



Minutes of the AGM - Hertfordshire Chess Association (HCA)

7.30 pm Wednesday 3rd August 2021

Held at the Salisbury Arms Hotel

Present

Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell, Chris Pines, Ray Claret (St Albans), Mike Price (Stevenage), Alan Brewis (Hertford), David White (Welwyn Hatfield Chess Forum), Adam Hirst (Bishop's Stortford); Brian Judkins (Royston); Stephen Banks (Enfield), Steve Law (Hemel Hempstead), Chris Dyer (Rothamsted), Chris Cook (Little Heath - via video conference)

The meeting began with a minute's silence to reflect on two Herts players who passed away recently, Ross Brennan (Welwyn Hatfield) and Richard Joyce (Hoddesdon).

1 Apologies for absence

Ian Mutton (Letchworth), John Rhodes, Anthony Kent (Borehamwood), Andrew du Boulay (Hertford), Kevin Clark (Royston), Peter Dunks (Hemel Hempstead).

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

These were approved subject to Ian Mutton being recognised as a member of Letchworth rather than Stevenage Chess Club.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4 Treasurer's Report – *Mike Price*

The Treasurer's 'Financial Report.pdf' and the 'Financial Statement 2021.pdf' are appended.

For the 2021-22 season the affiliation fees will be collected but the competition fees would be decided at the next meeting.

Thanks to David White for his inspection of the 2019-20 accounts which he found satisfactory.

5 Secretary's Report – *Alan Brewis*

'Secretary's Report August2021.pdf' is appended.

6 Officers' Reports

'Correspondence Chess Report July 2021.pdf' is appended. Additional players are required. Anyone interested should contact John Rhodes –

john.rhodes33@ntlworld.com

7 Events Programme 2021-22

'Events Programme 2021.pdf' is appended. There was considerable discussion of the HCA events proposed for the coming season in this document, not least because of

the dual uncertainties of players attitudes to returning to otb chess and also the coronavirus situation. Starting the season with the knockout competitions in October might lead to more players deciding to return to the revised league format from November. With two-thirds of HCA players indicating they intended to return, there is currently the potential for approximately 28 teams to compete next season. Clubs will be invited to declare their teams for the knockout in mid-September and for the league in mid-October with player nominations to follow.

The programme explains the perceived benefits of splitting the season into three sections - the first for the knockout competitions; the second and third for the league. It is suggested that this arrangement will be more flexible should a resurgence in coronavirus interrupt events.

The League Secretary will see if it is possible to arrange the league pools in such a way as to reduce the travel for away teams - east and west pools for instance.

No covid related restrictions are being imposed by the HCA but players should refrain from playing if displaying covid-like symptoms.

Club venues may impose their own restrictions and clubs are encouraged to ascertain the arrangements and to advise the League Secretary of any information relevant to visiting teams.

The Events Programme was approved without any further amendments.

8 Election of Officers

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| President | Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell |
| Secretary | Alan Brewis |
| Treasurer | Mike Price |
| League Secretary | Steve Law |
| U120 League | Steve Law |
| Capel, Burn & Bunce Organisers ① | Steve Law, Alan Brewis & Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell |
| Old Puller Cup Organiser | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Knockout Competition Organiser | Steve Law |
| Open Team Captain | <i>Vacant</i> |
| U160 Team Captain ② | Corinne Mountford |
| U140 Team Captain ② | <i>Vacant</i> |
| U120 Team Captain ② | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Correspondence Chess Conductor | John Rhodes |
| Webmaster | Stephen Dicks |
| County Grader | Steve Law |
| Adjudications Secretary | Currently not required ③ |
| Chief Arbitrator | Tim Thurstan |
| Congress Organiser | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Archivist | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Equipment Curator | Mike Price |

SCCU Representatives
EACU Representatives
ECF Representative
Rules Committee Chair

Alan Brewis ④
Alan Brewis ④
Chris Cook
Jeremy Fraser- Mitchell

9 Any other business

No other matters were raised. The meeting closed at 9.26pm.

- ① Following the meeting, it was found that the usual venue for this tournament, the Hertford Club, would not be available.
- ② These 3 digit ECF grading limits to be replaced by the appropriate 4 digit FIDE equivalent ratings.
- ③ The meeting thanked the retiring officer, Brian Judkins, for his many years of service. In the (unlikely) event of adjudication being required, i.e. Fischer time control not reaching a conclusion and players / captains unable to agree result on the night, the position should be sent to the League Sec to sort out the process.
- ④ Self-appointed as currently handling all correspondence