

**Minutes of the
Bury St Edmunds Chess Club: Annual General Meeting 2019
Thursday 4 July at 7:30pm**

1. Welcome

Present:

Steve Ruthen (SR), Bob Jones (BJ), Hugo Smith (HS), Steve Lovell (SL), Alan Watkins (AW), Colin Roberts (CR), Matt Carter, Jan Balogh

Apologies:

Stephen Lewis, Laureano Garcia (LG), Ed Player (EP), Mike Harris

2. Approval of Minutes of the AGM Held 5 July 2018

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of events.

Action: SL to republish the 2018 minutes, removing their provisional status.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes and Approval of Agenda

There were no matters arising and the agenda was accepted without comment.

4. Reports

Match Secretary – Bob Jones

BJ summarised the season just completed. The Club's successes included becoming Champions of Division 1 of the Suffolk League (B team) and winning Division 3 of the BAFL (Vipers). CR congratulated SR for captaining his side to winning Division 1. BJ noted that there had been a number of whole match defaults but these were largely due to inexperienced captains, and that holding a pre-season Captains' meeting again might help prevent a reoccurrence.

Action: BJ to organise a meeting of captains before the commencement of the new season.

Treasurer – Hugo Smith

HS circulated a statement of the accounts, both in cashflow terms, reconciling to the bank account, and in annualised terms, showing the variance from last year. The annualised accounts show a small deficit, and since the balance remains comfortable, HS recommended that club subscription fees should remain unchanged. The meeting accepted this recommendation.

Admin Secretary – Steve Lovell

SL reported on the Club Championship, which has 14 entrants this year, up from 10 and 13 in the previous two years.

SL also briefly described the newly introduced "Club Ladder", which will allow members to get graded games even when not involved in league fixtures or the club championship. The first games have already been played.

5. Election of Officers

All current role holders agreed to continue and were elected without opposition. As agreed at the previous AGM, the Club is seeking to appoint a Social Secretary. The Committee also wanted to invite Ed Player to join it as his recent input had been invaluable. Alan Watkins offered his services as Social Secretary and was duly elected, along with Ed Player who was elected as an ex officio member. Later in the meeting BJ was appointed to the role of Safeguarding Officer. The new committee is therefore as follows:

President	Steve Ruthen
Match Secretary	Bob Jones
Admin Secretary	Steve Lovell
Treasurer	Hugo Smith
Social Secretary	Alan Watkins
Ex Officio Member	Colin Roberts
Ex Officio Member	Ed Player
Club Championship Organiser	Vacant
Safeguarding Officer	Bob Jones

6. Teams and Captains for Next Season

The Match Secretary outlined plans for the forthcoming season. With a number of new teams, and several captains becoming unavailable, he had had to find four new captains, and was pleased to report that he had been successful in this. The Bury E team (BACL) has, after many years, agreed to take a new name and will be known as the Bury Earwigs.

On the same subject, the meeting discussed whether the Bury teams in the Suffolk League might be rebadged so that Bury A and B might be the Division 1 teams, C and D the Division 2 teams, and E and F the Division 3 teams. The meeting agreed that we should seek to do this.

Note from the Admin Secretary: Since the meeting, the SCCA competition secretary has declined the request to rename the Bury teams.

BJ commented that the club has several new members including Chris Dorrington, 221 ECF, and promising juniors include William Gu and Raf Calumpiano.

As a final note, BJ explained that Ipswich based Bury Scorpions team has been disbanded as several members of the squad will not be available this season. The remainder will be allocated to other teams.

7. Relationship with the Junior Club

EP had provided a paper on the proposed new closer relationship with the Junior club, which was summarised by BJ. These new arrangements were well received by the meeting.

Noting the increase in venue hire (comparing the junior club's current costs with the new costs on Friday nights) CR queried how these increased costs would be met. In response, BJ explained that the finances of the Junior club would be kept separate, that juniors will pay a slightly increased subscription and that adults in attendance later on Friday evenings would again pay £1, but that this would go towards the junior club's finances. The Junior club also has sizeable reserves which will be drawn upon if necessary.

8. BACL and SCCA Matters

SCCA Matters

- (1) The SCCA has replaced the Cup and Plate competition with divisional rapidplay knockout tournaments. Matches will consist of teams playing each other twice on the same evening.
- (2) At its AGM the SCCA adopted a new Safeguarding Policy. This policy was amended from the ECF equivalent by BJ and Tim Kent and becomes the default policy for any member clubs which do not have their own policy in place. CR commented that he had not read the policy but that he would be prepared to accept it on the recommendation of the committee. HS said that as long as the club's leadership felt comfortable that it would be able to operate in accordance with the policy (and would be happy to testify to that effect in court in required), he also would accept the policy.

There was only one small amendment from the version discussed at the SCCA AGM, namely the removal of the clause saying that the club should be "child centred". Other than this, the SCCA policy, with suitable amendments, to the name of the organisation, and the relevant contact details, was adopted.

The policy provides for a new role of Safeguarding Officer. BJ offered his services in this regard as having completed much relevant training, and was duly elected to this post.

Action: BJ to provide finalised wording. SL to add this to the published list of policies on the club website.

SL tabled a question from LG about whether any club members would need DBS certificates (criminal records checks). BJ explained that this would not be necessary except for anyone working closely with children in an official capacity, such as a regular coach at the Junior club. SL asked and answered a follow up question about transporting junior players to away games. The club view is that this transport, while necessary, is not conducted under the auspices of the club. In the event that the club specifically lays on transport for an event, it may be necessary to look at the arrangements in more detail.

SR proposed a vote of thanks to BJ and Tim Kent for their hard work on this policy.

BACL Matters

- (1) There are several proposals for changes to BACL rules, most notably changes to the divisional structure. The first such proposal suggests moving from three to four divisions, while the second suggests splitting Division 3 into a Division 3 East and a Division 3 West. The meeting opposed both proposals on broadly the same grounds: that it would make for fewer games or games against a smaller variety of opposition.

Note from the Admin Secretary: neither proposal was accepted by the league AGM, so things continue as they were.

- (2) There is a proposal to adopt the county match rules in relation to the use of mobile phones. Those rules do not penalise the first sound made by a mobile, but the second one. In that respect they are softer rules. However, they are also harder in that if a second sound is made it doesn't matter whether or not the game was already completed. We agreed to oppose this change.

Note from the Admin Secretary: the BACL did not fully adopt this change. Rather they agreed that games should be lost on the second sound of a phone during a game.

- (3) Our own club had made a proposal to amend the BACL Fischer time control to bring it into line with the SCCA equivalent at 75 mins + 15 seconds per move. The meeting agreed to support this proposal.

Note from the Admin Secretary: this was heavily opposed at the AGM, partly due to the possibility of long games but also because in other leagues 70 mins + 15 seconds is in operation.

- (4) There is a proposal to change the voting arrangements at the AGM. At present a person must be in attendance in order to cast their vote (each club has one vote plus an additional vote for each team in the league). The proposal is to change this so that a single attendee may act as a proxy for others, and could therefore count as holding more than a single vote. Amongst others, CR strongly opposed this suggesting it discouraged attendance at the AGM, would lessen the quality of the discussion since there would be fewer contributors the meeting, and required decisions to be made in advance without hearing discussion at the meeting. The meeting agreed to oppose this change.

Note from the Admin Secretary: this proposal was rejected at the BACL AGM on very similar grounds.

9. Upcoming Events

BACL AGM on Tuesday 16th July (at Linton Venue)

Given the significance of the proposals for changing the division structure with the BACL, SR explained the importance of our attending the BACL AGM on Tuesday 16th July (at Linton Venue), and sought volunteers to attend. SR, SL, BJ, HS and AW agreed to attend.

Jamboree: 5th Sept 2019 at MHCC - starting 7:15pm for prize giving

10. Any other Business

CR mooted whether it might be worth considering a cross-league alternative to the Cup and Plate / Rapidplay and Roger Goldsmith competitions. BJ explained that this would have to wait until next summer's AGMs as the deadlines for making such proposals had already passed.

Action: The Committee to consider the merits of this idea and consider making a proposal in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:45pm.