

# SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the SCCA Extraordinary General Meeting, held on line via Microsoft Teams on 17th August 2021 7:30-8:40 pm.

## **Present:**

President – Stephen Lewis (SL)  
Secretary – John McAllister (JM)  
Treasurer – David Green (DG)  
Competitions Secretary – Sam Gaffney (SG)  
Adrian Sanderson (Manningtree)  
Andrew Last (Sudbury)  
Gary Hemsworth (Felixstowe)  
Melvin Steel (Clacton)

Once it was established that everyone could hear everyone else SL welcomed everyone to the meeting. In order to allow the meeting to flow SL declared that rather than a show of hands for each agenda item, silence would be taken as agreement and disagreement by an active objection.

## **1. Apologies for absence:**

Jim Buis (Manningtree)  
John Lambert (Clacton)  
Rob Sanders (Sudbury)

## **2. Minutes of the last SCCA AGM held on Tuesday 21 May 2019**

Minutes of the last held AGM had been previously circulated and were available on the SCCA web site. These were accepted without further amendment.

## **3. Matters Arising:**

None

## **4a. Treasurer's Report**

DG reported that there had been no further activity on SCCA funds since his last report. He did mention the need to confirm with Mike Clapham his willingness to continue as auditor of the SCCA accounts, which DG would do himself.

#### **4b. SCCA Activity for 2021-2022 Season**

SG reported that the League was in a position to run all of its usual competitions this coming season, albeit with a considerably reduced field. The League would therefore consist of the following;

Division One     5 teams  
Division Two     5 teams  
Division Three    6 teams

All 16 teams would be entered into the Divisional Rapidplay competition. The U1650 and U1800 Cups would also be run, and the NS Cup would go ahead with just Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich taking part.

The County would also enter a team in the County Championship and the U1850 County Championship.

SG reported that he expected to have fixtures prepared by 30th August.

#### **5. Restrictions while the Covid Pandemic continues**

The meeting confirmed that the wearing of face covering would be the default position for matches this season.

The right of a team to force a postponement if three of their nominated players are either self-isolating, or have tested positive for Covid was questioned. After reviewing this requirement it was agreed to reduce that figure to just one.

In the event that a fixture might not be fulfilled at all was then discussed. It had been proposed that each team would be awarded one point, but this was questioned – why should it be 1-1 instead of 0-0? Furthermore, what would be the impact of this decision on League Rule 3.2? It was pointed out that this provision would only be applied to matches that could not be fulfilled due entirely to Covid, therefore the following was agreed;

- Unfulfilled matches due solely to Covid would be scored 1-1
- The Competitions Secretary would be responsible for re-scheduling matches postponed due to Covid (and only postponements due to Covid).
- Rule 3.2 would still apply to postponements not due to Covid, and would therefore remain unaffected.

On the matter of promotion/relegation, it was agreed to remove the final sentence and leave the promotion/relegation rules as they are, particularly in view of the hope that the 2022/23 season will see the return of many of the teams absent from this coming season's competition, which would likely require a review of the whole league.

Finally, it was emphasised that these restrictions apply only to the coming season, 2021-2022.

## **6. Proposals for changes to League Rules from the SCCA Committee**

### **6.1. Changes to Rules 2.3 to 2.5**

Rules 2.3 and 2.5 should be deleted in their entirety.

In Rule 2.4, renumber this rule 2.3. Delete the words “Divisions 1 and 2,” and replace them with, “all SCCU competitions,”. Also delete the final sentence, “The standard timings as listed in Rule 2.3a can only be used if both players agree.”

New Rule 2.4 added stating. “Where suitable digital clocks are not available, mechanical clocks may be used. In such cases, each player will be allowed 90 minutes to complete all moves. The first 30 moves must be completed within 75 minutes. This alternative time control is also available where both players agree to it, and either mechanical or digital clocks may be used in such cases.

Rule change carried with the proviso that SCCU is changed to SCCA.

### **6.2. Change to Rule 4.1**

Rule 4.1 should be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following;

4.1 The August rating will be used for determining eligibility to a rating limited competition throughout the season and for board order and substitution until the January ratings are released. The January rating will then be used for determining board order and substitution for the remainder of the season, but not for eligibility purposes.

Rule change carried as is.

### **6.3. Change to Rule 5.1**

Add to the first sentence, “except for teams in the lowest division where only boards 1 and 2 need nominating. The remaining boards in that Team/Teams will be filled in accordance with Rule 5.3”

While this change was designed to remove the need for a team to nominate player(s) they are unlikely field, it was agreed that it did not make a material difference to the operation of the League, particularly as there is no rule to stop a team nominating a player in successive seasons even if he makes no appearances. After some discussion it was agreed that a rule change such as this should be put to the League at a time when more representatives are present. This proposal was therefore shelved.

### **6.4. Change to League Rule 5.3**

Insert the words “ECF or 80 points ELO” between “points” and “above”.

The rule change was carried with the proviso that the reference to ECF grades was removed. The amended rule would therefore read; "Within a team, a player must not be rated more than 80 points above anyone on a higher board."

## **7. Proposals for changes to the Constitution from the SCCA Committee**

While it has been necessary for the committee to act for the past 18 months without strict adherence to the SCCA constitution, it was felt that making changes to the constitution itself without the necessary quorum etc was unnecessary.

As none of the proposals were desperately urgent, it was agreed to shelve these proposals and present them at the SCCA AGM next year.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8:40 pm.