

ESSEX CHESS ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1898

The Annual General Meeting was held on 30 June 2020 by Zoom, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Minutes of the AGM

Present: Colin Ramage (Chair), Tom Barton, John Chapman, Malcolm Crane, John Davenport, Ian Hunnab, Paul Kenning, David Millward, Mark Murrell, Andrew Offord, Joe Rosenberg, Robin Slade, Ivor Smith, Steve Wedlock, John White and Fred Whitefield.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Steve Abbott, Les Groombridge, Simon Moth, Jef Page and David Smith.

2. Minutes of AGM held on 18 June 2019

The minutes were agreed a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Joe Rosenberg asked what the latest situation was with regards the review of the rules and constitution that started around three years ago. Ian Hunnab stated that this was still under review and little progress had been made since last year due to the pressures of other commitments he had. The rules committee had not yet had a meeting to progress the matter further. Joe stated that he would be happy to assist in any way he could on this matter and would be prepared to join the rules committee if that would help. Ian said he would look into this further but it may take some time.

David Millward commented that since the last AGM, team captain Trevor Adams had passed away.

David Millward stated that the Division 2 and Division 3 trophies were not awarded at the last AGM and he was uncertain as to the whereabouts of the trophies now. Malcolm Crane confirmed the Division 3 trophy was with Thurrock. David would check with Brentwood to see if they had the Division 2 trophy.

4. Officers' Reports

President (Ian Hunnable): Ian read a written report which is attached.

Chairman (Colin Ramage): Colin had sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

General Secretary (John Chapman): John had sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

Treasurer (Les Groombridge): Les had prepared unaudited accounts which were circulated with the agenda. Steve Wedlock stated that he had heard from Les and the accounts were still awaiting audit by Syd Kalinsky.

The accounts were agreed by the meeting subject to the audit being undertaken.

Fred Whitefield asked as to the email address that the Treasurer was using when dealing with ECA financial matters. Ian Hunnable stated that this was an email address Les had set up himself rather than an official ECA email address.

Fred Whitefield stated that he understood there were some small Essex League financial adjustments to be dealt with. David Millward stated that they were very small and it was not worth pursuing at this stage.

Fred Whitefield stated that there had not been any handover of papers at the current time due to the isolation of both the outgoing and incoming Treasurer.

Ian Hunnable stated that he noted that the accounts were based on the assumption that the £300 donated by the ECA to the Southend Congress would be returned as the congress did not take place. Ian asked as to whether the amount should be returned or carried forward for use at the next Southend Congress that took place. It was agreed that for simplification the donation should be returned to the ECA.

Match Captain (Mark Murrell): Mark had sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

ECF/BCF Delegate (Mark Murrell): Mark had sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Assistant Match Captain (David Smith): David was not in attendance and stated that he had nothing to report, although he was intending to stand down from the post.

U-180 (Paul Kenning): Paul had provided a written report shortly before the meeting which is attached. He added that one of the team players, Larry Marden had been taken seriously ill earlier in the season. It was reported that Larry was slowly beginning to recover now.

U-160 (Simon Moth): Simon had sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

U-140 (Peter Nickals): Peter had sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

U-120 (Malcolm Crane): Malcolm stated that the team had a poor season, one draw and three losses

U-100 (Malcolm Crane): Malcolm stated that there had been no opposition for the team during the season.

Correspondence Match Captain (Steve Abbott): Steve had sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Tournament Secretary (Ian Hunnable): Ian had sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Ian added that there was now a trophy for the Knock Out Plate winners, although the previous winners names had not yet been engraved on it. Ian stated that he did not intend to organise any online events. He cited in support of this decision the job description for Tournament Secretary, which required only the holding of certain specified events, and to 'oversee the work of officers appointed by the Executive to control any additional tournaments organised.' He was therefore happy to recognise the contribution of Tom Barton and Mark Murrell in organising, respectively, the Online Team Blitz and the Essex Online Championship (forthcoming) and was also happy to assist in these events in his capacity as Webmaster. The ECA Online Team Blitz was held on Sunday 28 June, run by Tom Barton with the assistance of a small team of helpers. The event was successful and was won by Bardish, a combination of Barking and Cavendish. The controlling of the event was significantly aided by Tom convening a Zoom meeting for the small controlling team while the tournament was underway, to resolve any problems more easily. The ECA Online Championships being organised by Mark Murrell are to be held over the next two months.

Ian stated that he would have liked to have handed the role of Tournament Secretary over to someone else but in the absence any willing volunteers he would continue for one more year after over the board chess returns.

League Secretary (David Millward): David had sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Grader (David Millward): David stated that all the results he had had been submitted for grading.

Ivor Smith asked if the ECF were going to publish a grading list in July. David stated that he had received no communication from the ECF as yet which was unusual.

Junior Organiser (Robin Slade): Robin had sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He also added that there has been a lot more chess played by juniors than before the lockdown. Juniors were very keen on playing chess online.

Publicity Officer/Webmaster (Ian Hunnable): Ian had sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He also added that he had researched some suitable website software which should meet the ECA's requirements at a much cheaper cost. It was agreed that the approval of the website expenditure should be left to the Executive Committee for a decision.

Safeguarding Officer (Mark Murrell): Mark had sent a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

5. Presentation of Trophies

Under the current circumstances no trophies could be awarded, not least due to the fact that the Essex League season was still unfinished. The only confirmed winners were Barking who had won the Minor League.

6. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

President	-	Ian Hunnable
Chairman	-	Colin Ramage
General Secretary	-	John Chapman
Assistant General Secretary	-	Steve Wedlock

Treasurer	-	Fred Whitefield
Match Captain	-	Mark Murrell
Assistant Match Captain	-	vacant
Correspondence Match Captain	-	Steve Abbott
League Secretary	-	David Millward
Tournament Secretary	-	Ian Hunnable
Grader	-	David Millward
Publicity Officer	-	Ian Hunnable
Junior Organiser	-	Robin Slade
Webmaster	-	Ian Hunnable
Safeguarding Officer	-	Mark Murrell
Additional Committee Members	-	Tom Barton & Malcolm Crane

The Chairman applauded the services of the outgoing Treasurer, Les Groombridge for his work over the past few years. Thanks were also given to the outgoing Assistant Match Captain, David Smith for all the years he had served on the committee.

7. Appointment of the Auditor

Syd Kalinsky was appointed as auditor subject to the completion of the audit of the 2020 accounts.

8. Subscriptions and Surcharges for 2020/21

Les Groombridge had proposed that subscriptions remain at the following levels:

Adults - £5.00

Juniors - £2.50

All other fees would remain unchanged.

This was carried unanimously.

9. Any Other Business

Mark Murrell had provided a report on the outcome of the ECF Finance Meeting prior to the meeting. He added that the ECF may have financial difficulties as a result of players deciding not to renew their ECF membership while no over the board chess is taking place. The following points were also made:

John White – players may not wish to pay their club subscription if there is no chess until later in the season.

Ian Hunnab – clubs may lose members who have no over the board chess. Furthermore, some may not wish to travel or return to their club for fear of being infected with Covid-19.

Fred Whitefield – had heard that over the board chess was being played in Germany, although all players were required to wear masks whilst playing.

Paul Kenning – the ECF had announced the dates for the 2021 British Championships in Torquay, although this could of course be cancelled nearer the time if the virus was still spreading.

John Chapman – the ECF is going to need financial support if it is to function.

Malcolm Crane – believed he would have difficulty getting membership fees for his own club.

This is an ongoing situation which cannot easily be resolved at the current time.

ECA Online Policy – Mark Murrell had previously circulated the ECA Online policy which would need approval from the AGM. This was unanimously approved.

Essex Online Championships – Mark Murrell confirmed that the closing date for this event was Saturday 4 July.

ECA 125th Anniversary – Ivor Smith suggested that this matter is deferred until such time that there is more certainty over the Covid-19 situation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.06pm.

Steve Wedlock

Assistant General Secretary

1 July 2020