



Minutes of Meeting - Hertfordshire Chess Association (HCA)

Held Friday 23rd September 2016 from 19.30 hrs

Chauncy Room, Hertford Club, Bull Plain, Hertford, SG14 1DT

Present

Barnet	Malcolm Harding (MH)	President
Hertford	Alan Brewis (AB) Simon Knott (SK)	Secretary
St Albans	Peter Baker (PB) Aidan Ellis (AE) Michael Flatt (MF) Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell (JFM)	U120 County Captain Secretary, St Albans CC Junior Secretary, SCCU Representative Closed County Competition Organiser
Royston	Brian Judkins (BJ) Kevin Clark (KC)	Adjudication Secretary Secretary, Royston CC
Stevenage	Chris Majer (CM) Mike Price (MP)	ECF Delegate Treasurer
Enfield	Steve Banks (SB)	Secretary, Enfield CC
Welwyn Hatfield CF	Mir Wali (MW)	

1 Apologies for Absence

Peter Dunks, Graham Willams, Steve Law, Terry O'Sullivan, John Harris, Ian Mutton, Francois Swiegers, Tim Sampson, William Young, Keith Woodhouse, Peter Rice.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting held 18th March 2016

The minutes were approved.

3 Matters Arising

County Tie Replacement - The new 'county award' is available and will be presented to winners later at this meeting.

ECF Yearbook - CM advised that this is now available

Safeguarding Children - In response to enquiries from SB, MF advised that it would be good practice to ensure a responsible adult was present when any children attend a chess function. If ECF Insurance is to be obtained, then the club must adopt the Safeguarding Children Policy of the ECF. Should a club run a separate section specifically for children then they should consider the club leader and one other adult obtaining a government DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check. Following the meeting MF offered the following helpful information links:

ECF Insurance renewal:

<http://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/ECF-Club-Insurance-Renewal-Application-2016.pdf>

ECF Safeguarding Children Policy: <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/safeguarding-children-policy/>

DBS website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>

Woodland Board & Set This was presented to BJ, in recognition of Royston 3 winning division 4 last season. It had been brought up to date by MH.

Daytime Chess This is outstanding. **Action AB**

Vice Presidents The March 2016 list still applies, <http://www.hertschess.com/node/362>. VP's who do not renew will be assumed to have resigned.

4 **Treasurer's Report – Mike Price**

Please refer to the two separate reports 'Treasurer's Report' and 'Treasurer's Financial Report'. MP advised of very little financial activity as the season is has hardly begun. He has yet to receive any claim from the ECF regarding non-payment of game fees for Herts players last season.

The meeting approved the addition of Michael Price and Alan Brewis to the existing signatories (John Leake, Malcolm Harding and Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell) relating to the HCA's HSBC account.

MP advised he would enquire about opportunities to reinvest the bond that had recently matured.

5 **Secretary's Report – Alan Brewis**

Clubs were invited to promote the 65th Herts Congress, 12th – 13th November, by distributing the congress brochures brought to the meeting. Further brochure packs were given to county captains and to CM and MF to take to ECF, SCCU und Junior events.

6 **Officers Reports**

Competitions Secretary's Report – Steve Law

Fixtures have been difficult. Divisions 5, 6 and the U120 have 8 teams in each, as no suitable alternative could be found. A number of teams have been shuffled upwards.

There are too many fixtures, particularly for St Albans, to get in by the end of May. As a consequence, there will have to be matches in the first week of June for some teams. A Hemel v St Albans div 6 match has also had to be placed on 2nd January 2017.

There have been data entry problems. In one case a missing comma nearly caused a club's first and second team having to playing on the same night on several occasions. Plus, there is an irritating bug which is still not fixed which has caused even more delays.

So fixtures are now available, <http://www.e2-e4.co.uk/chess-results/results.htm>, only 3 days late. Strangely nobody has chased ... thanks everyone.

Open Team – Malcolm Harding

Despite intensive canvassing Malcolm could neither find sufficient interested players nor a captain to keep the Open Team running, whether in the EACU or SCCU competitions. So the team is having a year off and we will try again next season. Kevin Clark will inform Patrick Ribbands at the EACU of our decision.

U160 Team – Mike Price

The first match is scheduled for October 9th, much earlier than usual, playing Norfolk in the morning, Cambs in the afternoon. We have 8 players in the team so far.

U120 Team – Peter Baker

The team has lost several players to the U140 squad who have not been replaced by other players falling below the 120 grade limit. As a consequence, the team is weaker this season. Peter is searching to make up the numbers. The first match is away to Essex on October 8th.

Closed County Competition (Capel, Burn & Bunce Cups) – Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell

A promising new venue this year, the Allen Room at Allenbury Social Club in Ware on 15th – 16th October 2016. Entry forms were distributed. Please note that entry can be accepted up to Friday 14th October (and not 2nd October as stated on the form).

Correspondence Chess Report – Graham Williams

Confirmation now received that Herts A were promoted (on Board Count) from the Sinclair back to the Ward-Higgs.

Herts B narrowly missed promotion from the Butler-Thomas to the Sinclair, coming 3rd.

Equipment Curator – Mike Price

Following the AGM of 15th July 2016, a re-allocation of HCA equipment took place between the county captains, in order to facilitate the use of digital clocks in the EACU competitions, and to reinforce depleted or worn out stock where necessary.

The equipment re-allocated was as follows:

Mike Price (U160) took possession of 20 analogue clocks and three sets from Peter Rice.

There needs to be a further re-allocation from Mike Price of the 20 analogue clocks in his possession to Steve Dicks (9 off) &/Peter Baker (11 off). This needs to take place before the first home U140 &/or U120 matches of the 2016/17 season to ensure we have adequate cover for non-working analogue clocks.

The revised inventory of HCA equipment held by the respective county captains is now as follows:

Team	Captain	Clocks	Boards	Sets
Open	Peter Rice	20D	16	18
U160	Mike Price	20D + 20A	18	20
U140	Steve Dicks	19A	18	19
U120	Peter Baker	21A (16 working)	32	16

SCCU Report – Michael Flatt

Chris Majer is now SCCU Secretary. Michael Flatt has taken over the Match Controller role from David Smith. Tim Thurstan remains as Treasurer and Peter Baker is listed as Independent Examiner.

ECF Report – Chris Majer

At the ECF AGM on Saturday 15th October CM's intentions to vote for Julie Denning and Stephen Woodhouse were approved nem con. Chris invited members to contact him if they have any issues to raise with the ECF.

7 Closed County Competition Rules

Should the home team have sufficient digital clocks then the default rate of play shall be Fischer Timing, all moves in 70 minutes, plus 10 added seconds per move per player. This rule proposal was adopted nem con with immediate effect. The updated CCRs that result are now at issue 23, <http://www.hertschess.com/node/4>.

The Rules Committee are charged with the task of whether to recommend or not the HCA's adoption of 'ECF Tournament Rules'.

8 HCA Funds

A discussion on whether the HCA funds of approximately £9,000 were in excess of their needs concluded that this amount is a legacy of the excellent work of officers over many years and should be retained to be spent wisely.

9 County Awards

The new award, to replace the 'county tie' for three consecutive wins without intervening loses whilst representing the HCA, was awarded to Simon Knott of Hertford and, in their absence, to:

James Aldred	Roger Kearns
Russell Bailey	Ed Magee
Simon Charles	Keith Woodhouse
Andrew Maclaren	Terry O'Sullivan
Ian Mutton	Ray Claret
Paul Laskier	Steve Zsibrita
Francois Swiegers	Sidney Golding
Duncan Marshall	Peter Dunks
Tim Sampson	Chris Cook
John Harris	Cecil Sloan.
John Rhodes	Keith Kitson

10 Any Other Business

JFM introduced and welcomed Aidan Ellis to the meeting.

MF advised the that ECF have introduced new Arbiter Regulations from September 1st 2016.

The next meeting is Friday, 18th November 2016. Please contact the Secretary if any other clubs are interested in hosting this meeting.

Meeting closed at 21.45 hrs.