

SOMERSET COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of 118th Annual General Meeting, 3rd June 2013

- Attendees: M R Baker, G T Berryman, B Edgell (President), R Fenton, J Fewkes, G Jepps, R D Knight, C McKinley, J Parsons, M Richardt, A W Ruston, M Turner, G Udell, M Willis, D Wood and M Worrall (16 members).. Apologies for absence were received from A Bamford, A Ransom, S Wojcik (3 members).
- The minutes of the 117th meeting were accepted and then countersigned by the President.
- Matters Arising. The vacant post of Match Captain had been filled by Roger Knight. C McKinley had taken over as Treasurer from C Barratt. N Senior had taken over from D J Smith as Accounts Examiner.
- Announcement of trophy winners

Competition	May 2012	May 2013
Somerset Cup	Taunton	Taunton
Div 1	Taunton	Taunton
Div 2 East	Frome	Trowbridge
Div 2 West	Yeovil	Yeovil
Div 3 Central	Glastonbury	Yeovil
Div 3 East	Frome	Bath
Div 3 West	Glastonbury	Glastonbury

5 Treasurer's report.

2012/13

Receipts		Payments	
Affiliation fees	141.50	Website fees	69.44
Frome share of website charges	34.72	SCCA affiliation to WECU	11.00
Bank interest	0.51		
County chess surplus excluding WECU Fees	113.00	County team fees to WECU, ECF	58.00
Total	289.73		138.44

The surplus for the year was £151.29 and the total end of year assets were £2415.80. Note that the ECF will probably not send out invoices for "pay to play" fees until August. I will probably collect any fees due at the same time as next year's affiliation fees.

2013/14. It was agreed that affiliation fees 2013/14 will be £7.00 for the first team in Divisions 1 and 2, £4.50 for each additional team and £3.50 for a team in division 3. SCCA league games will be graded under the ECF Membership scheme. All players playing graded games are encouraged to become Direct Members of the ECF and games of DMs will be graded free of charge. There will be a "pay to play" fee of £2.00 per result for players who are not ECF members.

6 Other reports. The following officers reported to the meeting.

6.1 Match Captain reported as follows:

Div 1	2013
Cornwall	W 9-3
Devon	W 9-7
Glos	W 11-5
Hants	D 8-8
Position	1

Div 2	2013
Devon	L 4½-7½
Dorset	W 10½-5½
Hants	L 3½-8½
Position	2=

In the ECF Open championship quarter final Somerset lost vs Lancashire 5½-9½. The scores in the WECU Senior Jamboree were Devon 8, Somerset 6, and Glos 4. In the Graded Section the scores were Torbay League 8, Dorset 7.5, Exeter League 5.5 and Somerset 'B' 4.

6.2 The League Secretaries

Division 1: Taunton 12, Frome 6, Yeovil 6 and Glastonbury 0.

Division 2 East: Trowbridge 9, Frome 8, Bath 7, Norton Radstock 0.

Division 2 West: Yeovil 19, Taunton 16, Chard & Ilminster 16, Sedgemoor 12, Glastonbury 9, Weston-s-Mare 7, and Wellington 3.

Division 3 East: Frome 9, N/Radstock 6, Bath 6, and Trowbridge 3.

Division 3 West: Glastonbury 14, Chard & Ilminster 9, Weston knights 7, Taunton 4, Weston Bishops 2.

Division 3 Central: Yeovil 7, Glastonbury 5, Gillingham 0.

Mr Fenton raised the problem that Div 3 Central already has only 3 teams and next year Div 3 West will be reduced to 4 teams. He asked about the possibility of merging these two leagues into one. Yeovil and Glastonbury would prefer this arrangement. If accepted it would mean the demise of Div 3 Central and leave Gillingham & Shaftesbury out "on a limb". If it helps alleviate the situation Yeovil and Street would play friendly (i.e. non-league) games against Gillingham & Shaftesbury. The meeting then agreed that the merger should take place with effect from September 2013.

6.3 CC Match Captain. The CDCCC is now run under the auspices of the BFCC. I chose to enter our team comprising J Rudd, M Richardt, D Jones, B Edgell, B Gosling, D Freeman, J Fewkes, N Mills, I Stringer, and D R J Gough in Division 1. Life is tough at the top and so far the team has scored 3½/16.

6.4 Tournament Secretary. A detailed written report of 24th Frome Congress held May 10th-12th was circulated. There were 135 players entered and 4 sections. The Somerset trophies were won as follows:-

Denys Bonner Trophy (Open)	David Buckley (Bath)
Leon York Memorial (Major)	Bob Radford (South Bristol)
Roy Hossell (Intermediate)	Adrian Champion (Frome)
Cyril Chapman (Minor)	John Leon (Bath)
Jean Mackereth Trophy	Roberto Garcia-Rodriguez (Millfield)

6.5 Results Secretary: -

(1) This season a major advance has been the adoption of the Score-Checker web-based League Management System. The advantages include a) League results are instantly available on the web for

everyone to see; b) players can check that the results have been entered correctly; c) up-to-date league table are generated automatically; d) enormously reduced workload for League Results Officer.

(2) Registration for ECF Grading. Events that wish to be ECF graded must submit a registration form to the ECF at least 14 days before the event starts or else the event will not be graded. The Association Secretary (JF) will be responsible for Somerset League registration and act as the designated organiser/ point of contact for the ECF. Clubs wishing to have their internal competitions graded will need to make their own similar arrangements for registration.

6.6 ECF Delegate. Full copies of my reports from the ECF meetings can be accessed through the Bristol Chess Forum. Copies of the agendas for meetings and reports from meetings are sent out to club secretaries and LMC officials.

Generally things are improving. Junior chess is going from strength to strength. Although financially the ECF isn't on a sound footing yet, it is certainly on the way to becoming so.

It is not all perfect, but generally I feel more optimistic about the ECF than I have in quite some time.

The membership scheme has been a success. I don't know the exact number of members at the moment, but there were 9200 members as of mid-April. The prices will remain the same for membership for next season.

One important thing to note is that the ECF's intention is for the "pay to play" fee element to be phased out and for it to be a purely membership scheme.

One other point is that from the start of next season the ECF requires any event (league, congress, club competition etc) that wishes to be graded to register in advance. It is entirely free, but requires you to fill out a form online, with details such as start/finish date, organiser's name etc. The latest the form can be filled out is 14 days before the start of the event. The reason for this is to make it easier for the ECF to know who to bill, and also to ensure the right number of votes are allocated for ECF meetings etc.

6.6 WECU Executive Delegate: there was nothing of great note to report.

7. League Rules for 2013/14. A number of changes were approved and it will be important that in future everyone uses the version of the rules dated June 2013. Here I am highlighting the changes but for full details the actual rules should be used. So the principal changes are as follows.

(1) Rule 1(a). In Division 2 average grades are no longer used – we have reverted to the restriction that only one player graded over 165 is allowed to play.

(2) Rule 1(b). We have a new rule that if a player is ungraded in the July list then the club concerned should at least three days before the match report the relevant facts to the Grading Officer (G Jepps) who will determine a provisional grade (*grade).

(3) Rule 1(e). The penalty for playing an ineligible player in any match shall be loss of the game for that player and a win for the opponent.

(4) Rule 2(a). Except with the express agreement of Team Captains players shall be arranged in descending grading order. Unless with the explicit consent of the opposing captain any player with a grade 5 points or more above that of a player on a higher board shall be deemed ineligible.

(5) Rule 8(b). If a player is currently ungraded but has had an ECF grade in the past then the latest published grade should be used with a reduction of 3 points per year for each year missing since publication up to a maximum of 15 points.

(6) Rule 8(d). The Grading Officer will publish the *grades on the web-site so that all clubs have access to the relevant information.

8 Other motions.

8.1 We received a proposal from Tony Ransom of Trowbridge CC. "Where digital clocks are available they will be used in preference to analogue clocks. It will be the responsibility of the home club to ensure the correct operation of the clocks." The motion was not discussed as there was no-one to second it.

8.2 We received a proposal from Richard Quin of Gillingham & Shaftesbury CC that rule 3(b) should be amended to read “ a player forfeits the game when his flag drops at the first time control i.e. If he turns up 15 minutes late from the start of the match unless both team captains agree otherwise. The motion was not discussed as there was no-one to second it.

8 Election of Officers

President B Edgell.

Vice-presidents: A Bamford, C F Barratt, G T Berryman, B J Francis, R W Gregory, G N Jepps, R Maishman, C Winch.

Secretary: J E Fewkes.

Treasurer: C McKinley.

League Secretary East & Central: G Udell.

League Secretary West: R Fenton.

Match Captain: R D Knight.

Correspondence Match Captain: J E Fewkes.

Senior Tournament Secretary: G N Jepps.

Junior Organiser: Vacant.

Grading Officer: G N Jepps.

ECF Delegate: B Edgell.

WECU Executive Delegate: B Edgell.

WECU Council Delegate: G N Jepps.

Committee Member: R Carver.

9 Appointments

Accounts Examiner: N Senior

Arbiters: N Belinfante, G N Jepps, A T Mordue and J Rudd,

10 Vote of Thanks. The President expressed his thanks and appreciation to the officers for the work they had during the year.

11 Any Other business None

12 119th AGM. The 119th AGM will be held at The Tor Leisure Centre, Glastonbury BA6 9EF at 7.30 pm on Monday 2nd June, 2014. Items for inclusion in the formal agenda should reach the secretary no later than 30th April, 2013.