

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the SCCA Committee Meeting

Held on line via Microsoft Teams on 20th May 2024 at 7:30.

Present: President – Stephen Lewis (SLe)
Vice President – Simon Wilks (SW)
Secretary – John McAllister (JM)
Treasurer – David Green (DG)
Competitions Secretary – Sam Gaffney (SG)
County U1850 Team Captain – Bob Jones (BJ)
Internet Officer – Steve Lovell (SLo)

1. Apologies for absence

County First Team Captain – Steve Ruthen.

2. Minutes of the last SCCA Committee Meeting June 6

These were accepted with a minor change to item 6 where the final sentence should read, “by the end of October” instead of “from October”.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Review of the SCCA Child Welfare Policy.

BJ reported that he had been in contact with Tim Kent, who has agreed to meet to discuss and progress the CWP, although a date has not yet been set for that meeting. SLe asked BJ if Tim would be willing to act as the SCCA Lead for Safekeeping without committee membership. BJ said that he believed Tim already considered himself the Lead, but would check with him if he would officially accept such an appointment from the SCCA.

5. Review of Action Points

AP23 - BJ declared that he had not yet modified Bury's own captain's help sheet, but will do so before the start of next season.

AP 24. BJ still in communication with Tim Kent to set up their first meeting.

AP 27. Completed.

A28. SG reported that he had completed the task, although he had not yet circulated the proposal for inclusion for the AGM agenda. He would do so after the meeting.

AP29. Completed.

6. AOB

JM asked if there were any comments on the draft agenda for the AGM previously circulated. Apart from once again adding an 'e' to Simon Wilks' name there were none.

BJ asked if he was expected to purchase the POTY trophies, and whether they should be engraved. He was told yes to both, and ask who the current winners were. SG informed the meeting that it was a somewhat unusual year for these awards, as only division one had an outright winner.

Division 1: Andrew Lewis (Manningtree)

Division 2: Rob Sanders (Sudbury)
Robert Kent (Sudbury)
Peter Coleman (Sudbury)
James Irwin (Stowmarket)

Division 3: Alonso Paez (Ipswich)
Les Jones (Ipswich)

JM questioned the suitability of certain players in Clacton's Divisional Rapid Play team as they do not have a team in any division and they could bring in players of any strength, some unsuitable for division three. SG stated that once the new rule A1.3 is passed this would not be a problem as he would place such teams in the division suitable to the strength of the nominated players.

JM suggested we look at Rule A1.7 and consider changing "another team" for "other teams" to make it clear what is meant. This would be discussed at a later meeting.

A discussion of proposed rule changes from Ipswich took place in which all agreed that some of them were simply pointless. Due to the large number of proposals for the AGM (11 from Ipswich and 13 from the committee) SLe suggested that the incoming President might want to consider somehow grouping some of the Ipswich proposal together to save the AGM time.

While it was acknowledged that the committee could not veto any proposal from any club, it was felt that these proposals needed either simplifying or dropping. Some were simply stating the obvious and already happen anyway, while others had clearly not been thought through. For example, what penalty could be imposed should a nominated player not play three league games in a season? What benefit is there in requiring nominees for non-league cups? The idea of an "Appeal Committee" was seen as quite impractical (although as that is a constitutional matter and thus requires a two thirds majority, it is unlikely to pass anyway). However, not all of the Ipswich proposals were seen as without merit, but it was seen as important that steps should be taken to prevent them all being passed en-bloc by an AGM flooded with Ipswich members.

JM suggested that he should reply to Ipswich's document with the views of the committee to see if they would consider reducing some of these proposals, although it was acknowledged that little time existed for this as the AGM agenda must go out to clubs no later than 29th May. SW would also review the proposals and pass comments back to Ipswich before the AGM to seek ways of grouping some of them.

It was agreed that when the agendas are sent to clubs, it would be made clear that the committee do not endorse the Ipswich proposals.

The matter of vacant posts was discussed, and it was acknowledged that we are still without candidates for Vice-President, Treasurer and 1st Team captain. The SCCA could continue for the time being without a VP, and if there is no 1st Team captain we will have to continue without a major team in the County Championships. However, the post of Treasurer is crucial.

SW raised the possibility of using a suitable candidate who is not a member of any SCCA club, and while this is possible, it reduces the size of the committee, which is not desirable.

JM informed the meeting of a discussion he had had with Alonso Paez (Ipswich) who thinks there is a chance that their own treasurer (name forgotten) might volunteer - the only downside being that he is poor with figures. DG made the point that the SCCA need to be very careful who they accept as Treasurer because the SCCA account now requires only one signatory, so it needs to be someone that we know and trust.

BJ brought up the subject of Ipswich Sports Club, who were thought to be entering two teams in the league next season. SG updated the meeting, stating that they would only be entering a team in division one. BJ pointed out that this would still make division three disproportionately large according to SG's indicative email. SG declared that his ideal would be to have seven teams in each division, but most division two teams are very reluctant to move up to division one, and the same applies to division three teams moving up to division two. This matter would wait until we have more definitive information following the July deadline for entries.

7. Date and venue of next SCCA Committee Meeting

Monday August 5th.

Meeting closed at 8:30.

SUMMARY OF ONGOING ACTION POINTS

AP23. BJ to provide a help sheet for team captains suitable for all clubs to help eliminate accidental board order violations.

AP24. BJ to liaise with Tim Kent to review the SCCA Child Protection Policy.