

# SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Suffolk County Chess Association, held at the Ipswich Institute on Tuesday 23 June 2015.**

**Present:** David Brown (DB), Malcolm Lightfoot, Andrew Paige (Saxmundham); Dave Wild (DW) (Adastral Park); Dave Robertson (Felixstowe); Colin Roberts (CR), Bob Jones (BJ), Steve Lovell (SL), David Wood (Bury St Edmunds); Steve Gregory (SG), Ted Matthewson, Ian Wallis, (Ipswich); Jim Buis (JB), John McAllister (Manningtree); David Green (DG), John Barratt, Vicky Allen (VA) (Stowmarket); Rob Sanders (RS) (Sudbury). TOTAL = 18.

1. **Apologies:** were received: from John Lambert (JL) Peter Collicott, Arthur McCormick, **ACTION** Adrian Sanderson (AS), Scott Taylor, Phil Hopkins

2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 10 June 2014:**

The minutes of the last meeting had omitted the election of Adrian Sanderson as Treasurer (para 6). With this amendment the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. **Matters Arising:**

7.1 The updates to the Constitution on the Suffolk website re Suffolk Chess Journal and its editor had not been made. The Secretary undertook to amend the website accordingly. **BJ**

4. **Officers' Reports:**

**4.1. President.** CR expressed mixed feelings about his second term as SCCA President. We had achieved the necessary consensus on a new set of rules, but certain animosities (against clubs, not individuals) had been revealed. He hoped that under a new President, such issues would not re-occur. The Constitution need revision and CR advised that he had proposed a number of amendments. He hoped that people would step forward to fill the four vacancies that will exist on the SCCA Committee.

CR thanked everyone on the Committee, especially BJ, who had managed the administrative aspects well. He also mentioned DG, who had shown great diligence and care in the difficult role of Competitions Secretary. The Rules Committee had worked hard over the summer. Having enjoyed good comradeship and chess played in the League, CR wished the SCCA well for the future. The meeting applauded CR for his term of office as President.

**4.2. Secretary.** BJ advised that his official role was limited to sending out agendas and taking minutes. However he had continued with the Suffolk Chess website; between September and May 242 separate articles had been posted. Since the website commenced three years ago, there has been a total of 697 articles.

**4.3 Treasurer.** In his report AS noted a small but manageable deficit. He had recovered £583 from the Suffolk Junior Chess accounts, from which two payments had been made: to Adam Taylor for his foreign travel representing England and the entry of the Suffolk Under 11 team in the national competition. AS recommended that the competition entry fees should be unchanged. The meeting applauded his success in recovering the SJC funds and approved the accounts unanimously.

**4.4. Competition Secretary.** DG reported that he had dealt with various issues concerning the new rules, as well as the new Cup & Plate competition. Preparing the fixture list had been relatively straightforward, although close attention was needed with matches involving the Bury St Edmunds club, who fielded seven teams in the Bury Area League. There had been few defaults, although there had been one full team default, which was unfortunate. There had been a couple of instances of players being ineligible. JL (Clacton) had pointed out two errors, which have since been corrected.

DG was happy to continue in his role and stressed that the deadline for entries was 31 July. He will require contact details for all team captains and club secretaries.

SG asked if the Norfolk & Suffolk Cup match between Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds could be played earlier in the season. It was agreed that this could be played in February in a 'Division 2' week. RS wondered if DG could get together with Patrick Ribbands (the BACL Match Secretary) to ensure there are no clashes. DG responded that the BACL fixtures are usually published first.

**4.5 Results Officer.** DW advised that all results had been submitted on time. There had been a short period during which results could not be entered, but this issue was quickly resolved. The grading website is now used by Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and the EACU.

**4.6 Women's Chess.** VA reported that there had been five entrants in this season's Suffolk Ladies' Championship. The event was won by Anita Somton on 3/3; she is the youngest-ever winner of the Championship. It had not been possible, due to examination pressures, for the final game to be played between Anita and Emilia Jewell. The meeting agreed that a minimum of two entrants was needed for the event to continue next season.

VA noted that at the recent Suffolk Junior Open, the Under 8, Under 9 and Under 11 sections were all won by girls.

**4.7. Correspondence Chess.** JB advised that he had been the County Correspondence captain since 1972. He will be standing down, but is willing to start off the team for next season. He hoped to be able to find a captain from amongst the 2015/16 team.

Currently, the County team in the Sinclair competition has scored 7½ out of 13. It is possible that Suffolk could be promoted if the remaining three results are favourable. DB suggested that some correspondence games could be used on the Suffolk website.

**4.8. County First Team.** IW reported that the First Team had reached the Minor Counties National Final, where they would be facing Nottinghamshire on 4 July. Suffolk have reached the Final on three previous occasions (including last year), winning each time. 26 players were used in winning the EACU championship. BJ asked if it might be possible to play in the Open next season. IW responded that some changes to the format are being proposed at national level.

**4.9. County u160 Team.** BJ reported on a successful season, with the team winning the EACU Championship. However, in the national quarter-final Essex beat us on board count after drawing 8 – 8. 26 players represented Suffolk, but only three played in all seven matches. The best score was achieved by our youngest player, Anita Somton, who won two and drew five. BJ advised that he will continue next season as u160 captain but will then be standing down.

**4.10 / 4.11 County u120/u100 Teams** Neither captain (P Collicott and D Yarnton) was present, but BJ reported that both teams had won their sections, so all four Suffolk teams had ended the season as EACU Champions.

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

Division 1 (Ipswich C) – Ted Matthewson

Division 2 (Saxmundham A) – Andrew Paige

Division 3 (Manningtree B) – John McAllister

Division 1 Player of the Year – Steve Gregory (Ipswich)

Division 2 Player of the Year – Malcolm Lightfoot (Saxmundham) and Rob Sanders (Sudbury)

Division 3 Player of the Year – Dave Robertson on behalf of Phil Hopkins (Felixstowe)

Under 125 Cup – Steve Gregory (Ipswich)

The Ladies Championship trophy was not awarded at the meeting; it will be presented separately to Anita Somton (Bury St Edmunds)

**6. Election of Officers.** As CR was standing down on completion of his three-year term, he proposed Bob Jones as the next President. This was approved unanimously.

The following officers were unanimously elected:

Competitions Secretary:	David Green
County Treasurer:	Adrian Sanderson
County Results Officer:	Dave Wild
Suffolk Women's Organiser:	Vicky Allen
First Team captain:	Ian Wallis
u160 team captain:	Bob Jones

It was recorded that Peter Collicott (u120) and Daniel Yarnton (u100) were prepared to continue in their roles, provided their individual grades are within the required range.

It was noted that vacancies still exist for Vice-President, County Secretary and Junior Organiser. BJ expressed his preference for succession planning and hoped to be able to find a Vice-President soon.

**7. Amendments to Competition Rules.**

**Rule 3.2 (new)** The following rule was agreed unanimously, despite some reservations that it could be abused. RS proposed an amendment that the date for a re-scheduled match must be no later than the date of the last fixture, but this was soundly defeated:

“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. The date for the rescheduled match must not be later than 30 April. 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.

**5.2** Two changes were unanimously agreed to this rule (changes in **bold**):

‘Nominations can be changed during a **three-week period** following publication of the **mid-season** grades.’

‘...to the **team's** playing strength’

It was also agreed unanimously that the following should be added to Rule 5.2: **‘Changes in nominations will also be allowed within one month of the start of the season where it is clear that a nominated player does not intend to play for that club during the season.’**

## **8. Cup & Plate competition**

RS led a discussion on this new competition. He felt that the basic idea was good. He had hoped that all teams would enter, but in practice eight teams did not. CR still felt that the entry was satisfactory. SL explained that Bury St Edmunds were already heavily committed, with seven teams in the BAACL and three teams in their cup competition; this resulted in only two teams entering (out of five).

A number of suggestions were made, including a different draw for the initial round, a handicap system for the match result, an individual Swiss event, and relaxed substitution rules.

It was agreed that RS, DG, BJ and IW will jointly prepare a paper to be put to the clubs. This will propose a modified version of the existing competition.

## **9. Constitution**

It was agreed that the Committee should propose a revised Constitution by the end of 2015. Members will consult by email. BJ will distribute a draft, based on suggestions already received from CR and DG.

## **10. Teams for next season**

Each club advised their likely number of teams in the various divisions and competitions. 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 Under 125 competition.** It was confirmed that August grades would apply throughout, regardless of when the event commences.

**11.2 Fischer timing.** DB asked if Fischer timing could be made the default in Division 1 next season. He was advised that this would require a formal proposal at next year’s AGM.

The meeting closed at 9:49 pm.