

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM held on 13 July 2016

1. Attendance

The meeting was attended by Norman Wedley, Paul Kemp, Patrick Ribbands, Marcus Misson, Kevin Clark, Francis Bowers, John Dunn and Chris Russell.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Paul Hanks, Norman Hutchinson and Phil Turp.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 10 June 2015

The minutes were summarised and approved.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Reports of Association officers for 2015/16

League Secretary: Paul Kemp had previously circulated his report for the team competitions. Division One was retained by Royston and Division Two by Spalding. Royston also won the Fenland Knock-out and Cambridge took the Plate. He said that there had been some problems with eligibility this season and therefore proposed a rule change to help resolve these. Also the early notification of teams had worked well this season and he would like for that to continue. If the League Secretary could be advised of teams' entries by end of July, the fixture list could again be issued in August ahead of adjacent leagues. This would help hugely to resolve fixture congestion. In this case the ECM would effectively become redundant. He proposed a constitution change to cover this.

Team 550 Organiser: Paul Kemp reported that Spalding and St Neots won their respective local divisions and Spalding triumphed in the final. The competition is becoming more successful and there should be additional teams competing next season.

Special Events Organiser: Paul Kemp reported that Linton won the Jamboree at Godmanchester, narrowly beating Royston. The Rapidplay at Whittlesford last October attracted 94 players, with many local players recording success. Prize-winners were D Coleman in the Open also capturing the Jack Taylor trophy, R Goodfellow in the Major, P Walton in the Challengers' section and G Yu in the new Junior section. Paul was grateful to all of his fellow organisers of the event and to Julian Ray who will be co-director this year. The 2016 event will be held at Whittlesford again on 25th September. There is an online entry form and the competition will use Fischer time (20min + 10s/move). Paul was thanked for his tournament organisation which raised £158 for the association.

Tournament Secretary: Francis Bowers said that there had been 19 entries to the County Individual Championship but there were two no-shows due to lack of a separate junior section. Seventeen players was an increase from last year. A wide range of clubs were represented and P Kemp and C Davison emerged as joint champions. There is room at the current venue for expansion up to 32 players at least. A small surplus was due to the no-shows donating their fees to the association.

County Team Captains: For the Open Team Kevin Clark reported that we were EACU champions, and undefeated in 7 games, beating Suffolk (2nd) in our final match. Unfortunately there were difficulties due to a partial withdrawal by Herts who only played everybody once. In the National Championship his team qualified for the Minor competition and had beaten Leicestershire in the QF, but lost to Lincolnshire in the SF by a single point. Liam Varnam (7/9) had the best figures but he was grateful to all 18 players who had supported him to become part of a winning team.

For the U160 Team Patrick Ribbands reported that they had also won the EACU championship (W4D1L1). In the national championship they had drawn Essex in the QF and lost. He thanked all of his players, especially John Dunn who had been a late substitute for him on several occasions.

Patrick had also run an U120 team. They had beaten Suffolk, but lost to Norfolk over 2 games each. They played Herts in the national competition and lost.

Junior Organiser(s): Francis Bowers reported on training sessions at John Claire School at Helpston (6-11yrs) with the help of Fred Davis (retd.) There were several promising local juniors who were competing in the national championships. Francis asked if parental help could be sought to generate interest in junior competition.

Website Manager: Phil Turp was not present but had submitted a report. On his behalf Paul Kemp noted that Phil was preparing the website for his potential retirement and suggested that we look out for a keen young computer literate replacement soon. Patrick Ribbands was thanked for his help in maintaining direct links to the EACU website.

Grading Officer(s): Chris Russell reported that there had been a minor hiccup in January when Patrick went into hospital without downloading the results; now resolved - we both have access to EACU database.

9 clubs contributed 118 players in our league/cup matches, only 2 non ECF registered (both Peterborough – they accepted that £2.50 fines are to be paid). There were 13 League & Cup defaulted boards (D1 5: Ca1 Pe2 SN2; D2 4: Bu3 Pe1; 550 2: SN1 Wa1; FKO 2: SN2 in Final!) and 1 defaulted match (D2 Bu). All matches reported smoothly through EACU database with the exception of NE and P'boro club championships. These represent a minor manual effort and may be added next year. Leagues submitted to ECF on 11th June, well ahead of deadline.

January grading is now working well nationally, so use of these for board order in CCCA competitions make sense. Monthly grading is being proposed at ECF – currently unlikely (Marcus to oppose on our behalf). Richard Haddrell is ill and a new grading team is expected next year. ECF has put tenders out for contract. This is a shame as Richard has done a thoroughly professional job for the last 10 years or so and deserves our thanks.

ECF & EACU delegates: Marcus Misson had attended the ECF AGM on our behalf. Notes from this meeting have been circulated. Much time wasted discussing a vision based on a proposal to build £100k float by raising ECF grading fees. The proposal was defeated – Marcus opposed on our behalf. A proposal to share London HQ with Go Association is being looked at. Interested parties can also contribute via the ECF forum.

The EACU meeting is not until next weekend. Delegate reports to be circulated when available.

Disputes Committee: There had been no disputes during the season.

6. Report of the Treasurer and Adoption of the 2014/15 Accounts

Paul Kemp circulated and presented the accounts to the meeting. He was pleased to report a balance of £2600 and a surplus of £150 for the season, largely thanks to the Annual Whittlesford Rapidplay, which contributed a profit of £158. He pointed out that in the 10 years that this event had run it had generated a huge £1650 profit for the association. The county championship had also been in surplus and he proposed no change in association fees. The current charges help subsidise county chess, which he thought to be reasonable. The accounts had been audited by Norman Hutchinson.

A 10 minute break was followed by presentation of trophies

7. Election of Officers for 2015/16

There being no new volunteers for any of the county officers, it was proposed that the current incumbents be reinstated en bloc. Hence the only change to Committee positions was the addition of Julian Ray as co-director of the Rapidplay:

Position	Incumbent
Chairman	Norman Wedley
Vice-Chairman	Chris Russell
Secretary	Paul Hanks
Treasurer	Paul Kemp
League Secretary	Paul Kemp
Team 550 Organiser	Paul Kemp
Special Events	Paul Kemp, Julian Ray
County Championship	Francis Bowers
Junior Organiser	Francis Bowers
Match Captains:	Open Kevin Clark
	U160 Patrick Ribbands
	U120 Patrick Ribbands
Website Co-ordinator	Phil Turp
Grading Officers	Patrick Ribbands, Chris Russell
Auditor	Norman Hutchinson
ECF Delegate	Marcus Misson
EACU Delegates	Paul Hanks, Francis Bowers, Marcus Misson
Disputes Committee	Norman Wedley, Francis Bowers

8. Any Other Business

Trophies: The following trophies were presented:

Division One	Royston
Division Two	Spalding
Jamboree	Linton
Fenland Trophy	Royston
Fenland Plate	Cambridge
Team 550	Spalding
Jack Taylor Trophy	D Coleman

Rule amendments: The following amendments were proposed to CCCA rules:

Currently, ECF grades published in the summer are used throughout the season for all competitions. It was proposed by Paul Kemp that mid-season grades be used to determine board order when available but not for eligibility due to potential difficulties in the 550 league. Some thought it better to use the new grades for eligibility too, but after some discussion the meeting approved the rule change as it is by 7-1.

Paul Kemp proposed that we adopt Fischer time controls whenever electronic clocks are available. The suggested time limit was 70 minutes + 15 seconds per move for the entire game. There was some discussion on availability of sufficient clocks at each club. Paul volunteered to help find additional clocks at a bulk price to help clubs that were short. Concerns were expressed about modifying digital clocks mid-match, but the simplified time control should assist this. It was ultimately agreed that Fischer time be adopted for all competitions, but where digital clocks are not available either at the start of the game or as a replacement, analogue clocks may be used, with a correction to be made for the time remaining in the match as necessary. It is the home team's responsibility to provide clocks so this will be at their discretion. Francis Bowers proposed an alternative time control but could not get a seconder for his proposal. Rule change then agreed 7-1.

Paul Kemp proposed that we increase the number of times a player may play above the bottom 2 boards without affecting eligibility for a lower team to four instead of only twice. This caused much debate. Peterborough had fielded an ineligible player on no less than 6 times last season but had only been penalised when they had not sought agreement from the opposing captain. It was suggested that in exceptional circumstances where a player's eligibility to play for a lower team would be jeopardised and with the agreement of the opposing captain, the rule regarding playing in order of strength may be waived. This idea was not liked by the meeting as some felt it was open to abuse. After much discussion it was agreed to change the rule on the number of times a player may play above the bottom 2 boards without affecting eligibility for a lower team to three instead of only twice. This is more lenient than the existing rule but it will be strictly enforced. In any case, as the prime offender is not submitting a team in Division 2 this year, the problem may not arise next season.

John Dunn raised the question as to why the 550 league eligibility rules are different. However, this was late in the meeting and not on the agenda, so the chairman ruled it out of order.

Paul Kemp proposed a change to the format of the Fenland Trophy such that a) the Cup would be contested by teams without restriction on strength b) direct entry would be possible to the Fenland Plate with teams limited to a combined grade of 600. There was some concern about fixture congestion, since the dates were not known at the start of the season, but it was pointed out that the new plate competition added only a maximum of 3 games to the season if a team reached the final. It was proposed that the grade limit was amended to 550 in line with the 550 league. This was agreed by a margin of 5-2. This being agreed the rule change was agreed 6-1.

Constitution amendments: The following addition to clause 18 of the CCCA Constitution was proposed and accepted (7-0):

18. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to direct the conditions and structure of play during the season. If deemed appropriate at the AGM, this business may be conducted at the AGM but otherwise, the Executive Committee shall meet annually in September and may meet at other times if five officers so request. Rules 9 - 12 above shall also apply to Executive Committee meetings.

Child Protection Policy: Clubs were reminded that the CCCA had adopted the ECF Child Protection Policy. It is now called the ECF Safeguarding Children Policy and has undergone some revisions as a result of new government guidelines.

The policy may be found at: <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/safeguarding-children-policy/>

Rules sub-committee: Francis Bowers proposed that a sub-committee of 3 arbiters be formed to dispense advice and interpretation on the rules to players in Cambridgeshire. This was believed to be unnecessary and was rejected.

Affiliation of Chatteris Chess Club: Chatteris Chess Club applied for affiliation to the CCCA and they were accepted (7-0).

Forthcoming season: Paul Kemp reported that the leagues were forming up well and in line with the new constitution rule 18, there should be no need to hold an ECM. Entries need to be confirmed by the end of July so that the fixtures can be prepared in the first half of August enabling the fixtures to start in the second full week of September. Spalding desired not to be promoted.

St. Neots did not wish to be relegated and may be able to form a new D2 team with help from the defunct Buckden squad. Provisional entries (some need confirmation by clubs) are likely to consist of the following teams:

Division 1	Royston, Cambridge, Warboys A, New England A, St Neots A, Peterborough A, Peterborough B
Division 2	Spalding, New England B, Warboys B, Warboys C, St Neots B
Team 550 North	Spalding, Godmanchester, Chatteris, Warboys White Capes, New England Patriots & Cavaliers
Team 550 South	St Neots, Cambridge, Royston, Warboys D-max, and possibly another Cambridge team
Fenland KO Open	Royston, Cambridge, New England, Peterborough, St Neots, Warboys
Fenland KO U550	New England, Royston (plus more to enter).

Teams in the League and 550 will play each other home and away. Sadly we have lost two teams from division 2, but to compensate we have an increased entry in the Team 550 and have introduced a grading-limited Fenland competition for the lower-graded players. Competition fees are unchanged from last year.

Obituaries: The meeting noted with sadness the passing of Sheila Evans-Evans, earlier in the season.

Warboys Chess Club was thanked for allowing their venue to be used for this meeting.

Minutes Prepared by:

Minutes Signed by:

C. J. Russell
Acting Secretary

N. Wedley
Chairman