

BURY AREA CHESS LEAGUE : AGM 2016

The AGM took place on Wednesday 6 July, at the Cambridge Chess Club (St Augustine's Church, Richmond Road, Cambridge CB4 3PS).

Present were :

Ole Bay-Petersen (Chairman)
Norman Hutchinson (Vice Chairman)
Patrick Ribbands (Match Secretary & Rapidplay Organiser)
Stephen Pride (Acting Administrative Secretary)
Paul Kemp (Treasurer)
Bob Jones (Grading Officer)
Steve Lovell (Congress Secretary & Acting Internet Officer)
Mark Szymanski (Roger Goldsmith Organiser)
John Daugman
Colin Roberts
David Wood

Apologies for absence were received from : Tim Davison, John Wickham, and Kelvin Hunter.

1 The Minutes of the previous AGM (held on 23 June 2015) were approved.

2 There were no Matters Arising from those Minutes.

3 Officers' Reports

(i) The Chairman said it had been a good season : there had been no dispute to send to an adjudicator, and a modest increase in the number of participants to 139 at the start of the season. We had maintained the high standard of the Bury Congress. Tim Davison had stood down as Internet Officer, and the AGM expressed its appreciation of his work. Ole Bay-Petersen said he hoped that, despite Brexit, the Club would continue to welcome foreign players.

(ii) The Match Secretary presented his Report , and agreed it had been a smooth season.

(iii) The Treasurer presented his report. The League itself had made a small surplus, but had ultimate responsibility for the Bury Congress, which had lost £184. He hoped that the next Congress would make a modest surplus if the level of entries were maintained. The balance was satisfactory, so he proposed no change in any of the fees. This was agreed.

(iv) The Grading Officer said that during the first half of the season he kept an eye on the performance of players with estimated grades. If they did not receive actual grades in the January ECF list, he reviewed their estimates in the light of performance.

(v) The retiring Internet Officer, Tim Davison, had not reported any problems.

(vi) The Roger Goldsmith Organiser had no problems to report.

(vii) The Rapidplay Organiser said only 21 had participated in the event at Bury, mainly from Bury. In discussion it was suggested that the event should be rotated around the Clubs:

in the Survey, several Cambridge players had expressed an interest in participating, but it was not clear what venue in Cambridge could be used. It might be possible to invite Cambridge University players to take part, but making it an Open congress would require participants to have at least Silver membership of the ECF.

As to timing, the Survey had supported a single day, in the summer, and there were benefits in having it outside the match season. But we should consider having it immediately after the match season, perhaps in May ; and fixing the date in time to put it into the League Handbook.

The Organiser was invited to consider Sunday 7 May 2017, if a suitable venue were available.

(viii) The Congress Secretary said prospects for sponsorship of the 2016 Congress, and for its finances, were promising.

4 Honours (including Games of the Season)

League	Div 1	Linton A
	Div 2	Linton Blacks
	Div 3	Linton Whites
Roger Goldsmith	Div 1	Bury Abbey
	Div 2	Linton Tigers
Jamboree		Linton
Player of the Year	Div 1	Richard Tozer & Tim Lunn
	Div 2	Tom Smith
	Div 3	Adam Leigh
Game of the Year	Div 1	Philip Fallon
	Div 2	-
	Div 3	Adam Leigh

5 Proposed Rule Changes to Streamline Administration ; and to Require Signed Scoresheets - paper by the Executive.

The Acting Administrative Secretary said he had been reluctant to take on the role unless changes were made to simplify administration, in particular to reduce the size of the Executive from twelve to five. Other Officers would participate on issues affecting their responsibilities. A Club which had not provided an Officer would also become involved.

The proposed rule changes to streamline administration (Rules 1.4, 1.3, and 10.1) were agreed, with the addition of a Rule to set a quorum for the Executive at three of its core members.

The Executive proposal to require scoresheets to be signed (Rule 6) was considered to be an overreaction to a single incident. It was rejected. The Executive would consider whether it was necessary for the Rules to state that the normal FIDE requirement for tournament scoresheets to be signed did not apply.

6	Election of Officers	
(i)	Chairman	Norman Hutchinson
(iii)	Match Secretary	Patrick Ribbands
(iv)	Administrative Secretary	Stephen Pride
(v)	Treasurer	Paul Kemp
(vi)	Grading Officer	Bob Jones
(vii)	Internet Officer	Steve Lovell
(viii)	Handbook Editor	Bob Jones
(ix)	Roger Goldsmith Organiser	Mark Szymanski
(x)	Rapidplay Organiser	Patrick Ribbands
(xi)	Jamboree Organiser	Bob Jones
(xii)	Trophy Officer	Kelvin Hunter
(xiii)	Congress Director	John Wickham
(xiv)	Congress Secretary	Steve Lovell

It was agreed that the Executive would appoint (ii) the Vice-Chairman.

Norman Hutchinson now took over the Chair. The AGM expressed its appreciation to Ole Bay-Petersen for all his work as Chairman.

7 Fischer timing : extending use beyond Division 1 of the League - proposal by Match Secretary

It was agreed that Fischer timing should be the default in Division 2, on the same basis as it is in Division 1. No change should be made for Division 3, but players there should be encouraged to use it. Fischer timing should also be the default in Division 1 of the Roger Goldsmith, but not in its Division 2.

8 There were no other proposals from Officers or Clubs.

9 League and Roger Goldsmith entries

Clubs submitted the following entries for 2016/7 :

Club	League	Roger Goldsmith	Comments
Bury	2+2+3	2+2	
Cambridge	2+4+1	3 + 0	An extra League team, preferably in Div 2
Ely	0+1+0	0	
Linton	2+1+1	?+1	An extra League team. A decision is needed on RG/Div 1
Newmarket	0+0+1	1 (with Ely) - presumably in Div 2	These assumptions need to be confirmed with Newmarket
Stowmarket	0+0+1	0	
TOTAL	6+8+7	6+4	

The Match Secretary said it was normally easier to have an even number of teams in a League Division, but others argued that an even spread of teams across the Divisions helped to ensure that players in each Division got a reasonable number of games. That could be achieved either by Ely playing in Division 1 (since Martin Goodger was returning to strengthen the team) ; or by Cambridge Oddfellows staying up in Division 1.

It was agreed that the 2016/7 season should be extended by a few weeks to accommodate a 7+7+7 split, that Ely would be given the option of playing in Division 1, but that if they declined this the option should be given to Oddfellows. A decision should be made after the ECF grading list came out, but before the end of July.

10 Future Events to note

- 8 September Jamboree in Bury
- 25 September Rapidplay in Whittlesford
- 22 & 23 Oct Bury Congress

11 There was no Other Business.

Stephen Pride
Administrative Secretary
July 2016