

# Essex Chess Association

**FOUNDED 1898**

A meeting of the General Purposes Committee was held on 29 May 2014 at Basildon Chess Club, Papworth Trust Centre, Witchards, Basildon, Essex. SS16 5BP at 7.45 p.m.

## **Minutes of the GPC Meeting**

**Present:** Bryan Gaze (Chair), John Chapman, Alistair Clark, Malcolm Crane, Russell Fisher, Ian Hunnable, Peter Laundy, David Millward, David Smith, Steve Wedlock, John White.

- 1) **Apologies for Absence:** Joe Rosenberg, Dave Hawkins, Ivor Smith, Philip Staniland, Steve Abbott.
- 2) **Minutes:** David Millward and others raised concern that there was insufficient detail in the minutes of the previous GPC meeting of 29 May 2013.  
Specifically: Item 8: No details; need to add Team Blitz and Lightning.  
Item 4: Add details of Loughton and Brentwood issue.  
Item 4A): KO Tournament. Remove “shock”.  
Semi-Final Result: Writtle 3.5 – 8.5 Wanstead  
Final result: Barking 8 – 4 Wanstead  
Item 5: no title: should read, “Proposal to change League Rules”

It was agreed that John Chapman would issue revised minutes in due course.

### **3) Matters arising from the minutes:**

Item 6: Ian Hunnable stated that the Individual Rapidplay had run on 21 September 2013. The minutes were corrected.

### **4) League review:** David Millward read a report:

After the withdrawal of Ilford III and Thurrock III, the divisional structure was published on 6 September. With eight teams, the fourth division was to be a single-round event. After Upminster V withdrew to allow a double-round division and the subsequent withdrawal of Brentwood III, the league had four divisions of six teams each for ten matches each. The Fixtures Meeting was scheduled for 18 September, but by 11 September all initial fixtures had been

arranged, so the meeting was cancelled. After the fourth division was reduced to six teams, the extra fixtures were arranged within a few days.

Since Upminster's first and second teams had both been relegated, with a consequent strengthening of the club's third team, it was to be expected that Upminster teams should do well. For a long time I expected the club's top three teams to win every match, but the third team lost on 27 March and the second team on 8 April. However, the first team managed ten wins, and the others won all remaining matches to also win their divisions. This triple success for Upminster had not happened before in my time as League Secretary. Congratulations to Upminster, but it will not be so easy next season. Although beaten twice by the third team, Upminster IV only lost one other match to finish a comfortable second to complete an outstanding season for Upminster.

Barking II with one defaulted match finished bottom of the second division, and Basildon II with two defaulted matches finished bottom of the third division. There were no other defaulted matches.

The first division was more competitive. Barking I, usually one of the teams in contention for the title, had a bad start with just one point from five matches, leaving Wanstead I and Writtle to battle for the title. After a narrow win at Wanstead, Writtle lost the return by a wider margin. This meant that Wanstead I would win on tie-break if the teams finished level. However, Wanstead I had provided Barking I with its first point, so Writtle had the edge. Both teams won all remaining matches to give Writtle the title by a single point to extend its record to nine consecutive wins. Basildon I lost four matches against the top two but won the remainder to finish third. Barking I recovered to finish fourth, with Southend I fifth and Ilford I sixth.

Since I see no future need for a Fixtures Meeting, I have proposed changes to the League Rules to remove references to it. Most clubs had a single person arranging fixtures, which meant very few fixtures were subsequently changed because of clashes; usually one of the bigger clubs finds a problem when all fixtures are collated.

One member (Paul Haddock, Brentwood) was not a member of the ECF. Russell Fisher was going to follow this up.

## **5) Proposed Rule Change:**

In view of the fact that the Fixtures Meeting is no longer required proposals were made to amend the League rules to set deadlines as follows:

1. By 15 August each club shall inform the League Secretary of any changes to the number of teams entered the previous season.

2. By 31 August the League Secretary will have finalised the structure of the divisions and confirmed home/away venues where applicable and these be issued to League clubs (and preferably published on the ECA website).
3. By 16 September all clubs will notify their fixtures to the League Secretary (this was previously seven days after the Fixtures Meeting).
4. By 16 September all clubs shall submit their initial player registrations to the League Secretary (this was previously seven days before the Fixtures Meeting).
5. By 30 September the list of registered players is issued to League clubs.

The Rules Committee will resolve the final wording.

These proposals were supported by the meeting unanimously.

Philip Staniland (Wanstead Chess Club) had sent an e-mail stating that he was supporting the proposals.”

## 6) Tournaments

Ian Hunnable reported that the Team Blitz and Lightning would be held on 29 June 2014 at Ilford Chess Club, and he distributed entry forms for this. The KO tournament had attracted 9 entries.

S/F	Barking	5.5 - 6.5	Ilford
S/F	Wanstead A	8.5 - 3.5	Writtle
Final	Wanstead A	9.5 - 2.5	Ilford

Barking had reached the final for the last ten years and won the last four years.

In the Plate tournament final: Upminster 8 – 4 Wanstead B

This year, Upminster, Loughton, Writtle and Wanstead had entered. Entries were awaited from Basildon and Brentwood, while Southend and Thurrock were not entering. The deadline for entries had been extended.

**ii) County Matches:** Ivor Smith would accept an “acting role only” as Match Captain, and it was imperative to find a permanent solution. At a previous meeting Geoff Cooper and Les Crane had seemed keen to share this role, however no news of progress was available. Bryan Gaze stated that he would liaise with the above on this issue.

## 7) Officers

The lack of a Match Captain (to replace Ivor Smith – see 6 above) would be addressed by Ian Hunnable and David Millward, liaising with Ivor.

The lack of a Tournament Secretary would be followed up by Bryan Gaze, who would liaise with Les Crane.

As Joe Rosenberg had given notice of his intention to stand down as Treasurer after the next season, Bryan Gaze would liaise with him to seek a successor.

All other Officers were prepared to stand for re-election; those not present were assumed to be prepared to stand.

**8) AOB:**

The date of the AGM was set for Thursday 26 June and it was agreed to hold it at Wanstead House. David Smith offered to book a room.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

John Chapman  
General Secretary  
30 May 2014