

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the Suffolk County Chess Association, held at Willow Farm, Pettaugh on Thursday 20 June 2013.

Present: Colin Roberts (President), Bob Jones (Secretary), Mike McNaughton (Competitions Secretary), Ian Wallis (First Team Captain), Vicky Allen (Women's Organiser)

1. Apologies: Received from: Adrian Sanderson (Treasurer), Dave Wild (County Results Officer). Jim Buis (Correspondence Captain). Each had provided written reports.

ACTION

2. Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 29 May 2012: No Minutes were available for this meeting; it appeared that the previous Secretary had not written any.

3. Matters Arising: There being no minutes, there were no matters arising. However there was a brief discussion on ECF membership. It appeared that almost all Suffolk players were now ECF members.

4. Action points from the 2012 AGM:

- (i) Tim Lunn had undertaken to summarise the main points arising from the 2011 AGM. **TL**
- (ii) Ian Wallis, as First Team Captain, has possession of the new equipment (20 sets/boards and five digital clocks).
- (iii) Most trophies had been located. The Bury St Edmunds club will consider replacing the missing Division 2 trophy, since they (as the Bury Cannons) were the last recipients of the trophy, in 2009. In future, the names of individuals who received trophies (on behalf of their club) would be recorded in order to improve traceability. **BJ**
- (iv) Bob Jones had advised the ECF that he was SCCA Secretary and would receive any notifications concerning meetings and voting. **BJ**
- (v) Bob Jones had provided a website for news about Suffolk Chess.
- (vi) Adam Hunt had declined the invitation to continue as Suffolk Junior Chess representative.
- (vii) No insurance cover had been arranged for trophies.
- (viii) Adrian Sanderson had advised all affiliated clubs of the implications of the ECF membership scheme.
- (ix) Mike McNaughton had completed a Directory of Clubs and finalised entries for cup competitions (in 2012/13 season).
- (x) Rob Sanders had made a proposal for changing the format of cup competitions.
- (xi) There was no interest in u140/u120 or u100 teams, mainly due to the lack of captains for these teams.
- (xii) The EGM planned for 6 October 2012 did not take place as insufficient signatories to the motion for it were present.

5. Constitution: It was agreed that the following amendments to the Constitution would be proposed to the AGM:

- (i) Para 4. Replace "Suffolk Chess Journal editor" with "Publicity Officer".
- (ii) Para 5.1 Replace "on or about the first Tuesday of September each year" with "as soon as is reasonably practical after the end of each season".
- (iii) Para 8. Delete 'unaccompanied'. Also, Bob Jones undertook to provide a draft Child Protection Policy, as required by the Constitution. **BJ**

6. Rules: Mike McNaughton had proposed a number of minor rule changes, which would be put to the forthcoming AGM:

- (i) Rule 11c. Replace “on a lower board” with “on a higher board”.
- (ii) Rule 34 (new). To read, “For the purposes of rules 30 to 33, references to a player’s grade are to be construed as referring to a player’s Rapidplay grade if he has one. For a player who has no Rapidplay grade his standard grade, or failing that his estimated standard grade, is to be used.”
- (iii) Rules 34 to 59 to be re-numbered 35 to 60.

The meeting considered the current rule on player registration (Rule 7). It was agreed that a proposal would be put to the AGM to remove the registration requirement completely. This would avoid the need for a sanction to be imposed if Rule 7 was broken. If this proposal was not approved at the AGM, then an amendment to the current rule would be considered. Mike McNaughton would provide suitable wording, which would include the need for players to be bona fide members of the club for which they played, together with the sanction that would be imposed if a player was not pre-registered.

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The meeting also considered the issue of defaults (Rule 11b). The meeting was split as to whether defaults should be on the bottom board, or on the actual board where a player was absent. It was agreed that an amendment to Rule 11b would be put to the AGM, stating that, *“Any defaults must be on the lowest boards. Contravention of this rule will be penalised by a deduction of one point from the match score of the offending team for every board defaulted otherwise than in accordance with this rule, unless the team satisfies the Competitions Secretary that the default occurred due to some cause which could not reasonably have been foreseen and that the team captain believed on reasonable grounds the missing player was likely to be able to play.”*

The meeting also considered the situation that occurred in January when John Peters (Bury St Edmunds) had played in a match without having been registered by his club. The original decision by Mike McNaughton and the subsequent appeal, heard by Adrian Sanderson, were reviewed. The meeting agreed that proper procedures had been followed and that there was no need for further action.

7. Officers’ reports:

7.1. Secretary. Bob Jones reported that he had set up a new website for Suffolk Chess, which to date had seen 192 postings and over 29,000 page views. He was congratulated for this initiative. It was agreed that this venture effectively replaced the former Suffolk Chess Journal and that the Committee post of editor should be re-named Publicity Officer. The Secretary had also visited a number of schools and found two people to act as Under 11 and Under 18 Team Managers, thus enabling Suffolk teams to be entered in national competitions.

7.2 Treasurer. Adrian Sanderson had presented draft accounts for the year. It was noted that the current bank balance was not indicated and he would be asked to provide this. It was agreed that no insurance cover would be taken out for equipment and trophies, as the premium would be prohibitively expensive. Most household policies should cover losses if these were incurred in members’ homes. It was also agreed to purchase five further digital clocks for use in the coming season. The income and expenditure for the 2013 Suffolk Closed Championships would be shown in the next year’s accounts; there was therefore no need to amend the current accounts year from the existing period 1 June to 31 May.

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7.3. Competitions Secretary. Mike McNaughton reported the outcome of league competitions, as follows:

Division 1 winners – Ipswich A

Division 1 Player of the Year – Shaun Munson (Ipswich)

Division 2 winners – Bury St Edmunds B

Division 2 Player of the Year – Bob Jones (Bury St Edmunds)

Division 3 winners – Ipswich D

Division 3 Player of the Year – Peter Chadwick (Saxmundham)

Under 125 winners – Felixstowe

Under 145 winners – Ipswich

League Cup – Final still to be played, between Manningtree and Ipswich.

Mike McNaughton also advised that the forthcoming season would be his last in this post.

7.4 County Results Officer. Dave Wild had provided a written report. It was noted that the Final of the Norfolk and Suffolk Cup (between Ipswich and Norfolk & Norwich) had not yet been played. Members wished to congratulate Dave for his excellent website and the ease of submitting results.

7.5 County First Team Captain. Ian Wallis reported that Suffolk had won the EACU competition and had been invited to enter the Open section of the national competition. Due to last season's 'debacle' when the team had defaulted, due to player unavailability, Ian had decided this year to decline nomination (and thus avoid defaulting). He had only done this after consulting with many players. He was prepared to continue in his role, but only at the Union stage. If another person could be found who was prepared to take the team on to national stages, then he would be willing to stand down in favour of this replacement.

7.6 County u160 Team. Bob Jones produced a written report which showed that 28 players had represented Suffolk this season. After finishing second in the EACU competition, they had lost narrowly to Nottinghamshire, on board count, in the National quarter-finals.

7.7 Women's Chess. Vicky Allen reported on a successful competition in which two adults and five juniors participated. The winner was Emilia Jewell of Bury St Edmunds. Vicky suggested that the trophy should be presented to her either at the Bury Jamboree, or at a suitable club evening.

7.8 Correspondence Chess. Jim Buis provided a written report which indicated that the Suffolk team was likely to finish in a mid-table position. There were still three results outstanding (from the eight-board team).

8. Nomination of Officers for the 2013/14 season: All current officers were prepared to stand again. It was noted that there are two vacancies (for Vice-President and Junior Organiser). Clubs would be asked to consider nominations for these positions when information regarding the forthcoming AGM was sent out.

9. Agenda for AGM on 3 September 2013: It was agreed that the format would be similar to that in previous years. The Secretary would draft an agenda. A proposal from the Committee would be put to the AGM that the use of Fischer timing (75 minutes + 10 seconds per move from move one) would be allowed in standard play graded games. Both players must agree to its use, otherwise the current Rule 5 would apply.

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10. Any Other Business: The meeting considered Rob Sanders' proposals regarding cup competitions. It was agreed that any changes could not be implemented before the 2014/15 season, so his proposals would be debated at the forthcoming AGM. Colin Roberts suggested that it might be appropriate to set up a working party to look into this. Jim Buis' report also included some ideas for cup competitions.

The meeting closed at 10:18pm.