

# SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of the SCCA Committee Meeting, held on line via Microsoft Teams on 10th January 2022, 7.30-8.20.**

## **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)  
County U1850 Team Captain – Bob Jones (BJ)  
Internet Officer – Steve Lovell (SLo)

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

None

### **2. Minutes of the last SCCA Committee Meeting 25th October 2021**

Minutes of the October Committee were circulated in advance of the meeting, and accepted without amendment.

### **3. Matters Arising**

None.

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

DG reported that the Barclays' mandate team are still hindering progress in getting him recognised as the SCCA treasurer. Barclays' latest obstruction is that they claim not to recognise either Adrian Sanderson's nor JM's signatures on the latest forms he sent to them (in spite of the fact that Barclays have processed cheques with these signatures in the past). As writing letters has so far proved ineffective DG has suggested AS and JM visit Barclay's Ipswich branch with the necessary ID and try and get them to resolve this with the mandate team.

### **5. Review of current season**

SG reported no significant issues with the league schedule, with only the 'final' of the Suffolk section of the Norfolk/Cup to be arranged.

**6. Impact of the government's plan B on league activities**

A suggestion to suspend the league for the month of January or until Plan B restrictions are removed was discussed. The consensus was that little would be gained from a one month suspension, and as clubs are free to postpone matches if they cannot raise a team, it was felt this matter could be left to each club to deal with.

JM would notify clubs of this decision.

**7. Changes to Competition Rules 2.2 and A3.5. In both clauses, "Ten" should be deleted and replace with "80"**

This was not considered a rule change, but rather a matter of 'translation' and could therefore be made without recourse to an AGM vote. The change was therefore approved.

**8. Changes to the Competition Rules to accommodate the Grade to Rating change, see separate document "Rules 2021 amended for ECF Ratings.pdf".**

As with the previous item, these were not considered rule changes and could therefore be made without recourse to an AGM vote. The changes were therefore approved.

**9. Change to 8.2 of the Constitution to accommodate the Grade to Rating change. Delete "grading" and replace it with "rating".**

This was also considered a matter of 'translation' and could therefore be made without recourse to an AGM vote. This change was therefore approved.

JM would make the changes specified in items 7-9 above and send the amended documents to SLo for posting on the SCCA web site.

**10. Tidying Up Proposals from the Committee to be put before the AGM.**

DG stated that it was unnecessary to notify the competition secretary if matches are played in advance of their scheduled date as the ECF LMS system will accommodate such changes. Therefore, delete the following from rule 3.1, and terminate the first sentence accordingly. "which the home captain must notify to the Competitions Secretary. If the new date is more than seven days before the original fixture date, the Competitions Secretary will change the date on the website to allow the result to be entered by the captains in the usual way."

This was carried.

**11. Guidance on minimum standard of club playing venue.**

SLe reported that the venue for a recent match against Felixstowe was the Dooley Inn, and the playing area was not adequately segregated from the customers, which included a group holding a party. The background noise of the celebrations was quite unsuitable for serious chess and SLe wondered if there was anything the committee could suggest to ensure a minimum standard for league matches is established. No formal proposals emerged for the discussion that followed, although it was thought that approaches to members of Felixstowe chess club would be helpful in preventing a reoccurrence.

## **12. AOB**

DG was given authority to pay any default fines resulting from county matches.

It was also decided to arrange an EGM in order to put the league back on a constitutional footing. This would have a minimal agenda and was set for Monday 21st February. JM would target clubs with a poor attendance record for such meetings to try and ensure we not only have a quorate meeting, but one that has representation from all clubs in the league.

## **13. Date and venue of next SCCA Committee Meeting**

The next committee meeting was set for Monday 30th May.

## **SUMMARY OF ONGOING ACTION POINTS**

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

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

## **SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

### **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 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.