

SOMERSET COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF 122nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at The Admiral's Landing, Bridgwater on 5th June 2017

Attendees : T Alsop, M Cooper, B Edgell (President), R Fenton, J Fewkes, D. Graham, G Greenland, R Harris, G Jepps, C Lamming, D Marshall, C McKinley, J Parsons, A Stonebridge, M Turner, G Udell, M Ward, (17 members)

1. Apologies for absence : were received from G Berryman, N Senior and a corporate apology from "Bath Chess Club".

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 121st A.G.M. : these were accepted and then countersigned by the President.

3. Matters Arising from the 121st A.G.M. : SCCA Rules - paragraph titled "eligibility for Somerset Cup matches". M Worrall asked about the removal of the stipulation that "to be eligible for Somerset Cup matches a player must have played in at least one match for the Club concerned, either in the current or the previous season"

It was agreed by the meeting that we would carry on as we are - so no change.

4. Presentation of Trophy winners 2016/2017:

| Competition | MAY 2015 | MAY 2016 | MAY 2017 |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| Somerset Cup | Weston Super Mare | Taunton | Trowbridge |
| Div 1 | Glastonbury | Yeovil | Yeovil |
| Div 2 East | Trowbridge | Trowbridge | Trowbridge |
| Div 2 West | Weston Super Mare | Glastonbury | Sedgemoor |
| Div 3 East | Norton Radstock | Frome | Frome |
| Div 3 West | Weston Super Mare | Yeovil | 4 way tie between Weston super Mare, Sedgemoor, Glastonbury and Yeovil |

5. Treasurer's Report:

| | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Receipts | | | |
| Affiliation Fees | 133.50 | 105.50 | 182.00 |
| Frome share of website charges | 35.92 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Bank interest | 0.98 | 0.90 | 1.03 |
| County Chess surplus excluding WECU fees | 37.00 | 37.50 | 42.00 |
| "Pay to play" fees | 88.00 | 88.00 | 117.50 |
| Total receipts | 297.40 | 231.90 | 360.53 |
| Payments | | | |
| Website fees | 71.84 | 21.53 | 35.92 |
| SCCS affiliation to WECU | 55.00 | 55.00 | 51.00 |
| ECF Yearbook | 0.00 | 0.00 | 35.00 |
| Secretary's expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Engraving | 8.50 | 17.00 | 8.50 |
| "Pay to play" fees | 90.00 | 106.00 | 117.50 |
| Equipment / Room Hire for County Team | 0.00 | 272.65 | 37.50 |
| Total payments | 225.34 | 472.18 | 285.42 |
| Surplus | 72.06 | -240.28 | 75.11 |
| End of Year balance | 2520.36 | 2280.08 | 2368.69 |

Note: Savings account increased by £13.00 as one Club's League fees paid in.

2017/18 : Fees will remain unchanged

6. Other Reports. The following Officers reported to the meeting:

6.1 Match Captain: reported the following results for 2017:

| Div 1 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|----------|--------|------------|--------------|
| Cornwall | W 11-5 | W 13.5-2.5 | D 8-8 |

| Div 1 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|----------|--------|-----------|-------------------|
| Devon | W 10-6 | L 7.5-8.5 | L 3.5-12.5 |
| Glos | W 10-6 | W 13-3 | L 6.5-9.5 |
| Hants | W 12-4 | W default | DNP |
| Position | 1 | 1/2 | 4 |

| Div 2 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|----------|-----------|------------|-------------------|
| Cornwall | W 8-3 | W 13.5-2.5 | Not played |
| Devon | L 5.5-6.5 | L 2.5-9.5 | L 1-11 |
| Position | 1 | 2/3 | 2/3 |

| ECF Minor Counties | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2015QF | Cambridge W 8.5-7.5 |
| 2015SF | Essex L |
| 2016QF | Suffolk L 1.5-14.5 |
| 2017 | Did not enter |

| WECU Jamboree | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 2016 Open Section | Somerset 6/12 |
| 2016 Graded Section | Somerset 4/12 |

6.2 League Secretaries : Final positions for 2016/2017

Division 1: Yeovil 18, Taunton 10, Millfield School 9, Frome 8, Glastonbury 7, Wells 6

Division 2 East: Trowbridge 9, Norton Radstock 5, Frome 4

Division 2 West: Sedgemoor 20, Yeovil 18, Glastonbury 13, Chard/Ilminster 12,
Wellington 9, Weston-s-Mare 7, Taunton 5

Division 3 East: Frome 13, Wells 10, Bath 9, Trowbridge 5, Norton Radstock 3

Division 3 West: Yeovil 18, Sedgemoor 18, Weston-s-Mare 18, Glastonbury 18,
Taunton Knights 13, Chard & Ilminster 12, Wellington 9, Taunton Bishops 6

Wells Chess Club & Millfield School were welcomed as new entrants into the League. A rundown of the season's best players by game results was announced (see website for details).

Both League Secretaries requested that Clubs should report game results and postponed matches more promptly if possible.

6.3 Correspondence Chess Match Captain:

J Fewkes reported that 8 players completed two games each and there were 14 wins and 2 draws. Consequently the team won promotion.

6.4 Tournament Secretary: A detailed written report of the 28th Frome Congress held from 12th to 14th May 2017 was circulated. The Somerset Trophies were won as follows:

| Tournament | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Entries | 153 | 179 | 188 |
| Denys Bonner Trophy (Open) | Matthew Turner | David Buckley | Andrew Gregory |
| Leon York Memorial (Major) | Andrew Gregory | Tim Woodward | Tim Woodward |
| Roy Hossell (Intermediate) | Chris Snook-Lumb | Hugo Fowler | David MCGeeney |
| Cyril Chapman (Minor) | Ivan Stringer | Alastair Drummond | Jack Opie |
| Jean Mackreth | Eva Goldie | Robert Skeen | Jack Opie |

Team winners were Bath.

Special mention was made that in two years time both the current Tournament Secretary - G Jepps, and Congress Treasurer -G Udell, will have completed 30 years in their posts and it is desirable that potential candidates for succession can be found as soon as possible.

Thanks go to the other members of the Congress organising team, that were : C Purry, C Lamming and K Paine.

6.5 Results Secretary:

- 1) Clubs are reminded that they can make use of the "Report" data in Score Checker to check whether they have players who have played more than six games, but who are not yet members of the ECF.
- 2) For Club results to be included in the end-of-January list, the results must reach the Results Secretary by 15th January 2018.
- 3) Score checker can allow team captains (with a password) to enter their match results directly. Please contact G Jepps for further information.

It was noted that the ECF have launched a web-based League Results Service which will improve the accuracy of grade processing from all results submitted as it is taken up nationwide.

6.6 ECF Delegate: ECF membership fees for adults next season will be Bronze £16, Silver £23.50, and Gold £34. Juniors receive a discount.

ECF meetings attended this season can be accessed via the website below and then by navigating to 'General' and then 'ECF Finance Meeting '17': <http://www.chessit.co.uk/phpforum>

6.7 WECU Executive Delegate: The next WECU Jamboree will be held on 17 September 2017 and the venue will be Kennford in Exeter. A Match Captain is required. County matches will go ahead as soon a new Captain is appointed.

Ben Edgell has resigned and was thanked for completing the Captaincy duties during the last year by Chris Mckinley, who also stressed how tricky the job was, especially when getting a team organised. See website report for detailed County results here:

<http://www.chessdevon.org.uk/HTML/News/wecu/woecu.htm>

6.8 Junior Secretary: No report, but the meeting recognised the good work being undertaken by Chris Strong.

6.9 Other : All volunteers for the S.C.C.A. were thanked by Ben Edgell.

7. Discussion about ECF membership - led by Ben Edgell:

In a drive to aid Clubs capture new chess players nationwide, there was an explanation given about the new ECF initiative regarding "three graded classic time interval games for free" then the minimum requirement for Bronze membership, and the facility for 6 rapid-play games with a similar requirement for membership.

8. SCCA Rules change - proposal from Gerry Udell (Frome Chess Club):

"That we change Rule 3b to: 'If a player is not present at the start of the game, the opponent shall start his/her clock. A player forfeits the game after 30 minutes.' This is to keep in line with congresses and other chess associations." (Regarding present SCCA Rule 3b. If a player is not present at the start of the game, his/her opponent shall start his/her clock. A player forfeits the game when his/her flag drops at the first time control, that is after 75 minutes).

After a discussion, a vote was taken and this proposal failed by a majority decision.

9. SCCA Rules change - proposal from Gerry Udell (Frome Chess Club):

"To extend the League season from September through to **April or May**, where possible, in order to allow Clubs to have more flexibility in arranging their fixtures".

A vote was taken and this proposal was agreed unanimously.

10. SCCA Rules change [1. General Arrangements & Eligibility (a)] - Proposal from Mike Ward (Taunton Chess Club):

"That in Division 3 the maximum grade be reduced to 125 and the team total to 425. (***)**Amendment** to this proposal introduced by **David Wood (Weston Chess Club)** : 'Accepting the change to an upper limit of 125, wondered whether, for this year, whether the cumulative total would be better set at 440 instead of 425, just to give all clubs a 'bit of wiggle room'.)

After discussion by the meeting, with comments from R Fenton, C Mckinley and representatives of Trowbridge, Glastonbury and Wellington Chess Clubs, a vote was taken on the amendment. This amendment failed; then a vote on the proposal was taken, which also failed.

11. SCCA Rules change [6. Tie-Breaking] - Proposal from Roger Fenton (Glastonbury Chess Club):

"The winning team will be the one that has the higher/highest number of games won over a completed season. If there are an equal number of games won, then the winner will be the team whose players have the lower average grade over the course of the season (excluding games involving ungraded players)".

There was a debate over what method should be used to decide League winners when more than two teams were tied on the same number of points.

An amendment to this proposal was put forward by J Fewkes that in the event of 3 or more teams finishing equal on points, then a tie break by a) matches won, and then b) individual games won, would decide. This amendment to the proposal was voted on and agreed. The League rules will be amended accordingly.

12. Approval of updated SCCA Rules (from 1985): as revised by G.Jepps

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of these revised rules.

13. Election of Officers:

The names of Officers for the past year were as follows and all were re-elected except where indicated:

President: B Edgell

Vice-Presidents: A Bamford, C F Barratt, G T Berryman, B J Francis, G N Jepps, R Maishman, C Winch

Secretary: G. Greenland

Treasurer: C McKinley

League Secretary East & Fixture Secretary: G Udell.(Wishes to step down within 2 years of the Meeting)

League Secretary West: R Fenton

Match Captain: Vacant, but the Management Committee to appoint a new Captain as soon as possible

Correspondence Match Captain: J E Fewkes

Senior Tournament Secretary: G N Jepps

Results Secretary: G N Jepps.

Junior Organiser: C Strong

ECF Delegate: B Edgell.

WECU Executive Delegate: B Edgell

WECU Council Delegate: G N Jepps

14. Appointment of Accounts Examiner & Arbiters:

- Accounts examiner - N Senior
- Arbiters - N Belinfante, G N Jepps, A T Mordue, and J Rudd

15. Any Other Business:

15.1 Alan Stonebridge announced an Internet Somerset County Team on "chess.com.", and distributed flyers.

15.2 There was a discussion with comments by R. Fenton regarding the possibility that all moves could be made within 90 minutes for each player in future League matches.

B Edgell confirmed that it was too late for a formal rule change on this but, if both captains agreed, clocks could be set at 90 minutes rather than 75.

Another option regarding the use of incremental time limits, was put forward by G. Jepps, but it was recognised that there would then be the need for digital clocks to be implemented by all Clubs . **This would be discussed further at the next A.G.M.**

15.3 C Mckinley stated that he had in his possession and care the complete inventory of equipment owned by the SCCA - which includes boards, clocks & sets etc.

15.4 SCCA Officers made available written reports at the meeting giving more details than are recorded in these Minutes. Please contact the Secretary, if you have any further queries or questions.

16. Date of next A.G.M.: 2nd June 2018. Venue: to be advised