

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM held at St Ives Ivy Leaf Club on 14th July 2026

1. Attendance

Twenty members of the association attended: Paul Hanks, Tom O'Keefe, David Hemmingway, Jimmy Blair, Marek Zajackowski, Ray Ilett, Neil Greenwood, James Conlon, Garry Monger, Matthew Cooper, Helen Cooper, Paul Kemp, Francis Bowers, Ollie Lenton, Chris Bolt, Michael English, Peter Baddeley, Colin Emery, Lester Levet, and Chris Russell. The chairman opened the meeting at 7.33pm and thanked everyone for attending. Chris Russell pointed out that the meeting was being recorded to aid generation of the minutes.

2. Obituaries

Paul Hanks noted sadly that Ron Jones, a former long standing league member at Bourne, Perkins, and New England chess clubs had passed away in April. Neil Greenwood also reported the deaths of David Forth and Mike Onyons both formerly of Warboys Chess Club.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Paul McMahon, James Cole, Phil Turp, Peter Jones and Paul Spencer.

4. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 8th July, 2025

The previous minutes had been circulated by Chris R. This meeting had also been recorded to aid his minute taking and anyone was welcome to a copy. Paul H said that most issues were on the current agenda so unless anybody had any pressing matters they would come up later.

5. Matters arising

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

6. Reports of Association officers for 2025/26

1. **League Secretary:** Colin Emery said that we had successfully introduced a new league Division Three. With 8 teams there were too many fixtures to fit one all-play-all in, so it had to be split into two halves like Team 7000 and Team 4200. While not popular with some this does help reduce travelling. It was a successful season with 6 more teams, 69 more games, 12 more players and 21 more fixtures, (which was why the season had to be started one week earlier.) There were just 8 defaults compared with 15 last season, so he congratulated team captains. There had been two violations of the 7000 limit but these were in error and not deliberate. He thought that the local grading system had largely been successful. There were two minor data problems with LMS but the system was recovered successfully. Colin was congratulated for his successful running of the league in his first season as Fixtures Secretary.
2. **Rapid-Play Organiser:** Ollie Lenton reported slightly lower numbers than last year, 80 entries compared to a capacity of 90 due to some competition from other events, but with a good number of junior entries (33). The event was successful and ran smoothly, and he thanked John Wickham and Phil Turp for their help with the organisation. A small profit of £2.08 was made. The results and event accounts will be circulated later. Ollie is happy to run this year's event, which will again be capped at 90 entries and will be held on Sunday, 27th September. The entry form is live and has been circulated.

3. **Tournament Secretary:** Jimmy Blair reported a successful tournament at Wansford last November with more than 40 entries, including a good number of juniors. Adam Nawalaniec was again the winner (5/5). Jimmy was prepared to stand as organiser again and was already planning to hold this year's event at the same venue in the last weekend in November (28th-29th). The event was successful and also returned a profit of around £100 without needing the extra legacy funding approved last year.
4. **Jamboree Organiser:** Paul Spencer was not present, but subsequently submitted a report (attached). It was a successful event with 48 entries in 12 teams, two more than last year. Godmanchester B and Ely were tied as the winners (912). The event was grade limited as last year, as that had proved popular. Paul was to be congratulated for a successful and fun event.
5. **County match captains:** Open team Captain Paul McMahon was not present but had submitted a report (attached). He was able to report that for the third time in four years we have won the national Minor Counties championship, narrowly beating Norfolk in the final just last weekend, yet again on board-count after an 8-8 draw. He and his team are to be congratulated for an excellent achievement especially beating Norfolk yet again!

U1850 captain Neil Greenwood stated that he couldn't quite match the success of the first team. We played Norfolk, Suffolk and Hertfordshire, drawing one and losing 5, but of those matches, 4 were by the narrow margin of 9-7. One weekend coincided with the Peterborough Rapidplay so we lost a number of prospective players, but some newcomers from Linton came in and performed well. Neil is happy to carry on as Captain, and asked for clubs to let him know any new players below the 1850 limit that might be willing to play next season. He was thanked for his efforts.

James Conlon reported that U1650 team had played for the first time in ten years, Play Norfolk twice and narrowly winning both matches 6½-5½, thereby becoming EACU U1650 champions. In the national stages we were drawn against Lancashire, but unfortunately had to default three boards and lost the match 5-10. Getting sixteen boards for the national stages is more of a challenge, and James was congratulated for running his first season as a county captain.

The U1450 Captain, Peter Jones, was not present but had submitted a report (attached) which Chris read. We played two matches against Norfolk, winning one and losing one with an aggregate score that meant that Norfolk were the EACU Champions. Peter decided not to commit to the national stages as he had summer commitments as he was uncertain whether he could get a team. He was thanked for his efforts.

6. **Results Officer:** Chris also submitted a report (attached). He explained the issues resulting in data loss on LMS, but thought they were likely to be isolated incidents as we are not really financially or politically important enough to be worth hacking. He encouraged everyone to use the LMS club organisation pages for individual clubs to submit their own events for grading and requested that clubs register any new team captain before the new season rush starts. He thought that the local grading rules had worked reasonably well, as nobody had complained and the grading subcommittee had not had to meet. Chris will work through all clubs entering grade limited events over the summer to recommend local grades as appropriate. Local grades for new players that come in during the season will need to be notified to either the Fixture Secretary or the Results Officer and are subject to approval. They will also need to be manually removed once a fully valid ECF grade is established.

We had a record 222 players in all competitions, which is encouraging. There was just one defaulted match and four other defaulted boards, which, seen in the context of playing 574 games overall is a pretty healthy performance. Lastly, Chris pointed out that he had been in post since 1996 and would welcome a volunteer coming forward to replace him.

7. **Website Co-ordinator:** Phil Turp was not present but had submitted a brief report (attached), which Chris read. He thought that the Internet was becoming an increasingly unfriendly place and recommended obtaining an SSL certificate to make the website more secure. This was likely to cost £5 per month (+VAT). Phil was happy to remain in his post unless someone else wanted to volunteer, ideally a WordPress coder. The meeting agreed that extra security on the website was necessary and approved purchasing an SSL certificate.
8. **ECF and EACU delegates:** Jimmy said that the main issue from ECF AGM and finance meetings was membership charges, which will increase this year by the rate of inflation (or approximately £1). Bronze junior membership will increase more, eventually going up to 50% of the adult rate (but is still free in first year). Jimmy will continue to stand unless anyone else wishes to come forward.

Paul Kemp said that there was much discussion at the EACU AGM in June about the Junior Counties' championship. Importantly the meeting agreed to provide long term funding, to be shared 50/50 with the Patrick Ribband's Legacy Fund (which had largely funded the inaugural event). This year's competition will be held at Whittlesford in October with Hertfordshire also competing, making a bigger event. The Marcus Mission Memorial Grand Prix was won by Alan Merry for the 5th time but Minh Nguyen (aged 10) of Linton Club won the junior prize. He also won the EACU U1650 Individual championship.

The Patrick Ribband Team Championship had good Cambridgeshire representation with 3 Linton teams, finishing second in each section, narrowly being beaten to the top spot by a strong Norfolk Broadlands team. St Ives, Peterborough, Rookwood and two March teams also participated.

EACU finance is stable and the levy is unchanged.

9. **Junior Organisers:** Paul K said that Cambridgeshire had successfully won the new EACU Junior County's Championship by a large margin, though with Hertfordshire competing next year it was likely to be tougher. Two of the players are now in the county first team. The school's league is now running successfully with more than 30 teams of 6 players. Pleasingly the Cambridgeshire Megafinal was apparently the second best attended in the country and there were several local successes at the national Terrafinals. Paul is developing contacts at Hinchbrook and Ely schools. Jimmy said that although he could not compete with Paul's success, together with Ed Knox he had developed a couple of initiatives. Peterborough and New England had played a couple of friendly Junior matches and they had also had run a Peterborough Megafinal. Paul H thanked the organisers and said that current junior participation was more encouraging than it had been for many years. Paul K will be standing down next season due to health issues after several years of excellent service in this role. He is currently seeking a successor.
10. **Disputes Committee:** Paul H said that the disputes committee had nothing to report, which was good. Neil reported a dispute at county level where a Cambridgeshire opponent's mobile phone had gone off. The game was claimed by our player after his opponent dropped the phone and it went off again. The claim was disputed and had to go to arbitration which is always unpleasant.

7. Report of the Treasurer and Adoption of the 2025/26 Accounts

James Cole was not present but had produced a report with the accounts (attached) which Chris summarised in his absence. He said that we had made a loss of just over £870 in 2025/26. Chris said that this was entirely due to grants made from the Patrick Ribband legacy fund. He saw nothing wrong with this and we thought that we should be attempting to spend some of the money rather than let it sit in a bank account drawing interest. Any reasonable requests will be considered by the executive. He cited examples of applications that have been approved and also explained the request procedure. Due to the Legacy fund we now have to fill in a tax return to HMRC which James had done successfully, but Chris thought it was better to spend the money rather than let taxes go to the government. He agreed with James that we are well placed financially. James recommended keeping our fees at the same rate as the previous year. This was agreed.

James will be standing down next year as he is moving abroad and consequently, we will be looking for a new treasurer then, if anybody wishes to volunteer.

8. Presentation of Trophies

Trophies for the 2025/26 season were awarded as follows:

Division 1: St Ives A

Division 2: St Ives B

Division 3: St Ives C

Fenland KO Open: Cambridge

Fenland KO 7000: St Ives

7000 League: St Ives

4200 League: Spalding

Jamboree: Godmanchester / Ely (Tied)

County Individual Champion: Adam Nawalaniec (presented at Individual Championships)

Grand Prix Champion (Individual Trophy) Colin Emery (18.5)

The EACU U1650 County Trophy was also presented to James Conlon as Captain. All trophies accounted for and presented at meeting except County Individual Champion, the FKO Open (already presented), and the 4200 league (no representative from Spalding present). Due to an error by the Secretary, the 7000 League Trophy was incorrectly engraved, but this will be corrected at his expense.

(A 10-minute break was taken here.)

9. Patrick Ribbands legacy fund

9.1 Jimmy explained that although the county individual competition made a profit last year, he would still like the legacy fund to guarantee the prize fund as it had done last year, so that he could publicise the prize money in the event advertising. But assuming he got a similar number of entries as last year it should be self-financing. The proposal was approved unanimously.

9.2 Peter Baddeley put in a legacy fund request to the tune of £100-150 to buy training materials, principally books. Paul H asked him whether he had considered using some of the money to find 'chess kids' accounts (www.chesskid.com), Other clubs have done this and there is some good material online to help with training. The meeting then agreed to fund St Ives request.

9.3 Chris R said that we had been approached to help fund the EACU Counties Junior Team championship to be held in October. The Executive Committee had agreed to £250 for this (circa 50% of the cost), but at the EACU AGM we also agreed in principle to help secure the long-term future of this event by also 50% funding it in future years, with the EACU finding the remainder of the money. Both he and Paul K thought that this was a good use of the Legacy Fund. It was suggested that we might consider reviewing the commitment after five years, but there is more than enough money in the Legacy Fund to cover the commitment. The meeting subsequently approved the expenditure.

10. Proposed Rule changes

Tom O'Keefe proposed several changes to limit overlap in teams. Firstly, he requested a rule to prevent higher division players from playing in any matches two divisions below. Colin supported the need to prevent strong players taking advantage of current rules, but said that there were better ways to do this, specifically grade limits on divisions. Peter agreed, saying that although grading limits would not necessarily suit all clubs, he thought the fairest way was to align proposed Division grade limits to county team Limits. Ollie was against any restrictions that reduced the ability of clubs to form teams. Chris R thought that our existing rules had been successful in expanding the number of teams in our league and he was loath to do anything that would reduce that. Paul H said that there were two different approaches here and we needed to decide which would be best as we couldn't have both. He called for a vote on Tom's proposal, which was rejected. Tom's second proposal asked to limit the number of times a player could play in a higher division to one game before becoming ineligible in a lower league. The current rule allows you to play three times. Finally, he wished to propose that clubs with three teams would not be allowed to play up in a higher team. After brief discussion, both proposals were rejected.

Tom also requested changes to the rules on promotion, asking for the top two teams to automatically replace the bottom two teams in a higher league. Because of the large number of multiple club teams, this was felt to be unworkable, because mostly teams were unable to accept promotion when offered, especially when they already had a team in the higher league. Chris R thought that the best solution here was to allow teams to be promoted if they wished and then, if necessary, the team in bottom team in the higher division would be required to be relegated. Peter thought it more likely that individual players would be promoted into the higher division team if successful, rather than attempting to enforce full team promotion which could lead some teams to withdraw. He also thought that our current rules were largely better because they had led to different teams winning over the past few seasons. Tom's proposal was then voted on and rejected.

Chris R suggested an amendment to Tom's proposal whereby we would vote on whether a team could be promoted at the meeting, by majority decision. He raised this to consider cases where teams had asked to be in a league but had not earned the right by winning a lower division. In the past a separate executive committee meeting had decided these matters, but this process had been abandoned several years ago as too slow to allow our fixtures formulated with consideration for adjacent leagues. It was pointed out that that he had not put this as a formal proposal in the agenda. While Chris thought this was a better wording, he admitted that he had not formally proposed it in the agenda and withdrew his suggestion.

Tom also proposed that any new player without any grade should have a nominal value set before they were allowed to compete in our leagues, otherwise teams could potentially compete unfairly. Chris said that this does occasionally happen, where unrated players come to a club mid-season, though mostly he assesses local grades for players who have been set a questionable provisional grade. While it is desirable that clubs should request local grades for all new players before they become eligible to play it is not always practical, as players could potentially be substituted into teams at the last minute when somebody fails to turn up. Also, it is not possible to

rate someone who has not played any games, so in this case the only possible solution is for a club to recommend a local grade for such a new player. Since this system would likely only apply to Team 4200 Chris did not believe that individual clubs would abuse the process. But if they did, (e.g. using a player stronger than 1550 in team 4200) then the opposing club would have right of appeal to the disputes committee. After some discussion a compromise was agreed, whereby a team captain seeking to use a player without either official or local rating would be required to obtain agreement from the opposing captain before playing such a player. This was agreed.

Peter proposed an alternative method of limiting stronger players in lower divisions by setting maximum grade limits of 1850 and 1650 for divisions 2 and 3 respectively. He felt there had been an arms race with teams bolstering the strength of their lower division teams to compete. Ollie asked how many players had exceeded the limit. While he didn't have exact numbers, Colin said that this was noticeably more prevalent than in the previous year. Ollie also asked whether the restriction would be on monthly or September grades. It was generally agreed that September grades would have to be used, as this would allow teams to plan for the new season. Matt Cooper thought that because the leagues have been getting stronger, regular lower division players were getting less games because of the flexibility of the current rules. Chris Bolt pointed out that because Ely had Division 2 teams in both CCCA and BACL leagues they were stretched for players in terms of strength and had needed an 1850 plus player on top board to enable them to compete. He felt it was unfair that a team would be required to play in a higher league just because one player exceeded the grade limit. Chris R thought that a reduced number of games for Division One players to play down into Division Two in combination with a likely bigger Division One might make an alternative, but was reluctant to add any more restrictions, since he believed, these would lead to potential defaults and a possible reduction in teams.

After quite a bit of discussion, Peter suggested revising his proposal for grade limits to apply only after a player had played at least one game in any higher division. This would prevent teams that did not compete in multiple divisions from not having access to players that were slightly above the limit. This was deemed a sensible compromise and his amendment to the proposal was approved by the meeting, (12 votes to 3).

Garry Monger proposed that a Safeguarding Officer be added to the list of officers to be elected at the AGM. Chris R said that this was not currently in our Constitution, but that he was happy to include it, and that we would be asking for candidates for a safeguarding officer later in the meeting. It was also pointed out that while it is not an official requirement for clubs to have a safeguarding policy at present, this would be the first order of business for the safeguarding officer once elected.

Tom and Garry jointly proposed a new 4200 grade limited knockout competition. Colin expressed concern that it might not fit into the current league season. Peter thought there might be issues over transport where junior players were concerned. After a short discussion, the competition was agreed as a new Fenland Knockout competition with the same rules as Team 4200. Tom subsequently withdrew his proposal for an additional 3-board knockout competition.

Lastly, Chris asked the meeting for a consensus on divisional splits in the fixtures. He pointed out that last season our new Division 3 had started with 8 teams, which in an all play all twice league would be 56 matches. This did not fit into our fixture list and he wanted to know how best we should proceed with large leagues. Colin said that the North-South split of Division 3 had been necessary to make sure that teams did not have to play twice in the same week. Ollie said that when the same issue happened in the BACL they would run it on the basis of or play all once only, so that at least you got to meet all clubs over the course of a season. While there were potential transport issues, it was thought that playing the same teams repeatedly could become stale. Colin said he would contact captains for consensus in the event a split being required.

11. Confirmation of OTB League fixtures, events and dates

Chris asked for clubs to nominate teams to enter the various competitions. These were recorded as:

Division 1: Cambridge, New England, Peterborough, St Ives, St Neots, Rookwood

Division 2: Ely, Godmanchester, New England, Peterborough, St Neots, St Ives, Bourne

Division 3: New England, Peterborough, Ely, St Neots (2), St Ives, Godmanchester (2)

Team 7000N: New England, Peterborough, Spalding, St Neots

Team 7000S: Godmanchester, Royston, St Neots, St Ives, Cambridge?

Team 4200N: Spalding, March, March/Wisbech, Bourne

Team 4200S: 2xSt Neots, St Ives, Northstowe

FKO Open: Cambridge, Linton(?), New England, Peterborough, St Neots, St Ives, Rookwood

FKO 7000: Cambridge, Ely, Godmanchester, New England, Peterborough, St Neots (x2), St Ives, Rookwood

FKO 4200: Bourne, Ely, March (2), St Neots (2), St Ives, Rookwood, Wisbech

(Footnote: Northstowe and Rookwood later confirmed entry to division 3, Cambridge decided not to enter 7000S. March entered 2 teams in 4200 N. With 10 teams in division three it was necessary to split it into North and South halves to fit all the fixtures in.)

The Fenland Cup will be organised such that home and away teams will be decided on the basis of overall distance travelled, in order to share this evenly.

Entries are currently provisional and can be changed if necessary. Due to the date of the AGM being later than usual, the last date for team submissions was set at the 7th August. Any particular date restrictions that individual teams may have need to be submitted to the Fixtures Secretary by the same date.

Chris requested that all teams send him contact details for any new team captains, and individuals for club correspondence (i.e. club secretary). These would be circulated to clubs at the start of the season. The County Individual will take place in the last weekend in November at Wansford, and the Whittlesford Rapidplay on the last Sunday in September. The Jamboree was nominally proposed to be on the last week of May.

12. Election of Officers for 2026/27

Paul said that there were now 27 officer roles in the association. He asked if there were any new volunteers that wished to come forward and proposed voting in en-bloc all those who were prepared to stand again. Chris said that there some specific posts that would need electing. We need a new safeguarding officer to replace Peter Baddeley who took over the role temporarily last year after Tom Ingram resigned; also, we need re-elect the Executive Committee. The meeting agreed re-elect all other roles unopposed.

Being knowledgeable on the subject, Helen Cooper was persuaded to volunteer to be safeguarding officer, and she was gratefully accepted by the meeting. The principal requirement is to communicate ECF safeguarding policy, making sure that individual clubs have a formal policy and enact it. Helen suggested that a one-hour training course would be appropriate for club officers and agreed to set this up. Paul Kemp had left the meeting but it was believed that he would prefer not to stand on the Executive committee, and Colin Emery volunteered to take his place. The new volunteers were thanked for coming forward.

The disputes committee will be assembled by Paul as chairman, who will co-opt two volunteers from clubs that are neutral parties and are not involved in the dispute.

The 2026/27 association officers are therefore as follows:

Position	Proposed (and voted into office)
Chairman	Paul Hanks
Vice-Chairman	Chris Russell
Secretary	Chris Russell
Treasurer	James Cole
Executive Committee	Paul Hanks, James Cole, Chris Russell, Paul McMahon, Colin Emery
League Secretary / Team 7000 Organiser / FKO organiser	Colin Emery
Rapidplay Organiser	Ollie Lenton
County Ind. Organiser	Jimmy Blair
Jamboree Organiser	Paul Spencer
Junior Organiser (N)	Jimmy Blair
Junior Organiser (S)	Paul Kemp
Safeguarding Officer	Helen Cooper
Match Captains:	Open Paul McMahon U1850 Neil Greenwood U1650 James Conlon U1450 Peter Jones
Website Co-ordinator	Phil Turp
Grading Officer	Chris Russell
Auditor	James Cole
ECF Delegate	Jimmy Blair
EACU Delegates	Paul Kemp, Chris Russell, Paul Hanks (NB. Notify EACU secretary)
Disputes Committee	Paul Hanks (Chairman) plus one volunteer from each club (to be asked as necessary)

13. Any Other Business

Jimmy asked that whether the new rules on grade limits in Division 2 and 3 meant that the old rules on division overlap would no longer apply. Chris said that we had not repealed them so they would still be in place, but they were regarded as quite flexible and should work with the new limits. We have more teams playing chess in more leagues than ever before. Consequently, there is a real risk of an increased number of defaults this year, so it is up to team captains to try and be as flexible as possible and accommodate their opponents whenever they can.

Executive Committee meetings will be organised as necessary, if there is business to discuss prior to next year's AGM (e.g. financial, new volunteers, issues beyond individual officer's remit, etc.). The next AGM will be in June or July next year, arranged to suit the maximum number of association officers.

Paul H thanked St Neots for hosting the meeting. There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 10.40pm.

Minutes Prepared by:

C. J. Russell
Secretary

Minutes Signed by:

P. Hanks
Chairman

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year ended 31 May 2026 have been prepared separately and should be reviewed in conjunction with this report.

The CCCA made a deficit for the year of £873.83. Although the Association has become used to a surplus, I do not have a concern regarding this deficit as 25/26 saw an exceptional amount of grant activity, discussed further below, and a new trophy for division 3. These initiatives were exactly how the Ribbands legacy was intended to be spent and 'business as usual' costs for operating CCCA competitions continue to be met by member club's subscription fees. The Association continues to possess a rock-solid balance sheet with over £50,000 in funds available to it.

Specifically, grants were made to two new clubs (Wisbech and Northstowe) to assist with initial acquisitions of equipment and equipment was purchased for the new U1450/U1650 Cambridgeshire County teams. Additionally, the legacy funded two new junior events, the first an East Anglia jamboree for junior county teams and the second was the underwriting of the Peterborough mega-final. Grants to Rookwood chess club for new equipment, New England chess club to assist with establishing a junior club and an EACU jamboree for juniors were also approved by the Executive Committee in 24/25 and will be paid in the 25/26 financial year.

Again, the Association filed a corporation tax return with HMRC with a similar liability to 24/25. The electronic direct filing system was removed from use in March 2026 and I am currently investigating how best to file the 25/26 corporation tax return. If ineligible to do this by post, the Association may incur an additional cost in 26/27 for an electronic filing software package.

The one-year bond has again been renewed with the Cambridge Building Society and I intend to continue to reinvest the principal and interest earned for the next 1-2 years, as the deposit account should continue to allow the CCCA sufficient liquidity to meet its ongoing expenses and provide grant funding as necessary.

Whilst the CCCA is in a strong position financially, I propose to again keep club fees at their current levels, which I understand has been an uncontroversial policy in the past! As a reminder, the entry fees are £10 for a League team, £2 for the Fenland KO and £6 per side in the Team 7000 and Team 4000 events, with a 20% discount for prompt payment.

I would again like to thank club treasurers for continuing to pay their club fees and competition organisers for their hard work delivering enjoyable events whilst keeping to their budget!

On a personal note, I am in the process of leaving the Cambridge area due to a change in my personal circumstances and do not expect to remain an active participant in Cambridgeshire chess events. Due to the timing of this, I intend to continue as treasurer for 26/27 but will look to stand down at the 2027 AGM. This is not an overly challenging role for anyone with a basic understanding of finance and I would be happy to discuss its responsibilities over the coming year with any interested parties.

James Cole ACA CTA

Treasurer

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 May 2026

Income	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Club fees	280.00	193.60
Surplus on Tournaments	156.24	62.23
Interest	1,911.26	1,954.90
Total Income	2,347.50	2,210.73
 Expenditure		
EACU Fees	70.00	70.00
Website	115.00	104.27
County matches	335.51	376.75
Trophies and engraving	297.15	271.69
Ribbands legacy grants	1,970.20	650.00
Bank fees	39.92	---
Provision for taxation	393.55	416.57
Total Expenditure	3,221.33	1,889.28
 (Deficit)/surplus	 (873.83)	 321.45

Balance Sheet at 31/05/26

	31/05/26	31/05/25
	£	£
Balance brought forward	52,870.96	52,549.51
(Deficit)/surplus for year	(873.83)	321.45
Balance carried forward	51,997.14	52,870.96
 Cambridge Building Society	 47,929.99	 46,085.89
Deposit account, Santander	4,696.56	6,336.07
Current Account, Santander	59.77	930.55
Debtors	22.00	41.25
<i>Less Creditors</i>	<i>(711.19)</i>	<i>(522.80)</i>
Total Funds	51,997.14	52,870.96

James Cole ACA CTA
Treasurer

20th Cambridgeshire Rapidplay Prizewinners 2025/6

Open:

1 st : £100 + Jack Taylor trophy	Richard York-Weaving	4.5/5
2 nd : £60	Alan Merry	4/5
3 rd : £30 + Junior trophy	Alexandr Pereslavltssev	3.5/5
Rating under 2050: £30	Ivan Myall	3/5
Junior prize: £20 each	Cian Ward and Alex Linton	2/5

Major:

1 st : £100 + junior trophy	Yoav Pilowsky Bankirer	5/5
Joint 2 nd : £40 each	Jiarui Xu, Alex Collins, Haytham Salman	3.5/5
Rating under 1770: £20 each	Oded Pilowsky Bankirer, Ben MacAndrews	3/5
Rating under 1650: £30	Sergejs Starodubcevs	2.5/5
Junior prize: £30	Callum Collie	1.5/5

Challengers:

1 st : £100 + junior trophy	Hugo Eru	4/5
Joint 2 nd : £45 each	Neel Vardhan Mishra, Issac McHugh	3.5/5
Rating under 1450: £30	Arjan Bahi	3/5
Junior prize: £30	Leeladharahas Kanchi	3/5

Minor:

1 st : £100	Sergey Pereslavltssev	4.5/5
Joint 2 nd : £40 each	Liam Lantzman (wins the junior trophy on tiebreak), Zhongbo Yu and Larysa Klepikovska	4/5
Junior prize under 11: £30	Jack Mao	3.5/5
Joint Junior prize under 14, under 18 and Rating under 1200: £15 each		
	Jordi Kayani, Niockolay and Vicktor Starodubcevs-Snaiders, Guy Parsons, Jake Eru, Julian Bernardo Ciddio, Minh Nguyen and Ray Yat Nam Lee	3/5

Jamboree Organisers Report 2026

The jamboree ran well with a record turnout of 12 teams. This was two more than last year, which is great. The winners were Ely and Godmanchester B, both tied with a joint score of 9 out of 12 closely followed by Godmanchester with 8.5.

<i>Pos</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Pts</i>	<i>Pos</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1=	Godmanchester B	9	6=	Linton	6
	Ely B	9	8	Ely A	5½
3	Godmanchester A	8½	9=	St Ives B	5
4=	St Ives A	7		Peterborough B	5
	Linton	7	11	New England	3½
6=	Peterborough A	6	12	Rookwood	½

I would like to thank all the teams for playing and making it a good event as well as a big thank you to St Ives for again letting us host the event. The team grade Limit of 7250 was the same format as last year since it appeared to be popular. I'm open to new suggestions if I run the event next year.

Paul Spencer

Cambridgeshire Open Team Captains Report 2026

In the local EACU stage, Suffolk were able to field a team this year which meant we were back to six matches across three Sundays to determine which of the four counties (Beds, Cambs, Norfolk and Suffolk) would win the EACU county title. We had a good start to the season, winning both of our matches convincingly. We led the table ahead of Norfolk, who had also won both of their matches. For round 3 & 4, we lost a close match against Norfolk 7-9 but had a convincing victory against Suffolk leaving us only one match point behind the leaders, Norfolk.

For the final pair of matches, many regular players were unavailable and we struggled. We needed to win both matches to claim the EACU title. We beat Suffolk but were convincingly beaten by a strong Norfolk team where we were outrated by 25 points per board. And so we finished 2nd in the table which meant we had qualified for the National stages, once again. All of the Cambridgeshire results from the local matches can be viewed here:

<https://lms.englishchess.org.uk/lms/team/24752/fixtures>

For the National stages, our first match was a quarter final against 2024 winners, Sussex. We prevailed 9.5-6.5, although the match was in the balance right until the end. We were rewarded with a fixture against Devon, which meant a long drive to a neutral venue near Winchester. Again, a close match was tied at 5-5 before a quick succession of wins led to a 10-6 victory and a place in the final. Meanwhile local rivals Norfolk had also qualified after beating Lincolnshire 8.5-7.5. So, in a repeat of last year's final, we played Norfolk in Garbaldisham, near Diss on Saturday 4th July. Again, the match was tied at 8-8 after more than five hours of play, but the Norfolk captain had realised the match was ours, once again on board-count.

So, we won the Minor Counties championship for the third time in four years, always against Norfolk and always on board-count! Altogether, 31 different players, including 5 juniors, played in the county open team this season with several new players who have not played for the county open team before. The knockout stages and individual results can be viewed here: <https://lms.englishchess.org.uk/lms/event/9796/ktable>

Paul McMahon

County Open team captain

N.B. The venue costs for the final are paid for directly by the ECF so the county has nothing to pay. I think the trophy engraving may also be covered by the ECF although it is the county's responsibility to get it engraved and, if appropriate, claim the money back.

Cambridgeshire County U1450 team report 2025/26

I have enjoyed being the u1450 captain.

We played the two games against Norfolk on a single day winning one and losing one with a narrow aggregate defeat. I was proud of the result and I am also proud to have played chess at County level. Thanks to the players who made themselves available and played. Thanks also to the Norfolk for an event played with good 'sportsmanship.

I was able to raise a full team of 12 players but it was challenging to find this number. Including myself, six players came from my home club Ely and three from the rest of the county's clubs. There is a small social group that plays at a local pub which I frequent. They supplied the remaining three players who made their debuts in playing OTB chess with clocks (and scored collectively 4 points in the two matches.)

I did not take up the offer to play at the national stage: I was uncertain as to whether it was 12 or 16 players and there were financial penalties for conceding boards if I was unable to raise a full team which the Association did not want receive. (I myself would have been unable to play due to summer commitments)

I was very grateful for the help I received which came from many sources. I won't cite anyone one in particular only for fear of an omission, but that does not reduce my thanks. Thank you, chaps.

I am willing to continue as Captain and at the same time I am happy to hand over the task. I see it as a sole role.

Peter Jones

2026 CCCA AGM - Grading Officer Report

There were minor teething problems bringing our new fixtures secretary up to speed with LMS at the start of the season. While attempting to re-import some modifications to the fixtures, Colin managed to delete the first 13 matches of the season. He did apologise profusely and everybody makes mistakes; I'm sure he won't do it again! To be fair to Colin, IMHO the LMS prompts were highly misleading at this point and have since been marked as a bug. It was instructive that the database administrator could not restore the results for us as they only hold a backup of the entire database and it would have clearly been far too much work to separate out a small subset.

Interestingly, there was an LMS backup restore towards the end of the season, when a 'global security incident' impacted managed cloud servers across the internet. This then required a full restore and all data submitted in the last week of April was lost. A few results had to be re-input at the time, and local grades put into player lists were lost. But as far as I could see there was no major disruption.

Other than this LMS performed its job satisfactorily and we completed more fixtures than we ever have before in the Cambridgeshire League, thanks to a new division 3 with 8 teams competing.

Using the ECF LMS database to submit results is straightforward. Lots of useful tables can be found in the Cambridgeshire organisation area: (<https://ecflms.org.uk/lms/node/69349/home>), though curiously not a defaults summary. Some worthwhile tables to note for club owners can be found under the 'Reports' tab, in particular 'Non-Members' which tell you how many games a non-member has played this season, and 'Newly Graded' which tells you when a K grade has been achieved.

Separate organisation pages for clubs in LMS means is that each club can now enter its own club competitions for grading. If you wish to do this then I would be happy to assist a local club administrator to generate and maintain events. But that individual will then be responsible for making sure that club results are accurate and up to date. Important points to notice are that a 'Player List' will need to be maintained at the club level, and that the treasurer for such events will be the Club treasurer **not** the county treasurer and you will have to pay any ECF fines out of club funds.

Please ensure that I am advised of any new team captains well in advance of the season as there is usually then a rush which slows down registration. New club users please note that it is important that they keep their profile up to date, especially any changes in email address. If not, any password reset will be sent to the wrong address! Note that team captains cannot edit fixture dates rather than add the new date in the comments, please can they ensure to notify the fixtures secretary so that the date can be properly corrected. This allows the fixture secretary to keep on top of postponements and ensures that results go into the ECF database in the correct date order.

Once again, the biggest challenge for me has been the ECF use of the FIDE Elo grading system, which led to some curious anomalies. In particular, provisional 'P' grades for newcomers/juniors seem to be inaccurate. The ECF advises us to use local grades where there are errors but these require careful policing to ensure that there is not abuse.

I think that the new rules created last year for local ratings worked reasonably well. I specified a full set of Local Ratings for all clubs at the start of the season and had no complaints that would have required Invoking the proposed grading committee. However, to ensure fair competition in our beginner and entry level competitions I would request that all new club players coming during the season are locally assessed and notified to me as far as possible. Team captains can query me or the fixtures secretary if they think that there is any error in any local

grades applied. September grades will still be used so there will need to be a review in the summer to ensure eligibility for next season.

The Grand Prix Champion winner this year was Colin Emery with 18.5 points.

		Points	Games	Percent
1	Emery, Colin	18.5	31	59.68
2	Greenwood, Neil	18	36	50.00
3	Rippon, Max	18	27	66.67
4	Baddeley, Peter	17	26	65.38

Thanks to the new league, we had 222 different players take place in our rated competitions (league, cup, county, individual), which is significantly up from 199 last year. This is a record number and bodes well for the future.

Pleasing was the low number of defaults in league and cup. Only 1 match was defaulted (Pb v Ne) in the FKO 7000 (as last year) and 5 defaulted boards in all competitions: [Div1:Ca2, Div3:Sn1, Team 7000 Ro1Sn1], (there were 6 last year)]. So, just 9 defaults out of a possible 574 games overall.

Cyber threats notwithstanding, LMS functions reasonably well. I expect the system to be relatively trouble free, requiring considerably less work than the past. Perhaps the most important task now remaining for the results officer is independent assessment of new players that enter our leagues. This is a key task where the results officer can be of significant help to the fixture secretary and assist the smooth running of our competitions.

With all that in mind, I would like for someone else to consider volunteering for the post of grading officer in the future. I have been in post since 1996 and I have been doing the job for 30 years – which IMHO is more than enough. Please come and talk to me if you think you might like the challenge.

Chris Russell

Cambridgeshire Chess Association Webmaster Report 2026

There is nothing of note I have to report about the website, all seems to be going OK. I have thought to update the layout which is looking a little tired. I am happy to continue looking after the site and as usual if anyone has anything they would like me to add to the site please say and I'll do my very best.

One thing though I think is worth considering. Since the launch of the site we have not had an SSL certificate associated with it as at the time this was thought not necessary and an extra cost. There may be people at the meeting tonight who know far more about this than I do but my feeling is it might be time to enhance the site. An SSL certificate adds;

Security: Data sent between a user's browser and the web server is encrypted.

Trust: Prevents browsers like Chrome or Edge from displaying "Not Secure" warnings, which can deter visitors.

SEO: Search engines like Google prioritise HTTPS-enabled sites, potentially improving your search rankings.

I have also noted on a few occasions that the site either fails to load or loads slowly. Whether this has anything to do with the lack of an SSL certificate I don't as yet know. I will try and find out.

In the lifetime of the site we have been hacked once, many years ago and that was easily fixed. Although I don't do professional website work I do know from the various security bulletins I still get that the web is not a friendly place. I view any increase in security as a good thing. Again I will be led by others who may know better than I.

Cost on the GoDaddy hosting company we use starts at about £5 a month + VAT although I will check this if we go that way.

Your guidance would be great.

I would also like it noted that if someone, especially a Wordpress coder wants to take over running the site at some time that would be great although as stated I'm happy to continue, especially as I hope to back playing this year.

Phil Turp