

Buckinghamshire County Chess Association

AGM – 6th October 2021 at Gerrards Cross at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Paddy Collins

Present:

Steve Law, Michael Price, Ian Hall, Tim Wheeler, Duncan Clarke, Peter Thomas, Steven Barnes, Tony Ganner, Max Winberg, Gerry Grimmette, Graham Brown, Herbie Ferris, Dave Turner, Roger De Coverley, Paddy Collins

1) Introductory Remarks:

The chairman (Paddy Collins) welcomed everyone for a well attended meeting, and in the absence of the secretary it was agreed that Paddy Collins would take the minutes.

2) Apologies:

Joe Priestley, Jonathan Melsom (by email but not picked up till after the meeting)
The format of the meeting was the agenda previously circulated.

3) Minutes of previous AGM of 24th June 2019:

Agreed.

4) Matters arising (where not covered elsewhere in agenda):

None.

5) Presentation and Agreement of Accounts:

Joe Priestley circulated summary accounts showing Income £962.27, Expenditure £665.92, Cash at Bank £3513.15.

Ian Hall added that he was holding some funds which he would pas on to the treasurer in due course.

6) Officers reports (if any):

Chairman:

Pleased to see the AGM so well attended, apart from that nothing to report.

Secretary:

As we had no secretary there is nothing to report.

Treasurer:

See above

League Controller:

No prizes given.

When the pandemic struck, Slough were top.

Division 3 seemed to be working.

Individual Competition Controller:

2019/20 Competition cut short by pandemic. Although not all games completed it was agreed by the meeting that:-

Division 1 was won by Ray Sayers and he would be awarded the prize.

Division 2 prize money to be shared equally by Duncan Clarke, Andrew Challenger & Richard Cranston.

Division 3 insufficient games so no prizes awarded.

Match Captains:

Ian Hall had done some polling and found that there were sufficient Open and U150 players in Bucks.

Hampshire are fielding just one team this year and the other counties hadn't yet responded.

Open Team Match Captain's Report:

Played 5 games out of the 6 scheduled. Lost 4, won 1

Under 150 Captain's Report:

Played 6, lost 5 won 1

Junior Officer: No report. The only clubs offering a juniors section are Gerrards Cross and Slough.

ECF Delegate: No report at the meeting but it was subsequently discovered that Jonathan Melsom had sent in an email report to the chairman on the day but the email hadn't been picked up till the next morning.

The email stated that he would continue in post till after the ECF meeting on 16th October and then hand over to his successor.

SCCU Delegate: No report

Grading Officer:

Dave Turner is now using new ELO grading and the new ECF league management system (which is much easier than the previous method).

Webmaster:

Nothing to report

7) Election of officers:

As some existing officers were absent it was assumed in their absence that they would be willing to stand again.

Chairman: Paddy Collins

Treasurer: Joe Priestley

Secretary: Vacant – waiting for a volunteer

League Controller: Steve Law

Individual Competition Controller: Dave Turner

Match Captain Chiltern League: Ian Hall

Junior Officer: It was agreed to abolish this post. Clubs running junior sections could self manage.

ECF Delegate: Tony Ganner (see note above)

SCCU Delegate: Vacant

Grading Officer: Dave Turner

Webmaster: Dave Turner

Accounts examiner: Duncan Clarke

Fleming Trophy Match against Bedfordshire

Steve Laws and Ian Hall to explore the possibility of resurrecting this match.

Bucks League Chess Tournament

Tony Ganner offered to run an over-the-board tournament for all members of the Bucks League if there is sufficient demand. He is hoping to arrange it this side of Christmas.

8) Covid related issues

As expected there was a long discussion on this subject with a variety of views on the wearing of masks and vaccination status, how to establish vaccination status, restrictions imposed by venues and restrictions imposed by individual clubs and what restrictions, if any, should be mandated by the Bucks County Chess Association. Slough Club in particular had issues around vaccinations and masks.

Firstly these two motions were proposed:-

Motion 1:-

The Bucks League will not impose any restrictions other than those that apply by law.

Motion 2:-

All members of teams must be double vaccinated except juniors and the medically exempt.

The vote was taken on Motion 1 first. This was carried by 11 votes in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

This automatically meant that motion 2 fell.

Then there was another motion specifically to clarify the position with masks:-

The League shall recognise that the wearing of masks is a personal choice and that no player shall be disadvantaged by their choice in this matter. In particular, a player or players who are prevented from playing a league game, or a team to play a match, due to their choice shall win the game or match by default. [By way of example, if any team should require or insist that all players in a match wear masks, then any player of the opposing team who chooses not to wear a mask shall win their game by default]. The league recognises that a match could be defaulted by any team insisting that players wear a mask or insist that players do not wear a mask.

This was carried with 8 votes for, none against and 7 abstentions.

9) League format proposals:

Agreed as below.

Number of players to a team in league 1 and league 2 to be unchanged (6 and 5 respectively)

As before the only limit to players playing for more than 1 team is on grade.

Assuming only 2 divisions then ...

No players 160 (1900) or over should play in division 2, unless a club does not have a team in division 1.

Players 135 (1712.5->1700) and under can play unlimited times in division 1 and still play in division 2.

If a club has 2 teams (or more) in a division then, for division 1 players 160 (1900) or over should be nominated for a team, for division 2 players 135 (1712.5->1700) or over should be nominated for a team. Nominated players cannot play for more than one team in the same division.

As grades are now calculated monthly, for the purposes of the above, the grade throughout the season will be that as at August 2021.

10) Time Controls

Agreed to change the time controls to be “All moves in 90 minutes”

11) Split of teams between divisions

It is likely to be teams in division 1 and up to 8 teams in division 2. This was deemed acceptable.

Steve Laws to do what he considers necessary. Season to extend to 15th May 2022 but he will endeavour to not give Wycombe and Hazlemere home games late in the season.

12) Setting of fee for 2021/22 season

Agreed that as we have ample reserves, all fees payable to Bucks County Chess Association are to be waived for this coming season. This also applies to County fees and Bucks Individual.

Also the following motion was proposed:-

The League recognises that it has an excessive surplus of funds and shall make available a grant of a maximum of £250 to any Club in the league that fields one or more teams to play in the 2021/2022 season or has fielded a team in any one of the preceding 5 seasons. The Club shall be entitled to only one grant of a maximum of £250 in the 2021/2022 season and must apply to the League Treasurer or Secretary by no later than 31st December 2021 if they wish to take advantage of this offer.

It was carried by 10 in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions

PS

As the post of Secretary is currently vacant please contact either the Treasurer or Chairman.

Also motion proposed that:-

All clubs must undertake to have digital clocks capable of increments for season 2022/23.

The vote was initially tied (there was 1 abstention).

The chairman used his casting vote to carry the motion.

13) Setting of prizes. Agreed to keep the same as last year:-

Division 1 Winner £100

Division 2 Winner £60

Division 3 Winner £40 (if it exists)

Fred Day Cup Division 1 £50, Division 2 £35

14) AOB:

Agreed that if lockdown recurs, then the chairman will call a virtual meeting.

Concern that people who have been playing online may not return to over-the-board but this does not seem to be happening.

Meeting closed 9:30 p.m.