

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the Suffolk County Chess Association, held at Crofts Place, Little Saxham on Tuesday 12 May 2015.

Present: Colin Roberts (CR) (President), Bob Jones (BJ) (Secretary & u160 Captain), Dave Wild (DW) (Results Officer), Jim Buis (JB) (Correspondence Captain), Ian Wallis (IW) (First Team Captain), Daniel Yarnton (DY) (u100 Captain),

1. Apologies: Received from: Adrian Sanderson (AS) (Treasurer) and Peter Collicott (PC) (u120 Captain), Vicky Allen (VA) (Women's Organiser).

ACTION

2. Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 6 May 2014: These were approved without amendment.

3. Matters Arising:

(i) It was agreed that the Child Protection Policy, re-drafted by BJ from the Bury Knights version, should now be distributed to all Committee members.

BJ

4. Action points from the 2014 AGM:

(i) Members expressed their thanks to AS for his diligence in successfully chasing the Suffolk Junior Chess funds.

5. SCCA Rules

A discussion on the new rules took place. It was agreed that they were generally working well and that the Rules Committee had done a good job. Some minor amendments to Rule 5.2 were proposed, to be put to the AGM, as well as an additional clause to the postponements rule 3, which would permit a match to be postponed if both captains agree. This rule is taken from the Bury Area Chess League rules, where it has worked successfully for the past two seasons.

5.2:

* 'Nominations can be changed during January, following the publication of the new ECF grades' to be replaced by 'Nominations can be changed during a three week period following publication of the new ECF grades in January'. The reason for this change is that the new grades are not published until close to the end of the month, leaving almost no time for re-nominations under the existing rule.

* 'to the club's playing strength' to be replaced by 'to their playing strength'. It is the team's playing strength, not the club's that is intended here.

* To add, 'Changes to 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.'

(new) 3.2:

* 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. (Note that a captain is under no obligation to agree a new date, and at any stage in the negotiations may decline, in which case the match will be played on the original date.)

Existing rules 3.2 to 3.4 will be re-numbered 3.3 to 3.5.

6. SCCA Constitution

It was noted that DG had put forward some suggestions for amending the Constitution. CR had also made some proposals, but these were not to hand at the meeting. It was agreed that members would study all suggestions and discuss at next season's Committee meeting.

7. Officers' reports:

7.1 President. CR remarked that the Rules Committee had worked hard to develop the new rules, which had achieved consensus at the AGM. By and large the rules worked well but some areas are under observation. CR expressed his sadness at the level of mistrust and animosity that he felt he had seen amongst SCCA member clubs.

7.2 Secretary. BJ reported that articles had appeared almost every day for the Suffolk Chess website. He also explained that he had paid for the Suffolk Under 11 team to enter the English Primary Schools Chess Association inter-county competition each year for the past three years. This amounted to £220. He did not expect to be recompensed, as he had not asked permission of the Committee to enter this event. CR believed that BJ should claim for the expenses that he had laid out for this event.

7.3 Treasurer. AS had submitted draft accounts and a detailed report, both of which were noted. It was agreed unanimously that BJ should receive £90 for the Under 11 entry fees for the current year. BJ declined recompense for the two previous years. It was agreed that team fees should be unchanged for the coming season. It was also agreed that the £100 grant to Adam Taylor should be recorded as being from Suffolk Junior Chess (SJC) funds. It was agreed that the Committee will monitor the SJC funds in future.

AS

AS

7.4 Competitions Secretary. DG reported on a successful year with few defaults. He expressed his thanks to DW for facilitating access to the grading website. DG noted that Adastral may be losing their venue, as there were no longer any BT employees as chess club members. Members hoped that the club would continue, if necessary finding another venue. It was preferred that Adastral continue as a separate entity, rather than merging with an existing club.

DG expressed some concerns about the new Cup & Plate competition. He considered that the initial pairings had thrown up a number of 'mismatches', where the average grading difference exceeded 50 points per board. He also felt that some relaxation of rule A1.10 was needed. If the same team played in all qualifying rounds, but then one member was unavailable for the Final, the team stood to default that board. BJ will speak to Rob Sanders about these issues.

BJ

It was hoped that IW would attend the EACU AGM on 23 June. Steve Lovell will also be invited to attend.

IW

7.5 County Correspondence Captain. JB reported that the team currently stood mid-table in the Sinclair division, with several games still to be decided. He announced that he would be standing down, but if necessary would organise the competition for one further year.

7.6 County Results Officer. DW hoped to be able to include a list of club secretaries and team captains on the website for the start of next season. It was important that all clubs provide this information in good time.

7.7 County First Team Captain. IW reported that Suffolk had won the EACU First Team competition and will face Worcestershire in the Quarter-Finals on 16 May in Milton Keynes.

7.8 County u160 Team. BJ reported that the Under 160 team had narrowly won the EACU competition, when Cambridgeshire failed to beat Hertfordshire in the final match. That left Suffolk and Cambridgeshire on equal match points, with Suffolk winning on game points. They now face Essex in the Quarter-Finals on 17 May in Bury St Edmunds.

7.9 County u120 Team. In the absence of PC, BJ reported that the team won the EACU competition, because Cambridgeshire were unable to field a team in February. However, due to problems in fielding a team, they have declined entry into the National section.

7.10 County u100 Team. DY reported that Suffolk had won the EACU u100 competition, because Norfolk and Cambridgeshire had been unable to complete the schedule of fixtures; hence Suffolk had been the only team to play all four matches. DY expressed his pride at captaining a successful team, which was unchanged for all four matches. The team included four juniors, who had all performed admirably. Top scorers were Dave Wild 3/4 (unbeaten) and Alan John 3/4. The u100s also declined entry to the National competition for a similar reason to the u120s.

7.11 Women's Chess. VA provided a written report in her absence. There were five entrants for this season's competition; the winner was Anita Somton of Bury St Edmunds, who won all three matches played. Last season's champion Emilia Jewell had also scored three points, but had lost one game (to Chris Hargan). It had not proved possible for Anita and Emilia to play their individual match and it was agreed that this result should be void (rather than a default win to Anita, as suggested by VA).

8. Nomination of Officers for the 2015/16 season. The following were prepared to stand for office:

President	Bob Jones
Vice-President	(Vacant)
Competitions Secretary	David Green
County Secretary	(Vacant)
County Treasurer	Adrian Sanderson
Ladies' Organiser	Vicky Allen
Correspondence Captain	(Vacant)
County Results Officer	Dave Wild
Junior Organiser	(Vacant)
County First Team Captain	Ian Wallis
Under 160 Captain	Bob Jones
Under 120 Captain	Peter Collicott (to be confirmed)
Under 100 Captain	Daniel Yarnton (to be confirmed)

It was agreed to co-opt Rob Sanders to the Committee in order to obtain his input for the Cup & Plate competition. Clubs will be asked for further nominations when the AGM agenda is distributed.

9. Agenda for AGM on 23 June 2015. It was agreed that the format would be similar to that in previous years. The Secretary will draft an agenda, to be distributed by 2 June.

BJ

10. Any Other Business. The Suffolk website should include the following information:

- * Date of AGM
- * Officer vacancies
- * Proposals for AGM

BJ

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.