

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BURY AREA CHESS LEAGUE HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010 AT MORETON HALL**

## **1. Present and Apologies for Absence**

*League Executive:* Bob Jones, Paul Kemp, Mike Angel, Thelma Merry, Tim Davison, Charles Richmond, Stephen Pride, Scott Taylor, Colin Roberts.

*Bury St Edmunds:* Gordon Chapman, Steve Lovell

*Cambridge City:* Patrick Ribbands. Ole Bay-Petersen

*Linton:* Dave Barnicoat, John Dawson.

*Newmarket:* Eugene Husband

*Stowmarket:* Vicky Allen.

*Apologies for Absence:* None

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## **2. Minutes of AGM 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009**

These were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Charles Richmond and seconded by Scott Taylor. The Chairman signed the minutes.

## **3. Matters Arising**

None

## **4. Officers' Annual Reports**

4.1 Chairman: Bob Jones.

### **From the 2007 AGM Minutes (Chairman's Report):**

“Bob considered the BACL to be a good League. He was looking to see the clubs being enhanced and chess opened up to the general public. Bob wanted clubs to encourage more chess in their own towns.... He wanted to try and boost the clubs' membership. Bob was concerned about losing clubs such as Bury, Brandon and Stowmarket. He was looking at establishing works' teams in Bury and Cambridge. He wanted to look at the scoring system using the Ex-Officio Officer to look at the alternatives. Bob would not be a passive Chairman but wanted to achieve what ordinary members and clubs required.”

Looking back over these three years, I'm not sure I've accomplished much. When I took over, there were six clubs and 19 teams; now there are six clubs and 21 teams. So not much change there. I would have liked to see more clubs involved; efforts to involve Thetford and Sudbury have proved fruitless, although Ipswich did compete in the Rapidplay in 08/09.

I didn't look at the scoring system, as promised. And I didn't set up a Works' Team League, although I did meet twice with Colin Roberts to discuss it. Being Congress Organiser as well as Chairman does rather limit the available time.

I have maintained a reasonable number of e-Bulletins, a total of 33 over three years. These seem to be well received, and I hope to be able to continue with them, unless the incoming Chairman would prefer to do them himself...

I'm very grateful for the support I've received from members of the Executive, with a special mention for Stephen Pride, who has ensured that the League's fixtures are well-planned. I can assure you that our League's modus operandi is the envy of the Suffolk League.

Assuming he's elected, I wish Paul Kemp every success. I'm sure he will bring many fresh ideas to the League.

Bob Jones  
17/6/2010

A new scoring system had been mooted 3,1, 0 nothing has been done to investigate this, however there was no motion in the meeting to investigate further.

The e-mail updates that Bob sends out through the year was (Vicky) appreciated, this was generally agreed

#### 4.2 Treasurer: Thelma Merry.

The position on the main accounts shows a surplus of £193.67. However this is after taking into account the repayment of £275 from the £550 loan the league lent the BACL congress in 2009. Without this repayment the BACL would have operated at a loss of £81.33.

To reduce outgoings enquiries were made to ascertain whether we might be allowed to grade ECF Member's games played in the league for free. To this end the ECF was emailed to find out if this concession (which is available for congresses) was available for leagues. Initially the ECF replied that we did not have to pay to have members games graded in the BACL and having received this advice the weekly reports were examined and it transpired that about 23% of BACL games were played by ECF members. This reduced fee was paid to the ECF in December taking advantage of the additional 2.5% discount. However several months later the ECF emailed to say that they had been mistaken – the free grading concession for ECF members is apparently not available to Leagues. The underpayment is £128.50, and this will be paid with the 2010 payment. The full fee has been accounted for in the 2009-10 accounts.

### *Bury Congress Accounts*

After its disappointing year in 2008, the congress had a really successful year in 2009. Both entries and sponsorship were up, and prizes were somewhat lower than in the previous year. This all contributed to a superbly successful congress. The surplus this year was £592.43 of which £275 was applied to repay half of the £550 loan, which BACL had to make to the congress in 2009 in order to allow it to pay its creditors. The congress now has 2 years in which to repay the remaining £275.

### *Overall Financial Position of both the League and the Congress*

The balance in hand of both the Congress and the League is £1090.30. This means that funds are adequate to meet the leagues goal of having £1000 in hand to cope with any unforeseen contingencies. However in general terms it is desirable that each entity (BACL and the Congress) is self financing with perhaps a small surplus.

### *Proposed charges for 2009/10*

The Executive Committee has considered all the charges made for the various competitions and is recommending the following:

*League* The charges for League entries is proposed to be £18 per team less £2 discount if paid by 31 October, representing an increase of £1 per team..

*Roger Goldsmith* The charge is proposed to be £13 per team, representing an increase of £1 per team.

*Rapid Play Competition* The fees to remain at £10 per team.

*Fixture Booklets* It is anticipated that £2 per booklet will be again be sufficient to cover costs.

The AGM is asked to consider each recommendation and make a decision on the charges proposed.

Thelma Merry  
Treasurer BACL

A motion for the proposed charges was proposed by Thelma Merry and seconded by Scott Taylor, this was voted through.

Bob thanked Thelma for taking on the role and for the sterling job She is doing.

### 4.3 Match Secretary: Stephen Pride.

#### *Defaults*

1 No match was defaulted and I'm delighted to say that we achieved a record low (at least in my time as Match Secretary) of only eight board defaults. Responsibility was as follows :

Club	Home	Away	Total
Bury	0	1	1
Cambridge	1	1	2
Ely	1	1	2
Linton	0	3	3
Newmarket	0	0	0
Stowmarket	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	6	8

2 One or two matches were postponed because of the weather and resulting transport difficulties, and in one case an individual board was postponed because the weather affected one player.

#### *Weeks freed up by cancellation of the Rapidplay Competition*

3 After the season started, the Rapidplay Competition was cancelled and three weeks became available. Had I known earlier, I would have used them when drawing up the Fixture List to spread out some of the matches. Exceptionally, and with the Chairman's agreement, I told captains in November that I would allow postponement into one of these weeks if both Captains agreed. This enabled three matches (53, 60 and 65) to be postponed, which might otherwise have added to the total defaults.

#### *Disputes*

4 In Match 94, Newmarket objected to the result on one board because when their player pressed the clock without having made a move, a spectator intervened to say that the Linton opponent should be given an extra 2 minutes, which was done. After consulting both teams, I prepared to rule on this dispute, but Newmarket then withdrew their objection and the result was allowed to stand.

### *Interference versus Captains guidance*

5 Nevertheless this incident illustrates the importance of third parties keeping quiet while a game is in progress. It is up to the players themselves to spot and handle anything untoward. Spectators should not point out that something has gone wrong. Captains should not interfere either, unless a player seeks guidance.

6 When in doubt a player can stop the clock and seek guidance from his captain on whether a rule has been broken, and what the correct procedure is. The two captains should then seek to resolve the matter. Only if they cannot resolve it should the issue be reported to the Match Secretary for a decision.

7 A player should also stop the clock if he is claiming a draw under the two minute rule. If the game continues under the joint supervision of the Captains, other players should not offer comments at any stage.

8 Finally if a player wants to claim a draw by repetition, he should not make the move, but instead should stop the clock and claim..

9 I will say something about this in my Introduction to the next Fixture Booklet.

Stephen Pride  
Match Secretary  
13 June 2010

Thanks to Stephen for his continuing hard work as a major driver of the league was given from Bob and BACL

#### 4.4 Congress: Bob Jones

In 2009 152 people played increase from 122 the previous year, There had been an increase sponsorship, decrease prize money and half loan repaid. Results in a booklet.( cost of £1.50 put together by Bob but separately financed) .

The 12<sup>th</sup> congress is coming up this year.

Stephen said about the triumph of turning around the finances of the congress.

#### 4.5 Press Officer and Rapidplay Competition: Colin Roberts

Colin reported 23 reports to the Bury Free Press. Most ever. No rapidplay

#### 4.6 Games of the Season:

Martyn Goodger, Ed Kernohan, Bob Jones had the winning games in the first, second and third divisions repectively, these have been circulated and will be published on the website.

#### 4.7 Roger Goldsmith: Mike Angel

This year there was a low number of entries, 6 teams. As a result it turned into an all play all with top two in the final.

Linton won 3 - 1

#### 4.8 Internet Officer: Tim Davison

He had rewritten the website last year, and there is now a database behind results. This means that the league tables are automatically updated when the results are entered.

Next season, Tim is planning to take this further so that it is possible to see individual results. Another possibility at so.me point in the future possible is looking at captains adding results directly

#### 4.9 Grader and Players of the Year: Scott Taylor

Scott referred to the POTY report.

The gradings went quite smoothly largely thanks to Stephen, Bob and captains helping where needed.

### **5. Election of Officers and Other Positions**

The nominations of the Executive were agreed unanimously and the following officers were elected:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>
<i>Chairman</i>	Paul Kemp	Linton
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	Ole Bay-Petersen	Cambridge City
<i>Match Secretary</i>	Stephen Pride	Cambridge City
<i>Admin Secretary</i>	Charles Richmond	Newmarket
<i>Treasurer</i>	Thelma Merry	Newmarket
<i>Congress Organiser</i>	Bob Jones	Bury Cannons
<i>Press Officer and Rapidplay</i>	Colin Roberts	Bury Cannons
<i>Grader</i>	Scott Taylor	Bury Cannons
<i>Junior Officer</i>	Scott Taylor	Bury Cannons
<i>Internet Officer</i>	Tim Davison	Cambridge City
<i>Ex Officio</i>	Vacant	
<i>Games of the Season</i>	Jon Crowe	Linton
<i>Roger Goldsmith Organiser</i>	Mike Angel	Ely Beet

Proposed Vicky, seconded John Dawson – passed

John Dawson ex officio – passed, (proposed Colin and seconded by Tim)

## **6. Honours 2008/09**

Bob Jones recorded the trophy winners for 2009/10.

*Division 1* - Linton A  
*Division 2* - Cambridge Examiners  
*Division 3* - Linton Whites  
*Roger Goldsmith Competition* – Linton Tigers  
*Jamboree* - Linton  
*Players of the Year:*  
*Division 1* - Mark Le-Vine  
*Division 2* - Michele Liguori  
*Division 3* - Dale Stevenson

### **A 10 minute break was taken at this point**

After the break Paul took over as chairperson.

Paul Kemp took over as Chairman.

He thanked Bob Jones warmly for his leadership of the League during his three years as Chairman. It had undoubtedly prospered, with three divisions instead of two and an embryonic winter Rapidplay competition. But Bob had been much more than just a Chairman: he ran one of the best-organised weekend Congresses in the country; he was Jamboree Organiser and Bulletin Editor; and his help and influence was evident across the League's activities.

Paul made two points regarding his priorities as Chairman. Firstly he hoped to maintain the level of enjoyment that the League provided for chessplayers across a range of different competitions. It was the players' League, and he was looking for ideas and suggestions to enhance it further. Secondly, he was very mindful of the problems smaller clubs faced, many of which had folded over the last 20 years or so.

He was keen to do all he could to at least sustain the present clubs and even promote the formation of new ones: in Cambridgeshire in the past year new clubs had been formed in Wisbech and Godmanchester, so this was possible. He encouraged the larger clubs to support the formation of any new clubs and the existing smaller clubs as they provided opportunities in communities that would not otherwise have a chess club.

## **7. League Entries 2009/10**

The club representatives were asked to indicate the number of teams likely to be entered next season. These were as follows:

<b>Club</b>	<b>3 Divisions</b>		
	<b>Div 1</b>	<b>Div 2</b>	<b>Div 3</b>
Bury St. Edmunds	2	1 poss 2	3
Cambridge City	3	3	1
Ely Beet	1	?	0
Linton	1	1	1
Newmarket	0	0	1
Stowmarket	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

The ? Represents a possible Newmarket / Ely composite team.

It was confirmed that the deadline for final entries to be submitted to Stephen Pride was 16 July. Stephen would be sending a reminder of this date to Secretaries.

Interest in the Roger Goldsmith  
Cambridge 2, Bury 2, Linton 1, Newmarket 1  
proposed same format as last year

Rapidplay

This was held two years ago with 8 entries, but suspended last year when it was deemed unviable with just 5 entries. Following discussion it was agreed that we should try to run the Rapidplay again, even if limited entries meant that the format was changed. It was suggested that if the fixtures were known at the start of the season that would help entries, and the organiser, Colin Roberts, thought this ought to be possible.

Potential entrants declared themselves as Cambridge, Bury St Edmunds (2), and Newmarket, with Linton a possibility. Diss, Ipswich, Thetford and Sudbury were other possible entrants, and Colin Roberts agreed to contact them.

## **9. Motions from the Executive Committee**

Two motions were proposed by the Executive. These were presented by Stephen Pride.

9.1 The survey of Captains in 2009 revealed a majority (11-6) in favour of greater flexibility to postpone matches by agreement, but my proposal on this was turned down by the Executive. Here is a more restricted proposal, permitting the two matches between two teams to be swapped between the two weeks concerned. That would ensure that the Fixture List did not drift as a consequence.

"Rule 5.5 Swapping matches. If two teams are due to play two matches, either Captain may request that the later match be brought forward to the week scheduled for the earlier match, which would then be refixed for a date no later than the week originally scheduled for the other. If the other Captain agrees, he will notify the Match Secretary before the first original date."

This was proposed, seconded and unanimously carried.

## ROGER GOLDSMITH : PROPOSALS BY STEPHEN PRIDE

### Problems in assembling teams

In 2009/10 Cambridge struggled to field two teams, because of two new factors :

- (a) the new ban on playing for more than one team ; and
- (b) the decision to raise the limits on grades by only half of what was required to reflect the reformed grading system.

These factors may have deterred other Clubs from fielding as many teams as usual. And may have caused problems for other teams which did enter.

I propose we either drop the ban or raise the limits again to reflect the grading reform in full.

### Coping with an unexpectedly high or low number of entries

Because there were fewer entries than usual in 2009/10, we changed the format to an all play all plus Final, which I think worked well. But it would be desirable to clarify the authority to make such a change, on the lines of Rule 10.3 of the League Rules.

RG Rule 4 - In line 1, add "Normally" before "The first four rounds"

Add new Rule after RG Rule 4 -

"If, after the AGM, there is an unexpectedly high or low number of team entries, the Chairman, in consultation with the Roger Goldsmith Organiser, may decide to depart from the normal format set out in Rule 4 of a four round Swiss, followed by a Semi-Final and Final."

### Conclusion

I hope the Executive will adopt these proposals

Stephen Pride  
Executive Member  
12 May 2010

This was seconded and unanimously noted through

### Amendment by Cambridge on the Roger Goldsmith final

That there when there is a toss for colours propose they it is proposed can choose if whether white or black n board 1, at present the winner of the coin toss gets white on the number 1 & 3 boards.

A vote was taken, the result of which was in favour 3, against 8 the motion failed.

### **10. 2010 Bury Congress**

Bob Referred to the leaflet (appendix 5). It is not known if the venue (The Apex) will be ready in time, Supposed to be ready for October. The charge will be the same as last year. The current pressing problem is that the major two sponsors that contributed £900 have dropped out

Bob mooted the idea of an increase of entry fees. Specifically the idea of an increase in charge of £5 on each level.

The consensus was that while £20 for the minor was seen as good value, on the open £30 may be off putting, and £29 may work better.

£19 and £29 is seen as not bring worth trying.

Proposed £5 increased, final decision with Paul, Thelma & Bob.

### **12. Any Other Business**

#### **a. Jamboree**

The Jamboree will be held on Monday 13 September at Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds. The event will start at 7.15pm with the presentation of trophies.

#### **b. Summer Tournament**

There will be no summer tournament this year, but Bob Jones agreed to circulate details of the events at Bury chess club over the summer.

#### **c. Roy Adams Trophy**

This trophy was presented annually to the winners of the match between the Suffolk and Bury Leagues, but that competition was no longer held. It was suggested that instead the trophy be awarded to the highest scorer from either of these Leagues at the Bury Congress. Bob Jones will discuss this with the Suffolk League.

#### d. Match Starting Times

Bob Jones expressed concern that matches at Cambridge invariably started late because their junior club overran. This meant a late night for opposing teams and discouraged junior players. Stephen Pride acknowledged the problem and said he had been trying to mitigate it. It was unsatisfactory, and if it continued he was warned that opposing teams were fully entitled to penalise Cambridge for the time lost in setting the clocks.

#### e. Trophies

Charles Richmond emphasised the importance of trophies being looked after and returned on time. He said the normal practice would be to return the trophies at the AGM and he would get them engraved for presentation at the Jamboree.

#### f. Refreshments

Vicky Allen regretted the trend in some clubs not to provide refreshments to the opposition. The AGM agreed that clubs should be encouraged to provide refreshment.

#### g. Roger Goldsmith Competition

The Controller, Mike Angel, presented a bottle of champagne to John Dawson, of Linton, who had won the trophy.

Paul thanked everyone for coming and looked forward to a good season

**The meeting ended at 10pm.**