

ESSEX CHESS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1898

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ST LAURENCE CHURCH HALL, CORBETS TEY ROAD, UPMINSTER, ESSEX ON 30 JUNE 2008 AT 8.05pm

Present: David Smith (in the chair), Steve Abbott, Malcolm Crane, Bryan Gaze, Jeff Goldberg, Ian Hunnabe, Arnold Lutton, David Millward, Fin O'Regan, David Payne, John Philpott, Joe Rosenberg, Gavin Strachan and Ivor Smith.

1. Apologies for absence

Peter Laundy, Gary Kenworthy, Ian MacLachlan, Colin Ramage and Stephen Wedlock.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 28 June 2007 and matters arising

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

The death in September of Roy Heppinstall, who had been elected as match captain at the previous AGM, represented a great loss to the Association and to the chess world.

3. Officers' reports

(a) President

John Philpott noted that the Challenge match between the President's team and Writtle in September had been won by Writtle.

(b) Chairman

David Smith had nothing to report.

(c) General Secretary

Ian MacLachlan was not present and had not submitted a written report.

(d) Assistant General Secretary

Gavin Strachan had nothing to report

(e) Treasurer

Unaudited accounts had been circulated with the agenda and audited accounts subsequently. Although these both indicated a loss of £183, the Treasurer was not unduly concerned given the level of reserves. It was confirmed that the 2008 Ilford Congress, on which a surplus had been made, would feature in the 2008/9 accounts.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Joe Rosenberg and seconded by David Millward.

Jeff Goldberg suggested that the County should acquire digital game timers for use in Open matches. The Treasurer agreed that the Association had the funds to do so and that this could be a way of putting those funds to good use. He will investigate the matter in conjunction with the Assistant Match Captain.

The accounts were adopted nem con.

(f) Acting Match Captain

John Philpott had circulated a written report dealing with the Open team (where he had acted in place of Roy Heppinstall) and the U175 team (which he had continued to captain in the absence of a successor). Although the Open team had failed to qualify, the U175 team had reached the national final and would face Surrey in Leicester on 5 July. Jeff Goldberg thanked John for assuming the Open captaincy, and David Millward drew attention to John's default free record as captain which now extended to 12 seasons.

(g) Assistant Match Captain

David Payne indicated that he had not done a great deal as Assistant Match Captain per se, partly as a result of not being based in the Wanstead area. The U150 team which David captained had regained the SCCU Championship, but crashed out to Nottinghamshire in the national quarter final.

(h) U125 Match Captain

The team had somewhat disappointingly failed to qualify after winning the SCCU title and reaching the final in the previous season.

(i) U100 Match Captain

Fin O'Regan reported that it had also been a disappointing season for the U100 team, which had finished last in its division which it had won in the previous season.

(j) Correspondence Match Captain

Steve Abbott distributed a written report. 2006/7 had been a mixed season, with the County as defending champions falling to fourth in the Ward-Higgs, but the Sinclair and Brown Pond competitions being won. 2007/8 was still in progress, but it looked as if the Brown Pond was the only competition likely to be won. There was an attritional decline in the interest in this form of chess.

(k) Congress Secretary

Ivor Smith reported a successful Ilford Congress with an increased entry (notably in the Open despite the higher entry fee) giving rise to a surplus in the region of £200. The only downsides were that the bookstall had not done good business, and that there was a threat of further increases for 2009, including a charge for the use of the kitchen. Ivor would like to see more entries from local players. There were suggestions from the floor that there should be a bottom section with a lower grading limit, that 3 days might be too many and that the Open should be FIDE rated and that its prize fund should be increased. These were

countered by the observation from Jeff Goldberg that the event was doing well and that tinkering could upset the balance.

(l) Tournament Secretary

Ivor Smith drew attention to the forthcoming team blitz, individual lightning and rapidplay events. The draw for the rapidplay knockout had been circulated by Colin Ramage. Jeff Goldberg expressed the view that the lightning championship should be a closed event.

Ivor advised the meeting of the recent death of Marc Brazier.

(m) League Secretary

David Millward distributed League tables. Division 1 had been won by Writtle, Division 2 by Basildon, Division 3 by Ilford II and Division 4 by Brentwood II. Waltham Forest and Bishop's Stortford were withdrawing for 2008/9.

A number of reservations were expressed about the handling of the change to a single session format for the League that had been agreed following the GPC meeting in May. There was a concern that clubs may not have canvassed the views of their members, that the change had only been approved by a majority of 7 – 4 and that players who did not like this development would simply cease to participate in the League. It was pointed out that it was open to any club to make a proposal to the 2009 GPC to reverse the change.

Jeff Goldberg suggested that communications between the Association and its members should be improved by the development of an e-mail circulation list. It was agreed that this would be considered by the next meeting of the Executive.

(n) Grader

David Millward had attached a brief written grader's report to the league tables. There was brief discussion about the unadjusted and adjusted grades that would be published in the new online list.

(o) Junior Organiser

Arnold Lutton's written report had not reached the meeting, but it was agreed that this should be circulated subsequently. Arnold drew attention to the selection of Nathasha Bogoda for the England under 11 team. Ivor Smith commended the Essex Junior Chess Association website.

(p) Publicity Officer and Webmaster

Ian Hunnable began his report with an apology for not having been able to produce an edition of Chessexonline since November 2007 (issue 004), but reported that issue 005 had appeared on the website, and that he was trying simultaneously to publish current information and to catch up with outstanding old information through the archive. Jeff Goldberg requested that the meeting information on the site be brought up to date.

David Smith proposed a collective vote of thanks to all the Officers.

4. Presentation of trophies

The whereabouts of the Division 4 trophy, last won by East Ham before the division had been suspended, were unknown. Ilford were not represented at the meeting, so the Division 3 trophy could not be presented. The following Essex League trophies were presented by the President.

- Division 2 – to Basildon (Arnold Lutton)
- Division 1 – to Writtle (Ivor Smith)

The SCCU Amboyna trophy, won by Essex U150, was presented by the President to David Payne, the team captain.

The Chairman presented the SCCU Montague Jones trophy, which Essex had won for the 11th time in 12 seasons, to John Philpott as Essex U175 captain.

5. Election of officers.

John Philpott assumed the chair and proposed the election of David Smith as President. This was carried by acclamation.

The following further elections took place after David Smith resumed the chair.

Chairman – Gavin Strachan (Proposed John Philpott, seconded David Smith)

General Secretary – John Philpott (Proposed by David Smith from the chair)

Assistant General Secretary – left vacant

Treasurer – Joe Rosenberg (Proposed David Millward, seconded Ivor Smith)

Match Captain – left vacant

Assistant Match Captain – David Payne (Proposed by David Smith from the chair)

Correspondence Match Captain – Steve Abbott (Proposed by David Smith from the chair)

Congress Secretary – Ivor Smith (Proposed by David Smith from the chair)

Tournament Secretary – Ivor Smith (Proposed by David Smith from the chair)

League Secretary – David Millward (Proposed by David Smith from the chair)

Grader – David Millward (Proposed by David Smith from the chair)

Junior Organiser – Arnold Lutton (Proposed by David Smith from the chair)

Publicity Officer/Webmaster – Ian Hunnable (Proposed by David Smith from the chair)

Additional members of the Executive – Malcolm Crane and Colin Ramage (Proposed by David Smith from the chair)

The existing Vice-Presidents (Steve Abbott, Ian Hunnable, Richard Joyce, Syd Kalinsky, Richard Manning, David Millward, John Philpott, Colin Ramage, John Sargent, David Smith, Peter Walker, Stephen Wedlock and Norman Went) were reappointed en bloc on the proposal of David Smith from the chair. There were no proposals for additional appointments.

There were no proposals for the appointment of additional life members. The current list was confirmed as John Cooke, R Jessop, Jonathan Penrose, Joe Rosenberg, Geoff Smith, Ivor Smith, Roy Watts and Terry Whitton.

6. Appointment of the auditor

Syd Kalinsky was reappointed on the proposal of David Smith from the chair.

7. Subscriptions, Game Fee and Surcharges for 2008/9

It was proposed Joe Rosenberg and seconded David Millward to leave the charges at the following unchanged level, with the Association absorbing the 2p increase in ECF Game Fee:

- Club affiliation fee of £15.
- Fee for affiliated leagues and other affiliated organisations of £20.
- Game fee of 52p per player per game in the Essex League.
- Individual subscriptions £2 for adults and £1 for juniors.
- Vice-Presidents' subscriptions of £12.

The late payment surcharge would remain at 10% of the amount due with a minimum of £15, but the latest date for payment was brought forward from 31 December to 10 December (or 30 days from date of submission of the invoice if later).

8. Any other business

Ivor Smith reported an e-mail from Guy Moule of the EJCA advising of the need for repairs to the Alan Gilder trophy for the U14 event. It was agreed that the Association would contribute towards the cost.

The meeting closed at 9.59 pm.