

Chippenham Chess Club

AGM of 3rd September 2019

Present were Colin Thompson, Eric Sheppard, Sam Farren, Jeremy Comerford, Adrian Gladwell, Phil Owen, Geoff Holman, David Auld

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from and Jim Rose, Steve Williams, Chris Bott.

2. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting of 4th September 2018 were accepted as being an accurate record of that meeting.

3. Matters - Arising. Item 13 of previous minutes. It was noted that we had agreed that a new cup for the competition winner would be purchased and awarded each year. This previous decision was reaffirmed.

4. Chairman' s Report – David

David reported that the club had seen an encouraging influx of young players in the last season. Wilf and Jared had stayed with the club, but 3 others turned up for about a month or so and then left. Colin and Adrian reported that similar difficulties in retaining younger members existed at other clubs in the league including Swindon. David confirmed that founding club members including Max and Hilary had now left the club and was pleased to report that Eric, as another founding and longstanding member was still playing very actively at the club.

David reported that the club had a good year in league competitions. The Intermediate team were 4th in the league, below Devizes and Trowbridge and Swindon A but above Swindon B. The Minor league had a good season and came top of their smaller league, beating both Trowbridge and Swindon Minor teams.

David reported that Steve would replace Phil as organiser of the club competitions and thanked Phil for his tremendous contribution to this activity as the club competition had competed successfully in the season and most players had played over 10 games in the competition.

David reported on the possibility that the village hall hiring may be problematic in the coming year and that he would contact Catherina to clarify the situation and confirm that we still wished to use the village hall for our meetings.

5. Secretary' s Report –Geoff

Geoff suggested that an action plan may be needed for times when new players arrive at the club, so that they retained interest in the club and its matches. Geoff suggested that an introductory leaflet on league activities could be circulated to new members so that they

appreciated that they were joining a large and active league and not just the activities of a local club. Adrian mentioned that he may have some suitable leaflets or documents.

6. Treasurer's Report – Jeremy

Jeremy presented a spreadsheet of the 2018-2019 season finances and recorded that incomings were similar to outgoings. There were costs associated with maintaining the club web site and these were handled by Adrian. The Club fee for the coming year would be unchanged at £25 for each of the two half-seasons. This would be £10 for juniors. This could be paid at £2.50 per week or £1.00 for juniors. A free first week for new members would continue.

There was some discussion on purchasing new digital clocks and it was agreed that 2 new digital clocks would be purchased. An inventory would be kept on our stock of digital and manual chess clocks.

7. Tournament Organiser's Report – Phil

Phil reported that there were 14 players in the club competition and that most players had played at least 10 games in the season. As it was not possible for all players to play all others twice in the two half-seasons of club competition, in the current season each player had only played their opponents once. Colin reported that at Swindon, players only play 2 games as black successively and it was considered that it may be possible to introduce a similar restriction in our competition. However, there need not be strict adherence to this if it was impractical.

It was noted that Phil would find it easier to organise games if he could be told by email in advance if players would not be able to attend and take part in the club competition.

Phil announced that Steve was winner of the club competition for a second time in a row. He would be awarded with a new cup at an appropriate time.

8. Team Captains' Reports – Phil and David

Phil confirmed the intermediate team was 4th out of the 5 league teams. Phil mentioned that in the current year he has sometimes struggled a bit to find enough players to play all the intermediate games, and that one match had to be postponed because of this. There was discussion of the desirability of retaining a strong intermediate team even if it meant some weakening of availability for players in the minor league.

David confirmed that the minor team had come top of the minor league and that the team was very pleased to receive the cup.

It was agreed that winning league competitions had to be viewed along-side the equally important objective of providing league-game opportunities for all club players.

9. WCCA League Secretary's Report – Adrian

Adrian commented on the grading requirements for teams. The grading maximum for the minor league would be 111 while the cut-off for the intermediate league would be raised to 149.

Adrian reported that in the new season there would be 4 teams in the minor league and 5 teams in the intermediate league. The games would start in mid-October. For each minor team to play all others twice both home and away, there would be 12 games. This was considered on balance, and in view of the points raised concerning making sure players were available for the intermediate team, to be too many. Instead it was agreed that we would go for 9 minor games, playing each other team home and away once plus either home or away once.

Adrian asked for deputy team captains to be appointed. It was agreed that Jim would be deputy captain for the intermediate team and David would be deputy captain for the minor team.

Adrian reported that some memorabilia from the Westinghouse club had come to light and was available to interested parties. These memorabilia included chess magazines and unused chess trophies which were distributed.

10. Election of Officers

New Chairman	David:	Proposed by Jeremy	Seconded by Phil
New Secretary	Geoff:	Proposed by David	Seconded by Colin
New Treasurer	Jeremy:	Proposed by David	Seconded by Sam
Intermediate League Captain	Phil to continue:	Proposed by Jeremy	Seconded by Colin
Minor league Captain	Geoff:	Proposed by Jeremy	Seconded by Sam

13. Club Trophy- Phil

No further discussion necessary following the discussion under item **3.** above. A new cup would be bought unless a knight trophy from Westinghouse (see item **9.** above) would suffice.

14. AOB

Sam suggested there should be more distribution of the club poster/flier. It was agreed that this should be done as much as possible in order to maintain and retain membership at the club.

Eric suggested that the club should seek to obtain some cupboard space in the club room. Sam and David agreed to enquire.

15. Date of Next AGM was confirmed as 8th September 2020.