

Minutes for the
Bury Area Chess League
Annual General Meeting 2024

Date and Time: 7:30pm, Monday 8th July
Venue: Linton Chess Club

1. Welcome

- a. Present
 - i. Dale Stevenson, Charles Richmond, Konrad Scheffler, Greg Thompson, Rob Saunders, Adrew Hall, Michael Osborne, John Navas, Steve Lovell, Alan Richardson, Bob Jones, Norman Hutchinson, Paul Kemp, Alan Merry, Oliver Lenton, Anthony Chan. (sorry if I have spelt anyone's names wrong!)
- b. Apologies
 - i. Richard Caves, Paul McMahon, John Wickham

2. Minutes of the previous AGM, 1st August @ Linton

- a. Adoption of minutes subject to any corrections
 - i. Adopted
- b. Matters arising from those minutes
 - i. None

3. John Daugman

- a. Anthony spoke about the amazing character of John and that he will be sorely missed. Norman continued, highlighting John's work on iris recognition software, which he donated the patent to charity, and his mentoring of new players. Norman spoke about how John was a dedicated player. A full obituary is on the University (of Cambridge) website.

4. Officers' Reports – any prepared will be circulated

- a. Chairman
 - i. None
- b. Treasurer
 - i. Attached
- c. Fixture Secretary and Roger Goldsmith Organiser
 - i. Reminder for clubs to give a new player a 'local rating' (which should be agreed with BJ) when setting them up on LMS
 - 1. Once this is done, then team captains are able to add players onto their clubs area on the LMS
- d. Ratings Officer
 - i. Any provisional ratings can be amended throughout the season depending on how the new player is fairing.
- e. Internet Officer
 - i. None
- f. Congress Organiser
 - i. None

5. Further Matters for the Consideration of the Meeting

- g. Reminder for clubs to be vigilant with players current ECF membership.
 - i. As there is now rolling membership, it was pointed out that captains can view the clubs ECF page which will allow them to see who has current membership.
- h. GOS winners (Open – Oliver Lenton, U1900 - David Cattermole, U1600 - Michael Osborn)
- i. GOS to be organised by RC
 - i. Entries are up, but more in the lower sections would be good. The closing date for entries will be advertised, and team captains are encouraged to promote this amongst their squad.
- j. Proposed Roger Goldsmith division 2 / league division 4 changes – AC
 - i. A very passionate debate on all of the possible changes was had. Below is the conclusions of the debate / votes.
 1. No east/west split for division 3 or the addition of a new division 4, and for the time control not to change. However, allow for a mutually agreed neutral venue for matches involving teams at the 'extremities' (thou the default position is for 'normal' home and away fixtures) if so agreed by the relevant captains – the match secretary should be informed. Agreed without the need for a vote.
 2. The grading limits for the Roger Goldsmith (RG) to be lowered to 6500 (for div 1) and 5500 (for div 2). Agreed without the need for a vote.
 3. For RG div 2 to change to an east/west split. This was passed with a 6 to 3 vote with 5 abstentions:
 - a. Bury – Abs, Abs
 - b. Cambridge – For
 - c. Sudbury – Against, Against
 - d. Ely – For
 - e. Newmarket – Abs, Abs
 - f. Stowmarket – Against
 - g. Linton – For, Abs, For, For, For
 4. For teams in RG div 2 to remain as four players. This was passed with a vote, for - 11 votes, against - 3 votes.
 5. For the time control in RG div 1 to come in line with the time control in RG div 2 (60 + 10). Agreed unanimously.
 6. For the relaxation of rules so that a player can play in any RG team, so long as they only compete in a single fixture for that round of games. Agreed unanimously.
 7. It was noted that details of how many fixtures either RG div will have and the nature of any tie-breaks need to be finalised – AC and RC to lead this.
 8. A knockout competition was passionately promoted, but it was decided that we should look into this next year as the focus of the meeting was the changes to the RG structure – AC to lead this discussion in the next AGM.

6. Election of Officers

- a. Chairperson (AC)
- b. Vice chairperson (CB)
- c. Match secretary and Roger Goldsmith organiser (RC)
- d. Admin secretary (OL)
- e. Treasurer (PK) – Alan Merry has been proposed and endorsed by the exec to take over from PK as treasurer.
- f. Internet office and congress secretary (SL)
- g. Ratings officer and Jamboree organiser (BJ)
- h. Congress director (JW)
 - i. Craig should be approach to check whether he does wish to continue as vice chairperson – AC to coordinate this
 - ii. All other current people in post were happy to continue with no objections, and Alan has become the treasurer.

7. League and RGT Entries

- a. Ely A request to stay in division 1
 - i. Passed with no objections
- b. Team numbers to be passed to match secretary – to RC by the 29th July
 - i. Initial discussion on team entries were
 1. Division 1:
 - a. Linton 2
 - b. Bury 2
 - c. Cambridge 3
 - d. Ely 1
 2. Division 2:
 - a. Cambridge 3
 - b. Bury 3
 - c. Linton 2
 - d. Newmarket 1
 3. Division 3:
 - a. Sudbury 1
 - b. Stowmarket 1
 - c. Ely 1
 - d. Bury 2
 - e. Linton 1
 - f. Newmarket 1
 - ii. This would leave 9 teams in division 2 and a discussion was had as to whether to deny Newmarket's request not to get relegated, or Cambridge's request to add an extra team. It was decided (unanimously) to allow both requests and have a later finish due to extra matches.

8. Upcoming Events

- a. Jamboree – 5th September (Bury)
- b. Bury Congress – 19th / 20th October
- c. EACU team championship –
 - i. John Wickham will confirm date when the NCL fixtures are confirmed
- d. Cambridgeshire Rapidplay – 29th Sept – Whittlesford.
 - i. An additional event – Cambridge FIDE congress (at Wittlesford) on the 24th/25th of August was mentioned. Details of the event are on the ECF website

9. Any other Business

- a. John Wickham has sent through information about ECF membership and government funds available – see attached
- b. The scheduling should take into account the Cambridgeshire International tournament
- c. Team entries to RC by July 29th
- d. RC to decide whether RG div 2 is a double header or just single fixtures once numbers of entries are known