

# SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the SCCA Committee Meeting

Held on line via Microsoft Teams on 12th August 2024, 7:30 - 8:00.

**Present:** President – Simon Wilks (SW)  
Vice President – Piotr Dolewka (PD)  
Secretary – John McAllister (JM)  
Treasurer – Anthony Taylor (AT)  
Competitions Secretary – Sam Gaffney (SG)  
Internet Officer – Steve Lovell (SLo)

### 1. Apologies for absence

County First Team Captain – Steve Ruthen (SR)  
County U1850 Team Captain – Bob Jones (BJ)

### Introduction

SW informed the meeting that although SR had resigned the post of first team captain at the AGM, he is willing to continue for another season and has informed the EACU of this. He would still very much prefer to hand over to someone new, and would do so immediately should a suitable candidate come forward.

Due to technical issues, and not for want of trying, BJ was unable to attend the meeting. SW referred to BJ's action to provide a help sheet for team captains (AP23), which had been circulated and commented on by PD.

PD asked when the new fixtures would be published as Ipswich wished to schedule in an internal tournament. SG informed the meeting that he was still waiting on the production of the BAL fixtures, which he was expecting very soon, but had already advised Ipswich to avoid early September.

### 2. Minutes of the last SCCA Committee Meeting June 6

These were circulated along with the agenda for the meeting and were accepted without amendment.

### 3. Matters Arising

The outstanding action points from the meeting were discussed. SW stated that he believed BJ had a diary date for AP24 but was unsure how far they had progressed.

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

AT reported that he had sent a corrected mandate signed by himself and his predecessor David Green (DG) and was waiting for it to be signed and returned by JM. Once received he can then proceed to getting himself authorised to operate the SCCA's accounts. It had been decided to keep DG as an authorised operator until AT was fully installed otherwise we could have a situation where no one had access to the county's accounts. JM pointed out that he believes he is still a signatory to the accounts and while he has not been familiarised with the online accounts he can counter sign checks etc.

AT pointed out that his first task is to send out invoices for the coming season, but could not do that until the deadline for entering teams has been passed. SG confirmed that the deadline was 31st July and that all the necessary information was up to date on the LMS. AT stated he would proceed by first emailing all treasurers of the clubs to confirm they were still in post and then send out the invoices.

SW pointed out the unique position regarding Saxmundham in that neither the secretary nor the treasurer have email accounts, and therefore it would be best to send all such correspondence to the club's chairman, John Feavoyour.

#### **5. Competition Secretary's Report**

SG summarised the league divisions thus;

Division 1 - 6 teams

Division 2 - 7 teams

Division 3 - 8 teams

With 12 teams in the division 3 rapid play cup.

As previously stated he is still waiting for the BAL fixtures before publishing the SCCA fixtures.

SW noted that Manningtree was the only club yet to publish their nominations. While SG pointed out that strictly speaking clubs do not have to publish nominations, JM stated that Manningtree's AGM was in two days and their nominations would be finalised.

#### **6. Review of the SCCA Child Welfare Policy.**

In the absence of BJ this was held over to the next meeting.

#### **7. Review of Action Points**

There were no other actions outstanding other than AP24.

#### **8. Rule Clarifications**

JM raised the question of whether we can change the wording of a rule or clarification purposes only without going through the formal process of proposing a rule change before the AGM?

Two examples were given;

5.2 - Change “mid-season” to “January”

A1.7 - Change “another team” to “across all other teams”

In these two cases SG pointed out that this is how the rules are applied at present, and while A1.7 is likely more contentious, we can make a formal proposal at the next AGM. SW agreed, it was therefore decided that such changes would be formally presented to the league at the next AGM.

It was suggested that the committee notify all clubs that this is how we interpret these rules and a formal proposal to change the wording of them will be put to the league at the next AGM. JM took this action.

## **9. AOB**

SL raised the matter of the ECF Grassroots fund, which is a government funded initiative to provide grants for raising the profile of chess at the grass roots level. It is open to any organisation or person to apply, and such applications can be made at any time. It was acknowledged that the SCCA does not have much of a record in funding, or seeking funding for such initiatives, but we should look at some of the examples given on the website for the sort of things the Grassroots fund is aiming to promote.

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

Monday November 25th.

## **SUMMARY OF ONGOING ACTION POINTS**

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

**AP25.** JM to write to all clubs regarding the clarification to rules 5.2 and A1.7.