

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the SCCA Meeting

Held on line via Microsoft Teams on 6th June 2023, 7:30 – 8:32.

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

Simon Wilkes (Vice President) and Rob Sanders (Rapid Play Organiser).

2. Minutes of the last SCCA Committee Meeting

Minutes of the February Committee meeting were circulated in advance of the meeting, after the correction of two typos they were accepted without amendment.

3. Matters Arising

Actions from the minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed by SLe. AP14, AP16 AP17 were all completed. The remaining three are in hand.

SG reported that he had had three positive, one probable, two negative and two non responses for his proposal for a rapid play division. On the basis that it was likely that we could get at least four teams entering, it was decided to put this proposal to the AGM.

4. Treasurer's report

DG reported that taking into account the one-off payment for rapid play trophies, the SCCA ran a deficit of approximately £150 last year. If we were to continue to fund county matches the SCCA would need to increase league fees by £9 per team based on current entries. That could be reduced by increasing entry fees for the rapid play and grade limited competitions, but that was seen as both undesirable and counter productive, and would not raise significant amounts.

DG reported that the SCCA has £1359 on deposit and a further £514 in a current account, and could therefore continue to subsidise the county teams for the immediate

future. It was decided that a more modest increase of £4 per team would be proposed, raising the current fee from £21 to £25.

5. Review of the 2022-23 season

SG summarised the winning teams for each of the nine SCCA competitions and added the winners of each division's Player of the Year award. These were;

Division One	Phil Hutchings (Manningtree)
Division Two	Sam Gaffney (Saxmundham)
Division Three	Mike Usher (Saxmundham)

In his report SG reported the sad loss of Mike Usher, who died recently.

SG reported that there were more disputes this past season than the previous season, and SLe informed the meeting that it had been necessary for him to officiate over three disputes. The most significant arose in the Division Three Rapid Play final when disabled access to the playing venue became a practical issue and was discussed at length under item 7 on the agenda.

BJ stated that he either had, or knew the whereabouts of all of the currently contested SCCA trophies, with the exception of Division Two. JM took an action (AP18) to see if it could be located.

SLe and SG will arrange transfer of trophies not currently in BJ's possession.

6. Proposals from the committee for the AGM

The Committee proposed the formation of a Handicap Rapid Play Competition as outlined in the minutes of the February Committee meeting.

The Committee proposed an increase in the league fees from £21 per team to £25 per team.

When SLe and SG have finalised their paper on the substitution rules that will be added. The purpose of the paper was not to change the rules, but to make them clearer.

7. Accessibility of Playing Venues

The subject of disability access to club venues was discussed. Following the dispute in the Division Three Rapid Play final it became clear that there could be times when this matter is paramount. There are at least three clubs in the league (Ipswich, Manningtree and Sudbury) that routinely play in rooms that do not provide such access.

While it would not be practical to demand all venues provide disability access to both playing room and toilets, all clubs will be flagged to consider this matter and it was agreed that any new venues should be accessible. It was also agreed that the League should have the power to change a match venue if necessary.

8. Date and Venue for the SCCA AGM

The date of the SCCA AGM was set for Tuesday 11th July. SLe would contact Ipswich regarding venue.

9. AOB

The re-introduction of the Suffolk County Individual Championships was suggested, and it was decided it will be put to the AGM on the basis that someone would come forward to run it.

JM raised the tie-break rules in the N/S Cup. Currently Rules A3.8 and A3.9 can only apply in an all-play-all format, which will only apply if less than four clubs enter (A3.2). There is no provision for a tie-break in a knock-out final. A rule specifying board count was suggested. SG will review the rules, along with those specific to Norfolk and the competition as a whole (AP19).

All members of the current committee signified their willingness to continue in post.

BJ informend the meeting that the N/S Final will be taking place on June 29th against Norfolk & Norwich.

10. Date and venue of next SCCA Committee Meeting

The next SCCA Committee Meeting was set for Tuesday 15th August.

SUMMARY OF ONGOING ACTION POINTS

AP13 and AP15. SLe is in discussions with SG regarding these actions, which will be completed before the AGM.

AP18. JM to locate the Division Two trophy.

AP19. SG to review the Norfolk and Suffolk Cup Rules regarding a tie-break in knock-out finals.

PROPOSALS FROM THE COMMITTEE TO BE PUT BEFORE THE AGM

Proposal 1. Introduce a New Rapid Play Division

It is proposed that the SCCA introduce a new league competition, “The Handicap Rapid Play Competition”. This will be based on the proposal outlined the Appendix attached to the minutes of the February 2023 Committee meeting.

Proposal 2. Increase League Fees

It is proposed that SCCA fess be increased from their current £21 per team to £25 per team. This is necessary in order to continue funding our county teams.