

ESSEX CHESS ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1898

The Annual General Meeting was held on 24 June 2015 in the Aldersbrook Room (first floor) at Wanstead House, 21 The Green, Wanstead, London E11 2NT, commencing at 7.45 p.m.

Minutes of the AGM

Present: Bryan Gaze (Chair), John Chapman, Malcolm Crane, Dave Hawkins, Peter Hughes, David Millward, Mark Murrell, Peter Nickals, Colin Ramage, David Smith, Ivor Smith, Gavin Strachan, Steve Wedlock, Norman Went.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Steve Abbott, Tom Barton, Geoff Cooper, Aidan Corish, Russell Fisher, Ian Hunnable, Simon Moth, Jef Page, John Philpott and Joe Rosenberg.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 26 June 2014

It was mentioned that there was no list of attendees with the minutes. A few minor alterations were also made.

Bryan Gaze stated that he would approve the minutes once they had been re-drafted. Steve Wedlock stated that he would re-draft the minutes for approval.

The minutes of the 2013 AGM had been re-drafted and they were now agreed a true record.

3. Minutes of Special General Meeting held on 21 September 2014

Apologies from Joe Rosenberg and Malcolm Crane were noted. Otherwise, these were agreed a true record.

4. Matters arising from these minutes

Bryan Gaze reported that the Essex Grammar School trophy had now been retained in Stock.

5. Officers' reports

President (Ivor Smith): stated that he had been upset to hear of the death of Neil Carr and paid tribute to him. The funeral was to take place the following week.

Chairman (Bryan Gaze): Nothing to report.

General Secretary (John Chapman): Nothing to report.

Assistant General Secretary (Steve Wedlock): Nothing to report.

Treasurer (Malcolm Crane): Malcolm had prepared accounts which were circulated with the agenda. However, a revised income and expenditure sheet and balance sheet had been prepared which was circulated at the meeting. This was after Malcolm had assistance with the accounts from David D'Cruz who was a qualified accountant. The main costs were running the county teams, also a large donation had been made to the Southend Congress. The accounts had not yet been audited but they were agreed by the meeting. A query did arise with regards the depreciation of the equipment and if this would affect the insurance. Malcolm would look into this. Malcolm stated that he will consider handing the post over to David D'Cruz in a year's time.

Match Captain (Ivor Smith): Ivor circulated a report. He added that it had been quite difficult getting players to play as they were often up against very strong opposition. David Smith stated that it was not many years ago since Essex last won the County Championship (years 2002 and 2006) so what had happened to put us in the position we were in now? Ivor stated that the 4NCL had distracted players away from county chess; other players had just dropped out. Middlesex had gained several players from abroad. Ivor stated that he wished to stand down after the end of the meeting.

Assistant Match Captain (David Smith): Nothing to report.

U-180 (Mark Murrell): Mark reported that the team started well but lost their last match. In the national stages the team played Warwickshire but lost on board count after an 8-8 score line. There were fewer players available this season, five players were ever present and of those Colin Ramage was unbeaten in all his matches.

U-160 (Simon Moth): Simon had submitted his report in advance of the meeting which had been circulated.

U-140 (Peter Nickals): Peter stated that this was his first year captaining this team. It had been more difficult finding players to play in this team. He hoped that there may be other players available if any new clubs affiliated to the ECA. He wished to encourage new players to the team especially juniors.

U-120 (Malcolm Crane): Malcolm circulated his report which had been submitted shortly before the meeting.

U-100 (Peter Hughes): Peter had submitted his report in advance of the meeting which had been circulated.

Correspondence Match Captain (Steve Abbott): Steve had submitted a report which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Tournament Secretary (Ian Hunnab): Ian had submitted a report which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Ivor Smith added that the Team Blitz and Individual Lightning tournaments would be held on the following Sunday at Ilford Chess Club. There were 12 teams entered in the morning Team Blitz so far, the highest entry since 1998. The Individual Lightning would take place in the afternoon.

League Secretary (David Millward): David had submitted his report prior to the meeting and this had been circulated. Gavin Strachan commented that Southend play their home matches on Friday nights against most teams but play on a Monday against Barking. Gavin added that he had asked if Brentwood could play at Southend on a Monday but this request had been refused and some of the Brentwood players felt unhappy about this. Steve Wedlock stated that Southend would prefer to play all their home matches on a Friday night but had reluctantly agreed to play Barking on a Monday night as Barking had difficulties playing on a Friday. Southend did not want any further Monday night matches as their home Southend League matches are on Mondays and there would be a shortage of Mondays if further matches were switched. Colin Ramage did say Barking had offered to play Southend on a Sunday but Southend had refused that. David Millward stated that it was up to the home club what night they wanted to play so he could not intervene.

Grader (David Millward): David had submitted his report prior to the meeting and this had been circulated.

Junior Organiser (Dave Hawkins): Dave had submitted his report prior to the meeting and this had been circulated. It was also mentioned that Naomi Wei had been selected for the England U18 Team. There would be a scholarship section in the tournaments next season to support juniors and help them see where they go wrong. Peter Hughes suggested that details of clubs could be listed in local newspapers to encourage juniors. A suggestion was also made to advertise junior news on the ECA website even if it is only a link to the EJCA website. Suggestions were made for clubs to have a junior liaison officer so that there is a contact within clubs for juniors to approach. It was confirmed that it was not a requirement to hold junior ECF membership to play in junior events. The website could highlight the fact that ECF junior membership is free for the first year.

Publicity Officer (Ian Hunnable): Ian had submitted a report which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

6. Presentation of Trophies

Ivor Smith presented the following:

4th Division	Southend II	John Chapman
3rd Division	Barking II	Colin Ramage
2nd Division	Upminster II	Bryan Gaze
1st Division	Wanstead I	Mark Murrell

7. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

President	-	Ivor Smith
Chairman	-	Bryan Gaze
General Secretary	-	John Chapman
Assistant General Secretary	-	Steve Wedlock
Treasurer	-	Malcolm Crane
Match Captain	-	Mark Murrell
Assistant Match Captain	-	David Smith
Correspondence Match Captain	-	Steve Abbott
League Secretary	-	David Millward
Tournament Secretary	-	Ian Hunnable
Grader	-	David Millward
Publicity Officer	-	Ian Hunnable
Junior Organiser	-	Dave Hawkins
Webmaster	-	Ian Hunnable
Additional Committee Members	-	Colin Ramage & Tom Barton

8. Appointment of the Auditor

Syd Kalinsky was appointed as auditor.

9. Subscriptions, Game Fee and Surcharges for 2015/16

Malcolm Crane suggested that the affiliation fee for Leagues be increased by £2 for every club that plays in that League. An additional change also be applied that the ECA Membership fee be reduced from £5 to £4. After discussion a vote was taken to keep all fees unchanged and this was carried by 12 votes to 2.

10. Any Other Business

Peter Hughes asked if there was a database of players in grading bands kept anywhere. David Millward stated that he had details of players competing in all three leagues. It was suggested that clubs do their best to promote county chess. John Chapman would circulate all Essex clubs (in all three leagues) asking them to promote county chess and letting relevant captains know of anyone in their club who may be interested in playing for the county.

David Smith stated that the ECF were considering running the County Championship events exclusively without the unions being involved. This would be undesirable but no formal proposals had been made yet.

Ivor Smith stated that he had some tributes to Neil Carr for anyone who wished to see them. He would arrange for them to be posted on the website.

John Chapman and Mark Murrell would attend the SCCU meeting the following Saturday. David Smith would be there in his SCCU capacity.

The meeting closed at 9.50p.m.

Steve Wedlock

Assistant General Secretary

27 June 2015