

Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of the Bury St Edmunds Chess Club
Held 16 June 2016 at 7:30pm

1. Welcome

Present:

Colin Roberts (CR), Bob Jones (BJ), Hugo Smith (HS), Dave Clark (DC), Dick Myhill, Adam Leigh, Adam Harvey, Mike Harris, Greg Hart, Ed Player, Sam Inman, Yothin [Surname?], David Wood

Apologies:

John Feavyour, Steve Ruthen (SR)

In the absence of our Chairman (SR), the meeting was chaired by the Club Championship organiser (CR).

2. Matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM held 11 June 2015

The circulated minutes were agreed as a true record of events. There were no matters arising not already on the agenda.

3. Reports

(i) Match Secretary: Bob Jones

BJ circulated a document detailing the final standings of teams in the 2015/16 season. BJ was pleased to report that none of our teams had finished last in any division and so the club would suffer no relegations. We were the winners of the Norfolk and Suffolk Cup, the winners of the Suffolk u125, the winners of the Suffolk Division 3, the winners of the Division 1 Roger Goldsmith and the Runners up in the Division 2 event.

(ii) Treasurer: Hugo Smith

HS circulated a financial statement for the year to 30 April 2016. While the bank balance showed an increase of £280, the timings at which various transactions took effect make this somewhat misleading and HS suggested that in reality we had made a loss of £133.50 for the season. Given the accumulated surpluses from previous years, combined with natural fluctuation HS saw no need to alter our subscription or attendance fees, and recommended leaving things as they are.

The subscription model was outlined as follows:

- Full-fee membership £ 30
- Concessionary Membership £15
For Juniors, Retired, Unwaged, and members who play for us as a “secondary club” making them available only in one of the two leagues to which we belong.

- Double concessionary membership £7.50
“Secondary club” membership combined with one of the other concessionary categories

[Note from the Admin Secretary: other reductions are also sometimes offered where a player joins the club part-way through a season.]

HS raised concerns about the apparent drop in takings via the £1 attendance fee. BJ said he would check the figures provided against his records of attendance.

(iii) Club Championship Organiser: Colin Roberts

CR reported that this season’s competition had been abandoned at an early stage due to lack of take up. In a change from previous years, the plan had been to run the event as a “Swiss” with time limited rounds which it was hoped would prevent the drift of fixtures. This model will be retained, but CR announced that he would be stepping down as Club Championship Organiser since in order to function, this model would require chasing players to ensure they completed their games in a timely fashion and he was not in a position to do that.

Actions: the committee to seek a replacement for CR, members to volunteer please! SL to invite entries.

4. Election of Officers

With all officers, excepting CR, happy to continue in their current roles, no one standing against them and with no volunteers to take the newly vacated role of Club Championship Organiser, CR moved to re-elect the four remaining officers en bloc. This motion was unanimously passed and the committee therefore now stands as follows:

Chairman	Steve Ruthen
Match Secretary	Bob Jones
Admin Secretary	Steve Lovell
Treasurer	Hugo Smith
Club Championship Organiser	Vacant

5. Teams and Captains for next season

The previously mentioned document also included names of captains for next season, and BJ noted the various changes. Though making the occasional appearance at the club since, David Wood officially left us earlier this season. He had captained 5 teams. These were primarily teams of juniors, and Boby Sebastian, father to three of these, has agreed to take on 4 of the teams. The fifth team is the Bury E team (in Suffolk League Division 3). BJ explained that this team may withdraw from the competition. He will be assessing the viability of the team with a new squad of players drawn mainly from newer members of the club. Adam Leigh will also become a team captain, looking after the promoted Bury D team.

For the sharing of good practice and other usual information, there will be a captains’ meeting at BJ’s house on 4th July.

Action: BJ to contact captains to invite them to the captains’ meeting.

6. BACL and SCCA Matters

The SCCA AGM had already taken place at this stage and so the SCCA matters were for information only. The BACL AGM is scheduled for 6th July.

SL circulated a paper including all known proposals for changes in the BACL. Many of these changes relate to the internal workings of the Executive and do not materially affect the league competitions. Since these have the approval of the Executive, the meeting quickly agreed to give these changes their support. However, SL also outlined two more substantive proposals.

BACL Signing of Score Sheets

Following a dispute in the 2014/15 Dick Myhill speculated at our last AGM that matters may have been more easily expedited had the league operated the FIDE rule of requiring players to sign their own score sheet and that of their opponent to confirm the outcome of the game. Indeed, since the BACL rules say that we adopt the FIDE rules except where specifically superseded by the those of the league, this rule is technically already in operation but is neither adhered to nor enforced. SL outlined the case for adopting this rule, but was comprehensively outvoted by the membership.

BACL Fischer Timing

SL also explained that there is likely to be a proposal from to extend the use of Fischer timing, as a default, to the lower divisions in the BACL. It is already the default in Division 1, though players may agree to use "standard timing". In divisions 2 and 3 "standard timing" is the default though players may agree to use Fischer timing. The meeting agreed that the club should oppose the extension of the Fischer default to lower divisions.

SCCA Constitutional Changes

The SCCA AGM had brought in some minor revisions to the league constitution. These were essentially matters of wording and not substantive amendments.

SCCA Defaults

Where a team defaults one or more boards it will now be incumbent upon the captain to name who would have played on any vacant boards. Moreover, should both teams default the same number of boards, the players present will be required to play one another regardless of which boards they would otherwise have played upon. Captains are advised to note these changes and to provide feedback on how this impacts their teams.

7. Club matters

Compensation for Drivers

The expected contribution towards petrol is £2 per lift, but players may make other arrangements if all parties are happy to do so.

As agreed at the last AGM, SL has now produced a notice to remind players of this expectation, and this will be displayed at club nights henceforth.

SL queried whether drivers felt this arrangement had worked in the 2015-16 season, and the general feeling seemed to be that things had improved compared to previous seasons and that no further action was required.

8. Upcoming Events

A number of upcoming events were noted, these included

- BACL Rapidplay Event (Sunday 19th June)
- BACL AGM Wednesday (6th July 2016 at the Cambridge venue from 7:45pm)

BJ and CR noted that the club has 8 votes at this event, but needs 8 people present in order to use them. Voting should be in agreement with the decisions of the club recorded above. Volunteers to represent the club at this meeting are sought!

- BACL Jamboree (Thursday 8th September 2016 at the Bury Venue)

9. Any other Business

DC queried the current situation with Scott Taylor. BJ advised members that Scott's membership of the club had been suspended and that on no account should captains select him to play until advised otherwise by the club officials. Scott will not be permitted to attend the club until the Committee is convinced he is sufficiently stable for this to be appropriate.

Close of meeting: 8:23pm