

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BURY AREA  
CHESS LEAGUE HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2006 AT CAMBRIDGE CHESS CLUB**

**1. Present and Apologies for Absence**

*Executive:* Colin Roberts, Mike Craig, Tim Davison, Bob Jones (Cannons),  
Stephen Pride, Karl Woodward

*Bury:* Gordon Chapman

*Bury Cannons:* Morgan Daniels, Ken Edwards, Doug McGuire

*Cambridge:* Phillip Fallon, Richard Newman, Patrick Ribbands, Chris Stewart

*Ely:* Fraser Jones, Mike Tuplin

*Linton:* Dave Barnicoat, Paul Kemp

*Newmarket:* Colin Moss

*Apologies:* Dave Clark, Adam Harvey

**2. Minutes of AGM 6<sup>th</sup> July 2005**

These were agreed as a true record. This was proposed by Gordon Chapman and seconded by Bob Jones. Colin Roberts signed the minutes.

**3. Any matters Arising**

No matters arising.

**4. Officers' Annual Reports**

**4.1 Chairman:** Colin Roberts reported that it had been a very successful year for the League. All issues had been resolved and everything had run smoothly. He reported that trophies had been presented at the annual match with the Suffolk League. Colin read out the Honours for 2005/6 which had been included as an information item under 4.11.

**4.2 Treasurer:** Mike Craig presented his report and informed the meeting that the accounts had been audited. There was no change to the figures previously circulated. He referred to the financial statement which showed a small deficit of £1.88 and a year end balance in hand of £940.08. The meeting agreed to increase the Roger Goldsmith fees for 2006/7 from £10 to £11 per team. This was proposed by Ken Edwards and seconded by Doug McGuire. There was a discussion on the use of £200 League funds to sponsor the Bury Congress. Paul Kemp considered that subsidizing the Congress should be phased out and an increase in entry fees may be more appropriate. He said an increase in League fees as a result of the sponsorship make it more difficult for the smaller local clubs. There was question whether League fees should be used to support the Congress. Various other points were made including: the decision being taken in the light of last year's surplus which was £205, the sponsorship was essential to support the financial viability of the Congress and sponsorship was difficult to achieve. Bob Jones pointed out that this was the Bury Area Chess League Congress and a showcase for the League. A vote was taken and agreed (13 votes for and 2 against) that £200 sponsorship be made to the 2006 Congress. It was agreed (13 votes for and none against) that the League fees for 2005/6 be increased from £14 to £16 per team and the discount be reduced from £4 to £3 per team. It was agreed to discuss position of smaller clubs under any other business. Colin Roberts thanked Mike for his work as Treasurer.

**4.3 Match Secretary:** Stephen Pride presented his report. He said there had been very few defaults. With greater flexibility for example on postponing matches he

tell that the balance had been right for the League. Colin Roberts thanked Stephen for his work as Match Secretary.

4.4 2005 Congress: Bob Jones circulated the accounts for the Congress which showed a deficit of £55.98. The balance in hand as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005 was £142.21. He reported on a successful congress with higher number of entrants than previous years. The entries from GM and IM was encouraging. He circulated the booklet with the results and tables of the Congress. Colin Roberts thanked Bob for running a very successful event.

4.5 Press Officer: Colin Roberts had very little to report.

4.6 Games of the Season: In Adam Harvey's absence Mike Craig reported that the revised format of 2 prizes had been successful. Phillip Fallon asked what publicity was given to the competition and whether the games could be published in the fixture booklet. It was agreed to include reference to the games of the season in the fixture booklet including the prize money of £25. The games would be produced in the bulletin and on the new website. It was also agreed that Mike Cook continue to judge the games for 2006/7.

4.7 Roger Goldsmith: The meeting noted the report prepared by Kevin Allcop.

4.8 Internet Officer: Tim Davison informed the meeting that a new League website had been established as [www.buryleaguechess.org.uk](http://www.buryleaguechess.org.uk). He stated that the site would contain club information with appropriate links. Tim would be including all fixtures and results. He asked whether Secretaries were happy to include telephone numbers and email addresses. Concern was raised that email addresses may lead to junk mail being sent. He circulated copies of information on clubs and asked secretaries to update, include any further items and provide constructive comments on the format etc. Colin Roberts thanked Tim for setting up a much needed website.

4.9 Grader: Karl Woodward said he had been impressed by results being received promptly. These were being received by email and he asked all captains to keep it up.

4.10 BACL v Suffolk League: Mike Craig reported that Steve Ruthen was happy to continue coordinating the event for the Bury League next year. This match would be discussed in greater detail under item 8.

#### 5. Election of Officers and Other Positions

Gordon Chapman proposed that the Executive Committee nominations be agreed en bloc; this was seconded and agreed unanimously. The following officers were elected: Chairman *Colin Roberts*, Vice Chairman *Bob Jones*, Administrative Secretary *Mike Craig*, Treasurer *Mike Craig*, Match/Fixture Secretary *Stephen Pride*, Congress Organiser *Bob Jones*, Press Officer *Colin Roberts*, League Grader *Karl Woodward*, Internet Officer *Tim Davison*, Games of the Season *Adam Harvey* and BACL v Suffolk League *Steve Ruthen*.

Vacancies remained for the Roger Goldsmith Organiser, Ex-Officio Officer, Junior Officer and Jamboree 2006 Organiser. Colin Roberts stated it was important to fill these particularly in relation to the Jamboree which is to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> September and the Roger Goldsmith Competition. There were no volunteers.

## **6. League Entries 2006/7**

The club representatives indicated that 20 teams would be entered next season. The entries were as follows:

**Division 1** Bury Cannons x 3 Cambridge x 4 Ely x 1 Linton x 1 (9 teams)

**Division 2** Bury x 1 Bury Cannons x 3 Cambridge x 2 Ely x 1 Linton x 2 Newmarket x 2 (11 teams)

Mike Tuplin informed the meeting that Ely were proposing to play Division 1 home matches on Thursdays and Division 2 home matches on Mondays. As there were only 8 members of Ely this would allow the flexibility to field two teams. The Match Secretary considered this to be acceptable.

The deadline for notification of any changes was 19<sup>th</sup> July.

## **7. Motions and Rule Changes**

### **7.1 (a) Executive Committee**

A report from the Executive Committee on proposed amendments to league rules was considered. These were dealt with under the following headings.

#### **Teams finishing level**

It was agreed after discussion and a vote that "if teams finish level at the end of the season, bonus points will be disregarded in deciding their respective positions. If teams still finish level the aggregate scores of the results between them will be used to decide their respective positions."

#### **Quickplay Finishes**

Patrick Ribbands pointed out that making an illegal move does not just apply to quick play finishes. The rule states that "...for the first two illegal moves by a player the arbiter shall give two extra minutes extra time to his opponent in each instance; for a third illegal move by the same player the arbiter shall declare the game lost by the player." Therefore this needed to be shown as general rule. With this amendment the Quickplay finish rules were agreed and subsequently renumbered.

#### **Quickplay Claim for a Draw**

Dave Barnicoat questioned whether the cost adjudication should be shared. This was not accepted and the new rule was agreed.

#### **"Good sportsmanship" substitutions**

The deletion of Rule 3.1 on good sportsmanship was agreed (16 votes for with 1 against) to be deleted. It was proposed to apply the objective limit of 10 points for substituted players throughout the season. Mike Tuplin considered that this should be raised to 15 points. This would allow some flexibility for the smaller clubs, although it was pointed out that the larger clubs could use it to their advantage. Mike Tuplin proposed this amendment which was seconded by Fraser Jones. The amendment to 15 points was agreed (13 votes for with 2 against). It was agreed that this also applied to the Rule 8.5 on board order.

#### **Low graded players – board order**

"if players have grades or estimated grades below 75, they may play in any order" was agreed unanimously. Phillip Fallon spoke on Cambridge's amendment to increase the grade to 90 and pointed out the particular disadvantage for improving junior players. After discussion it was agreed (10 for

with 5 against) that the rule should be amended to grades or estimated grades below 90.

#### Players with out of date grades

The meeting considered two motions before it, one from Cambridge and one from the Executive. These were set out under 7.2 on the agenda. Following a vote Cambridge's motion was agreed (8 votes for with 7 against).

#### Tidying up

These changes were agreed unanimously.

#### 7.1. (b) Roger Goldsmith Competition

As above the meeting agreed that the good sportsmanship qualification was impossible to interpret and enforce. It was considered there should be flexibility in selecting teams for the competition. It was agreed that players be allowed to play for more than one team.

#### 8. BACL v Suffolk League

A proposal from the Suffolk League to change the arrangements for the annual challenge match was considered. The revised format was attached to the agenda. There was discussion on the proposal including grading of the rapid play games. A vote was taken with 8 votes for the current graded slow play match and 7 votes for Suffolk proposals. It was agreed that further discussions would take place with the Suffolk League. Mike Craig said he had been in correspondence with Suffolk and he suggested Thursday 10h May be the proposed date for the match next season. The match would be held at Moreton Hall.

#### 9. 2006 Bury Congress

Bob Jones reported on the arrangements for this year's Congress and the position on sponsorship. It was suggested that National Lottery money may be available. The 2006 Congress is to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October at the same venue.

#### 10. Any Other Business

The discussion continued from item 4.2 about the problems faced by smaller clubs. Paul Kemp considered it unhealthy that there were two main clubs in the League. He was also concerned about the increasing costs, the increasing age of members and the need to attract new members. The internet had brought a number of new members to clubs. After an exchanged of ideas it was agreed that priority should be given to information on the new website. This would identify relevant catchment areas for clubs.

The meeting ended at 10.30pm.



CHAIRMAN OF BACL

26th June 2007