

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BURY AREA CHESS LEAGUE HELD ON 3RD JULY 2008 AT MORETON HALL

1. Present

League Executive: Bob Jones, Mike Craig, Colin Roberts, Stephen Pride, Scott Taylor

Bury Cannons: Peter Campbell, Ken Edwards, Doug McGuire, Hugo Smith

Cambridge: Patrick Ribbands

Ely: Mike Angel, Andy Davison, Richard Donaghay, Mike Tuplin

Linton: Dave Barnicoat, John Dawson

Newmarket: Charles Richmond

Stowmarket: Vicky Allen

2. Apologies for Absence

Matt Carter, Tim Davison, Martyn Goodger, Paul Kemp

3. Minutes of AGM 26th June 2007

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

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Officers' Annual Reports

5.1 Chairman: Bob Jones said he would keep his report brief, as there were a lot of items on the Agenda more interesting than this. He said he had always promised himself that he wouldn't take on the role of Chairman, until someone had taken over as Congress Organiser. However he allowed himself to be coerced. His excuse for not being as active as he would have liked, is he had to focus on maintaining the standard of the Congress, which isn't just a weekend job – it starts in July with securing sponsorship and ends in January with the final accounts. He said that fortunately, however, his inactivity has been nicely counterbalanced by the efforts of the Executive. He considered it invidious to mention just two member of the Executive, because everyone had pulled their weight. But the League is extremely fortunate to have Stephen Pride and Mike Craig, as Match Secretary and Admin Secretary/Treasurer respectively. Their experience, and diligence, has ensured that this year has been remarkably trouble-free. Bob said this October will be his tenth as Congress Organiser, and he will continue in both jobs, if elected.

5.2 Treasurer: Mike Craig reported that the League made a small surplus for the year of £47.59 and the balance in hand was £1095.48. The accounts had been audited and there was no change to the figures. No increase in the fees for the League or the Roger Goldsmith Competition had been proposed. The game fee for 2008/09 will be 48p per result.

5.3 Match Secretary: Stephen Pride reported that the only disappointment in 2007/08 was the rise in the number of defaults. He drew the meeting's attention to the arrangements adopted by the Executive for using Fischer timing. He thanked

everyone for the good sportsmanship shown in 2007/08. Stephen said that work will be starting soon with Bob Jones on the preparation of the next fixture list.

5.4 Congress: Bob Jones circulated the accounts for the 2007 Congress which showed a surplus of £53.55. He reported there were a number of titled players at the Congress which gave it a high status. It was now one of the leading weekend events in the country. The numbers were high and had increased from last year. Bob said that the key to success was obtaining sponsorship. Colin Roberts spoke on behalf of the meeting and said the key to success was the organiser and Bob was an excellent Congress Organiser.

5.5 Press Officer: Colin Roberts said that all the press officer reports had been produced in one document. It provided a history of the season. He thanked Bob Jones for gathering the information and presenting it in the document. These had been made available to the Executive and Club Secretaries. There was a debate on the reaching a wider coverage. The following papers were suggested: Newmarket Journal, Ely Standard, Cambridge Evening News and Ipswich East Anglia Daily Times. Club Secretaries in these areas would investigate using these papers. It was agreed that Colin Roberts would follow up use of other local press.

5.6 Games of the Season: Mike Craig reported that Charles Richmond had won in Division 2. There were no winners in Division 1. The winning game had been circulated to the meeting. A cheque was presented to Charles.

5.7 Roger Goldsmith: Bob Jones thanked Matt Carter for his work as Organiser. He said that Matt was stepping down to follow a career in music. A bottle of champagne was presented to the winners Ely Friars.

5.8 Internet Officer: A short report had been circulated by Tim Davison. The website has been updated with the latest position. The home page has a "Bury League update" section for announcements using Twitter. It was agreed that clubs should nominate a person to input any updates. Club secretaries to nominate person responsible for updating the website with any club announcements.

5.9 Grader: Scott Taylor presented his report and said the year had been straightforward. Bob Jones reminded the meeting of Dave Wild's website which gave the grades and results of all Bury Area Chess League players. Bob also reported that the ECF April Meeting had discussed the current grading system. It was considered that the system had suffered deflation, probably due to playing under-graded juniors. There was evidence that the ECF grading and ELO had drifted apart, ELO being more accurate. As a result, two grades will be published next year. This will be the usual grade which will be used for 2008/09, together with an indicative grade, which will be an enhanced grade based on current grade times 0.8 plus 50 points.

5.10 Junior Officer: Scott Taylor said there was nothing to report. He had spoken to Doreen Young but she was unable to assist at this stage. Scott will be looking at other ideas next year and reporting to the Executive.

6. Election of Officers

The nominations for members of the Executive were taken en bloc. This was proposed by Ken Edwards and seconded by Charles Richmond and carried unanimously.

The following officers were elected:

Position	Name	Club
<i>Chairman</i>	Bob Jones	Bury Cannons
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	Paul Kemp	Linton
<i>Match Secretary</i>	Stephen Pride	Cambridge City
<i>Admin Secretary</i>	Mike Craig	Linton
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mike Craig	Linton
<i>Congress Organiser</i>	Bob Jones	Bury Cannons
<i>Press Officer</i>	Colin Roberts	Bury Cannons
<i>Grader</i>	Scott Taylor	Bury Cannons
<i>Junior Officer</i>	Scott Taylor	Bury Cannons
<i>Internet Officer</i>	Tim Davison	Cambridge City
<i>Ex Officio</i>	Charles Richmond	Newmarket
<i>Games of the Season</i>	Jon Crowe	Linton
<i>Roger Goldsmith Organiser</i>	Mike Angel	Ely Beet

7. Honours 2007/08

Bob Jones noted the trophy winners for 2007/08 and reminded the meeting that these will be presented at the Jamboree.

8. Two or three Divisions?

Stephen Pride introduced the report by highlighting the main points to focus on. He said that with three divisions there will be fewer matches. This should benefit smaller clubs who would have greater ease in getting teams together. There should be more teams but this will only be a modest increase if we move to three divisions. With three divisions the level of player ability is likely to be consistent and the shock of relegation and promotion less challenging. It hinges on how many teams are entered. 21 teams is the ideal number. If not the lower league will have less matches. It was noted that there are no new clubs entering the league next year, although Thetford may enter a team in 2009/10. It was confirmed that Ely would have a team in Division 1 regardless of the number of divisions. Following considerable debate on the subject Bob Jones asked if anyone disagreed with the principle of having three divisions. There was no opposition to this principle. Bob then put it to vote on the basis of the number of entries. The meeting agreed unanimously that: In 2008/09, provided there are at least 21 firm entries for the League, the teams should be allocated to three divisions. A vote was taken on the threshold for three divisions being 20 firm entries. This was defeated (7 votes for 8 against). It was also agreed that Rule 10.1 be amended to limit promotion and relegation to one team as opposed to two at present, this is regardless of the number of divisions.

9. League Entries 2008/09

The club representatives were asked to indicate the number of teams likely to be entered next season, for two or three divisions. These were as follows:

Club	2 Divisions		3 Divisions		
	Div 1	Div 2	Div 1	Div 2	Div 3
Ely Beet	1	1	1	1	0
Cambridge City	4	2	3	2	1
Linton	1	1	1	1	1
Stowmarket	0	1(?)	0	0	1(?)
Newmarket	0	1	0	1	0
Bury Cannons	2	5	2	2	3
Totals	8	11	7	7	6

It was confirmed that the deadline for final entries to be submitted to Stephen Pride was 1 August.

10. Rapid Play Competition 2008/09

Colin Roberts introduced this item. The proposal would only be implemented if there were three divisions as this would give more time in the fixture list. It would be a 4 week competition and played on a Swiss System over 8 rounds with the possibility of the top two teams playing in a final. Two matches would be played at 30 minutes each on the same night. All matches would be graded. There may be a grading limit, for example two boards in a team being graded under 130. The meeting welcomed the proposal. It was confirmed there would not be any nominated boards. Executive to implement a Rapid Play Competition in 2008/09 if there are three divisions.

11. Summer Competition

Colin Roberts proposed that there should be a Summer Tournament in 2009. Teams would consist of 6 - 8 players and play 4 or 5 fixtures (about one per month). The general view was expressed that teams should consist of four players. There was enough support from the meeting for the proposal to be pursued. It was agreed that: Clubs feed back to Colin Roberts with their views on a Summer Tournament. These views to be considered by the Executive and providing there is adequate support a Summer Tournament be established for 2009.

12. Proposals from the Executive Committee

Stephen Pride presented his report. The following items were considered:

1. Playing for two clubs – this dealt with registration of players. It was agreed with one voting against.
2. Late arrival – this dealt with the issue of some players not wanting to claim a default even when no prior agreement was made. There was considerable discussion on this matter, particularly on the issue of when clocks should be started. The item was put to the vote and carried with one voting against.

Although there was some disagreement about the interpretation of the current rules, it was decided not to put forward any changes. There had been no problems in the past and the continuation of the concept of being a friendly league was important.

3. Consequences of failure to nominate or register a player or to play him on the correct board, or his late arrival. This was agreed unanimously.
4. Consequences of team withdrawing. This was agreed unanimously.

13. 2008 Bury Congress


Bob Jones reported that this year's Congress will be held on 25/26 October. This will probably be the last year at the Corn Exchange.

14. Any Other Business

The following points were noted:

- a) Rule 4.4 will be amended to include the use of Fischer timing.
- b) The Roger Goldsmith Competition commences late October and entries should be submitted at the beginning of the season.
- c) The Jamboree on 15 September will start at 7.15 pm for the presentation of trophies.

The Meeting ended at 9.55 pm



CHAIRMAN OF BACL

2nd July 2009