

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BURY AREA CHESS LEAGUE HELD ON 2ND JULY 2009 AT MORETON HALL

1. Present and Apologies for Absence

League Executive: Bob Jones, Paul Kemp, Mike Angel, Mike Craig, Tim Davison, Charles Richmond, Stephen Pride, Scott Taylor.

Bury Cannons: Dave Clark, Chas Szentmihaly, Martin Wilden.

Cambridge City: Joe Brown, Patrick Ribbands.

Linton: Dave Barnicoat, John Dawson.

Newmarket: Thelma Merry.

Stowmarket: Mark Bettley.

Apologies for Absence:

Laurie Pott, Colin Roberts, Mike Tuplin, Zac Vane.

2. Minutes of AGM 3rd July 2008

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

3. Matters Arising

Bob Jones referred to the item on the Summer Tournament and said no action had been taken as there were no views received from clubs. This will be dealt with under item 8 on the agenda. There were no other matters arising.

4. Officers' Annual Reports

4.1 Chairman: Bob Jones considered it had been a mixed season. He said it was sad to see that there are now only six clubs playing regularly in the League. However, between them they mustered 21 teams last season, enabling the League to be organised in three divisions of seven teams, which was successful. He said this helped to reduce any large imbalances in ability, and most matches were hard fought; only nine of the 126 matches ended in a 5-0 result.

Bob said the introduction of the Peter Lamont Rapidplay tournament was a great success and thanked Colin Roberts for proposing and organising the event. It helped to fill in some of the 'lost' weeks caused by the three-division structure. With the Roger Goldsmith tournament, chess was available for at least 20 weeks of the season. He said it was good to see Ipswich entering the Rapidplay tournament, even though they won it!

Bob said that for many years, one of the strengths of this League has been the number of good juniors that have emerged. This year three of our juniors finished in the top five positions in the EACU Grand Prix. This was won by 12-year old Alan Merry, with Ashley Stewart and Chris Davison finishing 4th and 5th respectively, tremendous achievements by all three.

Bob thanked all other members of the Executive, whose dedicated work has ensured that the League runs like clockwork. He made a special mention to Mike Craig, who has served as Admin Secretary for many years and also as Treasurer for the past six, taking over this post when Roy Adams sadly passed away. He said he will be soon to leave the area, and will be greatly missed. In recognition of his efforts, he presented Mike, on behalf of the Executive, with a small token of appreciation.

Bob then spoke about the introduction of new grades, with everyone's grade being increased to deal with 'grade deflation' over the past 15 years. He referred to the proposals for the Roger Goldsmith. He said this will also affect the Bury Congress.

He wished everyone success in the forthcoming season, and hoped any vacant posts on the Executive will be quickly filled.

4.2 Treasurer: Mike Craig introduced his report and referred to the supplementary report, which included the audited accounts. He reported that the main accounts had made a small surplus of £31.10. However, as the Bury Congress had suffered a loss of £796.89 it had been agreed to incorporate these within the main body of accounts. Loans had been raised to deal with the Congress bank account overdraft. After the League had met these from balances the deficit for the year was £516.28, leaving a balance in hand of £579.20. Mike stressed the need to resurrect balances to £1,000 in order to meet any future unforeseen contingencies.

The meeting agreed to:

Increase the League entry fee to £17 per team with a discount of £2 if paid by 31st October (Voting 12 for 0 against)

Increase Roger Goldsmith to £12 per team (Unanimous decision)

There was a debate on the fixture booklet. Paul Kemp asked about the need to include colour content, which would reduce the cost. However, it was agreed to:

Increase the charge per person to £2 (Voting 11 for 2 against)

Mike informed the meeting that Alan Paris was standing down as auditor of the League accounts. He had undertaken the position for some 20 years. The meeting formally thanked Alan for providing an excellent service.

4.3 Match Secretary: Stephen Pride reported that there had been a slight decline in the number of defaults compared to last year. He was keen for Captains to examine the Fixture List as soon as it is received to see whether there any specific clashes. The annual questionnaire had been circulated. The vast majority wished to retain three divisions. A relaxation on restriction of players was supported, as was being able to postpone by agreement.

4.4 Congress: Bob Jones reported on the loss as considered under the Treasurer's report. He said this was due to a reduction in numbers and an increase of 25% in the rent for the Corn Exchange. There were also three competing congresses which took place on the same weekend. He was indebted to the four individuals who made loans to pay off the bank overdraft; also to the

League who repaid the loans. The intention is to make an adequate surplus in order to pay back the League over a three year period.

4.5 Press Officer and Rapidplay Competition: In the absence of Colin Roberts, Bob reported that weekly reports had been submitted to the Bury Free Press. He had already commented on the great success of the Rapidplay tournament.

4.6 Games of the Season: Kevin Clark's winning game had been circulated and will be published on the website.

4.7 Roger Goldsmith: Mike Angel referred to his report which had been circulated. Bob thanked him for doing a successful job.

4.8 Internet Officer: Tim Davison reported that he will be rewriting the website during the summer. A page for each club will be produced with relevant information on fixtures, teams, etc. All results will be processed and he said the majority were sent to him by the captains. The Executive Committee had agreed that Scott Taylor would send results to Tim on a weekly basis. This would allow League tables to be regularly updated.

4.9 Grader and Players of the Year: Scott Taylor referred to the POTY report. On grading he said there were no problems to report. Next season he will be sending regular reports to Dave Wild, the Suffolk grader, and to Tim.

5. Election of Officers and Other Positions

The nominations of the Executive were agreed unanimously and 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>	Vacant	Vacant
<i>Treasurer</i>	Thelma Merry	Newmarket
<i>Congress Organiser</i>	Bob Jones	Bury Cannons
<i>Press Officer and Rapidplay</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

6. Honours 2008/09

Bob Jones recorded the trophy winners for 2008/09. A bottle of champagne was presented to the Roger Goldsmith winners Ely Friars.

7. League Entries 2009/10

The club representatives were asked to indicate the number of teams likely to be entered next season. These were as follows:

Club	3 Divisions		
	Div 1	Div 2	Div 3
Bury St. Edmunds (formerly Bury Cannons)	2	2	3
Cambridge City	3	3	1
Ely Beet	1	1	0
Linton	1	1	1
Newmarket	0	0	1
Stowmarket	0	0	1
Totals	7	7	7

It was confirmed that the deadline for final entries to be submitted to Stephen Pride was **16 July**. Stephen would be sending a reminder of this date to Secretaries.

8. Summer Tournament

There would be no Summer Tournament this year. It was agreed that Colin Roberts circulate proposals for 2010 to club secretaries, with dates, for their views.

9. Motions from the Executive Committee

Stephen Pride presented the report on behalf of the Executive. Decisions were made on the following items:

1. The grading Bands and Total used in the Roger Goldsmith teams were agreed (155 and under, 135 and under, 120 and under / u550). The Executive will review these if necessary. (Voting 12 for 0 against)
2. Rule 3(e) of the Roger Goldsmith competition requires a player graded below 75 to be treated as 75 for the purpose of board grade. In view of new grading system this is increased to 100. (Unanimous decision)
3. Where an older ECF grade is used for a player, to take account of the new grading system under Rule 8.6 (d) after 'List' it was agreed to insert - (converted if necessary to the new post-2008 grading system). (Unanimous decision)

4. For the registration of a player it was agreed that Rule 2.4 should be changed as follows: 'A Club may add to its list of eligible players by notifying the Match Secretary (and this must be done even if the player has already been registered by another Club). Prior registration is preferable, but it may be done when reporting his first match.' (Voting 12 for 3 against)
5. With regard to nomination of a team in the League, it was agreed that a team must be re-nominated two days before the first match to be affected, replacing 'the day before'. (Voting 12 for 2 against)
6. It was agreed that captains should exchange lists of their players before the match starts, with forename, surname and grade. (Voting 10 for 3 against)
7. It was agreed that a player can only play for one team in the Roger Goldsmith competition. (Voting 12 for 2 against)
8. Tim Davison raised the issue of grading in the Rapidplay tournament in view of the new grading system. It was agreed that Colin Roberts decide the grading for the Rapidplay tournament in 2009/10 to take account of the new grading system.

10. 2009 Bury Congress

Bob Jones reported that he had drawn up a budget for the 2009 Congress, in consultation with Thelma Merry. The sponsorship income stands at £1400, an increase of £400 compared to last year. He thanked Thelma for helping to obtain this improved level of sponsorship. An allowance had been made to refund the League £200. The prize fund had been reduced and this meant that there would be no grading prizes. Overall a breakeven position was estimated to be achieved with 124 entrants (2008 level of entrants). However, if this number increased it would allow the prize fund to be adjusted to include grading prizes etc. The Congress would be held on the weekend of 31st October/1st November and there were no known clashes with other events.

Paul Kemp commented that first prizes could be less generous and made comparisons with other Congresses. He was also concerned about the position if numbers fell below 124, for example as a result of swine flu. He asked if there was any contingency plan. Patrick Ribbands considered that the best value was the grading prizes. He was concerned that if the entrants were fewer and the Congress cancelled it would have a disastrous effect on its future. Bob pointed out that from past experience he was able to predict the number of entrants about two to three weeks before the event.

Following a general discussion it was agreed that a contingency plan needed to be in place if the number of entrants was much lower than 124, cancellation being unacceptable. In order to deal with this situation Bob Jones to include on the entry form a note to the effect that the level of prizes may be reduced if there was not an adequate number of entrants to financially sustain the Congress.

11. BACL v Suffolk League

In view of the lack of interest it was agreed to discontinue the annual match between the Leagues.

12. Any Other Business

It was noted that the Jamboree 2009 will be held on Monday 14th September 2009 at Moreton Hall, Bury. The event will commence at 7.15pm with the presentation of trophies.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.