

**Minutes of the**  
**Annual General Meeting of the Bury St Edmunds Chess Club**  
**Held 5 July 2018 at 7:30pm**

**1. Welcome**

*Present:*

Bob Jones (BJ), Steve Lovell (SL), Hugo Smith (HS), Mike Harris (MH), Daniel Pugh (DP), Jan Balogh (JB), Rene Martinez, Zia Quader, Ed Player (EP), and at the very end of the meeting Tim Kent (TK).

*Apologies:*

Steve Ruthen (SR), Stephen Lewis, Laurie Pott

BJ chaired the meeting in the absence of SR. To allow for late arrivals, the meeting commenced at 7:45pm.

**2. Minutes and matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM Held 15 June 2017**

SL noted that we would return to the idea of “contact cards” for collecting personal details for new members under the topic of GDPR later in the meeting.

SL noted that there was one oddity in the minutes where he hadn't been able to recall the outcome, and that requesting confirmation later had met with silence. This was in relation to the proposal in considered at the 2017 BACL AGM, to increase the board order grading tolerance from 10 to 15 grading points. Although now academic, since the proposal was defeated at the BACL AGM, the meeting confirmed that our AGM had also voted to oppose the change.

The minutes were otherwise accepted as an accurate record of events.

**Action: SL to update the minutes and publish on the club website.**

**3. Reports**

(i) Match Secretary: Bob Jones

BJ summarised the performance of the club's various teams. There was one relegation (Bury A finished bottom of SCCA Division 1), and one promotion (Bury Cobras won BACL Division 2). We also occupied all three bottom places in BACL Division 3.

John Peters scored a very creditable 10/13 to finish third in the SCCA Division 1 Player of the Year competition, and is expected to be graded over 190 next season. Ed Player scored 6.5/10, to be ranked sixth.

In the BACL's Roger Goldsmith competition we entered three teams but none progressed beyond the group stage.

The Bury C team won the SCCA Cup (which Ed Player was able to pass to BJ, having been engraved).

BJ confirmed that the club had also won the Suffolk section of the Norfolk and Suffolk (N&S) Cup (5-1 against Manningtree) and will therefore play Broadland in the final.

EP queried the relationship between the Suffolk Cup and the Suffolk section of the N&S Cup, asking whether these could be collapsed into a single event. BJ noted that as things stand this is against the rules as the N&S Cup is played over six boards rather than four.

(ii) Treasurer: Hugo Smith

HS presented the club accounts. The bank balance (at 30 April 2018) is relatively healthy at £953.96. The annualised accounts showed an income of £1679 and expenses of £2076.50, yielding a deficit for the year of £397.50. However, this is almost entirely accounted for by an exceptional expense: the purchase of 16 new clocks (at £21 each) totalling £336. The new clocks are not only nicer to use they are also considerably easier to set. The old clocks are being sold to members to generate a small income for the club. Any that remain will be sold on eBay. Discounting that exceptional expense, the deficit would be £61.50.

**Action: BJ and SJ to agree cut-off date for members buying clocks. SL to facilitate eBay sale should it be necessary.**

There will be some increase in our costs next year: we can expect an inflationary rise on venue hire and have already seen an increase in the cost of the tea trolley and urn from £5 to £10 per use. The tea-trolley and urn are therefore expected to cost us approximately £100 more across the season in 2018-19 than in 2017-18.

Our accumulated surplus is comfortably sufficient to absorb the deficit this would suggest for 2018/19, and the possibility of this being offset by the addition of a few extra members, HS recommended that subscription fees remain unchanged for the 2018/19 season.

DP queried costs incurred by club officers and team captains. BJ in particular incurs a number of costs including: Stationery and printing costs for attendance sheets, results cards, and signage. Tea, coffee, milk, sugar and squash (these are not included in the tea-trolley service).

MH, SL, DP, HS and others felt that BJ should be compensated for these costs. It would be tedious to track the exact costs, but the meeting felt the club should at least make some contribution. SL proposed that the club pay for BJ's ECF membership, and the meeting approved this.

**Action: HS, SL and BJ to work out the best way to facilitate this.**

The meeting agreed to adopt the accounts and HS's recommendation that fees remain unchanged.

[Note from the Admin Secretary: we will of course return to the accounts at next year's AGM, and will be monitoring things during the season.]

Before moving on from the accounts, SL raised a query about the costs for the BACL. Our BACL subscription costs £241.50 compared with £118 for the SCCA. £100 of this is accounted for by the purchase of copies of the BACL Handbook for club members (40 copies @ £2.50). Other clubs purchase a much smaller number, enough to cover club officers and BACL team captains. A similar approach for our club could cut costs.

After some discussion, the meeting agreed that rather than asking other members (who aren't club officials or BACL team captains) to pay £2.50, we would simply require them to say that they would like one.

**Action: SL to contact the membership about BACL Handbook requests in the coming weeks.**

(iii) Admin Secretary: Steve Lovell

SL noted that this season, as last season, the Club Championship was being held over the summer. Although in itself this seemed to work well, BJ and SL have both had concerns that it turns the club into something of a closed shop over the summer as it isn't something that visitors can take part in.

MH commented that the level of entries, about a quarter of the club, was actually good given that it involved committing to five dates across the summer.

[Note from the Admin Secretary: although dates are put aside for the games, there is some flexibility in the dates of play.]

ZQ queried what else might be done to attract new members, and asked whether we put leaflets into schools. BJ responded that the junior club does indeed do that. DP suggested dedicated "open evenings" as part of the club calendar, although it obviously wouldn't resolve the problem of people turning up on an evening which wasn't visitor friendly.

BJ queried what would make more people enter the event. EP noted that he liked to play against opponents of comparable strength, and as one of the club's strongest players would expect most if not all games in the Club Championship to be against weaker, sometimes considerably weaker, opposition. MH noted that he considers the chess season to run from September to May and likes to take a break over the summer. Other possible arrangements for the Club Championship were briefly considered:

- (a) Club Championship during the season.
- (b) Rapidplay Club Championship.
- (c) Weekend Club Championship on a weekend.
- (d) Continuing with Club Championship over the summer.

HS expressed his dislike of the shorter time controls which would be involved in either a Rapidplay Club Championship or the return to our previous format of summer programme (with a variety of blitz and rapidplay events). We agreed to consult members as to preferences.

**Action: SL to consult members ahead of next season. Committee to consider responses and also options for welcoming new members.**

SL commented that our web hosts had been taken over by someone else and that one side effect of this has been that many more of the emails sent to the membership will have been classed as Spam. In all likelihood, many people will not have seen any emails from SL over the summer (with the possible exception of the email about the AGM, which SL sent differently). Even ignoring those problems, it is difficult to keep the "mailing list" up to date. Last year SL raised the possibility of using an online system, such as MailChimp, which would both allow users to update their own contact details and avoid the new problem of emails being treated as Spam. This was not approved at the last AGM, though with privacy concerns in mind we did decide that when new members join we should make it clear what will happen with their contact details. We agreed then that SL would draw up some "Contact Cards" for the collection of personal details, which would briefly explain what we do with the information collected. SL produced these recently and showed them to those present. A fuller explanation of what we do with people's personal details is included in the provisional Privacy Notice, the URL of which is included on the contact cards. SL sought approval for the Privacy Notice, and no objections were raised.

SL commented that *consent* is only one of the grounds on which the GDPR permits the storage and processing of personal data. Another is *legitimate interests*. Club members obviously do give their details to the club at some stage and would reasonably expect them to be used for contacting them in relation to club activities. [Note from the Admin Secretary: the ECF's guidance has been that, though it will depend on exactly what clubs do, most clubs should find *legitimate interests* to provide sufficient grounds for their handling of personal data.]

SL has been investigating other alternative systems for managing contact details, and is currently looking at an online service called TeamStuff, which can be used to manage teams and player availability. It would also allow people to manage their own contact details and for those with the relevant permissions to email some or all members. The basic functionality is free, but improved functionality costs \$5.99 (approximately £5) per member.

**Actions: SL to update the Privacy Notice, so that it is no longer regarded as provisional. SL to complete testing of TeamStuff, and to seek potential objections from members, which will be considered by the committee. If adopted, SL to include it as appropriate in an updated version of the Privacy Notice.**

#### 4. Election of Officers

The incumbent officers are all willing to continue in those roles, and were duly re-elected *en bloc*. No-one stepped forward to take on the running of the club championship, so that responsibility remains with SL, although a volunteer will be sought. The committee is therefore as follows:

Office	Office Holder
President	Steve Ruthen
Match Secretary	Bob Jones
Admin Secretary	Steve Lovell
Treasurer	Hugo Smith
Club Championship Organiser	Vacant
Ex Officio	Colin Roberts

SL queried whether it might be useful to also have a Social Secretary, and said they might be responsible for organising non-chess events, and perhaps events such as our match against Hammersmith in April. Although no-one volunteered to take on this role, the meeting agreed that this would be a valuable addition to the committee.

**Action: SL to seek volunteers for the roles of Club Championship Organiser and Social Secretary.**

#### 5. Teams and Captains for Next Season

BJ circulated his draft squads for league teams in the coming season. There are five teams in the SCCA (Divisions 1:2:3 distributed 2:2:1) and six in the BAFL (3:1:2). The two teams in SCCA Division 1 will be "paired" with two teams in BAFL Division 1 (the third being the Ipswich based team). The paired teams would essentially use the same personnel and due to the way fixtures are scheduled this should ensure that they are not required to play twice in the same week (or even on the same evening), as happened with Bury A and the Cobras last season. SL commented that he liked this

“pairing” of teams. HS expressed concern about the size of the squad for the Bury E team in SCCA Division 3 where we have only one team, and was concerned about how few games this might mean he was likely to be able to play. HS speculated whether it might be possible instead to add an extra team in SCCA Division 3. BJ expressed some sympathy with this. SL noted that at the very least we’d need to find another captain if we wanted an additional team.

JB asked how many games a team is expected to play in a season, and BJ confirmed that this would normally be approximately 14, though not all players would be expected to play in all games.

No other concerns were raised about the draft squads.

**Action: BJ to ascertain from SCCA Division 3 players their preference for one or two teams next season.**

## **6. BACL and SCCA Matters**

BJ summarised the main outcomes from the recent SCCA AGM. Other than in the lowest division (currently division 3), no player may play for more than one team in a division. Upwards and (less frequently) downwards substitutions are still permitted, though as previously these are subject to limits.

Fischer timing was trialled as the default in SCCA Division 1. This trial was judged a success and has now ceased to be a trial. A similar trial has now been introduced for lower divisions, though there is currently some debate about to which Divisions the AGM agreed cover with this trial.

The BACL AGM takes place on Monday 9 July at our venue. We are not aware of any especially contentious proposals. There will be some discussion of the make-up of the various divisions, and the Roger Goldsmith may be returning to a two “Division” structure with different grading limits.

Despite the quiet seeming agenda, it would be good to be well represented at the meeting, especially since it’s being held at our venue. SL, BJ and JB all confirmed that they would attend.

## **7. Upcoming Events**

- The Club Championship continues over the summer, with occasional interruptions for other activities. See the Summer Programme on the website for details.
- The BACL AGM takes place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July at our venue.
- The BACL Jamboree will probably take place on 6<sup>th</sup> September at our venue. This should be confirmed at the BACL AGM.

## **8. Any other Business**

### Clocks for sale

Having purchased new clocks for the club, the old clocks are looking for new homes. Club members may purchase them from the club for £10. Any remaining will be sold on eBay. Two of those present bought a clock.

## Bury St Edmunds and Suffolk Chess

EP and BJ recently discussed matters of interest to local chess with a view to moving things forward in various respects.

### *1. Junior and Adults Mixing*

Our current set up makes it difficult for strong juniors to mix with adults and play challenging opponents, and this limits the progress they can make. EP proposed that we should consider bringing the adults and juniors together. This would be done by inviting the adults to join the second hour of the junior club, and perhaps to stay for an additional hour once the juniors depart (stronger juniors might stay on). Ideally, this would be combined with moving the junior club to the Adult venue, but for it to continue to meet on a Friday. This concept was well received but with some concerns raised about practicalities including costs and the availability of space at Moreton Hall Community Centre.

### *2. Suffolk Chess Website*

EP gave high praise for the website and the regular articles written by BJ, but said it might be improved by adding contributions from other authors (such as himself, John Peters, Andrew Lewis, Steve Ruthen).

The styling of the site could do with some work as it has remained unchanged since it began in 2012 and now looks somewhat dated.

### *3. Chess in Schools*

Relatively few local schools have a chess club. But the educational benefits of chess are well attested. EP, BJ and TK are planning to visit schools to “sell chess” to them. They can also assist by supplying equipment. TK currently has a vast supply of chess sets (450+) donated to him following the closure of a chess supplier.

### *4. Chess Coaching for schools/clubs*

There are several people who coach, or could coach. Some are willing to pay for coaching, though rates vary enormously. EP is looking for volunteers and also to create a centralised list of those willing and able to coach juniors and beginners. You needn't be a titled player, but a DBS check would certainly be useful.

## Fundraising

DP queried whether special events might be used both to raise the profile of the club and to raise funds. He gave the example of a simul with a titled player and said he'd be willing to play perhaps £20 for this privilege. SL expressed some scepticism about this, saying we'd tried it previously and had at best broken even after taking into account the fees of the visiting player. However MH and EP both volunteered their services and suggested others such as FM Andrew Lewis might be willing to do the same. DP also mentioned the idea of club sponsorship.

**Action(s): SL, BJ and MH to liaise about a Simul. SL to consider approaching businesses about sponsoring the club.**

Close of Meeting 9:15pm