

# ESSEX CHESS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1898

## MINUTES OF A GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE BARDSWELL SOCIAL CLUB, BARDESWELL CLOSE, WEALD ROAD, BRENTWOOD, ESSEX CM14 4TJ ON 24 MAY 2011 STARTING AT 8 P.M.

**Present:** Gavin Strachan (in the chair), John Chapman, Alistair Clark, Bryan Gaze, Ian Hunnable, Russell Fisher, David Millward, Mark Murrell, John Philpott, Joe Rosenberg, Ivor Smith and Stephen Wedlock.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Steve Abbott, Malcolm Crane, Colin Ramage and David Smith.

### 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2010

These were approved as drafted (proposed Stephen Wedlock, seconded David Millward).

### 3. Matters arising from these minutes

Joe Rosenberg indicated that he had not seen the detailed discussion paper on the GPC voting structure referred to in item 6. Ian Hunnable commented that there had been no developments in this area as no formal proposals had been made, but agreed to send a copy of the paper to everybody entitled to receive notice of the GPC meeting.

Stephen Wedlock asked about the point that had been mentioned under item 4 concerning the spreading out of the games between two or more clubs playing in the same division. David Millward indicated that the League Management Committee had not yet considered this issue. It was noted that this situation was only likely to arise in the coming season in respect of Thurrock 1 and 2 in the third division.

### 4. League review for 2010/11

David Millward reported that the League had been contested by the same clubs and teams and with the same structure as in 2009/10. For the first time in at least 16 seasons there had been no defaulted matches. The outcome of the competitions had been as follows.

**Division 4** Upminster III had won the title after a close race with Barking III, which handicapped itself by being the only team in the League to lose points for cumulative defaults.

**Division 3** Barking II won the title after a close struggle between 4 contending teams. Roding & Loughton II had been demoted to Division 4 after losing their last match to relegation rivals Wanstead & Woodford III.

**Division 2** Southend-on-Sea I had seemed likely champions throughout the season, but missed out on a 100% record by losing their last match to Upminster II. Thurrock I,

potentially the strongest team in the Division, had been relegated after Roding & Loughton I, with a superior tie break, managed to tie their final match.

**Division 1** Writtle took the title for the 6<sup>th</sup> successive season, but only after a dramatic final match against closest rivals Barking when with the scores tied at 3½ - 3½ Philip Gregory resigned a game where Ivan Myall only had seconds left on the clock. Ilford I were relegated to Division 2.

There were no known changes in entries for 2011/12, which would be the 100<sup>th</sup> occasion on which the Essex League title had been contested.

In response to questions David indicated that there had been approximately 10 late result fines and no quickplay finish disputes. The meeting considered that there was a general lack of awareness of the quickplay finish rules, even though these were reproduced in the Rules Compendium, and it was agreed that the League Secretary would recommend that team captains ensured that a copy was available at matches where a non-incremental time control was used.

Action would be needed in respect of the Silver Rook trophy for Division 1, as the space for engraving on the second base would be fully utilised after the present season.

## **5. 2011 Congress update**

In the absence of the Congress Secretary, Ivor Smith reported that the 2011 Congress had been cancelled because of a lack of entries. With hindsight, it would probably have been better not to try to organise an event this year. Despite the hard work put in by David Brock there had been a number of factors against the event, including the geographical location, the existing competition from the Sunningdale Congress and a new rapidplay event organised for the Saturday by the long term controller of the Minor.

Stephen Wedlock indicated that the future of the Southend Easter Congress was also in question: numbers were down, the costs of the Civic Centre were rising and the sponsorship would not necessarily be repeated.

In the ensuing debate, a number of points were raised for the Congress Committee to consider.

- With the North Essex Congress no longer running, it was highly desirable to ensure that at least one standardplay congress continued to be held within the County.
- One possibility would be the organisation of Essex Championship and Challengers Tournaments.
- A two day event might receive better support than a three day event, and avoid competing too directly with FIDE rated events such as those organised by e2e4.
- Was there any need to offer cash prizes?

## **6. Knockout competition**

In the absence of Colin Ramage, Ivor Smith reported that the 2010 event had been won by Barking. The meeting considered that it would be desirable for the event to be run by a controller with access to e-mail, which Colin unfortunately lacked. Ian Hunnable indicated that he was willing to run the event, and the appointment will be considered by the Executive.

## **7. Tournaments for 2011/12**

Ivor Smith would be running the Team Blitz and Individual Lightning events at Ilford Chess Club on 26 June. Ivor had been pleased with the increase in the number of entries in the Lightning in 2010 from 8 to 16.

Gavin Strachan was happy to continue running the Individual Rapidplay event, which had been recast as an open event with four sections in 2010. The 2011 event would take place in Brentwood on 17 July.

## **8. Officers for 2011/12**

Gavin Strachan indicated that he wished to stand down for the time being as Chairman for family reasons. Bryan Gaze was willing to stand for election as Chairman, but that will leave a vacancy for Assistant General Secretary. John Philpott was prepared to stand for re-election as General Secretary in order to provide continuity and give Bryan support in his first year, but indicated that he did not wish to remain in the post after 2011/12.

Arnold Lutton had advised Ivor Smith at a recent meeting of the Essex Junior Chess Association that he was happy to stand down.

None of the other elected Officers present indicated an intention not to seek re-election.

## **9. Any other business**

None.

The meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

Minutes taken by John Philpott, General Secretary