﻿

**Rugeley Chess Club**

**2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes.**

**Date / Time:**  09/05/2024 at 7:30pm             
**Chair:**  Bob Edgar

**Attendees:** Anthony Meakin, Bob Edgar, Catherine Hiley, Luke Sullivan, Matt Carr, Bill Hulley, Rob Fell

**Not Present:**Rory Melough, Nikoli Tisma-Walker

**1.**                  **Apologies –** Steve Heath, James Perks, (Dan Turner, Tom Woodhall, Oli Johnson, Jake Shaw – all playing in Summer league match)

**2.**                  **Minutes of Last Meeting** Online - accepted as true and accurate

**3.**                  **Matters Arising –** Additional club night, consensus was to continue with Thurs nights as currently no extra cost to club. Bob said that club and match sets are still getting mixed up so he’s going to put ‘M’ and ‘C’ on bags.

**4.**                  **Reports**

a.   Chairman Report. (BE) Chair acknowledged that he had not attended as much as he would have liked but felt that the club is still going strong and that chess is being enjoyed. Bob will thank Lea Hall for providing us with a good club room.

b.  Secretary Report. (CH) A few league issues presented themselves, one was with opponents not turning up and cancelling on the day, the match was postponed, but we felt that their late notice was not acceptable. Another issue was the captain fielding the team out of order of playing strength so we got penalised which became nullified as the opponents also were awarded penalty point for fielding an ineligible player.

We had also had offers to play a friendly match with Bushbury but the Secretary had not been down the club to discuss it with members so it never happened and apologised for this missed opportunity. The secretary felt that the time had come after 14 years in the role to step down but would continue to play for Rugeley chess club.

WDCL AGM is at Mercia Chess Club. 21/05/24

Fixtures at Wolves Chess Club 24/06/24

CDCL AGM is at Bridgtown Social Club. 19/06/24

c. Treasurer (AM) We have £353.37 in the kitty we made a loss of £84, we could also do with a replacement trophy. MC asked AM to send details over re trophy and he may be able to get a better price via a contact.

i. ECF fees. To be paid by everyone the fees may be going up but yet TBC

ii. Subs (see prop. 1) BH , MC 2nd Proposal approved.

d. Captain’s reports WDCL div 3 (RF) RF thanked for everyone who played and was delighted to say that we were Div 3 Champions beating Telford for a 2nd time in the season to secure the trophy and may share it out over the season. Won 8, Drew 1, and lost 1.

CDCL div 1  (LS) Felt that we held our own in a very strong division and felt confident that with the right support we could continue in the same division for another season. Finishing mid table LS was satisfied with the season.

CDCL div 3 (JP) James is stepping down from the captaincy but thanked everyone for playing, we did well although finishing midtable we were 1 point behind the Champions.

**5. Club Championship Tournament- (MC)** Reported that we had another good season, having 4 Tournaments, see report below.

**6. Club member accolades**

Summer Rapidplay Tournament – Catherine Hiley

Christmas Blitz tournament winner – Nikoli Tisma-Walker

Championship Trophy – Rob Fell

Player of the Season – Oli Johnson

Chairmans Cup – Nikoli Tisma-Walker

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

Catherine Hiley is stepping down as Club secretary, Dan Turner had volunteered for the role BH nominated , CH 2nd Unanimous vote for DT to take over as Secretary.

RF nominated all officers to remain the same BH 2nd – unanimous agreement for the 2024-25 season.

**8.**         **Season 2024 / 25 Structure** See Proposal 2 (RF) Rejected as it was felt that although the idea was sound, the club was too small.

**9. Grading system** (MC) Nothing to report – happy with LMS system working well

**10.**       **Club Equipment** No issues – will get checked prior to next season

**11. Rugeleychessclub.co.uk website (LS)** No issues apart from not wanting to duplicate news with home page.LS was thanked for his hard work.

**12.**       **Club Tournaments**. MC See proposals 3 & 4 (RF) 5 (LS) Proposal 3 (RF) was accepted by majority vote to maintain 2 groups but play 1 game to be decided by Swiss manager. Proposal 4 was discussed but not nominated therefore withdrawn. Proposal 5 is to play the Summer League with the same criteria as that for the Club champs but with current time differences- motion carried 5 - 2(abstentions).

**13.**       **Any Other Business.** CH said that due to the recent tiebreak on Div 3 Champions that it would have been better to decide on Direct encounter – Defaulted games - Board count – lower grading total and then to have a play off if absolutely necessary. General consensus was in agreement with this suggestion.

DT had discussed with MC using Discord as a more intuitive platform to discuss certain openings or games which eliminates the need for scrolling to find the info wanted. Free App, agreed at AGM.

Club constitution agreed at AGM and to go on club website under ‘about’ tab. CH to assist with this and the formatting of the new Club tournaments on the website.

Time of closure of the meeting 9:30pm

**Proposals for AGM**

1. Subs to be at a level in relation to ECF fees £5 + ECF membership.  Members can pay ECF fees (relative level) directly plus £5 to the club via the treasurer or to the club as a whole and the treasurer will be responsible for ECF registration in the latter case.
2. Linking in with the new influx of players is to introduce a 2nd Team in the Wolverhampton League (Div 3) so that we would have 4 teams running altogether. With the possible reduction in club championship games and the non entry of certain cup competitions, we have a better chance now of running 4 teams than we ever did.
3. Revamping of the Club Championships - With there being a possible 16 players available for next seasons internal tournament it might place an unfair burden on the number games that will need to be played. 2 solutions I can think of are as follows :-  4 groups made up of 4 players each, and then followed by the semi finals mid March and then the final in April.  Alternatively you could still keep the 2 groups but remove the white & black fixture so that you only get 1 game each per opponent (a computer could generate the colour pairings).
4. A rule change within the Club Championships. Many players I have spoken to are frustrated with certain players entering the tournament and then not playing a single game. There might need to be a level of commitment shown over the previous 2 years before automatic entry (obviously newer members won’t be subjected to that requirement). Maybe at least between 2-4 games played over the last 2 tournaments could be an indicator of a person’s genuine commitment whilst being mindful that life & work can get in the way sometimes.
5. I propose we discuss the idea of having the summer league rapidplay a 2 pool tournament for the 2024 season considering our member size.

Players will be drawn from a hat into 2 pools, who are committed to playing 1 game in each pool against each player. Potentially 7+ games each depending on numbers.

Winner of each pool gets through to the Final at the end of the tournament deadline.

2 games to decide a winner in a single evening organised by the 2 Finalists in august.

Games can be any time control including one with increment above 10+0 and must be played in a rapid time format and not exceed 25+10

1 Point for a win and 0.5 for a draw. Colour will be determined from Matt Carr using a system. To make the tournament as fair as possible it is in everyone's best interests to play every opponent so no player has an unfair advantage in point's. Those who do not believe they will get all their games in should consider this carefully before entering. We can also decide at the AGM if this tournament should be friendly or ECF rated.

Deadline to be determined at the AGM

Those who wish to play others who are not in their pool, can do, but results will not count towards the summer league standings only ECF rated.

If a player in your pool is at the club the pool game is priority and must not be substituted for someone outside your pool.

P.s

If it's a tie at the end of the 2 final games. A no increment game of 10+0 will decide the winner. If that is tied. 1 blitz game of 5+0 will decide it. Also open to ideas on tie breaks if that's a tie

Proposals for the WDCL AGM May 21st 2024

1. Number of Boards per team in League Matches  
   With effect from season 2024-5 WDCL there will be six boards per team in Division One, five boards per team in Division 2 and four boards per team in any lower division**. IN FAVOUR**
2. Tie Splitting for Jamboree Competitions.  
   If a Jamboree event finishes with teams tied on the same final score the team with the lowest total grading points (as agreed with the Tournament Secretary and recorded on the master match card before the start of the event) will be the winner. **IN FAVOUR**
3. Communications with Clubs  
   All member clubs are required to give the email address of at least two contacts to the league secretary at the start of each season and should respond to emails promptly to ensure the smooth running of the league. **IN FAVOUR**
4. Additional Start Time Option  
   Rule 6c be changed to read  
   c) Play in all match games must start at either 7.00pm, 7.15pm or 7.30 pm and each club must state in the league information sheet which they use for home matches. A continuous period of at least 3 hours must be allowed for the match.  
   (adds 7.00pm as an option for start time). **REJECT due to time pressures of long distance away games**

Rules for voting are:  
8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

a) The A.G.M. of the league shall be held during the month of May unless it is not possible to present all the facts, in such case the A.G.M. will be held as soon as these are available.

b) The league secretary shall give not less than twenty-eight day’s notice thereof to the officers of the league, the members of the sub-committees of the league and the secretaries of the associated clubs.

c) At the A.G.M. the secretaries of the league and the sub-committees of the league shall present their reports and the treasurer shall present a statement of accounts.

d) All players registered in accordance with the competition rules shall be entitled to attend the A.G.M. or a special meeting and to speak and vote upon all issues save as hereinafter expressly provided.

e) No proxy votes shall be allowed at either the A.G.M. or a special meeting.

9.ALTERATION TO THE LEAGUE CONSTITUTION AND COMPETITION RULES

a) This constitution and the league competition rules may be added to or amended at the A.G.M. or at a special meeting called for that purpose provided that the proposed addition or amendment is stated in the notice calling the meeting. Any such additions or amendments for the notice calling the A.G.M must be sent in writing to the Secretary by the 31st March.*’*

b) All registered players attending the A.G.M. or special meeting shall be entitled to speak upon the proposed addition or amendment, but voting shall be limited as follows I) One vote each member of the executive committee, II) Two votes for each associated club represented at the meeting.

c) For the purpose of voting only, the composition of division shall be treated as an amendment of rules.

No CDCL proposals were available at the time

Rugeley Tournament Secretary Report

Rugeley has had another good season during the 2023-2024 season.

We held our usual competitions throughout the year without any problems that I was aware of.

Our four competitions went as follows:

Rugeley Post AGM Blitz was held on the 16th May 2023. We had twelve players take part in it and it was ran as a round robin. There were 11 rounds of chaos at 5 minutes per player. The event was won by Luke Sullivan with an impressive 10/11 not losing a single game in that event. Closely followed by Rob Fell in 2nd with 9½ and Nikoli on 8½. That was Nikoli’s first tournament with us and hes been staying strong with us ever since.

The Rugeley Summer Rapid was held between May and August of 2023. The draw was done as soon as possible after the AGM in the usual manner. All players that wanted to take part were put into swiss manager, random was pressed and the pairings were done. One game between the players and whoever has the most points at the end wins. The winner of the event was Cath Hiley with 7½ points followed very closely by Luke Sullivan who finished on 7.

Our handicap tournament held in December was codenamed this time Limiter removal. The more the difference of rating now you start losing pieces. While removing the limit it seemed to have little effect at the top. The event was won by Nikoli Tisma-Walker with 6/6. Will need to come up with more interesting ways to mess with you all. For the 2024 Christmas crazy I plan to use an oldie but goodie to get you all.

Finally the club championships were a tough competition as ever.

Two pools of players. The two strongest went into opposite pools and then the other players drawn randomly into the pools. Pool A was extremely close with Rob Fell through to the final just half a point ahead of Nikoli. Pool B had a little more play room with Bill Hulley getting through to the final with 4½, a full point and a half ahead of his next rival Ryan Wood.

The final was two games between the winners of the pools with Rob Fell emerging victorious after the two games. Congratulations Rob and to Cath, Luke and Nikoli.