

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM held at Warboys Sports and Social Club on 29th June 2022

1. Attendance

Eleven members of the association attended: Paul Hanks, Colin Emery, John Wright, Neil Greenwood, Jimmy Blair, Ollie Lenton, Peter Baddeley, Marek Zajaczkowski, Ray Ilett, Peter Walker and Chris Russell. The chairman opened the meeting at 7.36pm and thanked everyone for attending. Chris pointed out that the meeting was being recorded to aid the minutes.

2. Obituaries

It was noted with regret that Marcus Connolly had died last October. He was the prime mover behind Peterborough chess club for many years. An obituary will appear on the Cambridgeshire website. Another former Peterborough chess player, Bill Evans-Evans was also reported as dying recently.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Paul McMahon, Phil Turp, Paul Kemp, Francis Bowers and Stephen Pride.

4. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 2nd September, 2020

The previous minutes had been circulated by Chris Russell. This meeting had also been recorded to aid his minute taking and anyone was welcome to a copy.

5. Matters arising

1. Last season's meeting had largely been about Covid and playing conditions for the restart of OTB chess. Chris said that since the government had now relaxed all rules following the pandemic, it had been decided at the recent New England AGM to scrap the Covid protocol, and he recommended that we do the same. There were no objections to this. Players may continue to wear face masks where they so choose.
2. Cambridge did not enter our leagues last year, only competing in the Fenland KO. This would likely be the case again next season.

There were no other matters arising. Paul Hanks proposed adoption of the minutes as a true record. This was agreed.

6. Reports of Association officers for 2021/22

1. **League Secretary:** John Beck was not present, and had not submitted a report. In his absence it was noted that the league programme had run successfully, if taking a bit longer than expected to complete, due to a few inevitable rearrangements. However, every single fixture was played. New England won Division 1, St Neots won Division 2, and Spalding the Team 7000. Cambridge won the Fenland Open KO and St Neots the Fenland 7000 competition. The winners were congratulated.
2. **Rapid-Play Organiser:** Ollie expressed his thanks to John Wickham and Phil for helping with the organisation. Numbers were down (from normally 90-100) to only 53 players, but this was last September

just after the renewal of OTB chess. However, there were sufficient players to pay for room hire and prizes, and under the circumstances he thought that a £37 deficit was a reasonable result. Ollie has submitted a list of prize-winners and the accounts (see attached). Next season's event will be held on the same weekend, but on Sunday (25th Sept), rather than Saturday, which should help with entries. Leaflets have not yet been issued, but the new automatic entry system to replace the C4 database has not been decided. Chris offered to help with LMS, but John Wickham prefers Swiss manager. Paul thanked Ollie for organising the event under difficult circumstances, and it was hoped that the end of the pandemic would lead to restoration of better numbers in September.

3. **Tournament Secretary:** Francis Bowers has resigned and was not present, so in his absence it was noted that the county individual tournament had taken place and was won by Ieysaa Bin-Suhayl. The data was entered into Dave Wild's C4 database and submitted to the ECF by Dave. We will need a new system this year, probably based on LMS. The Jamboree was not run.
4. **County match captains:** Open, captain, Paul McMahon was not present, but had submitted a full report (attached). After a weak start, the team performed well, finishing second and qualifying for the minor counties final stages, eventually being beaten in the semi-final by a strong Devon team. It was an encouraging restart to OTB chess. For the U1850 team Neil said that he only had a squad of 14 players all season but managed not to default any boards. The team had only narrowly missed out on qualification for the finals coming third in the EACU round robin. It was noted that there was a motion before the EACU AGM to raise the number of boards back to 16 from 12 but neither Paul or Neil were in favour just yet. Both Paul and Neil were congratulated for their efforts in helping to re-establish county chess.
5. **Results Officer:** Chris submitted a report (attached). He said that he had attended last year's EACU AGM and when he discovered that Dave Wild was going to use his database for one last season, had jumped at the chance to keep using it for one more year. Our results for 2021/22 were all submitted from there. However, next year it will be gone and we will have to use LMS, and with this in mind he has arranged for all team captains to be registered as LMS users. Most leagues use it now so we should be okay. He recommended using the September grade for eligibility (for Team 7000), and the new monthly grades for team order. Also, that the tolerance on board order should be 100 FIDE points, which is rounded down from 112, which is equivalent to 15 ECF grade points. No games were defaulted all season and only 7 boards in total, which he thought was encouraging for our first season back playing OTB chess.
6. **Website Co-ordinator:** Phil Turp was not present but had submitted a report (attached). Phil was happy to remain in his post. Phil thanked Dave Wild for use of his (outgoing) database. There may be issues accessing the LMS site but other people do this, so Phil will need to adapt. He reported that he was looking to find cheaper domain hosting. Paul noted that the EACU only paid £15 for this compared to £129 (over several years?) in the CCCA accounts, so clearly there is a margin for improvement.
7. **ECF and EACU delegates:** Jimmy had not been available for the last two ECF meetings, so he thanked John Wickham for acting as our proxy. The ECF had proposed new grading bands for county chess, but they were overruled by membership. Both John and Jimmy supported the actual new bands, which include the U1850 band that we use for our county second team. The only other thing that affects us is the 12-month rolling membership that the ECF has introduced to ensure more prompt payment during the season. The downside for us is that more checking will become necessary to ensure that our club members are paid up. Chris attended last year's EACU AGM but due to timing issues our AGM now comes first as the EACU AGM will be in July. Paul Kemp has agreed to go if he is better from COVID.

8. **Junior Organiser:** Francis has left this post vacant. No one was aware of any current activity.
9. **Disputes Committee:** Paul said that there were no disputes last year, other than a minor rule infraction by Peterborough, which was resolved without any penalty awarded, nor the committee meeting.

7. Report of the Treasurer and Adoption of the 2019/20 Accounts

Paul Kemp was ill with COVID but had submitted a report (attached). Our running costs were offset by the sale of Patrick Ribband's chess collection following his death. This led to a surplus of £13 last year. As this was a one-off Paul proposed to reintroduce fees at pre-COVID levels next season. This was agreed.

8. Presentation of Trophies

Trophies for the 2021/22 season were awarded as follows:

Division 1: New England

Division 2: St Neots

Fenland KO Open: Cambridge

Fenland KO 7000: St Neots

7000 League: Spalding

Jamboree: not contested

County Individual Champion: Ieysaa Bin-Suhayl

Jack Taylor Trophy (Grand Prix): Neil Greenwood

Note: The Jack Taylor Trophy is missing – Neil will investigate. Cambridge has the 7000 League trophy. Both will need engraving when returned. Spalding and Cambridge were not represented at the meeting and will need to be given their trophies at a later date. (A 10-minute break was taken here.)

9. Proposed Rule changes

Paul said that there were three basic changes. The first, proposed by Philip Fallon, is that we remove all gender specific references in the rules. Chris replied that these had crept in over a number of years, simply due to laziness. The meeting unanimously agreed that these should be removed.

Secondly on grading, Paul Kemp proposed a rule change to go to using monthly ratings for board order. Since these would better reflect current form, he also proposed to tighten the board order tolerance to 100 FIDE points. This was agreed. He also proposed changes to the rules on ungraded players. It was pointed out that an estimated grade needed to be officially notified to the league secretary before the player is involved in a team match, and that the monthly grade will supersede this, as soon as it is earned. Clubs will need to justify the estimate used. These changes were approved.

An inconsistency was pointed out by Paul H, that where in the league rules it says that players graded below 1450 (ECF100) may be played in any order, in both Team 7000 and FKO, the rule says 1375 (ECF90). It was agreed to make this 1375 in all competitions. The rule about players rated below 1450 being assessed as 1450 when calculating the 7000-point limit is to be kept. This rule is there to prevent clubs coupling their strongest players with very weak players to compete, as it was felt that this was not in the spirit of the competition.

Lastly, on mobile phones, Paul Kemp proposed that players whose mobile phone went off during a match should be given a warning, and would only default the game if their phone went off a second time. This was felt to be more in the spirit of friendly chess. Also, if a player asks to leave their phone on, because they may be waiting to receive an important message, then this is acceptable too. The new rule changes were approved.

10. Confirmation of OTB League fixtures, events and dates

Paul Hanks said that he thought that we should run the same competitions as before, in which case it was just a matter of how many teams would enter. Chris reported that Royston and Cambridge were unlikely to re-enter Division 1, making it the same 4 teams. Colin said that St Neots did not wish to be promoted from Division 2 and Peterborough did not want to be relegated, which was as usual. It is therefore likely that we will have the same four teams, and play each other three times as last season. Ollie asked what notice would be needed to enter our leagues as he wanted to see if his Ely club wanted to enter and their AGM was not for a fortnight. John Wright discussed potentially entering Godmanchester into Division 2. It was eventually agreed that entries to the league would be accepted up to the first week in August. This would give John Beck time to sort out any potential league clashes.

Likely league formation:

Div,1: New England, Peterborough, St Neots, Warboys, (Ely?)

Div,2: New England, Peterborough, Spalding, St Neots, Warboys, (Godmanchester?)

Team 550N: New England, Peterborough, Spalding, Warboys

Team 550S: Godmanchester, Royston, St Neots, Warboys, (Ely?)

FKO (Open): Cambridge, Godmanchester, New England, Peterborough, St Neots, Warboys, (Ely?)

FKO (7000): Godmanchester, New England, Peterborough, Royston, St Neots, Warboys(x2), (Ely?)

Some discussion took place on whether Division 1 should be all play all three times. It was agreed that this would only happen if Ely did not join division 1. There was some doubt about the continued existence of Spalding, following the retirement of Richard Coats, but we would have to wait and see. Paul asked if the season could end at the beginning of May, as it would help with the New England season, but we will have to wait until all team entries are known. It may also be possible to start the season a week earlier to help achieve this.

11. Election of Officers for 2022/23

As, apart from Francis, everybody was prepared to stand for re-election, Paul proposed that we elect the committee on-block, and then try to fill the missing positions. This was agreed.

After some discussion, Jimmy agreed to be tournament secretary. The primary job requirement is to run the closed county individual championship, typically in late November, to fit in with other local congresses. Chris offered to help find a suitable venue. Jimmy said that he would also seek advice from Francis. The tournament secretary is also technically responsible for the jamboree competition at the end of the season, but it was felt by the meeting this was not a necessary event, and could be void as the trophies are now presented at the AGM.

Finding a suitable junior organiser would depend on the right candidate coming forward. After some discussion it was decided to leave the post vacant for now. The 2022/23 committee is therefore as follows:

Position	Proposed (and voted into office)
Chairman	Paul Hanks
Vice-Chairman	Chris Russell
Secretary	Chris Russell
Treasurer	Paul Kemp
League Secretary / Team 550 Organiser / FKO organiser	John Beck
Rapidplay	Ollie Lenton, Paul Kemp, John Wickham
Tournament Organiser (County Championship/ Jamboree)	Jimmy Blair
Junior Organiser	Open to volunteer
Match Captains:	Open Paul McMahon U160 Neil Greenwood
Website Co-ordinator	Phil Turp
Grading Officer	Chris Russell
Auditor	Norman Hutchinson
ECF Delegate	Jimmy Blair
EACU Delegates	Chris Russell, Paul Hanks
Disputes Committee	Paul Hanks (Chairman) plus one volunteer from each club (to be asked as necessary)

12. Any Other Business

Chris said that the EACU AGM would now be on 9th July, and either he or Paul Kemp would attend on our behalf.

There should be no need to hold an ECM in September, as long as clubs got their requests for team entries to John by 1st August.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 10.03pm.

Minutes Prepared by:

Minutes Signed by:

C. J. Russell

P. Hanks

Secretary

Chairman

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report 2021/22

I attach a copy of the accounts for the 2021/22 season, which show a small surplus of £13.93. Alongside the 2021/22 figures I have shown the 2019/20 accounts for comparison, as the 2020/21 season was cancelled because of covid.

Compared to two years ago there are two significant differences on which I should comment. Last year's AGM agreed to waive club fees to help them to recover from covid. More than offsetting this was £250 received by the Association from the sale of Patrick Ribband's chess collection following his death.

The County championship broke even again in 2021/22 thanks to Francis Bower's energetic promotion and experienced organisation of the event. The Cambridgeshire Rapidplay, despite reduced numbers because of covid worries, incurred a deficit of just £37. This was Oliver Lenton's first year in charge, and to organise successfully one of the first tournaments nationally post-covid was a considerable achievement.

Our balances stand at the entirely satisfactory level of £2778. As the contribution from Patrick's estate was a one-off, I propose to reinstate the fees from clubs playing in League competitions at pre-covid levels. These are £10 for a League team, £2 for the Fenland Knockout and £6 for the Team 550. A 20% discount is available for prompt payment. I anticipate this will result in a small deficit next season, but am reluctant to propose an increase in club fees given the healthy balances.

Finally, the ECF is introducing rolling 12-month memberships (rather than annual September to August membership) from this August. Club secretaries and treasurers will need to keep an eye out for players' memberships expiring mid-season to avoid fines for playing in matches (though a three-match tolerance before fines are imposed will help). I will pass on any fines incurred to the clubs concerned, as before.

PAUL KEMP
Treasurer

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 May 2022

Income	2019/20	2021/22
	£	£
Club fees	166.40	----
Interest	15.85	0.44
Patrick Ribbands' estate	----	250.00
Total Income	182.25	250.44
Expenditure		
EACU fees	70.00	40.00
Website	86.26	129.51
County matches	21.00	30.00
Trophies and engraving	----	----
County championship	----	----
Rapidplay	66.97	37.00
Parting gifts for officers	113.68	----
Total expenditure	357.91	236.51
Outturn for year	(175.66)	13.93

Balance Sheet at 31 May 2022

£

Balance at 1 June 2021	2764.75
Outturn for year	13.93
Balance at 31 May 2022	2778.68

Current Account	230.10
Deposit account	2305.82
Debtors	242.76
Total funds at 31 May 2022	2778.68

Paul Kemp
Treasurer

Norman Hutchinson
Auditor

Cambridgeshire Chess Association Website Report - 2022

Nothing spectacular to report with the website. In light of the East Anglian Results site ending I have downloaded all the documents associated with Cambridge. They are now available as pdf files which can be downloaded, printed and edited as required. My apologies if I've missed something.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dave Wild and all the work he put in on the C4 site. It will be interesting to see how the new League Management System can be incorporated into the Cambridge website.

The domain renews June 2023 but before then I'll see if I can find a better hosting company to reduce the costs.

The next Rapidplay entry form will soon be appearing on the site.

I'm happy to continue looking after the site but if anyone would like to take over and perhaps put a newer more professional slant on the design please contact me or someone in the committee.

Phil Turp

County Captain's Report

The local county matches featuring Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk were held successfully after a break of nearly two years. All the matches were played at the Turner Hall in Newmarket following the usual format of two matches against each of the other counties. However, because several players were cautious about returning to OTB chess, it was decided to reduce the team size from 16 to 12 players. This had the added benefit of allowing additional space between the players.

To say the season started poorly for Cambridgeshire would be an understatement! Even with the reduced team size, finding players proved tricky. Several players from the U1850 team kindly offered to play and we managed to field a full team. In the morning match we were well beaten 8.5-3.5 by Suffolk and this was followed by an ignominious 11-1 defeat by Norfolk in the afternoon.

By the 2nd fixture, some more players were available and a fine win in the morning 8.5-3.5 against Bedfordshire was followed by revenge against Norfolk with a narrow victory, 6.5-5.5 despite being significantly out-rated.

With the top 2 teams qualifying for the minor counties final stages, the final fixtures were critical. We defeated Suffolk in the morning 6.5-5.5 and then Bedfordshire in the afternoon by the same narrow margin. This left Norfolk at the top of the table and Cambridgeshire in clear 2nd place, and thus we qualified for the final stages.

In the quarter-final we were drawn away to Worcestershire and I arranged to play the match at a neutral venue near Rugby, approximately equidistant from the two county towns. Although the team size was now officially 16 boards, due to the venue size, this was reduced to 12, with the controller's permission. A very close match ensued which went to the final game and over 5 hours of play, but we were eventually victorious 6.5-5.5.

We were rewarded with an away fixture against Devon, again played at a neutral venue, Overton Community Centre. Sadly we were beaten, 10-6, but there were some fine victories against strong opposition. Devon will now play our local rivals, Norfolk, in the final in July.

Altogether, 23 different players played for Cambridgeshire's 1st team this season and as life slowly returns to a post-pandemic normal, I'm hoping more players will come forward next season. I am prepared to continue as captain next year, and hope to build on the success we had this year.

Paul McMahon

County 1st Team Captain

2022 CCCA AGM - Grading Officer Report

This will be the last year using Dave Wild's C4 database, as Dave is officially retiring it on 1st July. So I have set up a Cambridgeshire 'organisation' in the ECF LMS system, and next year results will be submitted using this website. By now all team captains should have received a user name. Please be patient when the new season starts. There are bound to be teething problems.

I submitted our results for grading from Dave Wild's system in January and June, using the new ECF file submission system. All data was processed smoothly, without error. Next year LMS will do this for us automatically, every week. So, team captains will need to enter results promptly.

Currently we use the September grades for determining eligibility for competitions, and the January update to modify team board order. I propose that we modify that to make board order the subject of the latest monthly rating figures. Also, Paul Kemp has proposed that we modify our rules to make the board order tolerance go from 15 ECF points to 100 FIDE rating points, slightly rounding down, to make the board order tolerance obvious. I support this move.

In view of the coronavirus pandemic, this was our first season of OTB chess since 2018-19. Hence comparison with previous years is meaningless. I did note that Cambridgeshire fielded only 76 117 players in league/cup matches (41 less than 2018-19), only 3 were non ECF registered (all Spalding) but the club concerned has been warned. Note that the fine is now ECF Bronze membership (£18) per player. ECF membership can only be paid up to 30th June.

More pleasing was that there were no defaulted games and only 7 defaulted boards in all competitions:

Div1: Warboys 2 (Pb,SN)

Div2: Spalding 2 (NE,Wb), Peterborough 1 (Sp)

Team7000 St Neots 1 (Wb), Godmanchester 1 (Ro)

Chris Russell

June 2022

Whittlesford Rapidplay 2021 - Prize winners:

Open:	1 st	£100	David Haydon	(4/5)
	Joint 2 nd	£22	Martin Walker	(3.5/5)
			Phil Hopkins	
			Ian Thompson	
			Ieuan Ward	
	Junior	£22	Mohammed Ismail	(3.5/5)
	Rating	£30	Aarnavh Trivedi	(2.5/5)
	Jack Taylor trophy	Dan Waller	(3/5)	
Major:	Joint 1 st	£80	Ryan Barnes	(4/5)
			Bhramav Rajesh	
	3 rd	£30	Christopher Willoughby	(3.5/5)
	Junior	£20	Bankirer Yoav Pilowsky	(3/5)
Challengers:	Joint 1 st	£80	Anthony Chan	(4/5)
			Andrew Willoughby	
	3 rd	£25	David McClennon	(3.5/5)
	Junior	£25	Charlotte Willoughby	(3.5/5) + trophy
Minor:	Joint 1 st	£50	Gabriel Carver	(4/5)
			Eoin O’Gorman	
	3 rd	£25	Liam Chapman	(3.5/5)
	Joint junior	£7.50	Sharvari Saharkar	(2/5) + trophy on tie-break
			Ishita Singh	

Total entrants:

Open – 18

Major – 13

Challengers – 10

Minor - 11

Total - 52

Ollie Lenton

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

2021 RAPIDPLAY ACCOUNTS

£

Income

Entry fees (including donated entry fees from withdrawn players)

Open	422.00
Major	240.00
Challengers	195.00
Minor	200.00

Total income **1057.00**

Expenditure

Venue hire 215.00

Prizes

Open	238.00
Major	210.00
Challengers	210.00
Minor	140.00

ECF fees 36.00

Trophies & engraving 10.00

Tea, coffee, and milk 10.00

Arbiter's expenses 25.00

Total expenditure **1094.00**

Deficit **37.00**

Ollie Lenton