

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Suffolk County Chess Association, held at the Ipswich Institute on Tuesday 10 June 2014.

Present: Arthur McCormick, Malcolm Lightfoot, Andrew Paige (Saxmundham); Ed Kirkham, Dave Wild (DW) (Adastral Park); Dave Robertson, Phil Hopkins (Felixstowe); Colin Roberts (CR), Bob Jones (BJ), Steve Lovell (SL), Scott Taylor, David Wood (Bury St Edmunds); Steve Gregory (SG), Michael Clapham, Tim Lunn (TL), Ted Matthewson, Andrew Shephard, Ian Wallis (IW), Keith Woodcock (Ipswich); Adrian Sanderson (AS) (Hadleigh); Jim Buis (JB), Leon Burnett, Adam Taylor, Debbie Taylor (Manningtree); David Green (DG), Mike McNaughton (MM) (Stowmarket); Rob Sanders (RS) (Sudbury). TOTAL = 27.

1. Apologies: were received: from John Lambert, Melvin Steele, John Feavyour and Vicky Allen.

ACTION

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 3 September 2013:

The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously and signed by the President.

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. He expressed concern that no volunteers had been forthcoming for the unfilled posts of Vice-President and Junior Organiser.

4.2. Secretary. BJ referred to the Suffolk website, which has received over 150,000 page views since it was launched in September 2012.

4.3 Treasurer. AS encouraged all players to join, or re-join, the ECF. AS proposed that league team entry fees be increased by £1 to £16. This was approved unanimously.

The outstanding issue with the Suffolk Junior Chess funds has still not been resolved; further efforts to trace the money will be made. EK wondered if this was now a legal matter, as some person presumably has the £500 that was in the account. AS will attempt to trace the account through the NatWest bank. CR felt that the matter should not be ignored and every possible route should be explored.

AS

4.4. Competition Secretary. MM commented that fixture management was his biggest problem. There was potential for conflict on fixture dates between the League Cup and the Bury League's Roger Goldsmith competition. There had been no adjudications. MM felt that the League owed a debt of gratitude to DW for the results website. The reporting of results on time was important; there is a possibility of a penalty if not received within seven days. However, warnings had been sufficient to resolve this without resorting to any penalties this season. All competitions had been completed.

RS thought there should be greater co-ordination with the Bury Area Chess League. Rather than one league doing the fixtures first, they should be done at the same time, with both secretaries liaising.

CR thanked MM, who is retiring from the post, for his sterling work as Competitions Secretary.

4.5 Results Officer. Although DW had nothing to add, he was complimented again on his excellent website, which now includes results from across the EACU.

4.6 Women's Chess. The Women's Chess Organiser was absent.

4.7. Correspondence. JB commented that he would like to enter a second team next season. He would like anyone interested to contact him before the end of August.

4.8. County First Team. IW reported that the First Team would be playing Essex in the Minor Counties semi-final on Saturday. In past seasons he experienced problems in raising a team for the national stages, but this year there have been no difficulties. BJ has taken over as captain for the national stages.

4.9. & 4.10 County u160 / u100 Teams Neither captain had anything to add to their written reports.

5. Presentation of Trophies . The undermentioned received the following trophies:

Division 1 (Manningtree A) – Jim Buis

Division 2 (Bury St Edmunds C) – Bob Jones

Division 3 (Bury St Edmunds D) – Scott Taylor

Division 1 Player of the Year – Adam Taylor & Leon Burnett (both Manningtree)

Division 2 Player of the Year – John Peters (Bury St Edmunds) and Ed Kirkham (Austral)

Division 3 Player of the Year – Phil Hopkins (Felixstowe)

U125 Cup (Ipswich) – Steve Gregory

U145 Cup (Ipswich) – Keith Woodcock

League Cup (Sudbury) – Rob Sanders

6. Election of Officers. The following officers were unanimously elected *en bloc*:

President:	Colin Roberts
County Secretary:	Bob Jones
County Results Officer:	Dave Wild
Suffolk Women's Organiser:	Vicky Allen
Correspondence Captain:	Jim Buis
First Team captain:	Ian Wallis
U160 team captain:	Bob Jones

David Green (Stowmarket) was unanimously elected as Competitions Secretary.

Dave Robertson, the current u100 team captain is unlikely to qualify as his July 2014 grade should be greater than 100. It was suggested by RS that DR might be willing to captain a new u120 team. BJ will contact clubs when the new grades are published to gauge interest for Under 120 and Under 100 County teams.

BJ

Outstanding posts which need to be filled are Vice-President and Junior Organiser. CR urged those attending to ask around at the clubs as it is vital that these posts are filled. CR reminded the meeting that he was now commencing his final year as President, with no replacement lined up.

All

7. Proposals.

7.1 The proposal by the Committee to delete references in the Constitution to the Suffolk Chess Journal and its Editor [paras 2(c) and 4] were approved unanimously.

7.2 Following some discussion on alternative time limits, the Bury St Edmunds club's proposal to amend the timings to 70 minutes + 15 seconds from the first move was approved by 18 votes to none. It was confirmed that Fischer timing could only be used if there was a suitable digital clock available and both players agree to its use. It was noted that games using Fischer timing would now start with a different clock time (1-10 instead of 1-15) to games using standard timings of 30 moves in 1¼ hours plus 15 minutes.

8. Competition rules

DG provided a brief summary as to why the current rules needs to be revised. This included poor drafting, duplication and missing rules. MM felt it was worth harmonising the rules in the two leagues.

Following discussion it was agreed unanimously that there was a need for revision and that a Rules Committee would be established with a mandate to bring forward a new set of rules for approval at an Extraordinary Meeting at the end of August 2014. Some reservations were expressed regarding the short time available between now and the end of August, but it was generally felt that by using electronic means, it should be possible to conclude the proposed revision in time.

CR confirmed that the revision would focus mainly on 'housekeeping' issues, but if there were any substantial changes to the rules, or if there is any significant objection to any rule, then these should be deferred to the next Annual Meeting.

BJ will contact all SCCA clubs to receive nominations for the Rules Committee. Ideally there should be one nomination per club, in addition to the Competitions Secretary and County Secretary.

BJ

9. New competition(s)

RS led a discussion on the current subsidiary competitions (League Cup, u125 and u145). He felt they needed to be replaced by one good cup competition, to include every team. BJ pointed out that when this matter was discussed by the Committee, it was agreed that the graded competitions (u125/u145) should be retained. CR added that clubs have different demographic make-ups and the graded competitions provided options.

In a straw poll, it appeared that at least five entries (not including absent clubs Clacton and Woodbridge School) would be likely for an u125 Cup next season, and four or five entries for an u145 Cup.

RS proposed that there should be a Cup and Plate competition, similar to one in the North Essex Chess League. Every team would get two matches, with the first match seeded so that the stronger teams go through to the Cup and the weaker teams go to the Plate competition. It was pointed out that there would be some uneven matches in Round 1, but it was generally felt that it was a good experience, on the odd occasion, to have the opportunity of playing much stronger opponents.

After further discussion, a vote was taken, approved by 15 votes to 5, to replace the current graded cups and the League Cup with one of three options: a Cup and Plate competition, using standard timings; a Handicap competition (similar to the Norfolk League), using Rapidplay; and, as proposed by SG, an ungraded Time Handicap tournament. The voting was 18 for the Cup & Plate, 2 for the Handicap and 1 for the Time Handicap.

10. Teams for next season

The following numbers of teams were proposed by each club:

Adastral Park	1	Manningtree	2
Bury St Edmunds	5	Saxmundham	2
Felixstowe	1	Stowmarket	2
Ipswich	6	Sudbury	1

Clacton and Woodbridge School will be contacted following the meeting to ascertain their requirements. It was agreed that all clubs should confirm the number of teams by the end of July, to enable the Competitions Secretary to prepare the fixtures list.

DG

All

11. Other business

11.1 Adam Taylor has been selected to play for England in the World Junior in South Africa later this year. His mother Debbie would be Head of Delegation. They need to raise £3,000 to pay for the trip. The following was agreed unanimously:

- to write an article on the Suffolk website, encouraging donations;
- to make a donation from the SCCA of £100.

JB reminded the meeting that finding the missing Junior Chess funds could help. Adam was wished good luck from those present.

11.2 Suffolk Closed Championships. TL reminded the meeting that this event would take place on 21/22 June at the Ipswich Chess Club. There would be six players in the Open, with additional Challengers and Intermediate sections. Last year's Suffolk Champion was Steve Gregory. TL took this opportunity to present the 2013 Challengers trophy to ML.

11.3 League numbers for next season. Following the estimates above for the number of teams for next season, it was suggested that Saxmundham A might not be relegated to Division 3, or that two teams could be promoted from Division 3. It was pointed out that Rule 29 does not allow for discretion in promotion and relegation issues.

11.4 Changes in FIDE rules. SL commented that the ECF is expected to make an announcement soon regarding certain changes in FIDE rules that come into effect on 1 July. It is anticipated that some rules, including one on mobile phones, will be amended for use within the ECF.

11.5 EACU AGM. IW, BJ and possibly SL will be attending the EACU AGM at Whittlesford on 21 June as SCCA representatives.

The meeting closed at 9:50 pm.