

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the Suffolk County Chess Association, held at Willow Farm, Pettaugh on Tuesday 6 May 2014.

Present: Colin Roberts (CR) (President), Bob Jones (BJ) (Secretary & u160 Captain), Adrian Sanderson (AS) (Treasurer), Dave Wild (DW) (Results Officer), Jim Buis (JB) (Correspondence Captain), Ian Wallis (IW) (First Team Captain), Vicky Allen (VA) (Women's Organiser),

1. **Apologies:** Received from: Mike McNaughton (MM) (Competitions Secretary) and Dave Robertson (DR) (u100 Captain). **ACTION**

2. **Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 20 June 2013:** A correction was made in the Treasurer's report, with the second sentence in 7.2 needing to be deleted.

3. **Matters Arising:**
 - (i) The Bury St Edmunds club has replaced the Division 2 trophy.
 - (ii) Child Protection Policy. The existing policy used by the Bury Knights Junior Chess Club was distributed. Members asked BJ to re-draft it so as to make it suitable for SCCA needs. **BJ**

4. **Action points from the 2013 AGM:**
 - (i) It had been unable to contact Richard Morbey regarding Suffolk Junior Chess funds. IW suggested that Tim Stevens may have some knowledge of the whereabouts of the funds. It was agreed that further attempts must be made as the funds, believed to be in the region of £500, are not insignificant. BJ also offered to contact Adam Hunt to ascertain if any equipment and/or trophies are available. **AS**
 - (ii) BJ had been in contact with Paul Badger, captain of Norfolk's winning club Broadland, regarding an early date for the Final. He will contact Paul again when the Suffolk winners are known. **BJ**
 - (iii) Vacancies still exist for Vice-President and Junior Organiser. Discussion ensued as to possible candidates for these posts. For Vice-President it was agreed that IW will ask Ted Matthewson and CR will ask Michael Clapham. BJ suggested that Somton Ukken may be prepared to take on the role of Junior Organiser, but possibly not this year. **IW/CR**

5. **Constitution and Rules**

Constitution. It was agreed that the line referring to the Suffolk Chess Journal should be deleted. This will be proposed to the AGM. **BJ**

Rules. The draft proposal from Stowmarket Chess Club (via David Green) for substantial changes to the rules was considered. It was felt that it would not be possible for this proposal to be put to the AGM, as it would take far too long and needed much further work. David Green will be asked to re-submit any specific issue that is considered to be in need of immediate change. In the meantime, a 'Rules Committee' will be re-established as a sub-Committee. JB also suggested that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Association be held before the season starts, specifically to agree changes to the rules. This was agreed and will take place at the end of August. **BJ**

It was agreed that BJ will contact all clubs to obtain names of members to sit on the Rules Committee. It is important that nominees take an active role. **BJ**

A further proposal from Sudbury Chess Club (Rob Sanders) was discussed. This suggested that a new competition could replace the existing graded competitions (u125/u145) as well as the League Cup. Whilst it was agreed that the current competitions have lost their energy, members felt that the proposal would involve too many additional matches. IW commented that it was impractical for every team to enter, as had been proposed. It was agreed that a Handicap Cup could replace the League Cup. Entry would not be automatic and the competition would probably not be run as a knockout. It was agreed that the graded competitions should be retained. Rob Sanders to be informed accordingly.

BJ

6. Officers' reports:

6.1 President. CR thanked everyone for their support. He was grateful to the retiring Competitions Secretary for his several years in post and for his attention to the rules.

6.2 Secretary. BJ reported that 239 articles had been written for the Suffolk Chess website since 1 September last year. This was one per day, with the exception of a week when he was on holiday. He will be attending the EACU AGM on 21 June. IW and CR also indicated that they hoped to attend. IW explained problems over nomination to national competitions.

6.3 Treasurer. AS asked if Newmarket had paid their affiliation fees. They owe for two years (£10). AS went through the draft accounts and answered questions from members. The accounts (to the end of May) will be audited by Michael Clapham after the AGM.

6.4 Competitions Secretary. In his absence, BJ reported on the content of a telephone call from MM. A close liaison needs to be maintained between the Competitions Secretary and the BAFL Match Secretary, particularly for matches involving Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket. Specifically, weeks need to be set aside when there are no Division 1 fixtures involving Bury St Edmunds. This will enable the Hutton pairing system to be utilised.

Division 1 winners – Manningtree

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

Division 2 winners – Bury St Edmunds C

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

Division 3 winners – Bury St Edmunds D

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

Under 125 competition – the Final will take place on 20 June between Ipswich and Felixstowe.

Under 145 winners – Ipswich (all-play-all)

League Cup – Sudbury (all-play-all)

6.5 County Results Officer. DW expressed some concern that only he was able to manage the results website, which has now been extended to include other EACU counties. He declined payment for running the site, which costs him some £50 per annum.

6.6 County First Team Captain. IW reported that Suffolk were runners-up in the EACU First Team competition and will face Somerset in the Quarter-Finals on 17 May in Milton Keynes. BJ has taken over the organisation of the team for the National Stages.

6.7 County u160 Team. BJ reported on a less than successful season for the Under 160 team, where they finished in last place.

6.8 County u100 Team. In the absence of DR, BJ provided statistics showing that Suffolk had finished behind Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. The best performance of the season was by Stowmarket's Daniel Yarnton with 3½/4.

6.9 Women's Chess. VA reported that there were only four entrants for this season's competition. The winner was the current champion, Emilia Jewell of Bury St Edmunds. Vicky suggested that the trophy should be presented to her at the Bury Jamboree, as last year.

6.10 Correspondence Chess. JB reported that the Suffolk had scored 9 points out of 14 to date, with two further games still to be completed. This was an improvement from last season. JB also hoped that Suffolk would be able to field a second team next season. He pointed out that individuals may play for more than one team.

7. Nomination of Officers for the 2013/14 season: With the exception of the Competitions Secretary, all current officers were prepared to stand again. A candidate for Competitions Secretary has been proposed (David Green). The two vacancies (Vice-President and Junior Organiser) are being addressed (see item 4 iii above).

8. Agenda for AGM on 10 June 2014: It was agreed that the format would be similar to that in previous years. The Secretary will draft an agenda.

BJ

9. Any Other Business: BJ asked committee members to provide written reports by 31 May, in order that they can be collated into a single document, as last year. All trophies must be returned to the Secretary in a clean condition by the same date, so that they can be engraved where necessary.

All

The meeting closed at 9.57pm.