

Mid-Sussex Chess League AGM

Meeting Title: Mid-Sussex Chess League Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 20 June 2017 7.45pm

Present: (as recorded on the signing-in sheet)
The Args (A): Peter Farr
Brighton & Hove (B): Paul Batchelor, Susan Chadwick, Robert Counsell, Paul Selby
Crowborough (C): Don Grant, Jonathan Tuck
East Grinstead (EG): Bob Dyke, Suzanne Marshall
Eastbourne (E): Mike Elgin, Oli Froom, John Herbert, Rasa Norinkeviciute, Doug Stevenson
Haywards Heath (HH): Chris Baldry, David Curtis
Horsham (H): Ian Comely, Julie Denning, Anthony Higgs
Lewes (L): Matthew Britnell, Barry Maufe
University of Sussex (S): Seb Taylor, Will Webster
Uckfield (U): Mark Attree, Brian Stockham
Worthing (W): Chris Jones
SCCA: Robert Elliston

Item	Minutes
1.	Chairman's opening remarks and apologies for absence: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doug Stevenson (DS) opened the meeting. He had some travel sets and other sets attendees could take if they wished.• There were no apologies.
2.	Minutes of last year's AGM (previously circulated): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The minutes were passed as a true record.
3.	Secretary's report and matters arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matthew Britnell (MB) commented that the committee had been rather hard pressed to deal with niggles this season - which served principally to highlight the invaluable role that had been played by Julie Denning over the years and also exposed the extra work generated for the committee and the webmaster by informal fixture rearrangements not in accordance with the rules. It is hoped someone will come forward (none had done so beforehand) to fill the vacant Fixtures Secretary role (item 8).• Lewes will host again in 2018
4.	Treasurer's report and matters arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DS presented the accounts (see appendix). The loss was slightly greater than expected but was within the bounds of the acceptable and the Treasurer remains of the view that the League has too much money.• One trophy required a new band.• Bob Dyke (EG) asked about the MSCL's liability to the ECF. DS replied that the League was liable to the ECF for the game fees of players who are not members. The ECF often make mistakes. DS is usually able to obtain the money from clubs before paying the ECF.• The accounts were unanimously approved (see appendix).• League entry fees for 2017-18 were agreed at £3 per team (no fee for the Rapidplay Division and the KO Cup).
5.	Fixtures Secretary's report:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie Denning (JD) presented the report (regretting that there was no written report this year). Julie's chess and non-chess activities had increased this year and something had to go. Julie will be happy to show a new volunteer to the Fixtures Secretary role how she's performed the task. Ian Comely (H) proposed a vote of thanks to Julie for her work. All agreed.
6.	<p>Match Recorder's report and matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Match Recorder, Don Grant (DG), summarised the season (see MSCL website for full results and tables)
7.	<p>Presentation of Trophies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As follows (see MSCL website for full results and tables): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Division 1 was won by Brighton & Hove 1 Division 2 was won by Brighton & Hove 2 Division 3 was won by Lewes 2 Division 4 was won by Brighton & Hove 4 The Knockout Cup was won by Uckfield, beating Brighton in the final (needing 2½ but achieving 3). The new Rapidplay Division was won by Woodpushers Individual tankards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall tankard was won by Gyorgy Moga (S) with 7/7 (100%) Division 1 tankard was won by jointly by John Henshaw (B) and Feliks Kwiatkowski with 6.5/9 (72%). Division 2 tankard was won by Peter Farr (A) with 6.5/8 (81%). Division 3 tankard was won by Jo Everett (W) with 6/7 (86%). Division 4 tankard was won by Miran Guler (S) with 5.5/6 (92%).
8.	<p>Election of Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There being no challengers for any position the existing committee and others were re-elected as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman – Doug Stevenson Secretary – Matthew Britnell Fixtures Secretary – see below Treasurer – Doug Stevenson Match Recorder – Don Grant Webmaster – Barry Maufe (non-committee post) Auditor – John Herbert (non-committee post) ECF Delegate – Julie Denning (non-committee post) Julie Denning explained what the ECF Delegate role entailed. DS explained that the League would usually use the SCCU delegate (JD) to save expenses but would reserve the right to appoint our own. The Chairman explained that if no-one came forward to occupy the Fixtures Secretary role the League would revert to calling a fixtures meeting at which the season's fixtures would be set. Naturally this would be far less satisfactory than someone determining fixtures in a coherent manner in accordance with an established system. Peter Farr (A) volunteered and was duly elected Fixtures Secretary. The Chairman said the Webmaster would appreciate some assistance with aspects of the website, particularly if someone had experience of PHP programming. No-one came forward there and then. Agreed to put a notice on the website and for the Secretary to circulate club contacts.
9.	<p>County Adjudication Secretary's report and matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rob Elliston presented the report:

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	<p>The panel considered six positions this season. There were two successful appeals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel comprised Bernard Cafferty, Geoff James, James Manson, Mike Nicholas, and Robert Elliston.
10.	<p>SCCA matters relating to the League and its clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie explained recent ECF changes applicable for the new season: in a reform of the game fee / direct membership system a player may play up to three games without incurring game fees but on the fourth appearance (eighth in rapidplay) will be liable for game fees equivalent to the cost of Bronze membership. This change will serve to make competitive chess more attractive to newcomers as well as spare the ECF the disproportionate amount of administrative time billing leagues for relatively trivial sums. The Treasurer said that some clubs had incurred game fees of up to £30 for a single player. The Secretary added that this situation could be avoided if Clubs better managed their players' appearances on their behalf – at his club (L) all members must be ECF members before they can play. Clubs would need to submit internal club competition results by the first week of July if they wished them to be included in the July 2017 grades. It was the SCCU's 125th anniversary year. A 'north v south' (of the Thames) match was scheduled for 16th September 2017. The venue is likely to be in St. John's Wood. Jonathan Tuck (C) pointed out that the date clashed with the Crowborough rapidplay and the first Sussex Junior Chess event of the season but Julie replied that there are so many chess events taking place over the SCCU area that clashes were virtually unavoidable. It was noted that Richard Haddrell and John Philpott had both died in the last year. Such was the value of their voluntary contributions to chess that their departure had left a significant void at the ECF and SCCU.
11.	Refreshment break
12.	<p>Review of the Rapidplay League</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Britnell introduced this item, stating that on the whole it had been a successful first season and the rules under which it had been played had worked well enough although both he and others doubtless have ideas for improvements (some have already been mooted and discussed on the Forum page of the League website). He congratulated those clubs that were able to field all-juniors teams for all matches and hoped that all participating clubs would be able to do so in future – possibly by fielding a joint team with another club if their own pool of juniors was rather shallow. Brian Stockham (U) said that the most pressing requirement was for the MSCL to adopt a safeguarding policy. It was not enough for the League to eschew responsibility and insist it be dealt with at club level. Anthony Higgs (H) and Jonathan Tuck (C) said that their clubs fielded juniors on all boards. Jonathan said that Sussex Junior Chess have a safeguarding policy which may be useful for the League. Ian Comely (H) said safeguarding wasn't relevant only to the Rapidplay League and was applicable for all MSCL activities. The meeting agreed for Julie Denning (H) to undertake work on this issue on behalf of the League. The meeting agreed for Matthew Britnell to proceed with a further consultation on the Rapidplay League rules, as proposed. Barry Maufe (L) asked whether the League would be providing a trophy. DS replied that if after the 2017-18 season the Rapidplay League looks like

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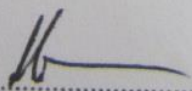
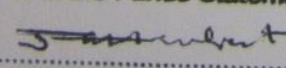
	<p>becoming a permanent feature of the MSCL scene then yes, a trophy would be purchased.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew was thanked by the meeting for getting the Rapidplay League up and running.
13.	<p>Proposals for rule changes (see appendices for proposals):</p>
	<p>1. Chairman's proposal re. rule 2.6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed
	<p>2. Chairman's proposal re. rule 6.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie Denning (H) could see the intention was reasonable but was concerned this had arisen primarily because an earlier AGM had resolved to use always the most up to date grading list. This was predictably going to bring unforeseen consequences and there would be further difficulties if the ECF move to monthly grading lists. Following further discussion the proposal was passed.
	<p>3. Chairman's proposal re. KO rule 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will Webster (S) asked what criteria would be used. DS replied that any evidence available to the committee; that could include a FIDE grade, another national grade, an expired ECF grade, the reasonable estimations of a club familiar with the player's friendly games etc. Peter Farr (A) said that the standard FIDE to ECF conversion formula (FIDE grade minus 700 divided by 7.5) should be used if a player has a FIDE grade. Julie Denning explained that the proposal neither excludes nor mandates using the formula. The formula represents a best approximation for all grade levels and is not necessarily accurate at a particular level. Brian Stockham (U) responded to the thought that the rule was proposed following Chaski Patrick's appearance for Uckfield at the assumed grade of 150 when indications were his grade was likely to be somewhere between 190 and 210. Uckfield could under the existing rules legally have fielded Chaski with an assumed grade of 105 but had acknowledged this would have been unfair and chose instead 150 – the default grade for a player who'd appeared in Division 1 – even though at that time Chaski had not played at all in the League. Mark Attree (U) and Ian Comely (H) argued that the reference in rule 7 to default strengths based on division appearances could be deleted. Seb Taylor (S) suggested the proposed addition (minus the words 'if none of the above apply') should be placed before the division defaults rather than after them. This was supported by Anthony Higgs (H) who argued that where possible evidence should take precedence over default division grades. The proposal was duly put to the vote based on this inversion and passed. The Secretary to rework rule 7 accordingly to give effect to the will of the meeting.
13.	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DS (E) thanked Lewes for their hospitality. Rupert Elliston (SCCA) called for a vote of thanks for the committee. Passed. Jonathan Tuck(C) summarized the successes enjoyed by the various age-level Sussex Junior teams during 2016-17: at present Sussex holds 5 of the 9 national titles.

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14.	The meeting concluded at 10.15 pm.
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4. Treasurer's report and matters arising

MID SUSSEX CHESS LEAGUE			
<u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u>			
<u>for year ended 31 March 2017</u>			
	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2015/16</u>	<u>17/18 Budget</u>
<u>INCOME</u>			
Team fees: League 36 (36)	72.00	72.00	108.00
ECF fees	324.00	242.00	300.00
Donation-Woodpushers	4.00		
Bank interest	0.22	0.26	0.20
	<u>400.22</u>	<u>314.26</u>	<u>408.20</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
ECF fees	324.00	242.00	300.00
Engraving claimed	77.53	40.95	70.00
Match Recorders' expenses	3.50	3.00	4.00
Web site cost	28.00	29.00	28.00
Postage, telephone & stationery	2.44	3.64	3.00
Trophy repairs	16.00	7.50	
	<u>451.47</u>	<u>326.09</u>	<u>405.00</u>
<u>SURPLUS/ - DEFICIT</u>	<u>-51.25</u>	<u>-11.83</u>	<u>3.20</u>
<u>FUNDS AT 31 MARCH:</u>			
Cash in bank	354.24	375.69	
Less: Expenses not yet paid	-6.44	-6.64	
	<u>347.80</u>	<u>369.05</u>	
Expenses paid in advance	74.00	104.00	
	<u>421.80</u>	<u>473.05</u>	425.00
Being:			
General	351.80	403.05	
The Holt trophy fund	70.00	70.00	
	<u>421.80</u>	<u>473.05</u>	
Signed..... 	Treasurer		
D.W. Stevenson			
I certify that the above Income and Expenditure Account and the Funds Statement are correct.			
Signed..... 	Auditor		
JG Herbert			

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12. Rule change proposals

13. Rule Changes
1. Chairman's proposals
Current Rule
2.6 Fixture changes Upon receipt of the fixture lists, clubs should check their viability. Changes may be made (including mutually agreed weekend arrangements): <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ by mutual agreement concluded up to 14 days after the date of issue of the fixture lists for matches scheduled to be played in October or November; or▪ by mutual agreement concluded 28 days prior to the originally scheduled date for matches scheduled to be played in December or later; or▪ under exceptional circumstances. All fixture changes, and any resulting disputes, must be notified within 7 days to the Fixtures Secretary.
Proposed Rule
2.6 Fixture changes Upon receipt of the fixture lists, clubs should check their viability. Changes may be made (including mutually agreed weekend arrangements): <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ by mutual agreement concluded up to 14 days after the date of issue of the fixture lists for matches scheduled to be played in October or November; or▪ by mutual agreement concluded 28 days prior to the originally scheduled date for matches scheduled to be played in December or later; or▪ under exceptional circumstances. All fixture changes, and any resulting disputes, must be notified by both clubs within 7 days to the Fixtures Secretary.
Rationale: This doubles our chances of being aware of a change and should remove any misunderstandings on the agreed date.
Current Rule
6.2 Seriously defaulting teams A team that postpones or rearranges a match other than in accordance with Rule 2.6 or has insufficient players to win a match by the deadline established under 8.5 will be deemed to have defaulted it. In this circumstance the following procedure shall apply. 6.2.1 The team shall have one match point deducted from its total. 6.2.2 The match shall be replayed at a date convenient to the team defaulted against. In the event of disagreement a date for replaying the match shall be set by the Match Recorder. 6.2.3 If the defaulting team does not replay the match it shall automatically be relegated and all its match results declared void. (Games played by the defaulting team shall be graded as normal.)
Proposed Rule
6.2 Seriously defaulting teams A team that postpones or rearranges a match other than in accordance with Rule 2.6 or has insufficient players to win a match by the deadline established under 8.5 will be deemed to have defaulted it. In this circumstance the following procedure shall apply. 6.2.1 The team shall have one match point deducted from its total. 6.2.2 The match shall be replayed at a date convenient to the team defaulted against. The team defaulted against may also include any player who would have been eligible on the previously scheduled date. In the event of disagreement a date for replaying the match shall be set by the Match Recorder. 6.2.3 If the defaulting team does not replay the match it shall automatically be relegated and all its match results declared void. (Games played by the defaulting team shall be graded as normal.)
Rationale: The January grading list could debar a player who would otherwise have been in

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the team and hence is unfair on the team defaulted against.

Current Rule (Knock-out Cup)

7. For the purposes of this competition a player's grading shall be their official ECF standardplay grading from the current grading list. The January grading list therefore supersedes the July list part-way through the tournament and with immediate effect upon publication; captains shall ensure they use the up-to-date list available on the ECF website for all matches. If a player's only grading is a rapidplay grading this shall be used but if that player acquires a standardplay grading on the January list, the latter shall be used.

If a player has no current ECF grading, it shall be based on the highest division in which in which he/she has appeared in a MSCL match in the current season, as follows:

Division	ECF Grade
Division 1	150
Division 2	135
Division 3	120
Division 4 (or not previously played)	105

Proposed Rule (Knock-out Cup)

7. For the purposes of this competition a player's grading shall be their official ECF standardplay grading from the current grading list. The January grading list therefore supersedes the July list part-way through the tournament and with immediate effect upon publication; captains shall ensure they use the up-to-date list available on the ECF website for all matches. If a player's only grading is a rapidplay grading this shall be used but if that player acquires a standardplay grading on the January list, the latter shall be used.

If a player has no current ECF grading, it shall be based on the highest division in which in which he/she has appeared in a MSCL match in the current season, as follows:

Division	ECF Grade
Division 1	150
Division 2	135
Division 3	120
Division 4 (or not previously played)	105

If none of the above apply the club must provide all relevant information regarding a player to the Tournament Controller for a grade estimate to be determined.

Rationale: I consider it a nonsense to grade a strong player as 105 just because they have not played in a League match or not enough to have generated an ECF grade.