﻿

**Rugeley Chess Club**

**2023 Annual General Meeting Agenda.**

**Date / Time:**  02/05/2023 at 7 :40pm             
**Chair:**  Bob Edgar

**Attendees:**Bob Edgar, Rob Fell, Steve Heath, Catherine Hiley, Bill Hulley, Tony Meakin, James Perks, Luke Sullivan, Dan Turner

**Not Present:**Rory Melough**,** Olly Parker

**1.**                  **Apologies –** Matt Carr, Mike Page, Patrick Waller

**2.**                  **Minutes of Last Meeting** Online Unanimously voted as true & accurate

**3.**                  **Matters Arising** Numbering of chess sets on the bags

**4.**                  **Reports**

a.   Chairman Report. (BE) Thanked all the members for another successful season in that we managed to play all matches and didn’t default any boards, felt that we had managed to keep the club going through a long period of uncertainty.

 b.  Secretary Report. (CH) Acknowledgements of the passing of G.Wesson (West Brom) S. Jones (Bushbury) and A. Leadbetter (Stafford). Wolverhampton have a new venue The 44 club, Spring Rd, Wolverhampton. Warley Quinborne have a new start time of 7 pm. No league disputes of note.

WDCL AGM is at Mercia Chess Club. CH & RF to attend 09/05/23

CDCL AGM is at Bridgtown Social Club. LS & CH to attend 06/06/23

Fixture meeting to be arranged directly after AGM

c. Treasurer (AM) Made a £20 loss, trophy engraving cost a £1 more per cup, but proposed to keep the subs the same as last year. Unanimously voted in agreement

i. ECF fees. £20

ii. Subs £10 + individual membership to Lea Hall

c. WDCL Capt report. (RF) Knew it was going to be a tough season, used a rotational system using 7 players, faced very strong opponents on boards 1 & 2, didn’t feel that the rotation policy worked well, but felt that we were at a disadvantage only playing 4 boards rather than the more usual 6. No wins on board 1, but no defaulted boards and felt disappointed with relegation but hoping we can bounce back up next season.

d. CDCL Capt report. (LS) Started strong, remained undefeated all season. Lichfield A defaulted a board after playing an ineligible player. Matts win against an opponent over 2000 was a notable performance as was Rory’s winning all his games of the season. It was a nail biting finish, but Rugeley came out as division Champions.

e. CUP Capt report. (JP) James felt that the Humphries Cup was not an enjoyable event and didn’t feel the need to enter next season. Chase Cup, Rugeley got to the final after beating Sutton Coldfield but 7 months later lost to Tamworth. He felt it was a great effort and thanked all that played.

**5. Club Championship Tournament- (MC)**

**6. Club member accolades**

Summer Rapidplay Tournament – Rob Fell

Christmas Blitz tournament winner – Matt Carr

Championship Trophy – Luke Sullivan

Player of the Season – Rob Fell

Chairmans Cup – Matt Carr

**7.**        **Election of Officers**

All other officers happy to stand for the 2023-24 season. Unanimously voted for

**8.**         **Season 2023 / 24 Structure** *See Proposal 1 (SH) 2nd LS.* Tony checked with Lea Hall and stated that the room is available. Unanimously voted for the proposal and agreed that we attend on Thursday nights commencing from 1st August. Will monitor attendance, and see how successful it is.

*proposal 2 (LS) 2nd CH.* Luke felt that the CDCL needed a bigger challenge and felt that we could cope with a div1 CDCL team, CH felt that some of the lower graded team members may miss out on vital competition matches and made an amendment to the proposal and that we had a div 1 and div 3 CDCL team. The amended proposal was widely accepted and unanimously voted for.

CAPT CDCL Div 1 Luke Sullivan

CDCL Div 3 James Perks

WDCL Div 3 Rob Fell

CHASE TROPHY Steve Heath

**9. Grading system** (MC) no report

**10.**       **Club Equipment** BE asked for Match Sets to be kept strictly for Match nights in numbered bags, and to secure bags after play with the toggles. Score sheets plenty

**11. Rugeleychessclub.co.uk website (LS)** Luke has enjoyed his first season as webmaster and happy to continue with the role. JP asked if there could be a freshen up of the website, but as Dave Amour ultimately controls the website and domain, it is hard to do, but DT offered to help if possible.Luke was thanked for his hard work.

**12.**       **Club Tournaments**. MC Matt will be holding an end of season Rapidplay Blitz slightly later than usual on 16th May to accommodate WDCL AGM.

**13.**       **Any Other Business.** TM **–** stated that he attended Lea Halls meeting and said that there had been a few incidents on the carpark so be mindful when entering and leaving.

DT – said he would look at enhancing the digital profile of the chess club.

SH – asked about the Chess in schools and BE said that he had struggled to gain interest with the local schools, but that Jonathon Blackburn is holding some junior tournaments in Staffordshire which may spark new interest. BE is still running the library sessions.

RF – Asked for interest in some social events, CH informed the club that it would be fitting to have a honorary meal for Patrick Waller (former Chairman) who will be sadly leaving the club due to moving out of the area. RF has arranged date for 29th June. Venue TBC

Time of closure of the meeting 20:56 by Bob Edgar

**Proposals for AGM**

1. (SH) Adding an extra club night
2. (LS) Entering the CDCL Division 1 and Division 2 league.

(7200 rating limit)

5 Teams, 10 matches, one H and one A per season if we enter.

Teams:

Wolverhampton

Lichfield A, B

Rushall

Tamworth

I would like to demonstrate the potential teams we could face in division 1 for an understanding on opponent strength.

E.g. Division 1 match between Lichfield A and Rushall 2022

B.1 - 1935 Vs 1820

B.2 - 1726 Vs 1817

B.3 - 1718 Vs 1793

B.4 - 1603 Vs 1486

E.g. Division 1 match between Wolverhampton and Lichfield B 2022

B1 - 1866 Vs 1960

B2- 1850 Vs 1676

B3- 1802 Vs 1673

B4- 1616 Vs 1441

(Wolverhampton almost used the entire limit for this match and still had 1616 on board 4.)

Going into another division would give those players who have lower ratings more games in division 2 as well as giving higher rated players at least 3 more games in division 1 as well as their WDCL games so everyone would average around 5 games per season maybe more. Each team is local and wouldn't be a mammoth journey.

Considering Rugeley did so well in division 2 this season, I propose we Join Div 1 along side division 2 for a test season to see if we are suited to it. The club is getting ever more popular and players are getting stronger so It would feel like a new challenge, whilst establishing Rugeley as worthy contenders.

I would like to take every members opinion in factoring such a decision and am more than happy to discuss our options.

Luke, cdcl cpt.

1. **Cannock league format - rejected**

3 clubs supported the proposed increase in rating limits, one proposed a lesser increase, and several had no strong feelings but were happy to go along with an increase if supported by other clubs. We shall therefore be proposing to the AGM that the rating limits for next season will be as set out in the questionnaire - i.e. Div1 - 7500; Div 2 - 6750; Div 3 - 6000; Div 4 - 5250; Chase Trophy - 7125; Dolan Trophy - 1500.

A number of clubs suggested that because ratings can fluctuate significantly over the course of a season, January ratings should be used for matches played after 1st January (September ratings to be used up to end of December). We support this, and will again be proposing this at the AGM.

1. **WDCL format**
2. Number of boards per team in season 2023-24  
     
   Option a) Retain the existing number of boards, ie: 4 boards in every league game and the Humphreys Trophy, with 8 boards in the Pittaway Cup.  
     
   Option b) Move to 6 boards for Division 1 and retain 4 boards in all other league games and the Humphreys Trophy, with 8 boards in the Pittaway Cup.  
     
   Option c) Move to 6 boards in Division 1, 5 boards in Division 2 and retain 4 boards in all other league games and the Humphreys Trophy, with 8 boards in the Pittaway Cup. **PREFERRED Option c**
3. Entry Fees for the Individual Competitions **No strong objections**  
     
   Proposal: Entry to the Rock Cup and Bidgood Trophy is free, all other rules remain unchanged.
4. Contact details  
   Proposal: With their permission we add contact details for team captains to the secure website, only visible after log-in.
5. Digital Clocks  
   Proposal: If the home club have insufficient digital clocks they must inform the visiting side so they have the option of bringing digital clocks if their players want to use them.
6. Minor League **No strong objections**   
   Proposal: That WDCL create a minor league for the 2023-24 season.  
   Details below.

Set out below is a proposal for setting up a Minor League for season 2023-24.

1. This would be a separate league and not a bottom division of the current league.
2. Existing officers of WDCL will officiate and manage the league, and all games will be ECF graded.
3. Teams of three players each will compete.
4. A grading limit of 1400K will apply. Clubs must submit an estimated grade for players with less than 5 ECF rated games and use the ECF grade when it becomes a K grade.
5. The area of the league will be the same as now, open to any club in a radius of 20 miles of Queen’s Square, Wolverhampton, but may be subdivided. Depending on the location of clubs entering, the Records Secretary can split the clubs entering into regional sub-groups, eg East and West to minimise travel.
6. The time control will be all moves 60 mins per player; to allow early finishes, more attractive to Juniors.
7. All Juniors will need an adult to be responsible for them at all times.
8. There will be no promotion or relegation. If there are regional sub-divisions there will be a play-off of regional winners for a Minor League Trophy.
9. There will be no entry fee to join the Minor League.