

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Milton Keynes Chess Club

Held on Thursday 5th September 2019 in the Hub, Open University.

In the Chair: James Alexander

Present

Richard Freeman, James Alexander, Adrian Elwin, Baird McClellan, Jenny Michael, Dominic Bartram, Steven Wayne, David Wells, John McKeon, Rob Whiteside, Graham Smith, Graham Borrowdale, Francesca Matta, Paul Endersby, Patrick Harrison, Bryce Sullivan (observer).

1) Apologies for Absence

Peter Clarke, Josue Estevez Fernandez, Alan Heath, Ray Holland and Colin Solloway.

2) Minutes of last year's AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 6th September 2018 were approved by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman.

3) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda. All action points from the meeting had been actioned, except that Adrian Elwin had not yet consulted with new members to see what they might be interested in. **Action - AE**

4) Secretary's Report

Richard confirmed that the Hub is booked for every Thursday between now and the end of August 2020 except Thursday 26 December 2019, and thanked Graham Borrowdale for arranging this.

Richard went through the activities organised by the club during the year:

- various club tournaments
- four teams in the Beds League
- a pre-Christmas Rapidplay tournament with prizes for all
- a blitz tournament after the annual stocktake (2019 results now on the club website – won by Phillip Ekhaesomi with a perfect 15 out of 15)
- a one-off blitz tournament held on 18 July 2019 (although this date was queried by Rob Whiteside) (results also on the club website – won by Dominic Bartram with a perfect 8 out of 8)
- two teams in the Cordon Trophy.

5) Treasurer's Report and Accounts

In Alan's absence, James read out the salient features of the Treasurer's Report and Accounts. The main points arising were:

- Higher membership has led to higher income.
- Chess clock expenditure in 2018 had been for 10 new digital clocks at a very heavily discounted cost.

- No money had been spent on trophies for the last three years. Adrian said he would be catching up on this this year, and planned to distribute the prizes at the Christmas event. **Action - AE**
- The club made a surplus of £142 in 2019, compared with a 2018 deficit of £209.
- With three years' worth of trophies to be bought, 2020 will result in a deficit again, but with reserves of three years' worth of expenditure the meeting agreed to leave subscriptions at £15 for full paying members and £10 for concessions. A question arose on precisely what "unwaged" meant. Members were asked to discuss their circumstances with Alan if they were unclear if they were entitled to concessionary rates.

Members were reminded that to play in graded club competitions or the Beds League, they must be ECF members at Bronze level or above. All ECF memberships expire on 31 August each year, so prompt renewal is very important.

6) Tournament Secretary's Report

Adrian advised that currently the only completed 2018 competition is the U-160 Knockout – Dominic Bartram beat Alan Heath in the final. The Under-160 Knockout Plate final is due to be played between James Alexander and Paul Endersby. The only other tournament which is anywhere near complete is the Club Championship Final Stage, where about half the games have been played.

The 2019 competitions have now started, and these will run from now until next year's AGM.

7) Captains' Reports

Milton Keynes 'A' – Adrian Elwin

A season of two halves. The team won its first four matches, but after Christmas won one, drew one and lost four, finishing in third place in division 1.

Milton Keynes 'B' – Richard Freeman

The team scored 9 out of 20, finishing in joint fourth place in division 1 with Bedford B, and above Luton. Unusually the team used ten players over the season, although three played only one match. Most players lost grading points, but Phillip Ekhaesomi had a 179 performance, Josue Estevez Fernandez a 188 performance, and John McKeon a 210 performance from his one game.

Milton Keynes 'C' – Colin Solloway

The team came fourth in division 2, with three wins and seven losses, this year finishing above both Bedford C and Bedford D. Top scorer by a large margin was John McKeon, with five wins and three draws.

Open University – James Alexander

A phenomenal season, winning all its matches apart from two draws, and winning promotion to division 1. Special thanks go to Graham Borrowdale and Dominic Bartram for their results.

Cordon Trophy - Richard Freeman

Two teams were entered, with the A team coming second with 10/16, and the B team coming third with 8.5/16, although both teams were well behind the winners, Bedford A with 13/16. Special mention to Gary Kenworthy, who scored 4/4 on top board for the A team.

8) Lead Safeguarding Officer's Report - Baird McClellan

Baird reported an uneventful year.

Richard reminded the meeting that this role was in place to help protect children and vulnerable adults from physical and verbal abuse, and anyone with any concerns should report them to a Safeguarding Officer immediately.

9) Team Entries

After considering the number of members who confirmed they wished to play League chess this season, the meeting agreed the club should aim to enter at least four teams, and try to find a way of entering five.

The 2019 Cordon Trophy Tournament will probably take place on either Tuesday 24 or Thursday 26 September. Those present were asked to express their interest by jotting down their names on a circulated piece of paper. There appeared to be little interest, with only four of those present expressing any interest. But all members will be asked when the date and venue is known.

Action - RF

10) Election of Committee Officers for 2019/2020

(a) Chairman

James Alexander was elected unopposed.

(b) Secretary

Richard Freeman was elected unopposed.

(c) Treasurer

Alan Heath was elected unopposed.

(d) Tournament Secretary

Adrian Elwin was elected unopposed.

11) Election of

(a) Beds League Captains

MKA - Rob Whiteside was elected unopposed.

MKB - Richard Freeman was elected unopposed.

MKC - Colin Solloway was elected unopposed.

OU - James Alexander was elected unopposed.

Potential D team Captain - Steven Wayne agreed to take on this role if a D team could be raised, provided he was given training and assistance. He was elected unopposed.

(b) Publicity Officer

There were no candidates willing to stand, so the position was left open.

(c) Safeguarding Officers

Baird McClellan was elected Lead Safeguarding Officer, and Jenny Michael was elected Deputy Safeguarding Officer.

12) Beds League AGM on 10 September 2019

(a) Consideration of the agenda

Duly considered

(b) Proposed League Rule changes

The meeting mandated its representatives to agree the proposed change to rule 7(a), but also asked them to propose the insertion of the words "in the Bedfordshire League" after the word "club". In all other matters, the representatives were asked to act in accordance with their consciences.

(c) Appointment of 2 representatives to attend

Richard Freeman was appointed as one of the club's delegates to the League AGM. The meeting agreed a regular second division player should also attend if one could be found, otherwise James Alexander.

13) Date of AGM 2020

No date was agreed. The initial suggestion of Thursday 10 September 2020 was rejected as being likely to be the date of the League AGM. Thursday 3 September had not been proposed, due to holiday commitments, and Thursday 27 August might cause difficulty with accounts preparation. It was therefore agreed to leave the date open, and mandate the secretary to give due notice when the Committee had agreed a date.

14) Any Other Business

A request was made for the Christmas event to incorporate sausage rolls as well as mince pies. **Action - AH**

All members were asked to look through the books and magazines that had been laid out, and take any they may be interested in.

With a new University coming to Milton Keynes in a few years' time, it was agreed the club should start considering what to do to encourage chess in the city as a result.

Baird thanked Richard for producing the welcome pack, feedback on which has been positive.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2110.