

BURY AREA CHESS LEAGUE : AGM 2018

The AGM took place on Monday 9 July, at the Bury St Edmunds Chess Club (Moreton Hall Community Centre, Symonds Road, Bury St Edmunds IP32 7EE).

Present were :

Norman Hutchinson (Chairman)
Patrick Ribbands (Match Secretary & Rapidplay Organiser)
Stephen Pride (Administrative Secretary)
Paul Kemp (Treasurer)
Bob Jones (Grading Officer, Handbook Editor & Jamboree Organiser)
Steve Lovell (Congress Secretary & Internet Officer)
Mark Szymanski (Roger Goldsmith Organiser)

Margherita Boroni (Linton)
Julian Ray (Linton)
Stephen Lewis (Stowmarket)

1 The Minutes of the previous AGM (held on 19 July 2017) were approved (subject to the correction of "Christopher Roberts" to "Colin Roberts" in Item 9(1).

2 Matters Arising

Item 9(1)

It was agreed not to move to a two Division structure for the League, which would lead to too many matches, and to a larger number of games between mismatched players.

Item 9(2)

Stephen Pride apologised that the Cambridge City Club hadn't yet explored the possibility of persuading Cambridge University to field a team in the League, but the Chairman commented that his experience with the Cambridge Bridge Club suggested that transport to away matches would be a real problem.

3 Officers' Reports

(i) The Chairman said it had been a good season, with fewer defaults and no serious disputes. But there had been no RP Tournament.

(ii) The Match Secretary presented his Report. The first sentence of Rule 3.2 was difficult to enforce, partly because different clubs defined membership differently, and partly because some players paid their membership subscriptions late. But others argued that deleting it would send the wrong signal. We had to rely on Clubs applying it in the right spirit. And we had the system of nominated grades. If further incidents of bending the rule occurred, we could look at it again.

If a team were renominated under Rule 3.5, the Match Secretary proposed that January grades, when available, should be applied to all its members for eligibility (as well as for board order). But some saw no reason to treat the members of such a team differently from others, and it was agreed not to change the Rule.

It was agreed that the notification of renomination should also be sent to the Captain of the first opposing team to be affected.

(iii) The Treasurer presented his report. The League itself had made a surplus of £69 ; and although the Congress had realised a deficit of £200, that was due to spending over £400 on display boards, which would be used for many years to come.. It was agreed to leave the League fees unchanged.

(iv) The Grading Officer handed out copies of his Report. In addition to the ungraded players listed, Alan Richardson (Linton) had been given an estimated grade of 165. Bob Jones asked Clubs to contact him when a player without a current grade was due to represent the Club.

(v) The Internet Officer said he had issued new passwords for the website, and was dealing with some other security issues. The confirmation of results had speeded up.

He then led a discussion about the General Data Protection Regulation. The ECF had issued Guidance : consent for the use of personal identity information (such as email addresses) was not necessarily essential, since in some cases there could be what the Regulation called a "legitimate interest" in sharing it. But it was necessary to tell people what our policy was, and he circulated a "Draft Privacy Notice" for the League. It was suggested that the paragraph listing information collected might be extended to include ECF Membership.

He would be producing a somewhat different "Privacy Notice" for the Bury Congress.

Although he could not give legal advice, he thought it would be acceptable for emails to be sent between members of a group, such as the BAFL Executive, without having to resort to the use of blind copying, because that would facilitate the subsequent exchange of emails between group members. He did not believe it was necessary to get consent in such a case. (But consent might be required for a wider group, such as all those who participated in the League, or had expressed interest in the Congress, and in such cases the preferred option would be to send them blind copies.)

It was agreed that the BAFL and RG Rules should be put on the website without password protection, but the rest of the physical Handbook would be placed inside the password-protected area. That would be simpler than trying to secure consent from all those whose personal details were in the Handbook.

The Internet Officer would consult the ECF as to whether consent was needed in any event for personal details in the physical Handbook (and Captains might raise trickier issues than Officers). A reference to the Privacy Notice would be included in the Handbook.

The AGM expressed thanks to Steve Lovell for all his work on these issues.

(vi) The Roger Goldsmith Organiser introduced his paper, and it was agreed to reinstate the two Divisions, with limits of 580 and 500 (and to amend the Rules accordingly).

Stephen Pride reported a suggestion from Cambridge of an alternative approach, involving no limit on Board 1 in the first Division, but this attracted no support.

It was agreed that the references to "80" in Rules RG/5 and RG/6 should be confined to the new Division 1, and that the corresponding figure for Division 2 should be "60".

(vii) The Rapidplay Organiser said that it had not been possible to hold a RP tournament in 2017/8 because of problems with the venue. It was also difficult to persuade Cambridge players to travel to Bury, or vice versa.

It was agreed that in 2018/9 the format would be two evenings, each of three rounds, one in Bury and the other in Cambridge. A player could choose to participate in either or both, and they would be paired and scored separately, but the overall winner would be whoever achieved the highest total score.

Each evening might be divided into two sections at the point of the median grade.

The two evenings should be fairly close together, but some distance away from the Cambridgeshire RP on 23 Sept. One option might be May/June (before the Cambridge Club closes for the summer).

It was agreed that the RP Organiser would pull the event together, liaising with Bob Jones in Bury and a person in Cambridge to be identified by the Admin Sec.

(viii) The Congress Secretary said the 2017 Congress had been very successful. Despite a 25% increase in the venue hire cost, it had made a comfortable surplus, before expenditure on display boards. This year the hire cost was expected to rise by only the rate of inflation. Some people had had to be turned away because participation had reached the venue's permitted maximum. He hoped the 2018 Congress would be able to accommodate an extra twenty. One sponsor had confirmed support, but he was still waiting to hear from others.

4 Honours (including Games of the Season)

League	Div 1	Cambridge Examiners
	Div 2	Bury Cobras
	Div 3	Linton Llamas
Roger Goldsmith		Linton Lions
Jamboree		
Player of the Year	Div 1	Mike Harris
	Div 2	
	Div 3	Kian Dharmasena
Game of the Year	Div 1	
	Div 2	
	Div 3	

For "Game of the Year", the Match Secretary had received around 4 entries in Div 1, and another in Div 2, and another in Div 3. He would ask someone to judge them.

5 Election of Officers

The following were elected :

(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)	Game of Season Officer	Margherita Boroni (who would be briefed by Patrick
(xiii)	Trophy Officer	Kelvin Hunter (<u>subject to confirmation</u> by him)
(xiv)	Congress Director	John Wickham
(xv)	Congress Secretary	Steve Lovell

It was agreed that the Executive would appoint (ii) the Vice-Chairman, noting that the Chairman would be standing down during the 2019 AGM..

6 Structure of the League

The Admin Sec had tried to secure consensus within the Executive on the principles which should be used to allocate teams between the Divisions. But there had been disagreement. Nevertheless, a consensus had emerged on the best outcome for 2018/9, and his paper set that out.

The Chairman pointed out that the situation each year would be different.

The outcome was agreed. The Executive was invited to re-examine possible principles to submit to the next AGM.

It was also agreed that next year there was a possibility that there would be a double demotion from Division 2, in order to equalise the number of teams in each Division, and teams should be warned about that.

7 League and Roger Goldsmith entries

Clubs submitted the following entries for 2018/9 :

Club	League	Roger Goldsmith	Comments
Bury	3+1+2	1+2	
Cambridge	2+3+1	(1 or 2) +0	Will decide soon
Ely	1+1+0	1+0	
Linton	1+3+2	1+2	
Stowmarket	0+0+1	0+1	
TOTAL	7+8+6	(4 or 5) +5	

The Match Secretary said that the Fixture List might have to extend into May.

[Note : A few days later, Sudbury asked to field a team in Div 3 of the League.]

8 There were no other proposals from Officers or Clubs.

9 Any Other Business - there was none.

Stephen Pride
Administrative Secretary
12 July 2018

Future Events to note :

- 6 Sept Jamboree in Bury
- 23 Sept Cambridgeshire RP, Whittlesford
- 20 & 21 Oct Bury Congress