

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM held at St Ives Ivy League Club on 27th June 2023

1. Attendance

Seventeen members of the association attended: Paul Hanks, Colin Emery, Andy Rankine, Neil Greenwood, Paul Kemp, Norman Hutchinson, James Conlon, Ben Rhodes, Doug Redden, Francis Bowers, Paul McMahon, Peter Baddeley, Marek Zajackowski, Ray Ilett, Peter Walker, Chris Russell and John Beck (part-time). The chairman opened the meeting at 7.35pm 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 Steve Foster had died last year. He was a member of St Neots chess club for many years.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Ollie Lenton, Phil Turp, Paul Spencer, Jimmy Blair, Jamie Mitchell and Bob Henderson.

4. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 2nd September, 2022

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. Francis Bowers reported some activities from his time as junior organiser.
2. Warboys chess club has now renamed itself to St Ives chess club and will now be referred to as such.

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, as he was running a tournament in an adjacent room! In his absence it was noted that the league programme had run successfully, with all fixtures successfully completed. New England won Divisions 1 & 2, New England and Royston respectively won the Team 7000 North and South, with Royston winning the North v South play-off. Cambridge won the Fenland Open KO (again!) and St Ives the Fenland 7000 competition. The winners were to be congratulated.
2. **Rapid-Play Organiser:** Ollie Lenton was not present but had submitted the results and event accounts (attached) In his absence, Paul Kemp reported that he had run a successful tournament for which he was thanked. He also pointed out that it had made a profit for the association. Ollie is already preparing for this year's event which is to be held on Sunday, 23rd September.
3. **Tournament Secretary:** Jimmy Blair was not present. In his absence it was noted that Jimmy had done a good job running the county individual tournament, which was won by Jason Dilley. Jimmy was prepared

to stand as organiser again and was already planning to hold this year's event at the same venue. The Jamboree was not run. A separate Jamboree organiser will be appointed this year.

4. **County match captains:** Open captain, Paul McMahon reported that this year's competition was still ongoing, and we would be playing in the minor counties final next Saturday at Thetford. In the local stages Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire had all beaten Bedfordshire, ending in a three-way tie. Suffolk declined to enter the national stages so both Cambridgeshire and Norfolk went forward and both qualified for the final. The final is subsidised by the ECF with live internet coverage to be transmitted for the top 5 boards. Paul was congratulated on an excellent achievement.

For the U1850 team Neil said that he sadly he could not report the same success. His team had played 6 and lost six, but only narrowly (5.5-6.5) to both Suffolk and Norfolk. He had struggled to get enough players all season but managed not to default any boards. Stephen Pride scored 4.5/6. Neil thought that he would have better results next season as he was hopeful that some stronger players would return.

5. **Results Officer:** Chris submitted a report (attached). He said that we had successfully transitioned to using LMS for results entry without major problems and all our results were now in and automatically submitted every month. Ray said he was unable to access the system and Chris promised to sort him out. There are some oddities compared with Dave Wild's database that caused access issues (e.g. entering both CCCA and BACL leagues requires a club to maintain separate club player lists for each league.) Also, one fixture was duplicated in LMS by accident, resulting in double entry in the ECF database. To solve this one fixture had to be deleted in LMS, to prevent it being respawned in the rating database. Chris explained that by having two databases, it limits what can be done to data, since data is shared (e.g. records of deceased players may not be deleted, since they appear in the game records of players that are still alive.) Paul Hanks worried that we were not properly named (CCCA) on either database. but this is because our ECF organisation codes predate the Cambridgeshire/Hunts & Peterborough merger. However, this is not relevant to our constitution. Several search issues were raised. Chris was happy to answer any technical questions outside the meeting.
6. **Website Co-ordinator:** Phil Turp was not present but had submitted a report (attached). Phil was happy to remain in his post. Chris read Phil's report. There were no questions.
- **ECF and EACU delegates:** Jimmy was not present but had told Chris that the ECF meeting was recorded on the ECF website. (Links to meeting minutes are at the bottom of this document.) There was not much to report back. Paul Kemp attended last year's EACU AGM, which now comes after our AGM in July. He reported that at the last meeting county teams had been agreed to remain at 12 boards (NB: will now be 16 for next season). Long-standing EACU secretary/treasurer, Richard Freeman, had run the organisation since its inception, but has now retired. Paul agreed to go and report on the activities of his successors.
7. **Junior Organiser:** James had submitted a report (attached), but Chris had left this off the pre-meeting circulation, for which he apologised. James said that most of his report referred to Peterborough activities. He said there were some potential ECF development pathways for junior clubs and asked whether any Cambridgeshire team had dedicated junior sections and was told none at present. He also asked why there was no U1450 county team, as this could be a platform for juniors. Unfortunately, there are currently no EACU county teams at that level.

8. **Disputes Committee:** Paul Hanks said that there was one dispute last year, a procedural matter, that he had decided was not a relevant matter for the disputes committee, after calling for advice from Paul Kemp. Paul Kemp said that this issue would be clarified by a minor change to our constitution, to be discussed later in this meeting.

7. Report of the Treasurer and Adoption of the 2022/23 Accounts

Paul Kemp had circulated his report and the accounts prior to the meeting. He said that the highlight was the legacy from Patrick, so comparisons with previous years were meaningless. We took the opportunity to spend £1200 on new county equipment, which we had been lacking, but when the legacy and this expenditure were removed from the totals, we broke even over the year to within £10. Club fees had been reintroduced at pre-covid levels. County costs have increased, partly because of the first team's success, and also because we have been collecting 12 board fees instead of 16. Both the county championship and the rapidplay made small surpluses. Some £40000 of the legacy has been put into a one-year bond to maximise interest. The other £10000 is on deposit. In future Paul said that he would report legacy expenditure separately.

He proposed keeping competition fees at the same level as the previous year. This was agreed.

8. Presentation of Trophies

Trophies for the 2022/23 season were awarded as follows:

Division 1: New England (Note: the trophy is missing 1997 winners?)

Division 2: New England

Fenland KO Open: Cambridge (not present – but they retain from last year)

Fenland KO 7000: St Ives (St Neots to return)

7000 League: Royston (Spalding to return)

Jamboree: not contested

County Individual Champion: Jason Dilley (presented at Individual Championships)

Note: The Jack Taylor Trophy is missing – do we need a replacement? Spalding has the 7000 League trophy and St Neots the Fenland KO 7000. Both will need engraving when returned. Royston and Spalding were not represented at the meeting. Royston and St Ives will need to be given their trophies at a later date.

9. Patrick Ribbands legacy fund and constitution changes

Paul Kemp explained that a change to our association constitution was necessary, due to it not satisfying our bankers. He had tried to open a second current account to simplify the operating finances for the Whittlesford Rapidplay and this had been refused. He therefore rewrote the Treasurer role as required by the bank, and also the section on the Executive Committee as its function has changed. Chris pointed out that the old ECM no longer took place, so we could streamline the Executive and its functions. At the same time, because we have Patrick's legacy, it made sense to put the new Executive in charge of expenditure proposals, as they would then no longer need to be brought to the AGM. An Executive meeting could be called whenever there was business to discuss and could also meet virtually.

It was asked whether the new constitution satisfied the bank. Paul Kemp asked that the AGM formally resolve to open a second current account to allow the finances of the Rapidplay to be more easily accounted for separately, and this was agreed. He pointed out that the change would be too late for this year's rapidplay, and therefore any extra new changes can be ratified by next year's AGM.

The role of the Disputes Committee had been clarified by separating playing disputes from other disputes, which would be handled by the Executive Committee as described in rule 18. Chris said that one word had also been changed in the first sentence in rule 20, where the word club had been added. These changes mean that if any individual has a grievance against the association or one of its officers, then they must gain the backing of their club to take the dispute further. He thought that this was reasonable as without support a dispute was unlikely to succeed. Chris proposed we adopt Paul Kemp's changes and this was agreed.

Chris also proposed that we use our new Executive Committee to handle proposals for spending the bequest. We could wait until the next AGM which could mean a long wait to get proposals approved, or we could elect another subcommittee, but having created a new executive, it seemed logical to use that. The proposal was carried.

Several proposals have been made to spend legacy funds. Firstly, due to a deal, we have already purchased new clocks and chess sets for county matches. Our old equipment was found at Patrick's house after he died and sold last year. The association received £250 from the sale. Paul McMahon said that the new sets would be used for the county final next week, and at subsequent county games. He would hold the sets and they could also be used for the county individual, jamboree, etc., on request. Paul Hanks proposed that unless anyone opposed, we accept the purchase using legacy funds. This was approved.

Paul Kemp said that it was an anomaly that we charged players for the privilege of playing for the county team. No other EACU county charges board fees any more. He also proposed that the bequest should pay the entry fees to the Counties Championship. This was agreed.

Jimmy Blair had proposed that we use legacy funds where necessary to guarantee the prize fund for the next County Individual Championship in November. Paul Kemp said that the emphasis here was to guarantee prizes for juniors. There were other potential grading prizes in the competition, but the ambition would be to fund those from entry fees. The proposal was accepted.

The remainder of the agenda items were just a list of potential suggestions from Paul Hanks and Stephen Pride. Chris said that he had included them to promote a discussion on what we wanted to do with the money. We need to establish some priorities and guidelines for the guidance of the executive, so that they have a framework to work with, rather than leave them to make ad hoc decisions.

Peter Baddeley said that he thought county matches and junior chess would have been Patrick's main priorities. Chris thought that encouraging new players and creating routes into clubs was also important. Paul McMahon agreed that Patrick would want to be remembered for encouraging new players regardless of standard.

Colin asked whether we should create a Grand Prix for juniors named for Patrick. (The EACU GP is named for Marcus Misson, and the CCCA GP is named for Jack Taylor.) There is, already the EACU Patrick Ribbands Team championship (to be held in October this year), but a new trophy for juniors was thought to be a good idea. Peter Baddeley suggested funding help for competition organisers to encourage new events. Chris agreed, but thought that new volunteers would be needed.

How long we want the money to last was raised. It was expected that there would be an initial burn, but for the long-term Paul Kemp thought that the objective would be to set up sustainable initiatives, that after some 'pump priming' would be self-financing in the future. Paul Hanks thought that we were looking at a decade timeframe at least. Paul Kemp reported on expenditure of the Linton legacy. They are staying open during the summer, and funding junior prizes for the Bury congress. The main work focusses on support junior chess, aiming to change way it is funded and supported.

It was asked if we should we put a limit on ECM expenditure. If serious money is requested, we could always call for an EGM. Paul Kemp said that there will need to be some equity between clubs on how the money is spent. The ECM will need to review such projects on merit.

Chris said that an international event in Cambridge had been a huge success. Paul McMahon said that this was the first international competition in Cambridge in 35 years, with potentially 200 entries, but was cheap and provided local players an opportunity to maybe play a GM. It was a success and will take place again next year. To get new players involved there was already Newmarket and Bury congresses. He did not feel that we should use legacy funds for another large event.

Peter Baddeley suggested that there was a demand for more quicker format chess, and we should provide more opportunities to exploit the rise of online chess and the popularity of, for example, Queen's Gambit, social media access, YouTube, etc., as there was a definite surge during covid. Chris thought funding an early evening venue would help junior access.

Paul Kemp reported on the Cambridge Junior Mega-final, that attracted 300 juniors in 5 age ranges. The challenge is how to get such keen juniors into clubs. He thought establishing a relationship with schools was key. Linton club has been talking to secondary schools (Linton and Sawston Village Colleges) to form a junior club (Anglian Chess Academy) likely meeting on Friday (6-8.30pm), run by Linton chess club volunteers, that would organise competitions, tuition sessions, etc. They were not talking to primary schools yet. He thought that Paul Hanks suggestion of zones in which to involve a local collection of schools was an excellent idea.

James Conlon asked about a county U1450 team to encourage juniors. We used to participate at this level. There is a national competition but no other EACU teams, so likely not many games. The team would also need a captain and competing would involve significant travelling, which can be difficult with juniors. DVS checks may be needed. Francis said that these are no longer funded by the ECF.

Paul Hanks summarised the discussion as breaking down into funding county chess, access for juniors to chess potentially by creating local links to Cambridgeshire schools, and creating sustainable initiatives for the future. We also need to share best practise for anything we do, so that we can all benefit.

10. Proposed Rule changes

Chris said that because our first division was all-play-all 3 times, it had been decided to give the league leaders home advantage for the third game. Consequently, the third fixture is not fully defined until the second round of fixtures is complete. This season, after a couple of matches were postponed, the final fixture/venue was only known a few days before the third match. Given that away matches generally need more time to arrange, he felt it was preferable for the third fixture to be fully defined at the start of the season, and proposed a coin toss to decide home and away teams. Paul Hanks said that this would also be helpful to fix other events, such as club championships into club calendars. The rule change was agreed.

Chris said that his second proposal was to define a rule that had been common usage since the inception of our grade-limited chess league, but was not actually written down. This was to use the September grades to determine eligibility for teams, and now use monthly chess grades for board order. Paul McMahon said that county chess was organised using the same rules. The proposal was agreed and will be written into the rules.

(A 10-minute break was taken here.)

11. Confirmation of OTB League fixtures, events and dates

Peter Baddeley had made a proposal to reduce the number of boards in division 1 from 5 in the hope of attracting more teams into the division. Unfortunately, this did not happen. After some discussion it was agreed that with only 4 teams in division 1 most would prefer all-play-all 3 times (i.e. 9 games), and 5 board matches.

John had also proposed a beginner 'Team 4000' league, consisting of 3 boards and to be played along division 1 fixtures, because there should not be overlap between the teams. He said that in common with most clubs St Ives were recruiting new players that were not yet strong enough for our other leagues. Transport might be an issue but if we could organise North and South divisions, like Team 7000, it should help. Some willingness to move fixtures around would probably be necessary. Colin asked if ECF membership was required. This is payable after 3 games, but junior membership is free in the first year. The length of games was discussed. Minimum for a standard grade is 60 minutes plus a 15 second increment. This was agreed. Chris asked for a show of willingness to participate. With at least seven teams, possibly more, it was agreed to have John draw up a league, to be split for ease of transport. Chris said that he had drafted rules based on Team 7000, the only difference being that the rule that players below 1450 rating counted as 1450 in the team total was removed. Chris asked whether we wanted a higher total than 4000 to accommodate the driver, but it was the consensus that stronger players would be prepared to act only as drivers taking 3 lower graded players.

Paul Hanks said that we had a request from Rookwood chess club asking to join our association. Rookwood is an ex-British Legion club in March, with about 400 members, and currently circa 7 chess players. Paul asked whether we were happy to endorse Rookwood's request for membership and this was accepted.

Composition of the various leagues was discussed. Division 1, was expected to be the same 4 teams. No-one wanted to be promoted or relegated. Rookwood wanted to enter division 2, making 7 teams overall. They also expressed an interest in joining the 7000 league but will need to confirm. So, Team 7000 is likely to be the same 8 teams as last year plus Rookwood, (5 north, 4 south) but the participation of Spalding and Ely is as yet unknown. The new Team 4000 is potentially 6 teams in the north and 5 in the south, but several teams need to confirm. The Fenland Open is likely to be contested by the same 5 teams as last year, with the FKO 7000 up to maybe 9. It was 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:

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

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

Team 7000N: New England, Peterborough, Spalding, St Ives, Rookwood?

Team 7000S: Godmanchester, Royston, St Neots, St Ives, (Ely?)

Team 4000N: New England, Peterborough (x2?), Spalding, Rookwood?

Team 4000S: Godmanchester, Royston, St Neots, St Ivesx2?, (Ely?)

Fenland cup

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

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

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.

12. Election of Officers for 2022/23

Paul Hanks asked whether everybody was prepared to stand for re-election, and if anyone else wished to stand. Paul Spencer has volunteered to be Jamboree Organiser. With no-one else new coming forward, Paul Hanks proposed that we elect the committee on-block. This was agreed.

We need to elect 2 representatives to the Executive Committee. Paul Hanks said that committee meetings could be done online via Zoom. It was not expected to be a big commitment, meeting basically when there were proposals to spend legacy money, perhaps 2-3 times a year. After brief discussion, Paul McMahon and James Conlon agreed to volunteer. With no-one else coming forward, they were welcomed to the committee.

A key job for the executive will be to direct funding to junior chess projects. Paul Hanks has proposed that we split the job of junior organiser into regional zones to make it easier to manage, but this will depend on volunteers coming forward to help. He said that this was something we could discuss in Executive Committee meetings. We will need to encourage some new volunteers.

The 2023/24 committee is therefore as follows:

Position	Proposed (and voted into office)
Chairman	Paul Hanks
Vice-Chairman	Chris Russell
Secretary	Chris Russell
Treasurer	Paul Kemp
Executive Committee	Paul Hanks, Paul Kemp, Chris Russell, Paul McMahon, James Conlon
League Secretary / Team 7000 Organiser / FKO organiser	John Beck
Rapidplay Organiser	Ollie Lenton
Championship Organiser	Jimmy Blair
Jamboree Organiser	Paul Spencer
Junior Organiser	James Conlon
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	Paul Kemp, Chris Russell, Paul Hanks
Disputes Committee	Paul Hanks (Chairman) plus one volunteer from each club (to be asked as necessary)

13. Any Other Business

Paul Hanks said that Executive Committee meetings would be organised as necessary. The next AGM will be in June next year. There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 10.18pm.

Minutes Prepared by:

C. J. Russell
Secretary

Minutes Signed by:

P. Hanks
Chairman

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report 2022/23

The accounts for the year ended 31 May 2023 are attached. The Association received a bequest of £50,000 from the estate of the late Patrick Ribbands in early spring. Of this £1234.98 was used to take advantage of an attractive offer to purchase 16 boards, sets and clocks for the Association. Had it not been for these two exceptional items the accounts would have virtually been in balance. I will say more on the bequest and how I intend to account for it later in my report.

2022/23 saw the reintroduction of club fees at pre-covid levels. The Cambridgeshire Rapidplay returned to pre-covid levels of participation, producing a surplus of £155, and the County Championship also achieved a modest surplus. Thanks are due to Ollie Lenton and Jimmy Blair for their excellent organisation of these events. The main increase in expenditure was on County matches. This is a reflection on the Open team's success in qualifying for the national stages in both 2021/22 and 2022/23, and also the reduction in the number of players in the East Anglian stage from 16 to 12, with a commensurate reduction in board fees from players.

In reporting future years' accounts I propose to separate the 'routine' Association income and expenditure from the legacy expenditure. Those items approved by the Legacy Sub-Committee will be listed separately in my report and deducted from the fund balance remaining.

You will see from the accounts that £40,000 of the legacy has been invested in the Cambridge Building Society, in a one-year bond. Over £11,000 is available for immediate expenditure, should it be required. This has been done (in consultation with the Chairman and Secretary) to increase the interest earned whilst retaining flexibility to meet approved legacy requests.

I also propose that club fees continue to be set at a level which aims to balance the normal income and expenditure of the Association. For 2023/24 I propose to leave them unchanged at £10 for a League team, £2 for the Fenland Knockout and £6 for the Team 7000. A 20% discount will remain available for prompt payment.

Finally the ECF has introduced 12-month rolling memberships in place of the old September to August membership year. Club secretaries and treasurers are reminded that they will need to keep an eye on members' expiry dates to avoid being fined for playing rated games whilst not a member (though a three game tolerance provides a little leeway). Any fines will be passed on to the clubs concerned, as before.

PAUL KEMP

Treasurer

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 May 2023

Income	2021/22	2022/23
	£	£
Club fees	-----	176.80
Surplus on Rapidplay	-----	155.00
Surplus on County Championship	-----	17.00
Sale, Patrick Ribbands Memorabilia	250.00	-----
Legacy, Patrick Ribbands' Estate	-----	50000.00
Interest	0.44	44.03
Total Income	250.44	50392.83
Expenditure		
EACU fees	40.00	70.00
Website	129.51	129.38
County matches	30.00	162.40
Trophies and engraving	-----	34.50
Deficit on Rapidplay	37.00	-----
County equipment	-----	1234.98
Total Expenditure	236.51	1631.26
Surplus for Year	13.93	48761.57

Balance Sheet at 31 May 2023

	£		£
Balance 1 June 2022	2778.68	Cambridge B. S.	40000.00
Surplus for year	48761.57	Business Savings Account	11349.85
		Current Account	176.02
		Debtors	14.38
Funds 31 May 2023	51540.25		51540.25

Paul Kemp
Treasurer

Norman Hutchinson
Auditor

Cambridgeshire Website Report - 2023

As with last year nothing spectacular to report with the website. The site in it's current format has now been running since 2012 and it is interesting to see how it has evolved. I think with the new LMS running it currently is more of a historical document. At New England I think the Facebook page is now more of a point of contact for new players and information about the club but whether that is something someone else would like to pursue for Cambridgeshire Chess I'm not sure.

I have downgraded the original hosting site package to reduce costs. We can always upgrade if we decide to do something more with the site.

The next Rapidplay entry form will soon be appearing on the site assuming there is one this year (I have not yet heard anything).

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

2023 CCCA AGM - Grading Officer Report

I want to start this report by expressing my personal gratitude to Dave Wild and Patrick Ribbands, both of whom helped make my job as results officer that much easier. About 10 years ago, Patrick was instrumental in getting the EACU C4 database into use in Cambridgeshire, thereby modernising our grading system, making it far less labour intensive to collect data and process it. Dave was responsible for developing the database, and as long as we used it, he supported the system, making it thoroughly reliable to use. Because his system was very similar to ECF league management system (LMS) it was therefore an easy decision not to be an early adopter of LMS. In my experience as a software developer, new programs need to be debugged, so it is better to let others find the snags! I was happy and grateful to use Dave's system for as long as he was prepared to support it, so we did. However, all good things usually come to an end and we have now fully migrated to LMS.

This was our first year using the LMS database, so I spent the previous summer trying it out and creating access permissions for users in the Cambridgeshire organisation area in the LMS system (<https://ecflms.org.uk/lms/node/69349/home>). I generated templates for all of our major competitions and also entered all of last year's results into the database to test the new formats. This proved useful because I discovered that only one season's results are allowed to be 'active' for results entry at any one time. The previous season must be archived by the results officer before a new season can be live for data input. It therefore makes sense to use event formats from the previous season where possible. Each new season's competitions then just need to be labelled with the current year when setting up.

The LMS database has some nice features, including a single screen display of all league/KO results tables and automated reporting and error checking. I discovered that it was possible to import both player lists and fixture lists from text files or spreadsheets, making data transfers from the old grading system much less error prone, and also making it possible to semi-automate fixture generation year on year, which could make that task much less onerous for the fixture secretary. Care needs to be taken importing player lists, though. The LMS user guide said that ECF Excel format lists would be accepted, but these failed to import properly. I subsequently had to delete a number of blank players in lists and reorder data input columns before the system allowed me to load player lists successfully. The LMS user guide has now been corrected!

There were a few issues setting everybody up with access but once that was ironed out, I expected results reporting to be straight-forward. This generally proved to be the case, apart from some unpleasantness when certain users found that they were unable to enter all types of data. I tracked this down to an inconspicuous set-up switch in the local database settings that gave full entry permissions solely to the database administrator by default. Fortunately, this aspect was quickly resolved.

However, another part of the 'access' problem was that LMS requires that duplicate club player lists are maintained for different competitions. I only discovered this when finding out that Ely had uniquely separate player lists for CCCA and BACL in LMS. I was surprised and queried it with LMS admin, only to be told that it was a standard feature of the code. So, Ely and Cambridge will need to maintain separate player lists for CCCA and BACL, as will Peterborough for their own club events page.

The default automated submission period was set to one month as agreed at last year's AGM. I recommend that we keep this setting, as it allows a (small) period for checking of results by both sides before official submission to the ECF.

Also, by default team captains cannot edit fixture dates, so captains need to get the match date updated by the league secretary or results officer when submitting data. Some captains simply added the new date in the comments, resulting in a few matches being submitted with the original (wrong) date. Do we want to change this for next year? I can see advantages in both set ups.

A benefit of LMS is that we can add any new CCCA competitions ourselves into the same structure prior to the event (we previously were reliant upon Dave), allowing data entry directly during the competition, rather than afterwards, which should make results reporting much faster and less error-prone in future. Consequently, the county individual competition used LMS this year too, though John Wickham preferred to use alternative software (Swiss Manager) for the Whittlesford Rapidplay.

One oddity that I ended up discussing with the LMS developers was that the Fenland final was entered twice into our fixture list, once with the radio button 'Not Shown on Fixture list'. I do not know how that happened but it is possible that it was when setting up the event. It would not have mattered if the result had not been subsequently entered twice (into both fixtures entries) in LMS, presumably independently by both captains. As a consequence of having the result in twice, it is then copied when sent to the ECF, and continued to be so, even after I requested Matt Carr that the duplicate be deleted from the ECF database. To prevent that happening again, I had to delete the duplicate fixture/result in LMS. However, from now on, please note that if the system wants you to enter a result twice then something has gone wrong with the fixtures set up. LMS will only allow you to enter a match result twice if it is entered twice in the fixtures!

Using the September grades for determining eligibility for competitions, plus the latest monthly rating figures to modify team board order seems to work fine, as does using a board order tolerance of 100 FIDE rating points.

The coronavirus pandemic has rendered statistical comparisons of recent years rather meaningless. I did note that we had exactly 100 different players take place in league and cup competitions (Ne 14 Wa 11 Sn 12 Sp 5 Ro 11 Pe 24 Go 7 El 10 Ca 6; total = 100), up from 76 last year. Perhaps a more useful statistic is that this compares with 117 players in 2018-19, but this was before both Cambridge and Royston withdrew from Division 1. There were a number of non-ECF registered members playing, so now that ECF membership is on a 12-month rolling basis, I expect that some clubs will be fined as I am not sure if payment in arrears is still accepted.

More pleasing was that there were no defaulted games and only 6 defaulted boards in all competitions: [Div1: St Neots 1 (Pb), Div2: Ely 2 (Ne, Wa), Godmanchester 1 (Pb), Team 7000: St Neots 1 (Go), Godmanchester 1 (Sn), FKO: none]. I think this is pretty good considering there were a possible 350 games overall (i.e., only 1.7% of our games were defaulted.)

Now that the LMS rating system is up and running properly, I expect each new season to be relatively trouble free in the future, requiring considerably less work than it did. 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.

Chris Russell

June 2023

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Whittlesford Rapidplay 2022 - Prize winners

Open	1st	£120	Declan Shafi (4.5/5)
	Joint 2nd	£40	Ieuan Ward (4)
		£40	Jaden Jarmy
		£40	Tristan See – Winner of the Jack Taylor trophy
		£40	Tristan See – Winner of the Jack Taylor trophy
	Rating (U2040)	£20	Ivan Myall (3)
		£20	Sam Herring
	Rating (U1950)	£20	Mark Lim (3)
		£20	Christopher Hampton
Junior	£30	Balahari Bharat Kumar (2)	
Major	Joint 1st	£80	Graham Cole (4)
		£80	Konrad Scheffler
		£80	Ethan Rowe
	Rating (U1801)	£20	Michael Usher (3)
		£20	Christopher Willoughby
	Rating (U1750)	£30	Kelvin Hunter (2.5)
	Junior	£30	Yoav Pilowsky Bankirer (3)
Challengers	1st + junior trophy	£120	Adam Nawalaniec (5)
	Joint	£40	Sam Gaffney (4)
		£40	Alexander Linton
		£40	Bharath Klass
		£40	Bharath Klass
	Rating (U1590)	£20	Daniel Savin (3)
		£20	Amanthika Anbalagan
		£20	Jason Skelton
Junior	£30	Peter Stone (3.5)	
Minor	1st	£100	Jack Williams (4.5)
	Joint 2nd	£30	Aaron Hodgson (4)
		£30	Leszek Nawalaniec
		£30	Marcin Rodzik
		£30	Marcin Rodzik
	Joint Rating (U1275)	£10	Reg Mackenzie (3)
		£10	Manas Mukhopadhyay
		£10	Anbalagan Marimuthu
	Junior	£30 + trophy	Oliver Ferris (2.5)

Ollie Lenton

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION
2022 RAPIDPLAY ACCOUNTS**

£

Income

Entry fees (including donated entry fees from withdrawn players)

Open	460.00
Major	435.00
Challengers	502.00
Minor	335.00

ECF fees received for bronze level or below

6 x £9	54.00
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Total income **1789.00**

Expenditure

Venue hire 218.00

Prizes

Open	350.00
Major	340.00
Challengers	330.00
Minor	250.00

ECF fees (7 x £9) 63.00

Trophies & engraving 20.00

Scoresheets 10.00

Tea, coffee, and milk 13.00

Arbiter's expenses 40.00

Total expenditure **1634.00**

Profit **155.00**

Ollie Lenton

Cambridgeshire Chess Association Youth Organiser

Report on Year 2022-2023

The two interwoven sections of this report (what I did, and what I thought about doing) stretch back before I started, involving tuition at Peterborough Chess Club. Looking to the future, the Patrick Ribbands legacy and the new ECF Junior Development Pathway initiative cause a re-examination of the role.

I took over the vacant post of Junior Organiser in September (2022), therefore when the school year had already started. My predecessor had been in function in COVID lockdown times so nothing happened then. I was not given a set of tasks so I had to create something or at least study the current situation. One regret would be not being ready to help form a Cambridgeshire team to take part in the ratings-controlled sections of the 2023 ECF County Championships.

In September I organised a Peterborough event, a simultaneous display with Candidate Master Chris Tandy, intended for intermediate players. Communication within the club failed just before the event so I was not sure of participation. I wanted 18, but only 4 were participants on the day, including two junior players, but Chris Tandy said that 6 would be enough, given the time available. The two junior players appreciated the experience.

At county level one would expect to see tournaments, inter-club leagues and inter-county competitions, as we have for Cambridgeshire. Junior players take part in the normal (adult) county activities where there may be a prize for the best junior player. I attended the last session of the Closed Tournament near Peterborough in November. The inter-county activity would incorporate junior players especially where ratings thresholds are introduced. In the time of Patrick Ribbands I took part in such a competition (Cambridgeshire versus Hertfordshire) so I have seen for myself how many junior players are participating. For completeness I should add that in this county there is a (secondary) school chess association centred on a school in Cambridge, but a school in Peterborough has been participating this year. The universities have their own organisation.

At club level, junior players may be organised in their own club, or have a section in an existing (adult) club. Alternatively they may come (individually) to an adult activity, where clubs then face the problem of how to match them with experienced players. Whatever the context, safeguarding issues need to be addressed. Various schools (primary and secondary) may have after-school clubs, sometimes with the help of the organization Chess in Schools and Communities. Other groups that cannot take part in normal club activities could be considered for liaison and eventual contact: prisoners (young offenders), blind people. If I see that the new university in Peterborough has formed a chess club, I shall make contact.

Whatever the link to clubs or schools, junior players need resources to improve. Taking part in tournaments and competition will provide a focus and an incentive to strengthen weak spots in preparation. Nationwide the ECF is worried that the next generation of players will not be as good as this one. In general, if young players without adequate preparation play in competitions, the organisers may ultimately be rewarding mediocrity, rather than giving consolation prizes for lack of experience or age.

Before discussing tuition (chess formation) in more detail, it is worth comparing the England (UK) situation with other countries where chess is part of the school curriculum: Spain, Azerbaijan, Georgia (from 2022), some states of India. I learn of these experiences through the London Conference organised by the chess-in-education organisation Chess Plus. I also mention Judit Polgar's Initiative in Hungary, which has been adopted for a pilot in a school in China. My understanding is that in order to help young people get a feel for how the pieces move and

how to record the squares of the moves they make a song and dance of it. My view would be that anything that does not directly prepare for playing the actual game is just a distraction. In UK we can be thankful that the young participants are learning chess voluntarily and not by obligation by school authorities or other administrations, or perhaps even by their parents. In all this, in these countries there is a massive effort to train chess teachers (tutors), but their chess ability will be far below what is required for coaching. The London Conference reporting on worldwide educational initiatives draws attention to the technology available for tuition.

Last decade UK (England) made a pilot project for chess in the school curriculum, as encouraged by the EU as part of a continuing continental initiative, with follow-on initiatives. No decision to roll out nationally has been made. According to the report on the BBC news website, some children in the pilot project said that chess helped them deal with aggression. Yes, there is an issue sometimes in tuition with learners bringing down pieces noisily during games. Part of learning chess is the etiquette. Intimidation in all its forms is a matter that may bring the game into disrepute. There is a rule for that. The sponsoring authorities were seeking some indication of improvement in academic performance, but chess associations would have other criteria for success. For the foreseeable future, chess activity for primary-age juniors will be mostly in clubs.

For two years (since September 2021) I have been giving tuition at beginner level at Peterborough Chess Club, mostly to primary-level and secondary-level tutees, with one primary-school teacher who has since founded an after-school club. At the request of the Chairman at that time whom I had helped for various chess events and to whom I had expressed a willingness to do the task, I started with 3 young learners. I always had in mind that I could help the parents (carers) learn chess as well. Within the Club, tuition went on at other levels. In the first year retired player Fred Davis gave feedback on games played in internal competitions. He also posted occasional puzzles. In late Spring 2022 he came to the Club at our previous noisy venue Angle Gaming Lounge and talked through some positions with the younger members of the club: the Fried Liver Attack and Philidor's Legacy (smothered) Mate; as well as taster coaching sessions with older members. Fred withdrew from club activities this year, but continues coaching. Dennis Browning has continued the analysis. I should add that I have been guided by conversations with the late Alistair Summers who has a first-level monitored club tuition game video online. Since 2015 with his coordination, I have been playing junior players occasionally, some of whom were interested in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. I also once organised a short impromptu tuition session on a World Championship Candidates game.

With the team I have been experimenting with using computer software, both chess playing environment and chess engine, to enhance the feedback experience. The club has a large magnetic chessboard used with an easel. Occasionally I bring a laptop to tuition when I might record the game immediately and show previous games rapidly. Clearly, with the corresponding data projector the Club can envisage reaching a greater number of tutees. The Club continues the tuition experience through the website, where as club website manager I am progressively making permanently available games previously analysed by our club experts.

In general terms, if the initiatives to raise the profile of junior chess through tuition take shape, I am ready to coordinate in the Peterborough area, perhaps even as far as Huntingdon, Buckden and St Neots. I am willing to visit chess clubs in Cambridgeshire, including Linton where Patrick Ribbands was involved, and beyond, where there is proven experience in tuition. On a recent fact-finding visit to Leeds Junior Chess Club, which I can describe in another place, I discussed tuition policies and feedback details. That club is 8 miles from the city centre. That distance from Peterborough provides a wide catchment area. I recently played a chess game in the Commemoration Hall in Huntingdon, a venue that might serve for matches and tuition.

As part of chess formation, especially of juniors, I would be in favour of the association moving in the direction of

permanent records of league and tournament games. Perhaps the individual clubs cannot afford the technology available at the recent Cambridge Open Tournament where moves are recorded by the wired board in real time and can be displayed instantly in the room (on selected boards) and of course across the Internet. However we could develop a system of comparison of move records at the end of each game, together with agreed submission to club coordinator of game in pgn-format within 24 hours, perhaps by Black. (The current pgn file in the Association's LMS database records only the context information.) This good practice will then propagate into club activities.

I respectfully submit my report.

James Conlon

BBC story on pilot project to bring chess to schools:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/education-40722595>

County Individual Championships

The breakdown of cash prizes was:

County Champion	- £60
County Runner-up	- £30
Junior Champion	- £30
U1825 rating prize	- £30
U1500 rating prize	- £30
Total	£180

The thought behind my AGM proposal is that by advertising decent headline champion / runner-up cash prizes we will attract more entries and that the rating prize amounts are less important in this regard. I am happy to word the proposal differently if that meets the legacy criteria better. However, surely the end result is the same?

The hall cost has gone up by 50% to approx. £300 (we were very lucky with the cost last year), therefore I was thinking of a £20 entry fee, £10 for juniors.

I think the County Champion Shield will cost more than the £10 allocated, I'm looking around for the best quote.

Income

Entries by bank transfer.	£275.00
Entries by cheque.	£36.00
Entries by cash.	£180.00
Return of hall deposit.	£50.00 (not happened yet)
Total income.	£541.00

Expenditure

Cost of hall deposit.	£50.00
Cost of hall.	£200.00
Memento trophies.	£30.99
Tea, coffee, biscuits, etc.	£16.35
Arbiter expenses.	£35.00
Prizes paid in cash.	£105.00
Prizes paid by transfer.	£75.00 (Dilley and Ewbank)
Cost of Shield engraving.	£10.00? (Not known yet)
Total so far.	£522.34

Jimmy Blair

ECF minutes links

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/ECF-April-2023-Draft-Minutes-of-FCM.pdf>

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Draft-Minutes.pdf>