

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of the Bury St Edmunds Chess Club
Held 29 May 2014, at Moreton Hall Community Centre**

1. Welcome

Present:

Steve Ruthen (SR), Bob Jones (BJ), Hugo Smith (HS), Colin Roberts (CR), Steve Lovell (SL), Scott Taylor (ST), Dick Myhill (DM), Ed Player, Dave Wood.

Apologies:

Laurie Pott, Chas Szentmihaly, Adam Harvey

2. Matters arising from the Minutes to the AGM held 30 May 2013

The circulated minutes were agreed as a true record of events. There were no matters arising.

3. Reports

(i) Match Secretary: Bob Jones

BJ summarised the fortunes of the various teams, circulated league tables and statistics. While the Bury Cobras who finished bottom of BACL Division 1, Bury C and D won SCCA Divisions 2 and 3 respectively. Bury teams won both sections of the Roger Goldsmith Competition. Notable amongst the individual performances was Adam Harvey won scored 12½ from his 15 games. We also beat Ipswich to progress to the final of the Norfolk and Suffolk cup to be played against Broadland on 11 June.

(ii) Treasurer: Hugo Smith

HS provided a financial statement for the 11 months to the end of April, bringing forward the year end to make preparations for these meetings easier. The season saw a record levels of membership and income from attendance monies. As a result of this in addition to a £500 bequest from a former Bury based chess player Eric Bailey (remembered with some fondness by ST), the club finances are looking very healthy. HS recommended leaving subscriptions at the current level and noted that plans to use some of the current surplus to renew equipment and return equipment which has been on long-term loan from the Junior Club. **Action: HS and BJ to action these purchases.**

BJ encouraged support of the Junior Club, asking members to come along when possible. The junior club meets at Horringer Court Middle School, 6-8pm during the Autumn and Spring terms.

(iii) Club Championship Organiser : Colin Roberts

CR announced the results of the club championship. SL won the Minor section with 4/4, while John Feavoyour won the Open section with 2½/3. CR was encouraged that while not all games were played it came much nearer to a proper completion than for several years.

Entries for the next competition are now open. Depending on take up one or both sections may be split into two so that fewer games are required. Players are reminded that results should be sent to CR. SL confirmed that 4 September would be dedicated to games in the club championship. **Action: SL to encourage early entries**

4. Election of Officers

SR was re-elected as chairman by acclaim. The other officers were all willing to continue in post and with no other nominations being made they were re-elected en-bloc. The committee therefore remains

Chairman:	Stephen Ruthen
Match Secretary:	Bob Jones
Admin Secretary:	Steve Lovell
Treasurer:	Hugo Smith
Club Championship Organiser:	Colin Roberts

5. Teams and Captains for Next Season

BJ provided a list of teams, captains and likely squad members for next season. This included two additional teams: one in SCCA Division 3 to replace the one promoted and therefore provide opportunities for younger players, and another in the SCCA u145 competition. DM queried the fate of the Bury E team, which led to discussion of the promotion and relegation. If possible we hope to persuade the BACL AGM that the Cobras should retain their place in Division 1, while we should prefer that Bury E remain in Division 3, **Action: BJ to present this position at the BACL AGM.**

SR thanked BJ for his work on the teams both in the season just completed and in preparation for the upcoming season.

6. BACL and SCCA Matters

SL explained that a proposal to change the Fischer option to 65m+20s per move was discussed by the BACL Executive and not supported. We could still propose this at the AGM, but think it would be unlikely to meet with support. BJ outlined an alternative proposal of 70m+15s per move which we believe might fare better. We discussed this and a range other possibilities before agreeing that we should propose to both the BACL and the SCCA that the Fischer option be amended to 70m+15s per move. Moreover, to encourage its use we also agreed to propose that in Division 1, where players are likely to be more accustomed to such things, Fischer timing should become the default option. **Action: SL to take this to the BACL AGM and BJ to the SCCA AGM.**

7. Club Matters

SL raised the topic of compensation for drivers. Some of the club's driving responsibilities for away games tend to fall on the same people week after week. Since it can be very embarrassing to ask for a contribution towards petrol SL proposed that we should seek to ensure that drivers are appropriately compensated. Not wishing to be prescriptive about it, SL acknowledged that some reciprocal lift sharing took place, and some prefer to be recompensed in other ways (e.g. a drink from the bar). Where such alternatives are not taken up, the group agreed that non-drivers should give their driver £2 per away game. **Action: SL/BJ to communicate this to captains. Captains to encourage this amongst team members. If this arrangement proves ineffective, alternatives will be considered at the next AGM.**

8. Upcoming Events

- Summer Programme – SL outlined the summer programme, acknowledging that some events were yet to be confirmed. The full programme is on the club website at www.bsechess.org.uk/summer
- BACL Rapidplay 2nd Leg (Thursday 5th June at MHCC)
- SCCA AGM (Tuesday 10th June at Ipswich) – SL sought volunteers to attend
- BACL AGM (Monday 23rd June at MHCC) – SL sought volunteers to attend
- BACL Jamboree (Thursday 11th September at MHCC)

9. Any other Business

BJ reminded members about chess at the Apex (Tuesdays from 3:30-5:30pm). Two former players had returned to chess through the Apex and we had also gained another entirely new member.

HS noted that Bury teams had entered the EACU club championship, but that BJ had paid the entry fees (£60) himself. The group agreed that BJ should be reimbursed for these fees. **Action: HS to reimburse BJ.**

Close of meeting 8:46 pm