

Essex Chess Association

FOUNDED 1898

A meeting of the General Purposes Committee was held on 21 May 2015 at Basildon Chess Club, Papworth Trust Centre, Witchards, Basildon, Essex. SS16 5BP at 7.45 p.m.

Minutes of the GPC Meeting

Present: Ivor Smith (Chair), Tom Barton, John Chapman, Malcolm Crane, Ian Hunnabe, Peter Laundry, David Millward, Mark Murrell, David Smith, Steve Wedlock.

1) Apologies for Absence: Bryan Gaze.

2) Minutes Of GPC Meeting held 29 May 2014.

The minutes were agreed with a couple of minor amendments.
The revised minutes of the 2013 GPC Meeting were also agreed.

3) Matters arising from the minutes.

Subsequent to the meeting Ian Hunnabe had been elected Tournament Secretary, Ivor Smith had been elected Match Captain and Malcolm Crane had been elected as Treasurer. These appointments were proposed and the incumbents were elected at the 2014 AGM.

4) League review: David Millward made the following report:

The League had lost Basildon II so only five teams competed in Division 4; all other divisions had six teams.

Division 4 had been won by Southend II; Division 3 had been won by Barking II; Division 2 had been won by Upminster II and Division 1 had been won by Wanstead I, breaking Writtle's hold on the trophy for the previous nine years.

There had only been one defaulted match during the season, three teams had had points deducted for cumulative defaults. There had been three fines for late results; no quickplay finish claims and only three non ECF Members had played in the League.

David also added that the ECF Membership can now only be backdated to the start of the season if paid by 30 June (previously membership could be backdated right up until 31 August).

5) Proposed League Rules Changes:

i) A paper incorporating an e-mail from the League Secretary to the Essex League clubs was circulated with the agenda. This outlined that the rate of play is covered in League Rule 28, where reference is made to Article 10 and Appendix D of the FIDE Rules. However, in the new FIDE Rules both have been replaced by Appendix G. Due to the deadlines to amend the League Rules for 2014/15 there had been no opportunity before now to allow the League Rules to handle the new FIDE Rules. The main issues were the rules concerning quickplay finishes.

The Rules Compendium Appendix 2 covered quickplay finishes. Ian Hunnabale suggested that League Rule 28(a)(i) should refer to Appendix 2. Then the Rules Committee should deal with the wording on Appendix 2. The whole matter can then be finalised by the Rules Committee. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

ii) It is a requirement for all barred players to be members of the ECF. However, at present no deadline is in place for the player to join the ECF membership scheme. It is therefore suggested that all barred players registered with the Essex League by 15 November join the ECF Membership scheme by 30 November. Any player registered after 15 November who is to become a barred player should join the ECF Membership scheme before they become eligible to play. The final wording can be dealt with by the Rules Committee. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

6) Southend Congress

John Chapman reported that he had originally stood as the Southend Club Congress Secretary. However, due to differences in opinion within the Congress Committee the Treasurer had resigned. John stated that he could not continue in the role without assistance so he resigned and the Southend Club agreed to discontinue the Congress at the end of December. John had already appointed Adam Raouf and Norman Went as controllers and had booked the same venue as the previous year.

Gavin Strachan had agreed to take the event over independently so it could be continued. Adam Raouf would remain the main controller and would be paid on a fee per competitor. There were 138 entries in 2015 compared to 85 in 2014, the increase mainly due to Adam Raouf's publicity. The event was believed to be financially successful although no accounts had been drawn up and no financial details supplied.

Gavin was happy to run the event again with similar sponsorship. The venue had been booked for Easter 2016 and the controllers were in place again. The Southend Club no longer had any involvement in the running of the event.

Justin Baptie had provided the sponsorship but this was for the Open Section only. He had laid down specific requirements attached to the sponsorship, this included a women's prize. No prize money from the sponsorship was allowed to go to the five round sections. There was a total of £8,000 sponsorship of which £500 could go toward running costs.

Ian Hunnable stated that the ECA website had been updated to allow on-line entries to the Congress. There had been 99 entries submitted that way. Ian had prepared the on-line entry form and made the ECA facilities available despite it not being an ECA event. A Southend Congress website is to be considered for the future.

Ian Hunnable stated that this event was now the last refuge for awarding the Essex Championship so it was in his interest in seeing the Congress continue. The running of the 2015 event though was left to the organizers. Ian added that the event's success was due to the many years of being run by Southend Chess Club. A donation of £250 was made by the ECA to the Congress to recognise the awarding of the trophies. Richard Pert won the Essex Championship scoring $4\frac{1}{2}/7$.

Adam Raouf had suggested live boards to feed to the ECA website in future events. This would cost £100 per day plus accommodation.

There is now no other four day Congress held locally at Easter.

7) Tournaments

Ivor Smith handed out the entry forms for the ECA Team Blitz and Individual Lightning to be held on Sunday 28 June at Ilford. This also covered Item 9. Ivor confirmed that the sponsorship by Syd Kalinsky (King and King) would continue.

A request had been received from Manningtree Chess Club to play in the Team Blitz. Since the club was in Essex there was no objection from the meeting to this.

Essex Summer Rapidplay Knock Out 2014 – this event had eight teams enter.

The semi-finals were as follows:

Ilford	$4\frac{1}{2} - 7\frac{1}{2}$	Writtle	
Barking	6 - 6	Wanstead 'A'	Wanstead won tie-break

The final took place at Upminster and the result was

Writtle 6½ - 5½ Wanstead 'A'

In the Plate Tournament the semi-finals were as follows:

Loughton 5 - 7 Upminster 'B'
Upminster 'A' 9 - 3 Wanstead 'B'

The final also took place at Upminster and the result was

Upminster 'B' 2½- 9½ Upminster 'A'

Individual Rapid Play – this was held at Writtle on Sunday 21 September 2014. Both Richard Pert and Andrew Brett scored 4½/6; Richard Pert won the title on tie-break. Andrew Brett won the North Essex title. Elliott Cocks won the Major section with 4½/6.

The 2015 Individual Rapidplay will be held at Writtle on Saturday 11 July.

Ian Hunnable stated that a Blitz Championship was looked into last year but not held. It was hoped to start an annual event this year, maybe on a weekday evening possibly at Upminster.

The Tournament sub-committee was to look at ways of improving the Essex Summer Rapidplay Knock Out. There had been a suggestion made by Malcolm Crane to run the event with two sections and restricted grading rules. However, after consideration it was felt too short notice to make such a drastic change. It was however agreed to play the matches over five boards rather than six. Ian Hunnable would send out invitations in the near future and the closing date would be 5 June.

8) Officers for 2015/16

Ivor Smith stated his intention to stand down as Match Captain, the possibility of Mark Murrell replacing him was considered. There was no suggestion of any anyone else not being unable to stand for re-election at the AGM.

9) Team Blitz and Individual Lightning

See item 7.

10) Any other business:

Mark Murrell stated that Hackney Chess Club wished to affiliate to the ECA. Three of their players live just outside the Essex border but have no interest in playing for Middlesex. If Hackney were affiliated then these players would be eligible to play for Essex in county matches. The club was not intending to enter the Essex League. Since there had already been precedents set for clubs outside the Essex boundaries affiliating and even playing in the Essex League this was not considered to be a problem on the assumption that they paid the relevant subscription. It was also suggested that the need for more players to play county chess be highlighted on the website.

David Smith stated that the ECF were considering changing the format of County matches. A paper had been circulated from the director and controller of Home County Chess. It proposed that all counties would be invited to enter the ECF County Championship without qualification. Concern was raised over the short timescale of the competition. It was noted that the Final is held the first weekend in July which is outside the grading season. The proposal was not supported but a suggestion be made that the Final to be held in June to fit in with the grading season.

David also added that counties that were not nominated still had to pay the ECF Fees. It was suggested that this should not be the case.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

Steve Wedlock
Assistant General Secretary
31 May 2015