

CAMBRIDGE CITY CHESS CLUB

MINUTES OF 119th AGM – 3 JUNE 2015

Present were :

John Daugman	(President & Internet Officer)
Stephen Pride	(Secretary)
David Cattermole	(Treasurer)
Philip Fallon	(Venue Liaison Officer)
Bert Buisman	
Norman Hutchinson	
Alan Parnell	
Ben Tarlow	
Mark Szymanski	
Chris Davison	(Prospective member)

1 Minutes of Previous AGM

These were approved.

2 Matters Arising.

Item 2 - Stephen Pride really would disgorge Ola Winfridsson's donation shortly.

Item 9 - Kelvin Hunter had left the Club, and John Daugman had taken over as Internet Officer.

Item 10 - John had also taken over as Results Officer, primarily to report certain Club games to the ECF for grading. He was not asked to assess members' performance, so award of the Victor Raines Shield would continue to be based on performance in the Bury League.

Item 11 - Lacking a second Captain for the Fenland Cup, we had fielded only one team. The vacancies in Captaincies for the Bury Area Chess League (BACL) had been filled by Philip Fallon in Division 1, and by John Cooper in Division 3.

3 Report by the President

In presenting his Report, the President celebrated the Club's successes. Richard Newman had scored a remarkable 83 % in the BACL and the Victor Raines Shield would be awarded to him. The Club Championship had not been completed yet, because some people had been slow to finish their games, delaying pairings under the Swiss system.

4 Report by the Treasurer

The Treasurer presented Accounts for 2014/5, and alternative provisional Budgets for 2015/6, depending on whether we stayed at St Augustine's (copies herewith). The Club had made a surplus of £210 in 2014/5, but St Augustine's had unexpectedly

increased the rent significantly, and the full impact would be felt in 2015/6. After discussion, the Treasurer proposed that if the Club stayed at St Augustine's (see Item 5) we should increase the Club subscriptions to £85 standard and £42.50p concessionary, and this was agreed.

5 Possible move to the New Chesterton Institute (NCI)

The Secretary had been approached by Richard Donaghay to see if we would be interested in shifting to the NCI, and he had visited the NCI to inspect it, and to discuss the Club's agreed criteria for venue choice. He presented his findings. There were various minor pros and cons, but the critical issue was whether the substantial cost saving would outweigh the probable difficulty in parking nearby. The President had also paid a visit and presented his own findings. After a very thorough discussion, it was agreed to stay at St Augustines. The Secretary would inform the NCI accordingly.

Norman Hutchinson suggested various other venues which might be worth exploring, and we might be given preferential terms as part of a venue discharging its community obligation.

Norman also suggested that financial help from the local authority might be available for a Club such as ours. It was agreed that the Venue Liaison Officer would explore with Norman and the Treasurer the practicality of applying for this in our current location.

6 New members

Philip Fallon said that people who already wanted to play chess had no difficulty finding the Club through our website. It was much more of a challenge firstly to attract people who were looking for something to do, and secondly to persuade casual visitors to join.

During the winter the Club was geared to matches and we had not been able to generate a core of players seeking friendly games. The Welcomers' Rota had fallen into abeyance, and it wasn't clear that reviving it would help much. Many newcomers, especially juniors, were reluctant to travel, so more events organised at the Club (such as Handicap competitions) might help. But they should take place occasionally during the winter as well as the summer, if the Fixture Lists permitted.

7 Committee Elections

It was agreed to appoint a Chess Scholar in Residence. He should be a member of the Committee, in place of the Internet Officer.

The following were elected :

President	John Daugman
Secretary	Stephen Pride
Treasurer	David Cattermole
Venue Liaison Officer	Philip Fallon

Ole Bay-Petersen would be invited to become Chess Scholar in Residence.

8 Other Elections

The following were elected :

Internet Officer	John Daugman
Results & Membership Officer	John Daugman
Refreshments Monitor	Charles Geach (subject to his agreement)
Town v Gown, Xmas Social	Philip Fallon
Equipment Officer	John Daugman

9 Teams and Captains for Next Season

The Secretary said that the reduction in the number of teams had succeeded in bringing them into line with members' requirements. Normally we could expect departing members to be roughly offset by new arrivals, so he suggested that we should stick to the existing number.

It was agreed that the Club should field teams captained as follows:

Roger Goldsmith - in Division I

- Stephen Pride
- Richard Newman
- Austin See (assuming that the players available justified moving the team up from Division II)

Cambridgeshire League - in Division I

- Stephen Pride

Fenland Cup

- Chris Davison (volunteered just after the AGM)

Cambs League Team 550

- Stephen Pride

University League - in Division I

- John Daugman

Bury League

Division I (3)

- David Redman
- Ole Bay-Petersen
- Chris Davison

Division II (2)

- David Cattermole
- Tom Smith (*)

Division III (1)

- John Cooper (*)

The President would check that asterisked Captains were willing to stand, and once the July Grading List was out would allocate players to teams.

10 Building Work

Philip Fallon said that Phase III (building an extension into the courtyard) was likely to last from mid-July to Christmas. It shouldn't cause us any disruption, except that we would need to enter by the kitchen door. He would organise five keys for the keyholders. He would also check that the heating would operate as normal, and that planning permission had not been conditional on limiting our freedom to finish at 2300.

11 Club Championship

It was agreed that instead of running it as a Swiss, John Daugman would organise at least three groups operating as Round Robins, the overall winner being the person who achieved the highest grading performance.

12 Summer Events

Possibilities included :

- Short evening followed by visit to a pub - to be organised by Stephen Pride
- Talks (eg by Philip Fallon; John Daugman (computer chess algorithms); and Ole Bay-Petersen) - organised by Chess Scholar in Residence
- Rapidplay evenings - organised by Chris Davison
- Handicap tournaments (to give a chance to weaker visitors and others) - organised by Chris Davison

The Committee would need to find an overall co-ordinator so that a schedule could be published soon.

In future years the Secretary would encourage the Summer Events Co-ordinator to submit proposals to the AGM.

13 Bury League AGM

The AGM would be held at the Bury Club on 22 June. Ole Bay-Petersen would attend, and others were welcome to do so. The Secretary said he had seen no proposals from their Executive, but he expected them to suggest a change in the Roger Goldsmith rules so that if a player started the season with an estimated grade, but subsequently acquired an actual grade, the actual grade would be used thereafter. It was agreed to support that.

The Club had no proposals of its own this year.

14 Cambridgeshire Chess Association AGM

This AGM would be held in Godmanchester on 10 June. There were no proposals on the Agenda which required the Club to express a view.

15 Any Other Business. There was none.

Stephen Pride
Hon Sec
9 June 2015