

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BURY AREA CHESS LEAGUE HELD ON 26th JUNE 2007 AT LINTON CHESS CLUB

1. Present and Apologies for Absence

Executive: Colin Roberts, Bob Jones, Mike Craig, Tim Davison, Stephen Pride

Bury Cannons: Scott Taylor *Cambridge:* Patrick Ribbands *Ely:* Fraser Jones,

Mike Tuplin *Linton:* Dave Barnicoat, Jon Crowe, John Dawson, Paul Kemp
Newmarket: Charles Richmond

Apologies: Matt Carter, Dave Dowson, Adam Harvey, Trevor McCrea, Karl Woodward

2. Minutes of AGM 5th July 2006

These were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Bob Jones and seconded by Dave Barnicoat. Colin Roberts signed the minutes.

3. Any Matters Arising

No matters arising.

4. Officers' Annual Reports

4.1 Chairman: Colin Roberts reported that this was his last year as Chairman. He considered that the League was in a healthy position. All competitions were well run and there had been an increase in the number of teams competing. He congratulated Stephen Pride on keeping the rules up to date and accurate. Colin said he would like to see a widening of the chess played such as a summer tournament and a junior competition. His main concern was the decrease in the number of clubs. Both Brandon and Stowmarket had dropped out of League competition. Although there had been some increased diversity such as Brandon players joining other teams for the Roger Goldsmith Competition, he hoped the number of clubs would increase in the future. He thanked all the officials for their support during his period as Chairman.

As regards his role as Press Officer, Colin reported that early on reports were submitted to the Bury Free Press. Due to change in employment, reports had dried up and he intends to get things going next season. He would be looking for clubs to send him any news stories for press reports.

Stephen Pride spoke on behalf of the meeting to say Colin had been a splendid Chairman who had steered the League on a wise and steady course. The AGM showed its appreciation with a round of applause.

4.2 Treasurer: Mike Craig presented his report and informed the meeting the accounts had been audited. The League made a surplus of £55.81 and the balance in hand was £995.89. The meeting agreed a small increase in League fees for 2007/08. The League fee will remain at £16 with the discount, if paid by 30th September, being reduced from £3 to £2 per team. This was proposed by Jon Crowe and seconded by Charles Richmond and carried unanimously. There was a debate on providing funding to the Bury Congress. Colin Roberts stated that the Bury League exists to promote the playing of chess. Some players prefer playing at the weekend and others during the week. He said the Congress was an integral part of the competitions of the Bury League. A contribution of £200 to the Congress is about 15% of its total cost. The cost of playing in the League was significantly less for a player compared to playing in the Congress. Colin considered the level of funding reasonable and desirable. Paul Kemp was concerned that the subsidy was coming from the ordinary member. He would prefer for the Congress to be self-sufficient. He considered that £200 should be

paid for 2007 with the Congress being self-sufficient by 2009. Bob Jones stated that top players will not attend unless offering good prize money, which gives it higher status. He said £1300 sponsorship was required for 2007 Congress, of which £900 has been promised. Bob said that one of the principles of the Congress was that it was the League's Congress. Charles Richmond stated that there were very few Congresses in the Eastern Region and it was essential to allow local players to enter a Congress event. Mike Tuplin said there was uncertainty about £200 contribution and a definite resolution for the future was required. He said it was an excellent Congress. Charles Richmond was concerned that certainty was needed to allow long term planning and suggested it be agreed for 5 years. It was agreed that £200 funding be given to the Bury Congress for 2007. This was carried unanimously. Charles Richmond proposed an amendment to the remaining recommendation which was seconded by Fraser Jones. This was carried (5 votes for and 4 against). The revised recommendation was put to meeting. It was agreed that the Bury League provide funding to its Congress comparable to the current level for the next five years and that this be reviewed in the fourth year of the period. Mike Craig informed the meeting that the game fee for next year had increased from 45p to 46p. Colin thanked Mike.

4.3 Match/Fixture Secretary: Stephen Pride reported a decline in the number of defaulted games last season. He then took the meeting through the proposed procedure for presenting submissions to the arbiter for claims for a draw. The meeting accepted the procedure. Colin thanked Stephen.

4.4 Congress: Bob Jones circulated the accounts of the 2006 Congress and reported that there were slightly fewer numbers than last year. There was a small loss on the event. Bob pointed out that the object of the Congress is not to make money. £1300 sponsorship had been achieved. In response to a question Bob said the maximum number of players at the Corn Exchange is 168. Colin thanked Bob for organising a successful Congress.

4.5 Press Officer: See item 4.1 above.

4.6 Games of the Season: Mike Craig reported that Fraser Jones had won in Division 2. There were no entries for Division 1. Mike Cook said the game that won was outstandingly the best. All phases had been played well with splendid piece play around the passed pawn. The winning game was circulated to the meeting.

4.7 Roger Goldsmith: A report had been circulated to the meeting.

4.8 Internet Officer: Tim Davison reported the website was up and running well. He was giving it a spring clean this summer and welcomed any ideas. There had been 400/500 visits each month. The results were posted on the website following publication of the bulletin. In order to speed up the process it was agreed that Tim be included on the list of officers receiving results from captains.

4.9 Grader: No report received.

4.10 BACL v Suffolk League: Laurie Pott had reported that the League's turnout was disappointing in both quantity and quality. Bury fielded a weak team which lost 16-6. He felt the fixture needed repair to make it more viable. It was considered a fixture too far in a busy season. Some clubs were unaware that the match was taking place and fixing the date much earlier would help. It was considered that Suffolk came well organised but made a great meal of presenting the prizes.

6. Presentation of Trophies

This item was taken next as this was Colin Roberts' last official duty. He presented the trophies to the winning teams and players of the year. Linton was congratulated for winning the treble.

6. Election of Officers

The nominations of the League Executive were taken en bloc. This was proposed by Mike Tuplin and seconded by Scott Taylor and carried unanimously. The following officers were elected: Chairman Bob Jones, Administrative Secretary Mike Craig, Treasurer Mike Craig, Match/Fixture Secretary Stephen Hyde, Congress Organiser Bob Jones, Press Officer Colin Roberts, Internet Officer Tim Davison, BACL v Suffolk Steve Ruthen. There was a discussion at the meeting and during the break on the remaining vacancies. The following volunteers were duly elected by the meeting: Vice Chairman Paul Kemp, League Grader Scott Taylor, Ex-Officio Officer Charles Richmond, Games of the Season Jon Crowe, Junior Officer Scott Taylor.

It was noted the Jamboree was to be held on 17th September 2007. Clubs were requested to volunteer holding the Jamboree in 2008. Stephen Pride indicated that Cambridge may be willing to hold the event but needed to consider before formally responding.

7. League Entries 2007/08

The club representatives indicated that up to 20 teams may be entered in the League next season. Possible entries were as follows:

Division 1 Bury Cannons x 2 Cambridge x 5 Ely x 1 Linton x 2

Division 2 Bury Cannons x 4 Cambridge x 2 Ely x 1 Linton x 2 Newmarket x 2

Ely confirmed the club would continue to play matches on different nights. Stephen Pride said that he would try to ensure matches for the Linton teams would not clash in the same Division. It was noted Stowmarket may enter a team.

New Chairman's Statement

Bob Jones then took the Chair and informed the meeting of his future role. He considered it to be a good League. He was looking to see the clubs being enhanced and chess opened up to the general public. Bob wanted clubs to encourage more chess in their own towns. He would be visiting all clubs and attending their meetings. He wanted to try and boost the clubs' membership. Bob was concerned about losing clubs such as Bury, Brandon and Stowmarket. He was looking at establishing works' teams in Bury and Cambridge. He wanted to look at the scoring system using the Ex-Officio Officer to look at the alternatives. Bob would not be a passive Chairman but wanted to achieve what ordinary members and clubs required.

8. Motions and Rule Changes from Clubs and the Executive Committee

8.1 (a) Stephen Pride introduced his report on rule changes. He said these were minor technical points. He considered if a player cannot be nominated for more than one team in a club this should also apply where a player plays for more than one club. Following a debate a vote was taken and it was agreed (7 votes for and 2 against) that Rule 2.3 be amended by deleting "in a club". After discussion it was agreed that under Rule 8.5 the following be deleted "without contravening the requirements of Rule 2.2, which sets out nominated board grades" be replaced by "provided that the player moved up is not more than fifteen points

stronger than the nominated player for that board (see Rule 3.2)”. Stephen gave an example which will be included in the Future Booklet.

8.1 (b) The proposal that any player who has an actual or estimated grade of below 75 is assumed to be graded 75 for the purpose of board grades in the Roger Goldsmith Competition, was agreed unanimously.

8.2 Linton Dave Bamicoel spoke on Linton's proposal. He said that players should be allowed to use analogue clocks. Some players found digital clocks confusing to use and in particular players with impaired vision. Charles Richmond said a number of Newmarket players were concerned about using digital clocks. John Dawson said as an interested party with significantly impaired vision he considered that players with impaired vision should be entitled to use an analogue clock. He was concerned about misreading the time on a digital clock. Fraser Jones explained the position regarding the clock he uses and has never received any objection from his opponents. Stephen Pride said even though his vision was bad he preferred using a digital clock. There followed a general discussion on the subject, which included support for the use of digital clocks. A new proposal was submitted to the meeting. This was proposed by John Dawson and seconded by Charles Richmond. The meeting agreed that if an analogue clock and a digital clock is available then a player who has significantly impaired vision he/she can choose the type of clock to use. Dave withdrew Linton's original proposal.

8.2 Cambridge Patrick Ribbands outlined Cambridge's proposal for the use of the Fischer timing system. There was concern about different time controls in the same match. There was also concern about the current digital clocks being unable to operate the system proposed and this needed to be investigated. However, there was general support for the use of the Fischer system and Colin Roberts suggested it could be piloted in the Roger Goldsmith Competition. The meeting was in favour of the principle of using the system. It was agreed that the Executive Committee investigate the subject further and look at the best solution with a view to deciding on the precise format to be used (voting was 8-2)

9. BACL v Suffolk League

The meeting agreed to adopt Suffolk's proposal that the annual match should be two rapid play games rather than one single graded game. On whether the rapid play games should be graded the vote was equal (5-5). Suffolk to be notified of the decision and their views on grading of rapid play games to be sought.

10. 2007 Bury Congress

Bob Jones reported that the Congress will be held on 27/28 October at the Corn Exchange.

11. Any Other Business

Agreed to include the post codes of clubs in the Future Booklet to assist with travelling arrangements

The Meeting ended at 10.40pm



CHAIRMAN OF BACL

3rd July 2008