

## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of the AGM held at Warboys on 12th June 2019**

#### **1. Attendance**

The meeting was attended by Paul Kemp, Norman Wedley, Patrick Ribbands, Colin Emery, Mike Onyons, Richard Mann, John Wright, Francis Bowers and Chris Russell. The chairman opened the meeting at 7.40pm

#### **2. Obituaries**

It was noted with regret that Roger Burbage died last year. Roger had been auditor of the association for many years and was a loyal supporter of Peterborough club.

#### **3. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Paul Hanks, Stephen Pride, Norman Hutchinson, Marcus Connolly, Chris Tandy, Marcus Misson, Kevin Clark, Richard Coats, Jamie Smith and Phil Turp, (also belatedly from John Beck.)

#### **3. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th June 2018**

The previous minutes had been circulated by Marcus Misson and were approved as a true record. Last year's meeting had overrun due to a long debate on rule amendments. It was pointed out that any rule changes need to be communicated to the league secretary at least two weeks before the meeting, so that they can be circulated with the agenda. Open discussion before the meeting might also help reduce the time taken in the actual meeting.

#### **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Reports of Association officers for 2019/20**

**League Secretary:** John Beck was not present. (It was subsequently discovered that he was unwell and had tendered his apologies by email.) In his absence it was reported that Division One was won by Peterborough, breaking a long run by Royston. New England B topped Division Two. Peterborough also won the Fenland Knock-out and St Neots won the 550 KO competition. The Grand Prix was believed to be won by Neil Greenwood (TBC). The Jamboree had not taken place. This had been previously organised by the League secretary, but it was not clear whether that had been communicated to John. The last Jamboree had been arranged over the night of the Linton club AGM reducing the turnout.

In general it was thought that John had done a good job and it was hoped that he could continue. Chris Russell observed that the FKO draw had not been issued with the fixtures dates and this had caused some problems fitting the rounds into a crowded season. He said he would email John to confirm his willingness to continue, and all issues raised by the meeting.

**Website Manager:** Phil Turp was not present but had submitted a report (attached). On his behalf Paul Kemp noted that the website functioned well apart from some misdirected out of date entries – which he will work to fix. One problem is the retirement next year of Dave Wilds EACU website, from which results data is drawn. A replacement will be needed. Online entry for the Rapidplay worked well. The website hosting fee has gone up

(slightly) to £143 for the next 2 years, but it was recognised by the meeting as an essential cost. Any suggestion for additional features welcomed. Phil was happy to remain in his post for which he was thanked. It was hoped that the ECF League management software would act as a replacement for the EACU database.

**Rapidplay Organiser:** Paul Kemp said the Special Events Organiser had morphed into the Rapidplay organiser with the passing of Jamboree organisation to league secretary. The Rapidplay at Whittlesford last September attracted the maximum of 100 players, with some late entries turned down. Use of Fischer time prevented flag fell disputes. Players came from as far as Kent and Nottinghamshire, there were 30 local players but only 2 from the old H&PCA area, which he thought disappointing. Francis offered to organise a new event in Peterborough which he thought might help with local numbers. The event raised £112 for the association and has generated more than £2000 over its life, which is impressive.

The 2019 event will be held at Whittlesford again on Sunday, 29th September, using the same format. Paul expressed his thanks to the organising team, John Wickham, Richard Freeman (arbiters), Phil Turp for the online entry system, Julian Ray (organisation), Margherita Beroni (catering) and Francis Bowers (bookstall). Paul said that he wished to stand down from future events when possible. John Wickham had kindly offered to take a bigger role, so he thought that they might jointly run it in 2020, but Francis's offer might be worth exploring. As the current tournament is successful it was hoped it could continue in its present format. One possibility was reinstating the Spring Peterborough rapid play under Francis if there was local support and a suitable calendar slot to do it. Getting the new Stamford club under David Lees involved was a possibility to be explored. They had played 2 friendly matches against Peterborough. Paul was thanked for his contribution to a successful tournament.

**Grading Officer(s):** Patrick Ribbands said that Dave Wild's EACU website would be shut down at the end of next season, so we will need to transition to the ECF LMS software next year. Chris submitted a report for league grading (attached). The upshot was that there were some 100 fewer games than last year, with 10 fewer players. We had only 13 games defaults this year, including only one match (Warboys v Spalding in 550 league) so that was an improvement over 20 defaulted games last year. He had hoped that Jamie Smith would help take over some of the work, but due to illness this had not proved possible.

Chris reported that the EACU database exporter had missed a game in its final results file, which was only noticed on subsequent checking. He felt that it was important to check the data personally, as it also allowed him to advise clubs of potential ECF fines, and highlights unusual grade changes. He felt that this process would be lacking in monthly grades, with which he disagreed.

The intention of the ECF to move to using a FIDE type grade number was thought to be a bad idea, as it could potentially lead to confusion, as the 2 grades still cannot be merged. Not everybody has a FIDE grade, so games against such players are simply not graded! Therefore players would then have 2 similar but different grades. The grades would still not be merged, due to monetary considerations. The primary driver for ECF membership is grading, and competitions that allowed non-ECF members now get fined. It is easy to check the ECF database, as unpaid members are blank in the list, but how soon this is updated after payment is open to question.

**Tournament Secretary:** Francis Bowers said that there had been a good turnout of 32 entries to the County Individual Championship in November in Peterborough, and Chris Davison (4.5/5) emerged as county champion. Paul Kemp and Ieysaa Bin-Suhayl were joint runners up (4/5). A range of clubs were represented including some from Stamford. Overall the competition made a £1 loss due to rounding up the prizes. Francis was thanked for a well-run tournament.

**ECF & EACU delegates:** Marcus Misson was ill and had not attended either meeting. Francis attended the ECF meetings as Lincolnshire representative. He reported a proposal to make it compulsory to play women on the bottom boards of county matches to increase the gender ratio. This was narrowly defeated. FIDE type 4 digit grades were being proposed for the future which may cause confusion as ECF and FIDE grades are separate.

The EACU meeting had been attended by Francis, Patrick and Norman. The EACU had organised several successful tournaments as well as the county matches and appeared to be running smoothly. Francis is to attend the next meeting at Whittlesford on 30<sup>th</sup> June, and accepted Norman's proxy as he will be away. Paul Hanks is currently the third delegate.

**County Team Captains:** Kevin Clark was not present but had submitted a report (attached). On his behalf Paul Kemp said that Kevin had run the Open Team for six years and had won the competition twice, also coming close on 2 other separate occasions, which was a very creditable record. This year we came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 4 with a weaker team, due to several strong players leaving the area. Kevin was gratefully thanked for his efforts on our behalf.

Unfortunately Kevin had also announced his resignation from the post. Sadly he has not found anyone willing to come forward as his successor.

For the U160 Team Patrick Ribbands reported that they had (narrowly) come last in the EACU championship. We were still offered a place in the national championship due to withdrawal by others, but having been drawn against Yorkshire, were unable to raise a team and had to pay £100 fine. After this disaster Patrick said he was standing down as captain. He had been doing the job for more than 30 years and thought that it was time for someone else. Paul Kemp said that he would appeal the fine once the invoice is received, but he was not confident of success. It was pointed out that the default had happened due to circumstances beyond Patrick's control and was not his fault. He was heartily thanked for his huge contribution to the association.

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

**Junior Organiser(s):** Francis Bowers organised a grandmaster simultaneous by Keith Arkell at a Peterborough 'chess in the park' event. A number of juniors attended the county championship and Ieysaa Bin-Suhayl became the junior champion. There were several local juniors who competed in the EACU closed championship at Whittlesford. Paul Kemp said that 6 Linton juniors had represented England in the past year, 3 in the European schools championships, and that at typically 12-13 y.o. could shortly be expected to be playing for the county teams. Norman suggested that once of sufficient age we should attempt to get them involved in the organisation, pointing out that he was 17 when attended his first ECM.

## **6. Report of the Treasurer and Adoption of the 2018/19 Accounts**

Paul Kemp circulated and presented the accounts to the meeting (attached). He reported a deficit of £89 for the season (due to the county championships £100 fine.) This was offset by a £50 credit on our bank account due to a mis-directed bank transfer that could not be traced. The bank was disinclined to act as it would cost them money to sort out, so it has been marked as a prior year correction. Consequently we currently have a balance of £2950 and Paul recommended keeping our fees the same as 2018. The accounts had been audited by Norman Hutchinson.

There was a potential argument that we could appeal the county championship fine, which had not been paid at present. Paul proposed to talk to the tournament organiser. However, this was thought unlikely to succeed.

A 10 minute break was followed by presentation of trophies.

**Trophies:** The following trophies were presented:

<b>Trophy</b>	<b>Received by</b>
Division One	Peterborough
Division Two	New England (Spalding still to return)
Jamboree	Not competed for
Fenland Trophy	Peterborough
Fenland 550	St Neots
Team 550	Cambridge (Cambridge won the 550 competition on the same night of the AGM)
Jack Taylor Trophy	N Greenwood

**Forthcoming season:** Paul Kemp said that it was preferable to get clubs to declare entries for the leagues at the AGM rather than hold a separate ECM in September, because getting the fixtures set up early helped avoid clashes with other leagues. Both Cambridge and Royston play in two leagues and some Warboys members play in the Bury league. Peterborough has played in the Northants league and Spalding in the Lincs league. In Paul's tenure, a local pecking order had been established of Suffolk, Bury, Cambs, Herts, which allowed the league secretary 3 weeks in August to set up fixtures and avoid clashes. This had the additional benefit of allowing the league to start earlier, reducing fixture congestion. It was decided to ask the league secretary to obtain confirmation of what teams each club would submit. Most clubs present indicated that they would enter the same as last year (New England, St Neots, Peterborough, Royston, Warboys.) Godmanchester was considering whether to enter an additional team in Division 2 of the league but was unable to confirm at the meeting. A request is to be sent to each club secretary, to confirm entries by the end of July (also changes of contacts, and any constraints on availability.) There were no promotion issues as New England had finished both top of Div2 and bottom of Div1.

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

Division 2: Peterborough B, Spalding, New England B, Warboys B, St Neots B (Godmanchester?)

Team 550 North: Spalding, Godmanchester, 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: Cambridge, Warboys, New England, Peterborough, St Neots (Royston unlikely to enter)

Fenland KO U550: New England Patriots & Cavaliers, Royston, Peterborough, St Neots, Warboys, (Cambridge, Godmanchester?).

The possibility of getting Stamford to enter teams is to be explored.

## **7. Election of Officers for 2019/20**

There being no volunteers for the county captains, it was proposed that a request be sent to all county players to ask if anyone was prepared to stand. In the event that no one could be found we would regretfully be unable to field a county team. It was agreed to ask John Beck whether he was prepared to stand as fixtures secretary and Jamboree organiser. All other positions were proposed (in the hope and expectation that those not present would stand) as follows:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Proposed (and voted into office)</b>
Chairman	Paul Hanks
Vice-Chairman	Chris Russell
Secretary	Chris Russell
Treasurer	Paul Kemp
League Secretary / Team 550 Organiser / FKO organiser	John Beck (TBC)
Jamboree	John Beck/ Patrick Ribbands (TBC)
Rapidplay	Paul Kemp, John Wickham
County Championship	Francis Bowers
Junior Organiser	Francis Bowers
Match Captains:	Open Not elected U160 Not elected
Website Co-ordinator	Phil Turp
Grading Officers	Patrick Ribbands, Chris Russell
Auditor	Norman Hutchinson
ECF Delegate	Francis Bowers
EACU Delegates	Francis Bowers, Patrick Ribbands, County captain (if willing)
Disputes Committee	Paul Hanks (Charman role), Francis Bowers, + one volunteer from each club (to be asked)

## **8. Any Other Business**

Our next AGM is to be arranged by the secretary in June 2020, with enough notice to allow rule amendments to be proposed.

Cambridge secretary, Stephen Pride had previously asked for a special dispensation of an extra 10 minutes delay to set up clocks following a junior chess club finishing at 7.30pm. Chris raised his proposal, but this was ruled out of order, as it had not been proposed for the agenda. The chairman thought that Chris Davison's subsequent email reply rendered his argument unnecessary.

Paul Kemp encouraged club circulation of rnrty forms for the Whittlesford Rapidplay in September.

As retiring chairman, Norman wished the association well for the future. Chris Russell said that the long service (>30 years) of both Patrick Ribbands and Norman Wedley was deserving of recognition, (for example an engraved chess clock or board.) Chris suggested that Norman and Patrick be asked to pick out a personalised memento of their choice to be paid for from association funds. This was agreed by the meeting.

Warboys Chess Club was thanked for allowing their venue to be used for this meeting. There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 10.50pm.

**Minutes Prepared by:**

**Minutes Signed by:**

C. J. Russell

N. Wedley

Secretary

Chairman

## **WEB MASTER REPORT - JUNE 2019**

*Apologies for my absence this evening. Ongoing family problems/commitments mean I cannot attend this evening. I will however be there in spirit!*

*As I reported last year the Cambridgeshire website continues to function well and we had no problems this year beyond a few missed & corrected entries on my part. I have also been made aware of some out of date parts of the site which I will endeavor to correct over the summer.*

*One area of concern though, that I only recently became aware of is the forthcoming removal of Dave Wild's EACU website. This has provided the backbone of the match entry system since I took over running the Cambridgeshire site. I understand there is a new result system coming on-line but just how this can be incorporated into our site I am as yet not sure. Going forward there will I assume be a major overhaul of the site needed to take this into account.*

*The on-line entry for the Cambridgeshire Rapid play worked well again using the Jotform system.*

*The website hosting fee through GoDaddy.com for a further 2 years comes due on the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month. Please advise a.s.a.p. if I can go ahead and renew. The cost is £143.76 for the 2 years.*

*If anyone has anything extra they would like to see on the site please let me know.*

*I am happy to stand again unless anyone else wants to manage the site.*

**Phil Turp**

### ***County Open Team Captain's report***

(This) is my last County Captain's report, for Wednesday's AGM. I won't be there, but Paul Kemp will deliver it in my absence. Whilst writing, congratulations to Peterborough on winning the county league. This ends RoystonCC's record 7 year run as league champions, in the middle of which we won 32 matches in a row. More recently we have suffered with the loss of some players and lower grades for the rest of the squad, so our run was due to end. I believe, however that in that time we have managed to raise the standard of the league.

'This season, the Cambs County 1st team once again finished 3rd out of 4 in EACU, albeit with fewer game points than in previous seasons. Tristian See was our top scorer (and tournament joint-top scorer) with 4.5/6, as Suffolk triumphed. On the 2nd Sunday, we fielded a much weakened team, with several late withdrawals and no-one graded 190 or over, and lost both matches. This ultimately proved costly as, despite winning both matches on the final Sunday, we didn't improve our position.

As first announced in February, I am standing down as County Captain. I have had no offers to take over. During my 6 seasons as captain, the team won the EACU counties championship for the first time ever in 2014 on a narrow 3-way tie-break. This feat was repeated much more convincingly in 2016 and we were unlucky with narrow defeats in the next 2 seasons. However, in that time many of the players I had managed to introduce to the team had left the area, whilst others withdrew through illness or family commitments. This left us with less than half of the successful team of 2016, and it has been quite stressful trying to find replacements for a full team. Perhaps county chess is losing its appeal, as other counties seem to be suffering too.'

**Kevin Clark, Cambs 1st Team Captain 2013-2019.**

## **2019 CCCA AGM - Grading Officer Report (North)**

League results' processing from Dave Wild's C4 database is straightforward, but Dave is quitting support it in 2020 at which time we will have to go over to the ECF LMS system. The 550 league final has yet to be played, but all other results have now been processed.

The 8 clubs in our league contributed 106 players in our league/cup matches (1 more than 2018), only 3 were non ECF registered (2 Peterborough, 1 St Neots) but the clubs concerned have been warned. Note that the fine is now ECF Bronze membership (£16) per player. ECF membership can only be paid up to 30<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Defaults**

Div1 5 boards (Sn4 Wb1) = 5 games

Div2 2 boards (Sn2) = 2 games

550 1 match (Sp from North; 1 board from South Ro) = 5 games

FKO 1 board (Ne) = 1 games

**Total of 13 games defaulted – better than last year (20) but still could do better!**

Warboys C withdrew from Division 2 so there were only 5 teams (still 6 in division 1). So that meant 10 fewer matches and 40 fewer games. Also, the FKO total was 43 games down 1 due to the withdrawal of Royston from the open, and the 550 league produced 127 games (3 fewer than last year due to more defaults.) In summary:

League & Cup = 365 (from 402) games - Clubs: P'boro SQ 17 (3) games; NE 107 (140) games

**Total of 489 (545) games =978 (1090) results.** ECF checker provides additional data for those interested.

So the main reductions came from Division 2 and New England, though it is hard to criticise a club that produces 20% of all Cambs (North) results just in club games.

Use of January grades in CCCA competitions works okay, but I would suggest we are lenient with 550 teams pushed into difficulties later in season; the competition is for lower graded players anyway.

A monthly grading proposed by ECF now looks likely to be implemented in 2020 or 2021. New League management system software (LMS) is being implemented by ECF to support it.

New ECF grading team still erratic; monthly updates are noticeably lacking!

**Chris Russell**



## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION**

### **Rapidplay Director's Report**

The 2018 Rapidplay, held at Whittlesford on Sunday 23 September, was another successful tournament. 100 players competed, the maximum we can accommodate at the venue, and players came from as far away as Kent and Nottinghamshire.

Locally the event was well supported by the Linton Chess Club, with 18 players,

Cambridge had 6 competitors and the rest of Cambridgeshire's clubs just 7, although a number of unattached juniors from the south of the County took part. This continued a trend seen in recent years, and looking to the future I'd hope to see more participation from across the County.

The winners of the four tournaments were: Open Jonathan Pein (Wood Green, 5/5); Major Gavith Dharmasena (Linton) and Joseph Battisti (Italy 4.5/5); Challengers Julian Tang (Braunstone 5/5); and Minor Roman Bartels (Tough Chess 5/5). Maximum entries enabled me to increase the prize fund and still provide a surplus of £112 for the Association.

I am as always indebted to the organising team for their support: John Wickham (chief arbiter), Richard Freeman (arbiter), Phil Turp (website), Julian Ray, Margherita Boroni (catering) and Francis Bowers (bookstall).

Finally, the 2019 Rapidplay will be held at Whittlesford on Sunday 29 September with the same format as in 2018.

**PAUL KEMP**

**Rapidplay Director**

## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION**

### **Treasurer's Report and 2018/19 Accounts**

The accounts for 2018/19, duly audited by Norman Hutchinson, are attached. The Association had a deficit of £89, the first deficit under my stewardship. However this was partly offset by a windfall benefit of £50 (explained below) which leaves a balance of funds of £2949.

The main variations compared to the previous year were as follows:

- Club fees were lower mainly because of fewer entries in the Fenland Knockout.
- The surplus on the Rapidplay was lower because I decided that prizes should be modestly increased.
- The website fee is higher because the three-yearly domain renewal came up this year.
- The County match deficit was considerably higher because the Association was fined £100 by the ECF for failing to play its first match in the national stage of the U160 competition.

The windfall benefit arose because three years ago £50 was erroneously credited to the Association's bank account. Despite my endeavours the bank has no interest in trying to trace and return the funds to their rightful owner. After three years the likelihood of them being claimed is remote and I have therefore credited them to our account as a prior year adjustment, with the agreement of the auditor.

Turning to next year I propose to leave the fees unchanged at £10 for a League team, £2 for a Fenland team and £6 for the Team 550. Clubs receive a 20% discount if they pay within one month of invoicing. Clubs are also reminded to ensure that all competition players are members of the ECF: the penalty for non-members who play three or more games is £16 next season.

**PAUL KEMP**

**Treasurer**

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

### Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 May 2019

<b>Income</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Club fees	161.60	140.40
Surplus on Rapidplay	180.87	112.50
Surplus on County Championship	1.00	---
Interest	8.40	14.19
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>351.87</b>	<b>267.09</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
EACU Fees	65.00	70.00
Website	69.00	104.00
County Championship	---	2.50
County matches	43.50	150.00
Trophies and engraving	35.00	30.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>212.50</b>	<b>356.50</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>139.37</b>	<b>( 89.41)</b>

### Balance Sheet at 31 May 2019

	<b>31/5/18</b>	<b>31/5/19</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance brought forward	2849.47	2988.84
Prior year adjustment	---	50.00
Outturn for year	139.37	(89.41)
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>2988.84</b>	<b>2949.43</b>
Current Account	721.73	317.13
Deposit Account	2372.80	2886.99
Debtors	69.00	---
Less: Creditors	(174.69)	(254.69)
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>2988.84</b>	<b>2949.43</b>