

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the SCCA Committee Meeting

Held on line via Microsoft Teams on 3rd February 2025, 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)
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 November 25th 2024

These were accepted without amendment.

3. Matters Arising

SW drafted an email and circulated to the committee for an appeal to the SCCA membership for a new team captain and was seeking views and comments before sending it out. SG felt it should mention the fact that it was specifically a call for a first team captain, AT pointed out a typo and BJ recommended that it should make clear that a captain is needed from September for the 2025/26 season. SW checked with the committee if any new candidates had been identified, but none had. BJ felt that there is a chance that it might be a little easier for a captain now as some of the old Ipswich players are returning via the Ipswich Sports Club. SW thanked those for their comments and that he would send an amended copy in a week or two before sending it to all the clubs.

4. Treasurer's Report

AT reported that we had a balance of £1007.31 in the Business Premium (deposit) Account and £1059.62 in the Community (current) Account. The two outstanding invoices have been paid, the first for £60 from the ECF that related to unregistered players, all of which has been recovered from the clubs concerned (Felixstowe and Ipswich). Ipswich was successful in challenging the charge for Adam Wilson and £18 has been refunded to the SCCA from the ECF. The second from the EACU for £328 of which £304 was paid after deducting £24 as we had entered only one team this season. As of yet there has been no reaction to this deduction, hence AT has considered that as acceptance of it.

No further invoices have been received, either directly or via David Green, but if any are received AT stated that he would circulate them to the committee before paying, as being new to the role as treasurer he is not yet familiar with all of the SCCA's liabilities.

5. Competition Secretary's Report

SG reported the only significant incident since his last report was the disqualification of a Stowmarket player in the Divisional Rapidplay Cup for a second substitution, which consequently lost Stowmarket the match. However Bury St Edmunds B conceded that match anyway allowing Stowmarket to go forward to the next round.

There is massive fixture congestion for Ipswich in the coming week because all of their teams are through to the semi-finals of their respective Divisional Rapidplay Cup rounds and one of their captains has rescheduled one of their league matches for that week as well. PD also pointed out that they also have a Rapidplay Handicap match that week also, but that he was confident that Ipswich will cope.

SW commended the sportsmanship of Bury St Edmunds B for allowing Stowmarket to proceed in the Cup, and PD pointed out that this match impacted the other Stowmarket Cup match, which was defaulted 8-0. SG explained that the reason for this was because both matches were scheduled for the same evening and half of the B team had been drafted into the A team.

6. Review of the SCCA Child Welfare Policy.

BJ reported no further news on his attempts to contact Tim Kent, and will redouble his efforts.

7. Review of Action Points

AP24. Ongoing.

AP26. Completed.

AP27. Ongoing. SG reported another example where a defaulted board in the match between Woodbridge v Ipswich Cardinals resulted in Ipswich winning the match.

AP28. Outstanding, JM will take ownership of this action.

AP29. Ongoing

8. AOB

PD raised the matter of what can be done to reduce the number of defaults. SG suggested a greater use of postponements. SW pointed out that we had not yet issued the paper with guidance for team captains, which might help, but that the problem is significant for small clubs when one or two of their key players are not available. However, as PD had pointed out, even large clubs like Bury are affected, saying that they had three defaults in a home match just last week.

SW went on to explain the particular difficulties suffered by Saxmundham this season, which prompted SL to mention that he was still waiting for confirmation of a fixture date for the Bury A v Saxmundham A match. SW asked SL to email him the details and he will contact the Saxmundham captain to progress this, and other outstanding Saxmundham postponements.

JM asked BJ if the guidance for captains' document was ready for publishing on the SCCA web site. BJ had only received comments from PD regarding the paper, some he agreed with, others he didn't. The committee was tasked with revisiting the document along with PD's comments and pass any feedback to BJ who would then circulate a revised copy (AP30).

9. Date and venue of next SCCA Committee Meeting

Monday 19th May 2025. The SCCA AGM was set for Wednesday July 2nd (subject to confirmation of the Ipswich venue from PD).

SUMMARY OF ONGOING ACTION POINTS

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

AP27. SW to circulate his views on the rapid play handicap issue for discussion regarding any future rule changes.

AP28. JM to draft an amendment to rule 3.2 such that it is only applicable to teams from the same club.

AP29. SW to write to all clubs in the SCCA, explaining the need for a first team captain, what the role requires and an appeal for clubs to look among themselves for a suitable candidate.

AP30. BJ to revisit his “Guidance for Captains” paper in line with PD’s comments and circulate a reviewed copy to the committee for distribution to the clubs.

PROPOSALS FROM THE COMMITTEE TO PUT TO THE AGM

Competition Rule 5.2. Change “mid-season” to “January”

Competition Rule A1.7 - Insert “only” between “make” and “one” and change “for another team” to “across all other teams (not one per team)”.

Constitution Clause 9. First sentence. Replace “Treasurer” with “SCCA”.

It is not usual or necessary for administrative arrangements to be specified in a Constitution. The process for changing an administrative matter should not be so cumbersome as to require a resolution at a General Meeting. The treasurer does not normally deal with the trophies and would therefore be entirely dependent on others for information as to their whereabouts.