

# **CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **General**

1. The Association shall be called the Cambridgeshire County Chess Association, hereafter referred to as "the Association".
2. The Association was formed in 2007 through the merger of the Huntingdon & Peterborough Chess Association (founded 1960) and the former Cambridgeshire Chess Association (which served Cambridge and South & East Cambridgeshire).
3. The object of the Association is to promote, organise and encourage chess in Cambridgeshire.
4. The Association shall be affiliated to the East Anglian Chess Union and the English Chess Federation.

### **Membership**

5. The Association shall consist of affiliated clubs, hereafter referred to as "member clubs".
6. Membership shall be open to any chess club based in Cambridgeshire or an immediately adjoining County, and which is admitted to membership at a General Meeting or Executive Committee meeting.

### **General Meetings**

7. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association shall be held annually in June.
8. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association shall be called at the request of three member clubs.
9. At least seven days' notice shall be given of any meeting of the Association, specifying the business to be transacted and the place, date and time of the meeting.
10. The Chairperson of the Association shall chair the meeting. In their absence the Vice-Chairperson shall deputise, or if they too are absent the members shall elect another officer to chair the meeting.
11. Meetings shall be open to those wishing to attend. The quorum for a meeting shall be representatives from at least three member clubs.

12. All resolutions shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and eligible to vote. No person shall have more than one vote and proxies shall not be allowed. If the number of votes cast for and against is equal the Chairperson of the meeting shall have an additional casting vote.
13. Voting rights at General Meetings shall be as follows. Each affiliated club shall have one vote, plus an additional vote for every team entered in the League up to a maximum of three teams (i.e. four votes in all). Votes are to be cast by club members attending the General Meeting. Clubs in arrears with their fees to the Association will lose their voting rights.
14. The Constitution and League Rules of the Association may only be amended at a General Meeting. Any such proposal shall be notified to the Secretary 14 days before the meeting and the proposal shall be specified in the notice of the meeting.

### **Officers**

15. The AGM shall elect the following officers: Chairperson; Vice-Chairperson; Secretary; Treasurer; League Secretary; Match Captains for the County teams; Controllers for the County Championship and other tournaments organised by the Association; Junior Officer; Grading Officer; Website Co-ordinator; Auditor and such other officers as may from time to time be required. Where a vacancy arises between AGMs the Chairperson shall appoint a replacement.
16. The AGM shall also appoint from among the elected officers an ECF delegate and delegates to the EACU.

### **Executive Committee**

17. The Executive Committee shall comprise the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and two other members elected at the AGM.
18. The Executive Committee's role is to take such decisions as may be necessary or appropriate between AGMs, and which fall beyond the remit of individual officers who would normally decide such matters. It will also adjudicate on any appeal by a member club against a decision by any officer other than disputes arising from the competitions organised by the Association (see also rule 20).
19. The Executive Committee may transact its business by meeting or by email, the format decided by the Chairperson. Three members must be involved for the meeting to be quorate.
20. A Disputes Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairperson and two other Association officers shall adjudicate on any appeal by a member club against a

decision by any competitions officer. This includes, but is not limited to, matters of eligibility, rule breaches, fixture preparation and re-arrangements, penalties and disputes arising from play. Any appeal must be made within 14 days of the decision. The Chairperson shall recuse himself if his club is involved in the dispute, and appoint independent officers to judge appeals case by case. Decisions of the Sub-Committee shall be final.

## **Finance**

21. The Association's financial year shall run from 1 June to 31 May.
22. The duties of the Treasurer are to keep proper financial records, to prepare the annual accounts and arrange for them to be audited, to present the accounts to the AGM, to recommend subscription and competition fees for the forthcoming season and to collect such fees promptly, and to provide financial advice to the Association, Executive and officers as required.
23. Where competitions are organised by the Association which involve entrants paying entry fees and competing for prizes the organiser should normally aim to break even when fixing the fees and prizes, unless there is a good reason to do otherwise agreed by the Treasurer or Executive.

## **Trophies**

24. The Association shall present trophies to the winners of competitions that it organises and shall meet the cost of engraving those trophies. The trophies are for annual presentation, so will be held by the winners for a year and then returned for presentation to the following season's winners. Any individual or member club that loses a trophy shall be responsible for the cost of its replacement.
25. The Association currently presents the following trophies:
  - A League Championship trophy to the winners of the first division
  - A trophy to the winners of the second division of the League
  - A Team 7000 trophy to the winners of a grade-limited tournament
  - A County Championship trophy
  - The Fenland Cup to the winners of a knockout tournament between member clubs
  - A Jamboree trophy to the winners of an end-of-season team tournament
  - The Jack Taylor trophy to the highest-placed Cambridgeshire competitor in the Open section of the Cambridgeshire Rapidplay

26. The Association may award additional trophies or change the purpose of existing trophies at a General Meeting or an Executive Committee meeting.