his return to the UK on 11 September.

MM

4.5 Results Officer. DW requested that the date for the Final of the Norfolk & Suffolk Cup (between the Norfolk and Suffolk winning clubs) be agreed between the counties well in advance. BJ undertook to discuss this with John Charman of Norfolk.

BJ

4.6 Women's Chess. The 2013 Suffolk Ladies Champion was Emilia Jewell. VA noted that five of the seven entrants to the Ladies Championship last season were juniors from the Bury Knights JCC. VA also noted the rapid improvement of nine year old Anita Somton, whose ECF grade has increased by 50 points between January and July, to 109.

4.7. Correspondence. JB confirmed that the online process had made his job far simpler. To date only one person has declined to play for the County team in the coming season.

4.8. County First Team. IW confirmed that there had been very little support for the team to progress to the National competition, following their success within the EACU. As the EACU winning county has to progress to the National Open section, the opposition is tougher. He thought that the current structure of the Counties Competition needed reviewing, a matter initially for the EACU to consider.

4.9. County u160 Team BJ thanked all those who had participated in the past season. Ed Kirkham had been the team's most successful player.

5. Presentation of Trophies . All current trophies were available for presentation and were engraved up-to-date. Concern was expressed over the poor condition of the Division 1 trophy; all recipients were reminded that trophies must be clean when handed back for re-presentation. The undermentioned received the following trophies:

Division 1 (Ipswich A) - Steve Gregory
Division 2 (Bury St Edmunds B) - Bob Jones
Division 3 (Ipswich D) – Steve Gregory
Division 1 Player of the Year – Shaun Munson (Ipswich)
Division 2 Player of the Year – Bob Jones (Bury St Edmunds)
Division 3 Player of the Year – Peter Chadwick (Saxmundham)
U125 Cup (Felixstowe) – Dave Robertson
U145 Cup (Ipswich) – Steve Gregory
League Cup (Ipswich) – Steve Gregory
Norfolk & Suffolk Cup (Ipswich) – Steve Gregory

The Division 2 trophy was new, provided by the Bury St Edmunds club to replace a trophy lost by the former Bury Cannons club. The Swiss Tournament trophy was retained by the Secretary as this competition is currently in abeyance.

6. Election of Officers. The following officers were unanimously elected *en bloc*, following a proposal by DR, seconded by AP:

President:	Colin Roberts
County Secretary:	Bob Jones
County Results Officer:	Dave Wild
Suffolk Women's Organiser:	Vicky Allen
Correspondence Captain:	Jim Buis
County Captain - u160:	Bob Jones

Outstanding posts at this stage were Competitions Secretary, Vice-President, Junior Organiser, First Team Captain and Under 100 team captain. Following no offers to replace the Competitions Secretary, it was reluctantly agreed to ask MM to continue in this post for the remainder of the season. It was however noted that this would be his final year in this post.

Every effort will now be made to find replacements or new officers to fill the remaining posts. CR asked all those attending to encourage their club members to consider applying for these positions.

All

7. Proposals.

7.1 The proposal by the Committee to bring forward the date of the AGM to May/June (thus amending para 5.1 of the Constitution) was approved unanimously.

7.2 Following some discussion, mainly surrounding the definition of a 'bona fide member', a vote was taken on the Committee's proposal to amend Rule 7a. This was approved by a vote of 7 in favour with 4 against. This rule change effectively removes the requirement for pre-registration.

The second part of the proposal to amend Rule 7 was approved by a margin of 9 votes to 3. This 'catch-all' rule allows players to represent more than one club in a competition unless the rules for an event expressly forbid it.

7.3 No separate vote was taken as this proposal was only to be considered if 7.2 above was rejected.

7.4 The Committee's proposal to amend Rule 11b was carried by 13 votes to 1, despite some concern that the Competitions Secretary would be the sole judge of 'reasonable grounds'. It was confirmed that the deduction of a point from the match score in the event of a default not being on the lowest board would apply if a team scored zero (i.e. their score would become -1).

7.5 A brief discussion on the optional use of Fischer timing (75 minutes + 10 seconds increment per move) for standard-play games ensued. A suggestion by VA, supported by MS, to provide a further alternative for standard play of 1½ hours each with no quick-play finish was disallowed by CR, as this had not been mentioned on the agenda notices. A vote was taken with 14 in favour and one against, to allow the use of Fischer timing, provided both players agree.

7.6 The recommendation by MM to clarify the use of a player's Rapidplay grade, if (s)he has one, for the League Cup competition, was approved unanimously. A new Rule 34 would be added, with subsequent numbering amended accordingly.

7.7 Rule 11c was amended, with unanimous consent, to correct a typo. "on a lower board" will now read "on a higher board".

8. Any other business

8.1 Cup Competitions. Written suggestions by Rob Sanders (Sudbury) were discussed. He proposed two alternatives to the current three cup competitions (u125, u145, League Cup). In brief, one proposal was for a knockout cup involving every team in the league. The other was for three divisional cups, based on an all-play-all within each division. His

ideas were of interest to those attending, but it was thought to be too late to introduce them this season. VA also suggested the possibility of a Handicap event, although this would not be able to be graded. The Committee will now canvas Club Secretaries to receive the Clubs' views on the this issue by Christmas and then consider these ideas in detail, for possible introduction in 2014/15.

8.2 There was a brief discussion of the incident in the previous season in which a Bury St Edmunds team played an unregistered player against a Clacton team. It was agreed that the incident was dealt with by members of the League Executive in good faith. However, it was also agreed that the meeting would recommend to officials investigating rule irregularities in future that they should, in all but the most unusual of circumstances, conclude that a player who plays a game for which (s)he is ineligible cannot be deemed to have officially played and that the game must therefore, be defaulted to the opposition, irrespective of the result over the board. Such games should be submitted for grading in the normal fashion.

8.3 Suffolk Closed Championships. The winners of the three events for 2012/13 were noted and congratulated:

Championship	-	Steve Gregory (Suffolk Champion)
Challengers	-	Malcolm Lightfoot
Intermediate	-	Melvin Steele

9. Date of the next Annual General Meeting. Following the meeting's approval of the change in the Constitution to amend the date of the AGM to May/June, it was agreed that the date for the 2014 meeting would be announced later in the season.

The meeting closed at 9:45 pm.