

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM held on 28 June 2017

1. Attendance

The meeting was attended by Norman Wedley (chairman), Chris Russell, Francis Bowers, Marcus Misson, Paul Kemp, Kevin Clark, Patrick Ribbands, Paul Hanks.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Marcus Connolly, Stephen Pride, Colin Emery, Phil Turp, John Dunn, Julian Ray, Norman Hutchinson.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 13 July 2016

The minutes were summarised and approved. Chris Russell was thanked for deputising as Secretary.

4. Matter arising

The new Fischer time limit with digital clocks had been implemented without much problem.

5. Reports of Association officers for 2016/17

Team Competitions Secretary : Please see Appendix 2

The only discussion concerned results not being entered or confirmed on the website which could lead to games going ungraded. The Secretary would issue a warning at the close of the competition and a discretionary power to impose a fine of £2/match/team for persistent non-compliance was mooted.

Tournament Secretary : Please see Appendix 3

Special Events Organiser : Please see Appendix 5

As the Rapidplay had run smoothly and been successful, the 2017 event was scheduled for 24th September at a venue with a bigger capacity and with a new tournament director. Paul Kemp was thanked for his past efforts.

Junior Organisers :

It was reported that a number of coaching activities were taking place around the county with a junior squad at Linton, a school league around Cambridge and promising juniors participating in national training squads and competing internationally.

County Team Captains : Please see Appendix 6

The team in the Open EACU competition finished behind Norfolk and Suffolk. Big wins were mixed with narrow losses and despite the most game points, third place was not sufficient to progress. 11 players played in all 6 matches and filling boards had been a struggle.

In the U-160 event, the team failed to qualify for the later stages for the first time in a number of years. Finishing level with Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire were eliminated on the individual matches between the counties. The aim had been to try to field the strongest team at all times but a more relaxed attitude may be required in future.

No U-120 captain could be found and as a result, no team was entered at this level. Without evening games, it was pointed out that it should be the breeding ground for junior talent provided care was taken with ECF charges.

ECF & EACU delegates :

Meetings of the national and regional bodies had limited agendas. A change to ECF membership had been passed so that non-members default to bronze status.

Grading Officer : Please see Appendix 7

Webmaster : Please see Appendix 4

The chairman thanked all officers for their time and dedication during the season.

6. Report of the Treasurer and Adoption of the 2016/17 Accounts

The Treasurer circulated and presented the accounts to the meeting. Please see Appendix 1.

With the prospect of increased income from the expanded Rapidplay, M Misson proposed and F Bowers seconded that league fees remain unchanged as detailed in the report. This was carried unanimously and the accounts were approved.

7. Election of Officers for 2017/18

The following appointments were made to Committee positions :

Position	Incumbent	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	Norman Wedley	Norman Wedley	P Hanks	F Bowers
Vice-Chairman	Chris Russell	Chris Russell	F Bowers	P Kemp
Secretary	Paul Hanks	Marcus Misson	F Bowers	P Kemp
Treasurer	Paul Kemp	Paul Kemp	P Hanks	F Bowers
Team Competitions Secretary	Paul Kemp	Paul Hanks	P Kemp	K Clark
Rapidplay Director	Paul Kemp/J Ray	Julian Ray	P Kemp	P Ribbands
County Championship	Francis Bowers	Francis Bowers	P Hanks	M Misson
Junior Organiser	Francis Bowers	Francis Bowers	P Hanks	M Misson
Match Captains : Open	Kevin Clark	Kevin Clark	P Kemp	F Bowers
U160	Patrick Ribbands	Patrick Ribbands	K Clark	F Bowers
U120	Patrick Ribbands	Nominations required		
Website Co-ordinator	Phil Turp	Phil Turp	P Kemp	F Bowers
Grading Officers	Patrick Ribbands Chris Russell	Patrick Ribbands	P Hanks	F Bowers
		Chris Russell		
Auditor	Norman Hutchinson	Norman Hutchinson	P Kemp	K Clark
ECF Delegate	Marcus Misson	Marcus Misson	F Bowers	P Kemp
EACU Delegates	Paul Hanks	Paul Hanks	Nem con.	
	Francis Bowers	Francis Bowers		
	Norman Wedley	Norman Wedley		
Disputes Committee	Norman Wedley	Norman Wedley	Nem con.	
	F Bowers	F Bowers		
	To be co-opted as needed			

8. Any Other Business

Trophies : The following trophies were presented :

Trophy	Winner	Received by
Division One	Royston	P Kemp
Division Two	Warboys C	M Misson
Jamboree	Royston	K Clark
Fenland Trophy	Royston	P Kemp
Fenland Plate	Warboys	M Misson
Team 550	New England Cavaliers	F Bowers
Camb's Grand Prix	M Misson	M Misson
Jack Taylor Trophy	A Oyama	-

Rule amendments :-

F Bowers proposed a change to Rule 20 to read

20. Teams shall be played in order of strength. Generally this will be the ECF standard play grade in the latest grading list, including the January grading list, which should be used one week after publication. A tolerance of 10 grading points will be permitted to allow current form to be reflected in the board order.

The proposition was defeated by 2 votes to one.

Forthcoming season :

If the League Secretary could be advised of teams entries by end-July, the fixture list could again be issued ahead of adjacent leagues. Peterborough B were happy to accept relegation whereas Warboys C declined promotion.

2017-18 Competition Composition

Division 1 : Royston, Warboys A, Cambridge Scholars, New England A, Peterborough A, St Neots

Division 2 : Warboys C, Spalding, New England B, Warboys B, St Neots B, Peterborough B

North : New England Cavaliers, Spalding, Warboys White Capes, New England Patriots, Godmanchester Comrades

South : Cambridge Rowers, Warboys D-Max, Royston, St Neots

Fenland Cup : Royston, Warboys A, Cambridge Scholars, New England A, Peterborough A, St Neots

Fenland Plate : Warboys C, Spalding, New England B, Warboys B, St Neots B, Peterborough B, New England B

Obituaries :-

The meeting noted with sadness the passing of John Bygrave and Harry Curry.

Warboys Chess Club were thanked for allowing their venue to be used for this meeting.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Officers' AGM Reports

Appendix 1 Treasurer's Report

The audited accounts for the year ended 31 May 2017 are attached. They show a surplus of £138, giving an accumulated balance of nearly £2850.

We had a record number of entries for the Rapidplay, which enabled us to both increase the prize fund and generate a £200 surplus. For the 2017 Rapidplay we have decided to move to St Faith's school in south Cambridge, which is more spacious but which also increases costs. In recent years the surplus on the Rapidplay has exceeded the overall surplus, and so has subsidised our general activities. Whether this continues or not in our new venue is uncertain, but I continue to believe that we should not rely on it.

There are no other specific matters in the accounts that merit attention, other than the prior year adjustment in the balance sheet. For a good number of years now I have been carrying forward a sum of £113 as a creditor (monies owing), mainly Rapidplay prize cheques not cashed where I have lost contact with the recipients. As it is very unlikely that they will now be claimed I have agreed with the auditor that this sum is written back, thus increasing the overall funds.

Looking forward to next season I recommend that we keep club fees at current levels, which are £10 for a League team, £2 for the Fenland Knockout (Open and 550 tournaments) and £6 for the Team 550. These rates continue to compare favourably with those of other Leagues.

Finally, clubs should be aware of significant changes to the ECF game fee arrangements. Currently a charge of £2.50 is made to the League for each game played by a non-member, and I pass that cost onto you. From 1 September the first three games by a non-member are free of charge, but the fourth produces a charge of £25. This is administratively simpler for the ECF and designed to encourage players to become members. But it does mean that clubs will need to ensure that all players (other than the very occasional stand-in) are ECF members to avoid the risk of a large penalty charge.

Paul Kemp

Income and Expenditure Account for year ending 31 May 2017

Income	2015/16	2016/17
	£	£
Club fees	163.60	168.20
Surplus on Rapidplay	158.41	203.83
Surplus on County Championship	66.00	1.00
Interest	7.80	5.75
Total income	395.81	378.78
Expenditure		
EACU fees	65.00	65.00
Website	71.66	78.65
County matches	61.10	59.00
Trophies and engraving	48.00	38.00
Total expenditure	245.76	240.65
Surplus	150.05	138.13

Balance Sheet at 31 May 2017

	31/5/16	31/5/17
	£	£
Balance brought forward	2448.29	2598.34
Prior year adjustment	---	113.00
Outturn for year	150.05	138.13
Balance carried forward	2598.34	2849.47
Current account	1119.14	1273.17
Deposit account	1558.65	1564.40
Debtors	123.55	71.90
Less: Creditors	(203.00)	(60.00)
Total Funds	2598.34	2849.47

Appendix 2 Team Competitions Secretary's Report

Summary

Our six team competitions were shared between three clubs this year, as follows:

League Division 1	Royston
League Division 2	Warboys
Fenland Knockout	Royston
Fenland 550	Warboys
Team 550	New England
Jamboree	Royston

There were fewer defaults this year and where games had to be re-arranged they were done so promptly. The new Fenland Knockout 550 competition was a great success, with the optimum eight teams taking part. Virtually the only blot on the season was Peterborough B's difficulty in fielding a full team: toward the end of the season they defaulted two complete matches.

The League

Royston once again retained their title, but didn't have things all their own way this season, losing two matches. Warboys A finished second, recovering from a dreadful start of three defeats and one draw in their first four matches. Peterborough B were relegated. In the second division Warboys C edged out the previous champions, Spalding, to claim the title. The full League tables are given below.

Division 1	Played	W	D	L	Boards	Points
Royston	12	10	0	2	42.5	20
Warboys A	12	7	2	3	34	16
Cambridge Scholars	12	6	3	3	32.5	15
New England A	12	6	2	4	30	14
Peterborough A	12	4	1	7	29.5	9
St Neots	12	2	4	6	26	8
Peterborough B	12	1	0	11	15.5	2
Division 2	Played	W	D	L	Boards	Points
Warboys C	8	5	2	1	20.5	12
Spalding	8	4	2	2	18	10
New England B	8	3	3	2	17.5	9
Warboys B	8	3	0	5	14	6
St Neots B	8	1	1	6	10	3

Fenland Knockout

The new format of an Open and 550 competition worked very well, with six teams competing in the Open and eight in the 550. Both finals were hard-fought, with Royston retaining the Open trophy, winning on board count after a 2-2 draw against Cambridge, and Warboys just defeating Cambridge in the 550.

Team 550

Both divisions were very competitive this year, and with four points at stake in each match they went down to the last match. New England Cavaliers and Cambridge Rowers won their respective divisions, with New England defeating Cambridge in the final by virtue of fielding a lower-graded team after the sides drew 2-2.

The divisional tables are shown below.

North	Played	Points
New England Cavaliers	8	21
Spalding	8	19.5
Warboys White Capes	8	19
New England Patriots	8	12.5
Godmanchester Comrades	8	12
New England Patriots	8	8
South	Played	Points
Cambridge Rowers	8	19
Warboys D-Max	8	17
Cambridge Punters	8	16
Royston	8	15
St Neots	8	13

Jamboree

Nine teams contested the Jamboree this year, equalling our best turnout. With several teams quite evenly matched at the top there was another tense finish, with Royston defeating Linton on one of the last boards to

finish to claim their first title in this competition. Warboys were second, with our usual winners Linton third. Team scores were as follows:

Royston	8.5
Warboys White Macs	8
Linton	7.5
St Neots, New England A	7
Peterborough	6.5
Warboys Dirty Capes	5
Godmanchester	2.5
New England B	2

Two players scored 3/3: Martin Pinner (Linton) and David Polehonski (Warboys Dirty Capes). Congratulations to them and to the winning Royston team of Kevin Clark, Chris Davison, Brian Judkins and Simon Jackson.

Finally, my thanks to Warboys Chess Club for hosting another very enjoyable evening.

League Preparations for 2016/17

Fixture preparation is now co-ordinated with neighbouring Leagues so that those clubs and players who play in more than one League can avoid fixture clashes. This has worked very well in the past two seasons and I suggest we continue the arrangements. Our "slot" for fixture preparation is early/mid August, and requires clubs to decide team entries by the end of July. However it would be helpful if clubs knew their intentions by the time of the AGM (28 June) so that informed discussions can be held on promotion, relegation and the size of divisions.

The earlier preparation of fixtures enables an earlier start to the season, with the first fixtures in the week commencing 18 September.

Final Comments

I would like to thank Phil Turp and Patrick Ribbands for their work on the Cambridgeshire and the c4 websites which enables captains to enter the results. My thanks too for the co-operation of captains in the ten years I have held this post.

Paul Kemp

Appendix 3 County Championship Report

The Event was held at Peterborough Chess Club in November 2016. The event made a Profit of £1.00. 13 Players took part. There was a tie for first place but on Progress score Robert Taylor from New England was the winner on 4/5 and Chris Davison was second. Had Ray Ilett from New England won his last game he would have had 4 points and a Better Progressive score. So a very close event and nice venue.

We avoided Division 1 of 4NCL which some of the entries play in but there was a clash with Division 2 which took most of the Cambridge players. I am open to suggestion to what date we hold the event.

If re-elected I will seek a date and book the venue.

After the event Peterborough Chess Club gained one new Member and New England Chess Club gained one member.

Francis Bowers

Appendix 4 Webmaster's Report

The Cambridgeshire website continues to function well and we had no problems last year beyond a few missed and corrected entries on my part. Match result entry seems now to work well. I liaise with Dave Wild who runs the EACU site before the new season starts and once I get the details from him, I am able to update the site fairly quickly. Please note that Dave is now archiving old results obviously to save on data his end so you will see these appear as either either static pages or downloadable pdf files.

Last September saw the first use of online entry for the Cambridgeshire Rapidplay using a free version of a commercial form design and management system called Jotform. After a slow start, this method proved quite successful, in fact a bit too successful as I got an urgent call from Paul Kemp to close the form down, we're full!! This system of entry is in use again this year and with the new venue hopefully hundreds will be entering this way.

The website hosting has been renewed for a further 2 years with GoDaddy.com.

If anyone has anything extra they would like to see on the site please let me know. I am happy to stand again unless anyone else wants to manage the site.

Phil Turp

Appendix 5 Rapidplay Director's Report

A record 108 competitors contested the twelfth Cambridgeshire Rapidplay, held at Whittlesford on Sunday 25 September. All four tournaments were well supported. Over half the entrants (55) were juniors under the age of 15, mainly from the South Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk area, which augurs well for the future of chess here. Some competitors were as young as seven.

Two competitors scored a maximum 5/5: Alan Merry (Suffolk) in the Open, and Russell Goodfellow (Tunbridge Wells) in the Major. Local players again did well, with 14 winning prizes. Akito Oyama won the Jack Russell trophy as the highest-placed Cambridgeshire in the Open.

The record number of entries enabled us to increase the prize fund by more than £250 over the 2015 level, mainly by adding more grading and junior prizes. Nevertheless the Rapidplay still produced a surplus of £250, bringing the accumulated surplus to £1850.

As ever the success of the event was down to the team who ran the event: chief arbiter John Wickham, co-director Julian Ray, Patrick Ribbands, Francis Bowers, Phil Turp, and not least Margherita Boroni and my wife Alison who provided the catering.

The 2017 Rapidplay has been arranged for Sunday 24 September at St Faith's School in Cambridge. We have changed venue because we have outgrown Whittlesford Memorial Hall, excellent though the facilities were. With more space we won't need to turn entries away, though unfortunately we will be unable to provide food as did last year. Julian Ray has taken over as Director, but I will still provide support for this year as Congress Secretary.

Paul Kemp

Appendix 6 County 1ST Team Report

The team were unable to defend their EACU championship, finishing 3rd this season. As, following Herts' withdrawal, only 4 teams were competing, this was insufficient to win a place in the ECF Minor Counties KO.

Each of the 3 Sundays followed a similar pattern, with the team winning one match by a big margin and losing the other by a single point. We therefore outscored both Norfolk & Suffolk on game points but both these counties finished with 9 points, Norfolk winning on head-to-head tie break.

Chris Davison & Paul McMahon were our top scorers with 5/6. Eleven players played in all 6 matches and another four played in 4 of them. Beyond that it was often difficult to fill the rest of the team.

The qualifying players could have entered a team in the U-180 ECF knock-out, but no-one came forward to manage such a team.

Kevin Clark

Appendix 7 Grading Officer Report (North)

Results processing from Dave Wild's C4 database is straightforward now that I have download access. It should be noted that many results were submitted unconfirmed by team captains.

We lost Buckden from the league so there are now only 8 clubs; they contributed 112 players in our league/cup matches (6 fewer than 2016), only 2 non ECF registered (to Peterborough) but none with more than 3 games so no fines are payable. Note that the fine is now £25 per player.

Defaults

Div1 2 matches (both Peterborough B) & 8 boards (Wb1 Sn4 PbA1 PbB 1 Ca1) = 18 games

Div2 1 match (WbB) + 1 board (SN) = 5 games

550 4 boards (2 from North Sp NeP; 2 from South Wa Ro) = 4 games

FKO 1 match (Peterborough SF to Cambs) 0 boards = 4 games

Total of 31 games defaulted – this is pretty poor.

Losing Buckden meant there were only 5 teams in Division 2 so 10 fewer matches = 40 fewer games, partly compensated by new FKO 550 (total 40 FKO games up from 26 last year)

League & Cup = 445 (from 473) games - Clubs: P'boro Silver Queen 11 (23) games; NE 112 (105) games

Total of 570 games = 1140 (1202) results – done by 30th June. ECF checker provides additional data for those interested.

Club games are currently still done manually– automatic database processing is a possibility if a suitable entry system is chosen – but like team captains; we need to have one or two club administrator(s) to enter the data.

January grades now working well nationally, so use of it in CCCA competitions make sense –but I would suggest we are lenient with 550 teams pushed into difficulties in later season – the competition is for lower graded players anyway.

A monthly grading was proposed by ECF – but currently looks unlikely to be implemented quickly. New League management system software (LMS) under evaluation by Dave Wild.

New ECF grading team not as good as Richard Haddrell (expected) but may improve. Monthly updates are noticeably inconsistent (i.e. missing!)

Chris Russell

Footnote: After the AGM it was found that the Cambridge vs Peterborough FKO semi-final had actually taken place though neither captain had recorded the result on the C4 database. I had to chase the captains concerned and initially submit my grading data without the result. Peterborough used two new players (non-ECF members), which probably caused the non-reporting issue.