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**Rugeley Chess Club**

**2018 Annual General Meeting.**

**Date / Time:**  08/05/2018 at 7 :45pm
**Chair:** Patrick Waller

**Attendees:** Matt Carr (MC), Bob Edgar (BE), Rob Fell (RF), Steve Heath (SH), Catherine Hiley (CH), Tony Meakin (AM), Mike Page (MP), Stephane Peddar (SP), James Perks (JP), Luke Sullivan (LS), Patrick Waller (PW).

**1.**                  **Apologies –** Dave Hadley, Bill Hulley

**2.**                  **Minutes of Last Meeting** Agreed to be a true and accurate record.

**3.**                  **Matters Arising**  None

**4.**                  **Reports**

a.   Chairman Report. (PW) Patrick thanked everyone for attending and the officers support throughout the year. Patrick will send Lea Hall a thank you letter on behalf of the club. He felt that club nights had been well-attended and welcomed Stephane and Steve to the club. He felt that the 50th Anniversary tournament had been a success run by Matt and assisted by Tony. 58 people came to the tournament and enjoyed the event. Patrick also thanked Mike in assisting Tony compile the History of the club booklet. The charter fair, junior chess, equipment were briefly mentioned and will be covered in more detail in AOB. Patrick ended his report by saying that he was appointed Cannock District Chess League Vice President which he felt would only benefit the club in the long term. MP added that he had sent a copy of the History of the Club to past member John Montague and said that it had been well-received.

 b.  [Secretary Report](https://d.docs.live.net/79f0ab09d637d79b/Documents/Secretary%20Report%202018.docx). (CH)

WDCL AGM date is Thursday 24th May at 7:30pm at Wolverhampton.

 Fixture meeting on Thursday 14th June at 7:30pm at Wolverhampton. CH & RF to attend

CDCL AGM was 1st May at 7:30 Attended by PW and MC, points of note was that there is a new individual cup competition “Dolan trophy” for players U100. The proposals didn’t have a seconder and therefore were dismissed. However, there was some support for considering the underlying problem further (i.e. be able to play quite highly graded players on board one in the lowest division and yet remain within the overall limit). PW had agreed to discuss this with Des Green (Coleshill) with a view to making a joint proposal to the Cannock AGM next year. This would probably involve a higher grading limit than 100 and a recommendation rather than an absolute rule so that more highly graded players could be played on some occasions if there was no one else available.

Fixture meeting either 3rd July LS & AM to attend

 c. Treasurer (AM)

 [Treasurers report](https://d.docs.live.net/79f0ab09d637d79b/Documents/Treasurers%20Report%202018.docx).

 Subs – To stay the same at £25

 [Accounts](https://d.docs.live.net/79f0ab09d637d79b/Documents/Chess%20Club%20Accounts%202017_18.xlsx)-

d.  Captains

 i.   Wolverhampton Division 2 (RF) Rob felt that it had been a challenging year due to distance of away matches. We struggled to gain points early on in the season but results began to pick up after Christmas. Most memorable match was beating Rushall, defying the odds. In the end we may have been up for promotion but happy to finish 4th and felt that it had been a great achievement. He thanked all the members contributions.

 ii.   Cannock Division 2 (LS) Luke thanked all the members who played this season. Although we didn’t come in the top 3 of the division he felt that it had been a good season considering the strength of the opposition, he was happy with the 3 match wins and felt that we are truly a force to be reckoned with for 2018-19 season. His personal highlight of the season was beating S. Cooksey. PW thanked Luke for his first season as captain.

**5. Club Championship Tournament-** (MC) Matt held the 1st rapidplay Summer league tournament of which he was the victor. He felt that it had been well received and was happy to continue if that’s what the club wished. The Christmas tournament had also been enjoyable and a close finish, and reminded everyone that James had won that competition. The club champs had finished and admitted that he had been unable to keep an eye on this due to work commitments, but felt that sufficient games had been played, and congratulated CH on winning that tournament. Matt said that he had received a lot of compliments about the 50th Anniversary tournament and believed it to be a successful celebration for the club.

PW thanked MC for his contribution as a distinguished Arbiter in the 50th anniversary tournament.

**6. Club member accolades**

Championship Trophy – Catherine Hiley

 Christmas Blitz tournament winner – James Perks

 End of season Blitz tournament winner – TBD

 Player of the Season – Matt Carr

Chairman’s Cup – Luke Sullivan

**7.**        **Election of Officers** *(See proposal 1)*. Proposal accepted unanimously and therefore all officers remain in post for the next season.

**8.**         **Season 2018 / 19 Structure** No changes

**9.**         **Club Equipment**

 i. New sets were proposed by the committee following the successful 50th anniversary tournament. There wasn’t a specific set in mind but the committee thought that wooden sets would look good, however there were concerns re storage, weight and damage /chips to expensive sets. Recommended that once we have some choices then the committee will seek members consensus before final purchase.

**10. Rugeleychessclub.co.uk website** *(See proposal 2)*. The proposal was accepted and it was agreed that the captains should simplify reports to reduce unnecessary pressure on the captains. It was also acknowledged that the webmaster has editorial powers where necessary.

It was noted that the league tables had been difficult to update on the CDCL side as their website wasn’t functioning. CH thanked PW for stepping in to complete the tournament entrants on the website. No other issues noted.

**11.**       **Club Tournaments**. There was some discussion that the summer tournament got in the way of the club champs tournament and that the later start may have influenced the fact that not all games were completed. AM suggested that the summer tournament should be restricted to finishing end of July, however this was not voted upon. MC took the names of who was interested in both competitions and will hold a draw for club champs next Tuesday.

**12.**       **Any Other Business**

Junior chess SH very interested in promoting junior chess in Rugeley and already takes his boys to the junior chess club in Bloxwich. There were various suggestions re Saturday morning club, PW plans to go into the local schools and connect with Tracie Whitfield. DBS checks would be required and further discussion prompted the possible need for a sub-committee so that Junior chess can be developed further.

Rugeley Charter Fair 9th June 2018 Green Lane Playing Fields,

3x3 metres pitch secured. PW volunteered the use of his gazebo, table and chairs. We can use club sets and CH to draw up a table of volunteers for the day, MC AM MP CH and PW have volunteered so far. MC may have a garden chess set available too.

Social event PW asked if anyone had any more unusual ideas for a social event to celebrate our 50th Anniversary? Bowling seemed a possible option. MC to give PW available dates and then PW to devise a doodle poll of convenient dates for other members.

Team Selections AM expressed dissatisfaction regarding the level of short-notice given by captains when selecting the teams. He requested more notice and understood that on occasion it couldn’t be helped but advised on securing a stand-by player.

Booklet PW has made some copies, no-one unhappy with it, MP suggested we could enter Past members on the booklet before we commit to final print.

Competitions MC brought to our attention that the Crewe Rapidplay is being held on 20th June and the Leek Rapidplay was being held on 27th June. SH reminded everyone that individual cup competitions are the Bidgood Cup (WDCL) and Robert Ward Cup (CDCL).

Club History MP reminisced that he was at his first chess AGM at the British Legion 50 years ago and felt that it was a fitting tribute to present a gift for the club in shape of board match conical counters. MP was thanked.

Time of closure of the meeting 9:35pm by PW

**PROPOSALS FOR AGM**

1. **Election of Officers (PW)**

Recognising that we are small club and in order to save time and avoid surprises or difficult moments at the AGM, the following is proposed as the basis on which officers of the club will be now elected:

* Any paid up member of the club may stand for election to any role at the AGM but, if they are not already in that role, they must notify the Secretary of their intention to stand at least one month before the AGM.
* Unless there are difficulties fulfilling a role, the roles of chairman, secretary and treasurer should be fulfilled by persons who have been members of the club for at least three years. Persons undertaking these roles should recognise an expectation that they are potentially willing to serve for several years to promote continuity.
* Any officer who is not willing to continue for a further year should notify the Secretary at least one month before the AGM.

**At the AGM:**

* All officers who are willing to stand and are unopposed will be automatically re-elected in a block vote without need for a proposer and seconder, unless any member present objects or objections have been received in writing from any member not present. If there are any objections, each post will be subject to an individual vote according to previous practice.
* All new officers (or any change of position) will be subject to the previous standard procedure involving a proposer and seconder, followed by a vote.

If agreed, this procedure will be adopted from 2019 onwards. At the 2018 AGM it will be discussed immediately before the election of officers and, if the meeting is unanimously in favour, and no objections have been made by members not present, it may be used in 2018 at the discretion of the chairman.

\* The following are currently considered officers:

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Tournament Controller

Webmaster

All team captains

**2) Proposal for guidelines relating to match reports for the website (PW)**

**Background**

Over the last few years captains have been expected to provide match reports for the website and it has become normal practice to describe each game. It is becoming clear that there are several potential problems with this practice:

* It is onerous for the captains
* The reports may not be accurate because captains may see little of other games
* The reports could potentially upset playing members or opponents
* The more you write, the less likely people are to read it

Hence the following guidelines in the form of dos and don'ts are being put forward for discussion at the AGM. If agreed, it will be for the webmaster to ensure they are followed by editing submissions as necessary. Examples of what the new form of report might look like are also given based on the last two such reports on the website.

**Proposed guidelines**

**Dos**

* Provide the report as soon as possible
* Be brief, 4-5 lines will usually be sufficient
* Describe the ebb and flow of the match
* Mention the participants who score points for Rugeley and heroic\* losses

**Don'ts**

* Describe individual games in any detail\*\*
* Mention losses (unless heroic)
* Mention opponents by name
* Use value judgements (e.g. bad move, blunder)

\* e.g. against an opponent graded much higher who was pushed all the way

\*\* brief high level points of interest are OK, for example:

* Kings' Gambit with a very sharp middle game
* Eventually drawing by three-fold repetition, perpetual check, stalemate etc.
* Number of moves made (if notably large or small)

**Examples
Rugeley v Wolverhampton (Cannock League, 19/4/2018)**

In the last game of the season there was a late change in the line-up as Matt Carr stepped in at short notice on Board 1. He quickly won in 19 moves (link to game), and Bob Edgar and I also won giving us a 3-1 victory. Thanks to all those who have represented us in the Cannock League this season.

**Rugeley v Kidderminster (Wolverhampton League 11/4/2018)**

Unfortunately we only able to put out five players for our last match of the season. Matt Carr and I won on the top two boards and the team put up a good fight but we eventually lost 4-2. Thanks to all those who made the long journey and who have represented us in the Wolverhampton League this season - we won 5 matches and finished fourth in the division.

Note - it was not possible to describe the "ebb and flow" of these games from the existing reports and they are only intended to give a flavour of the suggested new format.

**WDCL PROPOSALS**

This meeting proposes that the Rules Committee be asked to examine whether rule 15(b) needs to be changed to reflect the development of mobile devices and, should the committee consider it necessary, to make rule change recommendations to the 2018 AGM.
Specifically, the Rules Committee should consider:

1) Extending the current rule to cover all devices with internet connectivity. 2) Whether there should be a requirement for all such devices brought into the playing area to be switched off and placed in plain sight for the duration of games. 3) How such a requirement as set out in 2) above could be enforced. 4) What penalties should be imposed in the event of a device being activated during the game. 5) Other issues which may arise from the Committee’s deliberations.    [Pro: Halesowen Chess Club; Sec FW]                          phones unattended, and it is difficult to legislate for someone using a second concealed device if they are really determined. If a club wishes to 9).

Change of Time Control Limits for Games.
The committee considered a proposal from Mercia which DP presented.

After debate we arrived at the following final proposal

Rule 13 should be changed to the following for all games in all competitions in WDCL
*13. Use of clocks*

*1. The use of clocks shall be compulsory, and the time limits shall be one of the following options the default rate of play will be option 1:*

*(1) All moves in 80 minutes with 10 seconds per move added throughout (incremental) if sufficient digital clocks are available.*

*(2) All moves in 90 minutes*

This will mean that rules 8 Adjournments and 9 Adjudications will be no longer needed and rules for play-off matches and cup matches will follow the new rule 15b. if adopted.f Time Control Limits for G