

ESSEX CHESS ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1898

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2011 IN THE PARK ROOM AT WANSTEAD HOUSE, STARTING AT 7.55 P.M.

Present: Gavin Strachan (in the chair), Steve Abbott, Tom Barton, David Brock, Sid Burns, John Chapman, Malcolm Crane, Bryan Gaze, Ian Hunnable, Mark Murrell, David Millward, Simon Moth, Fin O'Regan, John Philpott, Colin Ramage, Joe Rosenberg, David Smith, Ivor Smith and Stephen Wedlock.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Geoff Smith and Roy Watts.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 29 June 2010

These were agreed as a true record (proposed Colin Ramage, seconded David Smith).

3. Matters arising from these minutes

None.

4. Officers' reports

President

Ivor Smith reported that he had organised both teams for the traditional challenge match between the President's team and the League Champions which had been won by Writtle 5½ - 2½. He was looking for help if the event was to continue: Steve Abbott volunteered to organise the President's team provided that the match was held on a date convenient to him. Ivor thanked those who had worked so hard on behalf of the Association, particularly David Brock who had been both U180 captain and Congress Secretary.

Chairman

Gavin Strachan indicated that the highlight of the year had been the Nigel Short simultaneous display at Brentwood, which had gone off very well even though the organisation had at times been something of a nightmare. He was stepping down from the chairmanship for family reasons, but would continue to do as much as he could to help the Association.

General Secretary

John Philpott had provided a written report. He drew attention to the success of the "East Saxons" quiz team in retaining the title at the British Championships in Canterbury.

Assistant General Secretary

Bryan Gaze had nothing to report.

Treasurer

Joe Rosenberg advised that the accounts, which had been circulated in draft with the agenda, had now been audited, and that there were no changes to the figures arising from the audit. Although there was a nominal loss of £31, this figure was after charging depreciation of £75 on the digital clocks.

The Treasurer's report and accounts were approved nem con (proposed David Millward, seconded Colin Ramage).

Match Captain

Ivor Smith reported on a frustrating season, when all the matches had been close, but the team had ended up losing four out of five (with three of the losses being by 8½ - 7½). The County remained short of players graded 180 or above, and the pressing need was to get the whole of the available pool to turn out regularly, avoiding excessive reliance on the U180 squad. Matters had not been helped by the absence of Andrew Lewis in Japan. Two teams had played in the ECF Counties Team Rapidplay championship, with the first team taking the title.

Assistant Match Captain

David Smith reported that he had attended the majority of the home matches at Wanstead House, and that no major problems had arisen. Jane Smith had provided refreshments for most of these matches.

U180 Captain

David Brock reported that the SCCU title had been regained with 4 wins out of 4, although there had been a close call against Surrey where David Millward had a lost position that he proceeded to win. The U185 jamboree had been retained. The team had lost to Lancashire (which remained the only County to which David had lost as a captain) in the National quarter-final. He had needed to rely on players eligible for the U160s for about a third of the team.

U160 Captain

David Payne was not present. The team had been runners up to Kent on tie-break in the SCCU qualification and had lost to Lancashire in the National semi-final.

U140 Captain

Simon Moth had provided a written report, which reported on a better season where 2 out of 5 matches had been won, and the team would have qualified for the National Stages if it had won its last match. He drew attention to the mother and son combined (Debbie and Adam Taylor) that had featured in the Sussex match.

U120 Captain

Fin O'Regan reported that on a slightly disappointing season when the team had finished third out of four.

U100 Captain

Malcolm Crane had prepared a written report, and advised the meeting that the team had won the 2010 title, and after retaining the SCCU title had qualified for the 2011 final after one

of the Lancashire players in the semi-final had been ruled ineligible. David Smith congratulated Malcolm on the way he had run the team.

Gavin Strachan thanked all the match captains for their efforts.

Correspondence Match Captain

Steve Abbott had provided a written report. In 2009/10, the Ward-Higgs team had finished half a point short of taking the title on board count, while the Sinclair team had won its Division. For 2010/11 the Sinclair seemed almost certain to be retained, while the Ward-Higgs team had again done well, although its likely finishing score of 15/22 would not normally suffice to take the title.

Congress Secretary

David Brock reported that the Congress had been cancelled because of a lack of entries. The venue had been moved from Ilford on the grounds of cost. Given the competition from e2e4, it may be necessary to abandon the 3 day format if a viable event is to be held in future.

Tournament Secretary

Gavin Strachan reported that the 2010 event, held at Brentwood in four sections, had been a success. He produced entry forms for the 2011 event for which five sections were intended: Andrew Lewis would be unable to defend his title. Entries to date were currently low.

Ivor Smith reported that the Team Blitz and Individual Lightning events, sponsored by King & King, had taken place the previous weekend and had been won respectively by Cavendish and by David Sherman. There had been a junior team in the Blitz, while the Lightning game between Aditya Verma (the strongest 7 year old in Britain) and Syd Kalinsky probably represented the widest age gap in any official Essex game.

Essex Knockout Controller

Colin Ramage reported that the 2010 event had been won by Barking with Upminster taking the Plate. For 2011 Ian Hunnable had taken over, as the GPC had expressed a preference for a controller who was contactable by e-mail: the meeting recorded its thanks to Colin who had undertaken the role since 2003. Ian Hunnable reported that there were 10 entries in the 2011 event, with Southend participating for the first time since the rapidplay format was adopted.

League Secretary/Grader

David Millward had provided written reports in each of his capacities and a full set of League tables. He commented that Basildon was the first team to be promoted to Division 1 under the present structure which had not immediately been relegated. Joe Rosenberg expressed concern at the number of fixtures that were taking place in May.

Junior Organiser

Arnold Lutton was not present and had not provided a written report.

Publicity Officer/Webmaster

Ian Hunnable reported that it had been a relatively quiet year, and drew particular attention to the blog series from Canterbury. Problems had arisen with the proposed League

reporting form, but Ian retained a long term objective to put in place live website reporting into a League database.

Colin Ramage moved a vote of thanks to all the Officers.

5. Presentation of trophies

Essex League trophies were presented to the following recipients:

- Division 4 – Bryan Gaze (for Upminster III)
- Division 3 – Colin Ramage (for Barking II)
- Division 2 – Steve Wedlock (for Southend 1)
- Division 1 – Ivor Smith (for Writtle)

The SCCU Montague-Jones and CMC trophies were presented to David Brock and the David Smith trophy to Malcolm Crane.

6. Proposed changes to the Constitution

- (a) The Treasurer's proposal to abolish the position of Vice-President had been circulated with the agenda, and was seconded by Colin Ramage. Mark Murrell proposed an amendment, seconded by Malcolm Crane to delete the words "on consideration of a recommendation from the Executive" in the draft wording of the new clause 10. The amendment was passed by 6 votes to 4, and the changes to the Constitution incorporating the amendment were then passed nem con.
- (b) The General Secretary's proposal to insert the words "at least" in rule 9 was approved nem con.

7. Election of Officers and other members of the Executive

The following were elected.

President – Ivor Smith (proposed Gavin Strachan, seconded Colin Ramage).

Chairman - Bryan Gaze (proposed Gavin Strachan, seconded Steve Abbott).

General Secretary – John Philpott (proposed Colin Ramage, seconded David Smith).

Assistant General Secretary – in the absence of a candidate, this post was referred to the Executive.

Treasurer – Joe Rosenberg (proposed Steve Wedlock, seconded Tom Barton).

Match Captain – Ivor Smith (proposed David Millward, seconded John Philpott).

Assistant Match Captain – David Smith (proposed John Philpott, seconded David Millward).

Correspondence Match Captain – Steve Abbott (proposed Bryan Gaze, seconded David Smith)).

Congress Secretary – referred to the Executive, pending a decision on the future of the Congress..

Tournament Secretary – Gavin Strachan (proposed Colin Ramage seconded David Smith).

League Secretary – David Millward (proposed Tom Barton, seconded John Chapman).

Grader – David Millward (proposed David Smith, seconded Fin O'Regan).

Junior Organiser – in the absence of a candidate, this post was referred to the Executive.

Publicity Officer and Webmaster – Ian Hunnable (proposed David Smith, seconded Bryan Gaze).

Additional members of the Executive – Malcolm Crane and Colin Ramage (proposed David Millward, seconded Mark Murrell).

8. Hon Life Members

The existing paid up Vice-Presidents (Steve Abbott, Ian Hunnable, Syd Kalinsky, Richard Manning, David Millward, John Philpott, Colin Ramage, John Sargent, Stephen Wedlock and Norman Went) were appointed as Hon Life members (proposed Joe Rosenberg, seconded Mark Murrell).

9. Appointment of the Auditor

Syd Kalinsky was reappointed (proposed David Millward, seconded David Smith).

10. Subscriptions, Game Fee and Surcharges for 2011/12

The Treasurer's report had proposed increasing Game Fee from 69p to 73p to absorb the increase in the ECF element and, in the event that the post of Vice-President was abolished, to increase individual subscriptions by 50p for adults and 25p for juniors. but to leave all other charges unchanged. The Treasurer's proposals were seconded by John Philpott and approved nem con. The charges for next season will therefore be:

- Club affiliation fee £15.
- Fee for affiliated leagues and other affiliated organisations £20.
- Game fee of 73p per player per game in the Essex League, made up of ECF 58p and ECA 15p.
- Individual subscriptions of £2.50 for adults and £1.25 for juniors.
- A surcharge for late payment of subscriptions by an Essex League club failing to make payment by 10 December or within 30 days from the date of submission of the invoice, whichever is later, of 10% of the amount due with a minimum of £15.

11. Any other business

Ivor Smith drew attention to the forthcoming release of the film Bobby Fischer against the World.

David Smith drew attention to a charity rapidplay being organised by John Jestico at Chadwell Heath on 4 September.

David Brock referred to junior training that he was helping out with at Gidea Park library. It was agreed to remit this matter to the Executive.

The meeting closed at 10.03 p.m.