

## **SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the SCCA Committee Meeting, held at Willow Farm, Pettaugh,  
Stowmarket, IP14 6AX on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### **Present:**

President - Bob Jones (BJ)  
Vice-President – Leon Burnett (LB)  
Secretary – Kevin Greenacre (KG)  
Treasurer – Adrian Sanderson (AS)  
First Team Captain - Ian Wallis (IW)  
U-120 Captain - Peter Collicott (PC)  
Women's Chess Organiser - Vicky Allen (VA)

### **1) Apologies:**

County Grader – Dave Wild (DW)  
Competitions Secretary – David Green (DG)  
Correspondence Chess Captain – Bob Stephens (BS)

### **2) Minutes of last Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Proposed to be accepted – IW  
Agreed to be accepted – BJ  
No amendments were required

### **3) Action Points from last Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

- Child Protection Policy (BJ) – to be discussed later on the agenda;
- Treasurer (AS) – confirmed that BJ has received £90 for the Under-11 entry fees and that the £100 grant to Adam Taylor has been recorded as being from Suffolk Junior Chess funds.
- Cup & Plate Issues (BJ) – BJ has spoken with Rob Sanders (Cup & Plate Organiser);
- Co-opting Rob Sanders onto the SCCA Committee (BJ) – BJ apologised but has not yet asked Rob so will arrange to contact him to invite him onto SCCA Committee; it was felt that Rob would be a good person to have as a Committee member
- EACU AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 (IW) – IW confirmed that both he and Steve Lovell attended;
- Agenda for AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 (BJ) – BJ confirmed this was done;
- AOB (BJ) – BJ confirmed the Suffolk Chess website had been updated accordingly

#### **4) Action Points from 2015 AGM**

- Updates to the constitution on the Suffolk Chess website (BJ) – BJ confirmed this had been done
- Teams for next season (DG) – confirmed that Clacton & Woodbridge School had both been contacted to ascertain their requirements;
- Clubs to confirm the number of teams for upcoming season by the end of July 2015 (All) – confirmed this had been done

#### **5) Rules**

##### **5.1 – Clacton / Bury St Edmunds dispute**

DG had submitted a briefing paper about this matter for discussion. In brief, the incident involved a match between Clacton and Bury St Edmunds held at the Ipswich Chess Club. Before the match, Steve Lovell had been in touch with John Lambert to advise that Bury St Edmunds could only field two players and named these and the boards where they would play. Bury St Edmunds fielded one player on board one and Steve played on board four against John. Steve was nominated as the team's board three but was also available to switch to board four due to the grade of the nominated board four. Clacton did not make any objection either at the initial contact or at the start or end of the match; it was only when the result was entered that John realised Bury St Edmunds may have played an illegal board order. The Committee understood that John had made a written complaint but had not seen a copy of this.

DG had ruled that Bury St Edmunds had broken no rule; the Committee needed to decide whether there had been any unfair advantage gained in this match by Steve playing on board four.

The Committee was advised that the two players actually sat down to play their game next to board one but the completed result sheet showed they had actually played on board four. It was also confirmed that Steve could play on either boards three or four as his grade was within ten points of the nominated board four player.

Following a discussion, the Committee agreed that DG had made the correct decision and the result of the match should stand.

DW had also added a PS to his report - when a rule is broken, the circumstance and the effects of the violation should be taken into account and whether the errant team gain any advantage. DW also gave an example from the Norfolk League involving a team arriving to a match with only three players; the match went ahead but board two of the home team was happy not to play so boards one to three were played and the default recorded on board four. The home player was too strong to play on board four so contravened the rules but over the board the away team played a weaker team so as the home team had gained no advantage, no penalty was incurred. The Committee agreed that a common sense approach should be considered with these types of disputes.

DG had made a suggestion to clarify the default rule in his briefing paper and this was also discussed. One slight amendment was suggested and this proposal will be put to the AGM for discussion,

## **5.2) – The Substitute Rule**

LB raised the issue of teams from the same club being able to substitute players much more easily than is possible at smaller clubs; for example, there are three teams from Ipswich in Division One who are able to substitute players from other teams in the same division whereas small clubs aren't able to do this. LB suggested no team should be able to substitute a player from another team's nominated list of players but would have to get a player from another team in a different division; this would not affect any non-nominated players. Next season, Ipswich will have four teams in Division One.

The Committee discussed this issue. It was felt that bigger clubs would still have some advantage; VA wondered if there was the potential for more defaults if this suggestion was adopted. BJ said that Bury St Edmunds had a total of twelve teams in the Suffolk & Bury Area Leagues (five in Suffolk, seven in Bury); Ipswich had a total of eight teams plus part of a side in the Bury League. LB said that Ipswich had been very good at not exploiting the rule allowing substitutes. BJ asked the members for their general feeling about LB's suggestion; VA had sympathy for it but said that Stowmarket does not have this problem, PC said he liked the concept of ring fencing players, IW said there was no harm in putting forward the suggestion at the AGM. IW mentioned how the 4NCL teams are selected in strength order so the first team has to be stronger than the second team and so on; members were not so keen on this.

BJ summarised the proposal –

- Players nominated for teams may not substitute for another team in the same division
- A player nominated for a team may play unlimited games for teams in a higher division

These proposals will be discussed at the AGM.

## **6) Constitution**

BJ said the broad concept of the SCCA Constitution had been put together by Colin Roberts, DG and BJ; this had been circulated for comments earlier in 2016. BJ had received comments from AS and DG; he thought the wording on this Constitution was better. LB suggested that in Section 9 ('Trophies'), the wording was slightly incorrect and it was agreed that there was no need for the wording '...by 30<sup>th</sup> April...' AS said he had been keeping a list of trophies and their whereabouts but this was not easy; he had a list of trophies but it is not complete. BJ thought he would be able to assist with locating some, KG offered to go to Ipswich Chess Club in the next few weeks to see what trophies are held there.

DG had emailed BJ with some comments, mainly relating to Section 11 on 'Amendments to the Constitution or Competition Rules'. DG had understood that

under the old Constitution, submissions from clubs proposing amendments to the Constitution or the Competition Rules had to pass through the Committee for approval prior to being submitted to the AGM but under the new Constitution, there appeared to be direct access to the AGM for clubs without the requirement of going through the Committee. This was discussed; LB thought the Committee should have a view but it was agreed there was nothing to stop a club from putting a proposal directly to the AGM. Any proposals needed to be submitted to the County Secretary by the deadline of 28 days before the AGM being held. It was agreed there was no need to have any form of Sub-Committee to be formed at this point.

AS mentioned Section 8.4 'Financial Records' as the wording said that the accounts would be audited before the AGM; he understood the principle of this if the AGM was held in July or August but as it was being held in early June, this was not going to be possible. After a brief discussion, the Committee suggested the wording is amended to simply '...the accounts will be audited'.

The draft version of the Constitution will now go to the AGM for discussion.

AS raised the issue of the Suffolk Closed Chess Championship which is arranged and run by Tim Lunn. This had been proposed to be self sufficient but in 2015, Tim had incurred a loss which he had funded himself. AS asked as this was a Suffolk Chess Association competition and was only open to Suffolk players, whether the Treasurer should have some responsibility. BJ said that for county matches, the county captain was responsible for collecting monies; there was also a feeling that the entry fees may be too low as they needed to cover the cost of running the event, refreshments etc. The Committee agreed that a separate section needed to be considered – 'The organiser of this event is responsible for covering the costs of this competition' under Section 8.6 but the SCCA pays for the trophies and engraving.

***Action Points – BJ & AS to liaise about possible locations of trophies; KG to make a list of trophies held at Ipswich Chess Club; BJ to amend wording in Section 8.4 on Financial Record, add Section 8.6 and in Section 9 on Constitution to remove superfluous wording.***

### **6.1) Child Protection Policy**

BJ said that the English Chess Federation had recently published an extensive document on their 'Safeguarding Children Policy' – can be found at - <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/safeguarding-children-policy/>

BJ said that he considered that the SCCA didn't need to adopt the whole of the document but they did need to do something to cover county events. Club events are the responsibility of the relevant club; for this policy, the age covered was up to eighteen.

A discussion took place about a possible SCCA policy, perhaps with a mention of the ECF policy. LB asked what the legal position was; BJ said that the SCCA did need a policy in place. It was agreed that it was difficult for a player taking part in a county match would find it difficult to be responsible for an under eighteen, BJ thought that the Team Captain would need to talk to parents before the match to make

arrangements and discuss any concerns. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) – formerly Child Protection System - checks had to be carried out every three years. BJ said he would look at the Bury Knights Child Protection Policy and will email it to the Committee and asked LB to check with other counties to see whether they had a policy and if so, details of this. Clubs should also have their own Child Protection Policy in place.

***Action Points – BJ to review the Bury Knights Child Protection Policy and email to the Committee; LB to check other whether other counties have such a policy and if so, to obtain details to pass on to the Committee.***

## **6.2) Job Roles**

BJ asked all the Committee members to send him a brief description about their role which will be used to produce a single document for future volunteers to see what these posts comprised of – asked if this could be done by the end of May.

***Action Point – All to send brief details of their post to BJ by the end of May.***

## **7) Reports**

DG – In his absence, DG had contributed a report for the Committee. This included details of dates for the upcoming season; a draft list would be issued quite early to allow for arrangements to be made for matches held at a neutral venue. The Committee agreed that it was important for this initial list to go out to clubs to allow for these arrangements to be made before the official list of matches was issued. IW said the best person to contact at Ipswich Chess Club to arrange matches to be held there was Ted Mathewson. LB mentioned one match was still outstanding; this was the Suffolk Cup Final between Manningtree and Ipswich B. There had been some difficulties arranging a mutually convenient date, IW offered to try and help with contact details to allow for this match to be arranged. BJ thanked DG for his work over the year and for his report.

AS – handed out details of the SCCA accounts with supporting notes. As there had been the same teams, the same fees had been collected. A discussion on the SCCA Closed Championships had already been carried out at the Committee Meeting. AS said the late registration fee for ECF members adversely affected cash flow and encouraged clubs to get their players registered as this would make his life easier. IW wondered whether there was a case for non-registered players to be prevented from playing league / county matches but it was thought this would need some refinement before being considered. AS said that no insurance had been paid as it was not considered worthwhile and as there was no congress, there had been no requirement to pay Public Liability Insurance. Apart from postage, no expenses had been claimed and nothing had been spent on junior chess. BJ said he would speak with Bobby Sebastian to see if he had incurred any expenses but may have borne these himself. AS would also arrange for a transfer to be made from the SCCA current account to the deposit account and would also add KG to the list of authorised signatories – would be any two of three signatures (AS, BJ, KG). AS confirmed the accounts showed a healthy surplus and this could largely be explained by less chess equipment being purchased during the year; he said that he would not want to reduce team fees to

allow for funds to be built up. BJ thanked AS for his work over the year and for his report.

LB – LB is the new Vice-President and BJ welcomed him onto the SCCA Committee.

VA – confirmed no Ladies Competition was held during the year as several potential players were unable to compete for various reasons – there were several girls who were promising players. This meant that the Ladies trophy had not been awarded. VA suggested that it was a shame that this trophy was not played for and wondered if this should be presented to the strongest lady qualified to play for Suffolk or whether it could be linked to a performance at the Bury St Edmunds Congress. The Committee discussed this possibility; BJ wondered if this would be the lady with the highest score or for the best grading performance; he confirmed there was already a ladies prize for the highest scoring player who didn't win another prize. The Ladies Trophy was a nice trophy; PC agreed it was a shame to sit in a cupboard, AS said he thought it should be played for in a competition. BJ advised that a number of girls were playing at the Bury Knights club and suggested a Ladies Championship could be held over one day in March 2017 and offered to help arrange this. BJ thanked VA for her work over the year and for her report.

IW – the County First Team weren't able to retain their title and finished second behind Cambridgeshire; however, this meant that we had qualified for the National Stages and would play Somerset on 21 May 2016 in Milton Keynes. The format of this stage was that each county's average grading could not exceed 180. The Committee congratulated the First Team for qualifying and BJ thanked IW for his work over the year and for his report.

PC – there had been problems with raising a team; the team had played two matches versus Cambridgeshire, unfortunately losing both of these – several players from the Bury Knights Club had competed for Suffolk but even with this, the team had to default two games. The two matches versus Norfolk had to be cancelled as Suffolk were only able to raise eight players instead of twelve and the Norfolk captain was not prepared to play. PC said that other teams had experienced similar problems so it was not just a Suffolk problem. BJ suggested that when the new ECF grades were published in the summer, it should be possible to get an indication of potential players and for them to be contacted; IW said that some players did not always reply to email contact particularly quickly so alternative communication methods sometimes needed to be considered. BJ thanked PC for his work over the year and for his report.

DW – In his absence, DW had contributed a report for the Committee. His results system was now being used in several other local leagues. DW said the thought what would happen in the future is that he would pay the fees to the EACU and they would pay the fees for the site from their bank account; the Committee wondered whether the EACU should be responsible for these fees and this would be discussed at the AGM. The Committee also agreed that it would be useful for DW to have a deputy in place and would encourage DW to co-opt someone to this position. BJ thanked DW for his work over the year and for this report,

KG – KG is the new County Secretary and BJ welcomed him onto the SCCA Committee.

*Action Point – AS to arrange for KG to be added to list of authorised signatories. IW to liaise with LB about trying to help in arranging the Suffolk Cup Final date. BJ to look at the possibility of holding a one day Ladies Championship in March 2017. KG – add to AGM agenda funding of the Results System. DW – consider co-opting a deputy.*

#### **8) Nominations for other Officers**

BJ asked if any of the Committee did not want to continue as members. IW said he would not be continuing as First Team Captain and would send a message out prior to the AGM looking for a replacement so he could hand over to that person.

BJ said there had been four unfilled vacancies; these had now been filled by LB (Vice President), KG (County Secretary), BS (County Correspondence Captain) but there was still a vacancy for a Junior Organiser. There were now two junior clubs in Suffolk (Bury and Martlesham) and perhaps others in the future so it was important to look for someone to take up this post.

*Action Point – IW to send out a message to look for a volunteer to take over as County First Team Captain.*

#### **9) Agenda for AGM – 7 June 2016 at Ipswich Chess Club**

Items for inclusion for the SCCA AGM agenda should be sent to KG by 4 May 2016. BJ will collate Officer's reports for the AGM. Trophies will be presented to the winners of Divisions 1, 2 and 3 plus to the Players of the Year for these as well. There will also be an election of Officers. Clubs need to submit any proposals at least 28 days before the AGM to allow for the agenda to be sent out.

#### **10) AOB**

None

The meeting finished at 10:00 pm.

## **Summary of Action Points**

- BJ & AS to liaise about possible locations of trophies;
- BJ to amend wording in Section 8.4 on Financial Record, add Section 8.6 and in Section 9 on Constitution to remove superfluous wording.
- BJ to review the Bury Juniors Child Protection Policy and email to the Committee;
- BJ to look at the possibility of holding a one day Ladies Championship in March 2017
- KG to make a list of trophies held at Ipswich Chess Club;
- KG – add to AGM agenda funding of the Results System.
- DW – consider co-opting a deputy
- LB to check other whether other counties have such a policy and if so, to obtain details to pass on to the Committee.
- AS to arrange for KG to be added to list of authorised signatories.
- IW to liaise with LB about trying to help in arranging the Suffolk Cup Final date.
- IW to send out a message to look for a volunteer to take over as County First Team Captain.
- All to send brief details of their post to BJ by the end of May.