

BURY ST EDMUNDS CHESS CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held at Moreton Hall Community Centre, Bury St Edmunds, on Thursday 16 June 2011.

Present: John Feavours (JF), Steve Lovell (SL), Hugo Smith (HS), Scott Taylor (ST), Alan Watkins (AW), Colin Roberts (CR), Ed Player (EP), Steve Ruthen (SR) (8 members).
The Chairman welcomed those members able to attend on a beautiful summer's evening.

Apologies: Yvonne Freiherr, Dave Clark, Bob Jones, Chas Szentmihaly, Adam Harvey (5 members).

Minutes: The minutes of the 2010 AGM were approved unanimously, having been proposed by Steve Ruthen and seconded by Steve Lovell. The only matter arising was the plan to purchase a permanent Trophy for the Club Championship U125 section, which has been carried forward.

Secretary: Steve Lovell explained he is standing in for Bob Jones who is on extended travels and believed to be cycling down the west coast of Scotland. Steve (with help from Hugo) reported that 40 members had paid their subscriptions during the past year, that weekly £1 dues had raised £563 and that the BACL website was very effective and up to date, useful in particular for checking league standings and spotting mis-entered match results.

Treasurer: Hugo Smith submitted a statement of accounts which showed a deficit of £287.08 for the year. This is not as serious as might appear as 2 items are for 2 years worth – the affiliated Cub fee and website. Nevertheless there are hourly room hire increases expected and in the circumstances there followed a debate about the best way of covering the additional costs.

After a detailed debate it was proposed that subscriptions be increased to £40 for full membership and £20 for all other categories. In addition the weekly contribution will be increased to £1.20 per visit. These proposals were unanimously carried.

Teams' Reports: Steve Lovell explained that some but not all Captains reports were in, and that the customary booklet would be produced after Bob's return. Notable performances last year were Dick Myhill being Player of the Year in division 3, and Dave Clark only being beaten once in 9 games. However, the laws of nature determined that others were not so successful – yin and yang.

Special mention was made of the contribution made to the club in many ways by Gordon Chapman, who passed away during the season. His last games for the Club made the crucial difference in winning the EACU team event, only a week before his passing. The meeting took a moment to remember Gordon.

Committee: The following motions were discussed, proposed and carried:

- Split of secretary role into two roles: Match and Admin secretary (proposed SR; seconded CR)
- Moving Club Championship organiser role onto the committee, previously an ex-officio role (proposed SR; seconded ST)
- Other ex-officio roles no longer required (proposed ST; seconded SL)

Elections: The following were proposed and subsequently voted into office:

Chairman	-	Steve Ruthen (proposed HS; seconded JF)
Treasurer	-	Hugo Smith (proposed SR; seconded CR)
Match Secretary	-	Bob Jones (proposed SR; seconded CR)
Admin Secretary	-	Steve Lovell (proposed SR; seconded CR)
Club Championship organiser	-	Colin Roberts (proposed SL; seconded HS)

Teams: There was a long discussion about the teams the Club would field next season. Although it was not possible to be definitive, the principles of

- the same number of teams for long play chess matches including Goldsmith Cup games
- review the rapid play options after the BACL AGM outcomes are known

Colin remarked "enough players, too few captains".

BACL AGM: The proposed rule changes were discussed with the following results:

Cambridge Proposals:

- Postponement of matches by agreement; Carried
- Raising of grading ceiling for boards 3/4 in rapid play from 150 to 160; defeated

Bury Proposals:

- To consider games beneath the 'minimum' lost for POTY ranking purposes and the strict minimum therefore removed; defeated.
- Jamboree name change; defeated (mostly due to lack of appealing alternatives)

Stowmarket Proposal:

- Removal of 30 move time control; defeated

A further proposal also emerged which was discussed in 'Any other Business'.

Bury St Edmunds Chess Club has eight votes at the League AGM on 13 July and volunteers are sought. Steve Lovell to follow up.

AOB:

- Club Championship:** In the Open section only Bob Jones has completed his games. He is declared the Club Champion. In the u125 section, the final is between Emilia Jewell and Dick Myhill. There was a discussion about different formats, time limits. We agreed that Colin will determine the format of the competition based on entries received.
- Summer programme:** Support so far this year has been poor. We may need to review the cost effectiveness. Could we save room hire by playing in the bar? Ed Player complimented Steve Lovell on the demo board used at the 'Masterclass'.
- Jamboree:** The annual Bury League Jamboree will take place at Moreton Hall on 12 September. Entries invited
- Proposal:** That BACL Player of The Year awards should only be by player, by team (i.e. a player cannot amalgamate games played for 2 different teams); carried.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:24pm.

There followed a 4-round 5-minute tournament, won by Ed Player.