

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the SCCA Committee Meeting, held on line via Microsoft Teams on
13th July 2021 7:30-9:15 pm

Present:

President – Stephen Lewis (SLe)
Secretary – John McAllister (JM)
Treasurer – David Green (DG)
Competitions Secretary – Sam Gaffney (SG)
County First Team Captain – Steve Ruthen (SR)
Internet Officer – Steve Lovell (SLo)

1. Apologies for absence:

County U1850 Team Captain – Bob Jones (BJ)

2. Minutes of the last SCCA Committee Meeting held on 24th February 2020

Minutes of the previous committee meeting were circulated in advance and were previously reviewed via emails. These were accepted without further amendment.

3. Matters Arising:

Relating to AP1, it was noted that while we have Suffolk Section rules for the NS Cup, we are not aware of any higher rules covering both counties. This AP remains open and JM will check with BJ if he has been able to obtain a copy of such rules. AP2, while completed will be repeated and will thus remain open. AP 3 is completed. AP4 was also completed but may have to be repeated.

4. Membership of the SCCA Committee after June 2021

It was agreed that the committee would remain as described in the Summary of SCCA committee email discussion April-May 2021. This is as follows;

President: Stephen Lewis
Vice-President: [vacant]
Secretary: John McAllister
Treasurer: David Green
Competitions Secretary: Sam Gaffney
County Team Captains: Steve Ruthen and Bob Jones
Suffolk Junior Chess representative: [vacant]
Internet Officer: Steve Lovell
Rapid Play Organiser: Rob Sanders

While it was assumed that RS was willing to continue in his post, SLe will check with RS to confirm this (AP5).

It was noted that the VP post is still vacant, and no one has been formally appointed to liaise between the committee and the Junior chess organiser. JM will keep AP2 open for a VP and will see if BJ was willing to take on this role of Junior Liaison Officer (AP6).

5. Treasurer's request for directions about updating the SCCA accounts

DG circulated copies of the SCCA bank statements showing there has been no activity on these accounts for the past year.

During the email discussions April-May 2021 the committee agreed to change the county's existing banking arrangements to allow for internet banking. This will be submitted to the league for approval (Proposal 6).

6. Timetable for lifting of the Coronavirus lockdown

SG reported that he had received responses from all clubs, and all will be entering at least one team for the 2021-2022 season. This would give a league structure as follows;

Division 1 – 5 teams

Division 2 – 7 teams

Division 3 – 6 teams

U1650 (U125) – 4 teams

Divisional Rapidplay – As per Divisions 1-3 above

There were insufficient entries for the U1800 (U145) and the NS Cup.

SG to confirm each club's entry with a view to preparing fixtures for a September start to the season. SG will also invite one of the teams from Division 2 to take promotion to Division 1 to even out the divisions (AP7). It was suggested by SLe that this should be based on the playing strength of their nominated squad rather than their finishing position at the end of the abandoned season.

The matter of wearing face masks was then discussed. Should the League mandate it, should it be left for players to agree between themselves, or should it be left purely to individuals to decide? The committee was aware that some may refuse to play if they are mandated, while others may refuse to play if they are not. The committee felt that it should have a default position, and therefore in line with government advice when in enclosed spaces, face masks must be worn during matches. However, if both teams agree, then face masks need not be worn.

The policy would be reviewed every two months, although events and government regulation may take this out of our hands.

7. ECF League Management System Update

SG stated that he was confident the LMS would be suitable for SCCA events. SLo confirmed that the system was configurable, and would thus cope with positions based on game point rather than match points. And so long as the necessary information was entered in the correct places, the results would be automatically fed into the grading system.

Club captains would need to be granted access to the LMS to enter results and SG will obtain details of such captains from the clubs (AP8) so that they can be given the necessary permissions.

While teething troubles can be expected SLo agreed to act as support to SG in handling problems encountered by various team captains.

8. New emergency clause in the Constitution

The clause was drafted during the email discussions April-May 2021 and would be put to the league for approval (Proposal 7).

9. Grade to Ratings changes

The following was agreed with regard to the transition to the ECF Rating system;

- 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.
- The 10 grading point difference in Rule 5.3 will be 80 rating points.
- While the September rating will be used for determining eligibility for a team, the latest monthly rating will be used for determining board order and substitution (a certain amount of leniency will be granted here) .
- The U125 Cup will be the U1650 Cup.
- The U145 Cup will be the U1800 Cup.

10. Proposals from the Committee to be put before the AGM

In addition to the five proposals agreed at the committee meeting of February 24th 2020, two further proposals were agreed at this meeting.

1. To change the League's banking system for on line banking (Proposal 6).
2. An emergency clause to allow the committee to act constitutionally in the event of another national emergency (Proposal 7).

Due to the transition from BCF Grades to ECF Ratings there are numerous non-substantive changes needed to the SCCA rules. Previous Results Officer Dave Wild itemised those he could find and circulated them among the committee during

the email discussion of April-May 2021. DG will review these and produce a comprehensive proposal to make the necessary changes to reflect the transition (AP9).

11. AOB

BJ via SLe raised the subject of county teams. As both BJ and SR were willing to continue as captains of the U1850 and Minor Counties teams, it was agreed that the SCCA would enter teams in both competitions. SLe would contact BJ to understand the process for entering the teams (AP10).

While there are insufficient entrants to run the NS Cup this coming season, the question of whether to conclude the previously abandoned tournament was raised. SLe would contact Norfolk to obtain their views AP11).

12. Dates for next SCCA Meetings

The date for the Suffolk League EGM was set for Tuesday 17th August 2021.

The date of the next committee meeting was set for Monday 25th October 2021.

Both meetings will be held on line via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

AP from previous meeting. BJ and AS to provide an up to date inventory of trophies.

AP1. BJ to circulate the current version of the NS Cup rules to the committee.

AP2. JM to contact all club secretaries to canvas for a new Vice-President.

AP5. SLe to check with RS that he is willing to continue as Rapid Play Organiser.

AP6. JM to check with BJ to see if he is willing to take on this role of Junior Liaison Officer.

AP7. SG to confirm team entries for the coming season and offer the strongest team from Division Two promotion to Division One.

AP8. SG to obtain details of team captains so that accounts can be created for them on the LMS for entering results.

AP9. DG to scrutinise the SCCA rules and identify all the changes needed to reflect the transition from BCF Grades to ECF Ratings.

AP10. SLe to contact BJ regarding the process of entering our teams in the County Championships.

AP11. SLe to contact Norfolk County to see if they wish to conclude the previously abandoned NS Cup competition.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Proposal 1. Change to Rule 5.3.

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

Proposal 2. Change to clause 4.1 of the Constitution.

The purpose of this change is to enable any new posts created by the League (such as Internet Officer) to be automatically invited onto the committee without the need to change the League Rules. It also removes roles that are no longer filled.

Delete the words “County Team Captains, Suffolk Junior Chess representative, Women’s Chess representative, Correspondence Chess captain, County Results Officer” and insert the word “and” between “Treasurer” and “Competitions Secretary”. Delete the existing sentence after “Competitions Secretary” and replace it with, “Occupants of all other roles of the SCCA will be invited to join the committee at the AGM”.

Proposal 3. Changes to Rules 2.3 to 2.5.

Rule 2.3 should be deleted in its entirety.

In Rule 2.4, delete the words “Divisions 1 and 2,” and replace them with, “all SCCU competitions,” and renumber this rule 2.3.

Rule 2.5 should be deleted in its entirety.

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.

Proposal 4. Change to Rule 5.1.

The purpose of this change is to remove the need to nominate players that are unlikely to be played should the regular players in such a team happen to be the lowest rated players as well.

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”

Proposal 5. Change to clause 4.8 of the Constitution.

The purpose of this change is to remove the anomaly that exists whereby a secretary can give just 21 days “notice” for a meeting, when members must submit any items for inclusion on the agenda for that meeting at least 28 days in advance.

Change “The Secretary shall give members 21 days' notice of the date of each meeting, together with an Agenda and the Minutes of the previous Committee Meeting.”

To “The Secretary shall give members an agenda, along with minutes of the previous Committee Meeting, plus any other necessary documentation, at least 21 days before the date of each meeting.”

Proposal 6. Change 8.3 of the SCCA Constitution.

The purpose of this change is to enable the use of internet banking and electronic money transfers. Currently the SCCA finances rely solely on paper-based transactions such as cheques and paying in slips. There is a current account that requires two signatures on each cheque and a deposit account that holds about 70% of the SCCA's cash and requires just one signature to make a withdrawal. It is proposed that the current account be moved to a provider that will give free

internet banking and allow postal deposits of received cheques. It is proposed that the Deposit Account be unchanged except that two signatures should be needed in future to make any withdrawal. The recommendation from the SCCA Treasurer, is that the SCCA uses Santander Bank.

Change “A Current Account will be maintained by the Treasurer to receive income and make payments on behalf of the SCCA. All withdrawals will require two signatories drawn from the President, Secretary and Treasurer. A Deposit account may also be held to hold extra funds. Withdrawals from this account will be paid into the current account and only one signatory is required for this purpose.”

To “A Current Account with online facilities will be maintained by the Treasurer to receive income and make payments on behalf of the SCCA. The Treasurer and the President and/or the Secretary will hold the access codes and passwords for the on-line current account with the Treasurer authorised to make BACS payments that do not require a signature. A Deposit Account may also be held for extra funds. Withdrawals from this account will be paid into the current account and two signatories drawn from the President, Treasurer and Secretary are required for this purpose.

Proposal 7. New emergency clause in the Constitution

The committee proposes that the following new clause be added to the constitution to enable it to act constitutionally during such events as have occurred this past year.

12. Suspension to the Constitution or Competition Rules

In the event of an emergency the committee has the power to suspend normal SCCA protocols.