

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of the Bury St Edmunds Chess Club
Held 30 May 2013, at Moreton Hall Community Centre**

1. Welcome

Present:

Stephen Ruthen (SR), Bob Jones (BJ), Steve Lovell (SL), Scott Taylor (ST), David Wood, Derek Wootley, Zac Vane, Damien Wallace, Clement Wallace, Peter Massey, Adam Harvey, Somton Ukken, Tim Lunn.

Apologies:

Hugo Smith (HS), Colin Roberts (CR), Chas Szentmihaly

SR told members the sad reason for the absence of our treasurer Hugo Smith, namely the passing of his wife Sophie after a long period of illness. SR expressed sincere condolences on behalf of everyone present.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM held 14 May 2012

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. SL described how the Executive proposed to handle the outstanding matter of the trophy inherited from the old Bury and West Suffolk Chess Club via the late Gordon Chapman. In brief, should a claimant from the old club come forward, we will rescind our own claim on the trophy. In the meantime, the trophy will be used for the (upper section) of the club championship, with any engraving being on the base, so as to avoid any possibility of "damage". This proposal was not contested.

3. Reports

(i) Match Secretary: Bob Jones

BJ summarised the fortunes of the various teams. The majority of our teams finished mid-table. No teams were relegated, but two teams won their respective divisions: Bury Cobras won the BAFL Division 2 title, while Bury B won the SCCA Division 2 title. The result is that we will have three teams in BAFL Division 1 (outnumbering Cambridge), and that we return to having two teams in SCCA Division 1.

(ii) Treasurer: Hugo Smith (Absent)

HS provided a financial statement for the year, which in his absence was summarised by SR and SL. Although income was notably down, SL explained that this was due to the decrease in membership fees associated with the new ECF membership scheme, and that on that basis the figures were in fact comparable to last year. Equivalent reductions in expenditure could be seen in relation to the BAFL and SCCA league fees. Aside from a number of miscellaneous payments, notably a payment of £200 (approved at the previous AGM) to BJ to cover his purchase of clocks some years ago, the finances were essentially stable. HS recommendation was therefore that fees remain unchanged, and this was agreed without objection from those present.

(iii) Club Championship Organiser: Colin Roberts

In the absence of CR (at this stage), SL explained that the 2012-13 competition had never got under way, in part due to an apparent lack of enthusiasm from club members. CR would finalise the draw for a "within 2013" competition soon, with tonight being the

final opportunity to sign up. SL and BJ explained that to encourage members to take advantage of the BACL *allowing* the use of Fischer timing, the club championship will *require* the use of Fischer timing (75 minutes + 10 seconds per move). **Action: CR to complete the draw and communicate to BJ for distribution ASAP.**

(iv) Admin Secretary: Steve Lovell

SL had little to report but wanted to thank members for signing up so promptly for their ECF memberships last summer, and encouraged everyone to do the same again this time around. SL offered to sign up on behalf of any members who weren't able sign up online themselves. **Action: SL to encourage ECF membership when the time comes.**

4. Election of Officers

With no-one else wishing to stand for election or to propose new committee members, and with all current committee members happy to continue in their post, all were re-elected unanimously 'en-bloc'. The committee therefore remains as follows:

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

Due to an influx of players from Ipswich and Cambridge over the past couple of seasons, along with the arrival of several juniors and other new members, BJ explained that we could now support an extra team in the SCCA (Division 3), and potentially also a team in the SCCA u125 cup. This met with the approval of the meeting. SR warmly thanked BJ for his efforts in organising our teams so effectively. **Action: BJ to confirm entries to the leagues.**

6. BACL and SCCA matters

SL explained the single proposal for consideration at the upcoming BACL AGM, namely a tidying of the quickplay finish rules to bring them into line with the FIDE wording (by removing reference to "sufficient mating material" in preference for wording involving the possibility of checkmates occurring after a "sequence of legal moves"). Not meeting with any objections, the club will support this proposal at the AGM.

7. Upcoming Events

Next Meeting: Thematic Tournament on Thursday 13th June.

BACL Rapidplay (Wednesday 19th June at Cambridge & Thursday 27th June at MHCC)

BACL AGM (Friday 21st June at MHCC)

SCCA AGM (Tuesday 3rd September at Ipswich)

Jamboree (Thursday 19th September at MHCC)

SL and BJ explained that the BACL Rapidplay would be a graded event, free to enter for ECF members (or £1 per game for non-members – junior non-members 25p per game). It is primarily an individual event, but groups of players from the same club may also elect to be considered a team. While not run as a Swiss, the (“Ribbands”) pairing is based on a combination of (ECF rapidplay) grade and performance in the event.

The group was canvassed for possible attendance at the league AGMs, and several said they’d be happy to come along. **Action: SL to remind these nearer the time.**

8. Any other business

ST queried the date when new ECF grades would be released. BJ confirmed that they would be expected in late July.

9. Close

SR closed the meeting at 8:10pm.

There followed a 7 round blitz (5-minute) Swiss tournament, won by Somton Ukken after a tie break game with William Sait (who arrived in time to play the last 5 rounds, having taken the place of SR who left early).

We also found time to marvel at a lovely mating combination found by Anita Somton in her Suffolk Ladies’ match which took place in parallel to the events described above.