

Surrey County Chess Association

a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital
company registration number 5602632
registered office 38 Glebe Road, Ashtead, Surrey KT21

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

26 JUNE 2022

Held at Parochial Rooms, Cheam from 2.15 pm.

Paul Shepherd (President) was in the Chair.

An attendance list was available for people to sign before the meeting. It read as follows:

Nominated Members entitled to vote:

Ashtead: Dan Rosen, Bertie Barlow (also proxy for Richard Jones)

Dorking: Peter Lawrence, Brian Skinner

Epsom: Marcus Gosling, Michael Wickham and David Flewelling

Guildford: Mike Gunn (also proxy for Nigel White and Julien Shepley), Trevor Jones

Kingston: Greg Heath (also proxy for John Foley and Alan Scrimmour)

Richmond: Huw Williams

South Norwood: Martin Cath, Ken Chamberlain (also proxy for David Howes and Simon Lea)

Streatham: Martin Smith

Surbiton: Paul Shepherd (also proxy for Paul Durrant, David Morant and Angus James)

Wallington: Robert Davies

Wimbledon: Gordon Rennie

Attendee entitled to a casting vote: Paul Shepherd (Chairman)

Attendees not entitled to vote: Paul Dupre (South Norwood), David Sedgwick (Independent Member)

Paul Shepherd provided details about the fire escape routes and also invited any of the attendees to advise him if they did not wish to be photographed. No-one raised a concern about photographs or their publication.

In memoriam

Respects were paid to David Anderton, Alan May (Dorking), Stefano Bruzzi (Surbiton) and Nick Keene (Wimbledon).

1. Apologies for absence

Richard Jones, Paul Dunican, Julien Shepley, Nick Grey, Daniel Young, Chris Bernard, Graham Alcock, Richard Tillet, Clive Frostick, Alan Scrimmour, Nigel White, Murugan Kanagasabay and Meena Santosh.

2. Approve the Minutes

The Minutes of last year's AGM, Annual Finance and League Composition Meetings were all approved.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Questions about Directors' Reports

Details of the written reports were distributed prior to the meeting.

President: There were no questions about the report but now that he has retired as President Paul Shepherd thanked everyone with whom he had worked during his term of office. David Sedgwick recalled that there had been a period when Paul Shepherd was contemplating whether or not to take on the role of President It was fortunate that no one else came forward because he has had been an enormously successful President of the SCCA. Paul now plans to move back into academia.

Deputy President: No questions on the report.

Administrative Director: No questions on the report. Paul Shepherd mentioned that Peter Lawrence has held the position of Administrative Director for 13 years and before that had been a Non-Executive Director. Paul thanked him for his longevity and help during the period that he had served on the Board.

Inter-Club Tournaments Director: Trevor Jones wished to have more information about the new ECF rating categories. It was explained to him that the old A – F categories have been replaced by A, H, K and P. A = the old A and K = B-E. P = the old F category. Any further questions about rating should be raised under the Rating Officers report.

David Sedgwick drew attention to photographs being taken during the course of an Alexander Cup semi-final without the permission of those taking part. Huw Williams stated that Captains in both the finals in which he was in attendance had agreed to photos being taken. Dan Rosen, who had played in the match, said that his consent had not been requested. It was concluded that the agreement had been made between the match captains but the players had not been asked. The individual consent of each player is a requirement. The consent of the parents of juniors must also be obtained prior to any photos being taken. Kingston Chess Club who hosted the match, will review this issue at their next committee meeting.

Non-Executive Directors: No questions but Paul Shepherd thanked David Flewellen for his willingness to take on new tasks and putting himself forward for the position of Deputy President.

5. Treasurer's Report.

Copies of the Accounts for the year ended 30 April 2022 had been provided. Dan Rosen advised that due to COVID the real comparison needed to be made between now and 2 years ago. The accounts show that a surplus has been made. This is despite home county matches being played as single teams rather than double teams.

Trevor Jones enquired how well do board fees cover the cost of venue hire for home county matches. Dan advised that there was a small deficit. Trevor then asked why no board fees were charged for home national stage matches. He was advised that the SCCA knew they had to finance national stage matches most of which were away. Usually, the matches are at a neutral venue when we pay half. It is not reasonable to charge the players taking part board fees in view of the cost of travelling. The U1450 team had a home semi-final against Kent at Cheam but that was a one off and even if that only happened say every 3 years it is something we could live with.

The increase in the hall hire for Cheam will be considered at the Finance meeting. Trevor Jones asked why the Accounts were proposed to be approved and not received at the AGM. It was explained that, even though that may be technically correct, they had always been approved and not simply received at the AGM. The Board have approved the Accounts.

The Accounts were approved nem.con.

Paul Shepherd mentioned that Dan has held the position of Treasurer for 18 years and had done a fantastic job. There was a very poor financial situation when he took on the role.

6. Questions about Officers' Reports

(a) ECF Delegate: No questions

(b) SCCU Representatives: There were no question concerning the SCCU Council delegate report.

In respect of the SCCU Executive report David Sedgwick expressed the view that SCCA proposal concerning time controls should not have been put forward before consulting the players though he appreciated that the subsequent survey had shown a strong majority in favour. He asked why the increments were not 15 seconds instead of 10 seconds. Peter Lawrence explained that they merely proposed removing the intermediate time control but leaving the increments at the existing 10 seconds. The national stages have always had a longer playing period compared to the union stages.

Trevor Jones thought that the proposal was a sensible first step though he would prefer a 15 second increment and mentioned the Border League may move from 80 + 10 to 75 + 15. Mike Gunn said that he preferred 10 second increments. Paul Shepherd said that the Board thought the proposal was non-controversial but then did a survey when objections were raised.

Dan Rosen advised that the Board would be looking at the time controls for SCCA competitions. Michael Wickham said he would like to see more uniformity between time controls between different leagues.

David Sedgwick stated that there had been no consultation by the ECF Controller about the change in the time limit for the national stages. He suggested that he be asked to take a vote of the players at the national stage finals. The question could be do the players like the new time controls. On a general point Mike Gunn thought that there should have been a consultation before the new ECF time controls were introduced. Paul Shepherd said that the finals were not the best place to hold a vote. The Board will consider whether or not to write to the ECF Controller about the matter. In addition, it will also consider writing to the Director of Home Chess on the more general point that unions and counties be routinely consulted about rule changes that impact on them.

Dan Rosen mentioned that at the cup matches held at Ashted he noticed that some players were very confused about how much time they had left at the intermediate time control and stopped recording their moves. Peter Lawrence pointed out the additional time was not added until one of the players clocks had gone down to zero and this caused the confusion. Huw Williams thought the matter could be resolved by using the move counter but this was not supported in view of the fact that when players overlook pressing their clock the correct number of moves may not be recorded.

David Sedgwick stated that some counties preferred to play the final locally if they were neighbouring counties rather than at a central venue. 2 counties had been allowed to do so but 4 had to play at the central venue. Mike Gunn said that he was in favour of intermediate venues.

Dan Rosen advised that there was no arbiter present at the recent U2050 semi-final. Paul Shepherd said that the new SCCA President may wish to contact the ECF Controller about the arrangements for the national stages in future but he cannot bind his successor.

(c) Company Secretary: No questions.

(d) County Match Secretary: In response to a question from David Sedgwick it was confirmed by Peter Lawrence that it is back to normal for county match refreshments and that the captains have been advised.

(e) County Team Captains

i) Open: Julian Shepley has resigned due to the difficulty in fielding a full team. Daniel Rosen stated that a full team had been raised for home matches but the difficulty had been with away matches. Trevor Jones enquired how matters were going raising a replacement for Julien. Various ideas were discussed. The problem has been a shortage of +2000 players for away matches. It is best if the SCCA can maintain 5 teams and David Sedgwick could not see a solution but thought it best to drop the Open team if a team had to be dropped. Peter Lawrence said that he had contacted the entire Open team squad inviting volunteers and pointing out that if there were none it may not be possible to continue to field an Open team. Paul Shepherd said that there may be no choice but to drop the Open team. Other ideas mentioned were to drop a lower team instead or have a non-playing captain.

Paul Shepherd thanked Julien for his time as Open team captain.

ii) U2050: No questions. The team were congratulated on their success.

(iii) U1850: No questions but Trevor Jones mentioned that he keeps a database in respect county players but is short of details for the higher rated players.

(iv) U1650: No questions about the report but Mike Gunn mentioned he had accidentally named it U1600 instead of under U1650. He was pleased about the team winning the SCCU stage but did find it difficult at times to raise a team but just kept trying.

(v) U1450: No questions. Marcus Gosling congratulated David Flewellen on including so many juniors in his team which also enabled them to improve their ratings. David Sedgwick said that he was delighted that David Flewellen had decided to carry on captaining the team next season even though his own personal rating was over the team rating limit. Trevor Jones questioned whether it would be better if the team played more than 1 game per match but this idea was not supported.

(f) Junior Team Managers: No questions.

(g) Individual Tournaments Secretary: No questions. Paul Shepherd said that the Board had changed the rules for the Challenge Cup to quickplay only in the hope that this would attract more entrants but there were only 4 players in that section this year. Gordon Rennie stated that some of the higher rated players had told him that they did not like a quickplay finish. Some ideas to improve participation such as inviting players to enter or having the competition on a knockout basis were mentioned. Andy Chesworth is stepping down as ITS and Paul Shepherd thanked him for his service. The Board is now looking for a new ITS.

(h) Correspondence Chess Secretary: No questions. Richard Tillett is standing down in this role and a replacement to him is being lined up. Paul Shepherd thanked him for his service.

(i) Rating Officer: The question was raised as to how new players are started off under the new ECF rating. It was said that the starting grade is 1800 but that was felt to be too high. Brian Skinner stated that with the SCCA

they gave new players an estimated grade based on whatever information about them was available. Mike Gunn mentioned about 2 new players at Guildford who had been given initial ratings that were too high, creating a difficult issue for captains. FIDE do not rate games between unrated players. Brian Valentine, ECF Manager of Rating, has said that his views on the matter have not received attention. Mike Gunn and Trevor Jones have agreed to formulate a proposal and put it to Brian Valentine but will run it past the SCCA Board first.

Michael Wickham advised that as the new P grade replaces the old F grade and the relevant Bye Law will need to be amended. **Action point – Dan Rosen**

(j) Webmasters: No questions. Paul Shepherd thanked the webmasters for maintaining the website for the past 14 years.

(k) Curator of Equipment. No questions.

(l) Curator of Trophies: No report. Martin Cath has resigned.

(m) Chairman of the Chess Disputes Committee: David Sedgwick stated that he was invited to serve on the panel for the recent case but had to resign when he knew the players involved. He considered that the proposed increase in the fee to £50 was too high and might put off meritorious claims. He felt that £30 was still appropriate. Paul Shepherd responded that it was the unanimous view of the CDC panel, that had sat on the last appeal, that the figure had been the same for a long time and had not kept pace with inflation. Dan Rosen said that the CDC is a sub-committee of the Board so there has to be a Board member serving on the panel. Martin Cath questioned the CDC statement about the appeal being frivolous and expressed the view that it was not frivolous. Paul Shepherd explained to Martin that the CDC panel had unanimously decided upon the appeal, including retention of the deposit. That decision was final.

7. Report Surrey Chess Congress

No congress has been held since October 2018. Brian Skinner said that he had overlooked buying back the SCC domain name. **Action point – Brian Skinner**

Mike Gunn pointed out that congresses are generally very successful at the moment. Paul Shepherd said that to hold another Surrey Chess Congress there needed to be persons able to organise and run it. He invited volunteers to serve on the congress committee or to act as helpers during a congress. If there are any volunteers, would they please come forward.

8. Election of Directors.

The existing Directors are:

President – Paul Shepherd

Deputy President – Alan Scrimgour

Administrative Director - Peter Lawrence

Treasurer – Dan Rosen

Inter-Club Tournaments Director – Huw Williams

Non-Executive Directors – Clive Frostick and David Flewellen

It is a condition of being an SCCA Board Member that your personal contact data will be displayed on the SCCA website.

Paul Shepherd informed the meeting that both himself and Alan Scrimgour have decided not to seek re-election. The Board are proposing Clive Frostick for the position of President and David Flewelling for the position of Deputy President. The remainder of the directors were willing to stand for re-election and there were no other candidates. If successful that will leave the 2 positions of Non-Executive Directors vacant.

The Board nominated Clive Frostick for the post of President. He was elected nem.con

The Board nominated David Flewelling for the position Deputy President. He was elected nem.con

A vote to re-elect the Administrative Director, Treasurer and Inter-Club Tournaments Director en bloc was passed nem.con. They were duly re-elected.

The Board proposed Graham Alcock for the position of Non-Executive Director. He was elected nem.con.

The Board proposed Murugan Kanagasabay for the position of Non-Executive Director. He was elected nem.con.

9. Election of Independent Examiner

A motion supporting the reappointment of Richard Jones was passed nem.con.

10. The Presentation of Trophies.

Results for the 2021/2022 season

Surrey Trophy – Guildford 1- Remains with Julien Shepley

Beaumont Cup – Kingston 1 - Trophy not available and still in the possession of Surbiton

Ellam Trophy – Ashted 1 presented to Bertie Barlow by Paul Shepherd

Centenary Trophy – Kinston 2 presented to Greg Heath by Paul Shepherd

Minor Trophy – Surbiton 3 – The trophy is still in the possession of Surbiton as they had retained it.

Fred Manning – Chessington – No club representative present and trophy still in the possession of Epsom.

Alexander Cup – Kingston presented to Greg Heath by Paul Shepherd

Lauder Trophy - Kingston presented to Greg Heath by Paul Shepherd

Ellery Williams – South Norwood – Trophy not available but still in the possession of South Norwood as they retained it.

Stoneleigh Trophy – Guildford – Trophy not available and still in the possession of Dorking.

John Hawson Trophy – Retained by Peter Large

Tommy Dunne – Louis Di Circo. Marcus Gosling (Epsom) will present the trophy to him.

Photographs of the trophy recipients, where the trophies were available, were taken and will appear on the SCCA website.

11. Revision to By Law 2.9.1 as specified in Appendix A

Dan Rosen explained this revision is necessary to ensure that the deadline for submitting an appeal also applies to the payment of the associated deposit. In response to a question, it was clarified that the appeal should be made by a senior club official such as the secretary or by the team captain.

The motion was passed nem.con.

12. Revision to Bye Law 3.2.1 as specified in Appendix B

Huw Williams explained that the proposed revision would change the wording to refer to the first match played by the player instead of the first match played by either club. This means that players who either start playing later in the season or move into the area after the start of the season will still have the opportunity to play for more than one club. Mike Gunn expressed support for the change.

In response to a question, it was clarified that it will continue to be each club that must notify the Controller rather than the player. Michael Wickham requested that the words "such Club" be added after "each". The wording including this amendment was passed nem.con.

It was also confirmed that a change to the Bye Laws to incorporate the revised ECF rating categories will be introduced at the next General Meeting.

13. Russian and Belarusian flagged players participation.

Paul Shepherd said that the SCCA had to deal with COVID and now the issue of Russian and Belarusian FIDE registered players in respect of events involving SCCA teams or players. He referred to the decision by the ECF in respect of individual players and officials with a Russian or Belarusian FIDE registration being excluded from all ECF competitions until further notice. They have urged all organisers of such events held in England to adopt a similar approach. Paul was looking for a straw poll to assess support for the SCCA either following or not following such an approach.

He referred to the non-discrimination clause in the SCCA constitution which would not allow discrimination on grounds of nationality. If they followed the ECF approach, would they be punishing the players concerned or the Putin regime? Would it deprive that regime of the oxygen of publicity? The stance of the SCCA is:

- a) Local leagues and competitions – no ban
- b) SCCU county matches – no ban
- c) Even at ECF National events it is difficult to justify.

The SCCA have put their case to the ECF but they have rejected it. Paul now invited a discussion on the matter.

Martin Cath noted that the Surrey Chess Congress might attract international Russian players in future.

David Sedgwick made the following points:

- a) Players could change their FIDE registration from Russia or Belarusian to no flag.
- b) The SCCU should encourage Russian/Belarusian players to change their affiliation.
- c) Did the Board consult any Ukrainian players based in Surrey?
- d) Surrey is unique in not supporting the ECF stance.
- e) Would Ukrainian players support the Surrey stance?
- f) Would such Ukrainian players object to Russian/Belarusian players taking part under no flag?
- g) The no discrimination clause did not envisage a 20th century war taking place in the 21st century and in his view the stance taken by the ECF does not clash with the SCCA non-discrimination clause.

Mike Gunn said that Guildford were 50:50 on the matter but he personally expressed support for the SCCA Board position to ECF and asked what would be the point in creating tension? It was a slippery slope to start discriminating.

Dan Rosen thought this was a very difficult subject. Dan expressed the view that the non-discrimination clause was inserted when it was fashionable to do so. This is the first real test of what does it mean. It applies to any factor not relevant to the SCCA activities. David Sedgwick is arguing that is not the case with this situation. This

is the way to change rather than reword the clause. The non-discrimination clause is very general and therefore difficult to tweak.

At a recent Guildford committee meeting there was support for the SCCA position for local leagues but opinion was more divided when it came to county chess.

Other points mentioned were was the ECF stance democratically drawn up and should players who openly support Russia be banned.

Kingston and Streatham each have 1 Ukrainian player and Martin Smith thought that there were more Ukrainian players in the UK than might be imagined and we should do everything to support them. The Kingston Ukrainian Player had expressed the view that they did not mind playing a Russian.

Marcus Gosling questioned where do we draw the line. What about other regimes who adopt bad practices and actions? Dan Rosen said there is a divide between what we do internally and externally. What is the mechanism for applying the restriction? Is nationality a relevant factor? The SCCA felt they had to ask the ECF because no one else was doing so. It is most important that we decide what to do at local level.

Paul Shepherd said that the view from Surbiton is that the SCCA should not discriminate on grounds of nationality. He does not like putting people into boxes on grounds of nationality as that is a slippery slope and was deeply uncomfortable with David Sedgwick's description of all Russians in the UK as "citizens of an enemy state". One reason this comes about is because it would be very different if Russians were not such a small minority of chess players in the UK as it is much easier to discriminate against a small minority. Those who express support for the war can be dealt with in a different way such as bringing the game into disrepute.

A number of straw polls were taken in which anyone present at the meeting could vote.

a). Who supports discrimination against Russian/Belarusian players in the context of local SCCA Competitions?
The Board stance to oppose such discrimination was supported.

b). Surrey Chess Congress FIDE rated competition in respect of Russian/Belarusian FIDE registered players being banned from taking part?
6 support a ban
7 would not support a ban

c). SCCU to encourage but not require Russian/Belarusian FIDE registered players to change their affiliation.
9 in favour
7 against

d). Non-FIDE rated players. Who would support asking them to change their affiliation? Mike Gunn pointed out that the affiliation is available on the ECF database but would not be shown in any results. No vote taken.

e). Who agree with the current ECF policy?
3 in favour
10 against

Note: this shows the majority therefore supported the SCCA Board's position to the ECF.

In just the Open section concerning ECF policy?

6 supports
7 against

f). If the SCCU position should also apply to the ECF?

7 supports

6 do not support

g). Should discrimination also apply to juniors?

There was a strong majority against.

h). If a Russian/Belarusian player goes and plays in Russia is that bringing the SCCA into disrepute?

There was clear majority that it would not bring the SCCA into disrepute.

i). If a non-Russian/Belarusian player goes and plays in Russia is that bringing the SCCA into disrepute?

10 – yes

4 – no

The meeting finished at 6.50 pm.

Appendices

Proposed change to Bye Laws – June 2022

Appendix A

In Bye Law 2.9.1:

- In the last sentence, after “deposit” insert “to be received within the aforementioned 21 days”.

This is to clarify that the deadline for submitting an appeal also applies to the payment of the associated deposit.

The revised Bye Law 2.9.1 would read:

2.9.1 Any appeal against a [Controller's](#) action ...² under Bye Laws [2.1.1](#) and [2.1.2](#) above [must be made in writing within 21 days of that action and]² shall be referred to the Chess Disputes Committee, which shall be convened as required by a [Director](#) nominated by the [Board](#) for this purpose. [The appellant shall pay a deposit [to be received within the aforementioned 21 days]³, as determined from time to time by the [Annual Finance Meeting](#).]¹

1 Amended on 30 June 2012 at the AGM.

2 Amended on 22 June 2013 at the AGM.

3 Proposed on 26 June 2022 at the AGM.

Appendix B

In Bye Law 3.2.1:

- In the last sentence, for “any of them” substitute “the player in question”.

This changes the notification deadline for a multi-club player by reference to the first match by the individual player rather than by the clubs concerned.

The revised Bye Law 3.2.1 would read:

3.2.1 A [Club](#) may be represented in [Club Competitions](#) only by its members [and for this purpose, a player excluded from a [Club Competition](#) pursuant to Bye Law [2.10](#) shall be deemed not to be a member]¹. A player who represents a [Club](#) in a [Club Competition](#) may also represent [other [Clubs](#)]² in [different division(s)]² in the same competition [and/or in other [Club Competitions](#)]² [where in Bye Law [3.1.1](#) above, the competitions in paragraph (a) are treated as separate competitions, and the competitions in paragraph (c) are treated as separate competitions]³. Where a player elects to play for [more than one [Club](#)]², [each]² must notify the [Controller](#) before

the first match played by [the player in question]⁴.

- 1 Amended on 21 June 2014 at the AGM.
- 2 Amended on 18 August 2014 at the EGM.
- 3 Amended on 24 June 2018 at the AGM.
- 4 Proposed on 26 June 2022 at the AGM.

Appendix B – Adopted version

3.2.1 A [Club](#) may be represented in [Club Competitions](#) only by its members [and for this purpose, a player excluded from a [Club Competition](#) pursuant to Bye Law [2.10](#) shall be deemed not to be a member]¹. A player who represents a [Club](#) in a [Club Competition](#) may also represent [other [Clubs](#)]² in [different division(s)]² in the same competition [and/or in other [Club Competitions](#)]² [where in Bye Law [3.1.1](#) above, the competitions in paragraph (a) are treated as separate competitions, and the competitions in paragraph (c) are treated as separate competitions]³. Where a player elects to play for [more than one [Club](#)]², [each such [Club](#)]⁴ must notify the [Controller](#) before the first match played by [the player in question]⁴.

- 1 Amended on 21 June 2014 at the AGM.
- 2 Amended on 18 August 2014 at the EGM.
- 3 Amended on 24 June 2018 at the AGM.
- 4 Amended on 26 June 2022 at the AGM.