

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 the Annual League Composition Meeting 22 AUGUST 2023

The meeting was held at Cheam Parochial Halls and started at 8 pm.
Clive Frostick (President) was in the Chair.

Attendees: -

Nominated Members entitled to vote:

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

Chessington: Murugan Kanagasapay

Dorking: Brian Skinner, Peter Lawrence (also proxy for Anthony Collins)

Epsom: Marcus Gosling, Michael Wickham, David Flewelling

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

Kingston: Alan Scrimgeour

Redhill: Paul Dunican

Richmond: Huw Williams

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

Surbiton: Graham Alcock (proxy for Paul Shepherd, Paul Durrant, David Morant, Angus James)

Attendee entitled to a casting vote: Clive Frostick (Chairman)

Attendees not entitled to vote: David Sedgwick (Life Vice President), Paul Dupre (South Norwood), Nick Faulks (Surbiton).

1. Apologies for Absence

Had been received from Martin Cath, John Foley, Greg Heath, Mike Gunn, Anthony Collins, Paul Shepherd, Paul Durrant, David Morant, Angus James, Sampson Low and Richard Jones.

2. Trophy Presentations

Trophies were presented as follows by Clive Frostick:

Ellery Williams Trophy to Paul Dupre, South Norwood

Stoneleigh Trophy to Julien Shepley, Guildford

Surrey Trophy to Julien Shepley, Guildford

3. New ECF rating categories

Dan Rosen explained the proposal detailed in the Appendix was a technical change and a follow up to the changes in rating categories introduced by the ECF. A – F have now been replaced with A, H, K and P. The proposal is just a follow up from the ECF changes.

Brian Skinner drew attention to the fact that category H will appear in the August list and has to be included even though it is due to cease as an ECF rating category in December. The old F category will be replaced by P. Huw Williams stated that when it came to determining an estimated rating for a player, he and Brian will make rational decisions.

Paul Dupre explained that the August rating list published on 3 August is the most reliable and the one to use. The August rating list is used because clubs will know the rating of their players for the new season before they make their team entries. This is in contrast to some other leagues and associations who use the September list.

The proposal was passed nem.con.

Trevor Jones stated that the issue concerning a starter rating of 1800 used by the ECF for new players and mentioned at the AGM is still unresolved and he will raise the matter with Mike Gunn.

3. Acceptance of entries into Inter-Club Competitions for 2022/23 season

Huw Williams reminded the meeting that the Ellery Williams time control is to be 59 minutes so that it qualifies as a Rapidplay competition.

Huw advised that since he had issued a proposed schedule there had been 2 further team entries. With the additional entries it is possible to have 5 teams in each of divisions 1 – 4 and with double round competition each team will play 8 matches. He distributed a proposed revised structure to the meeting.

Huw thanked everyone for finishing the last season on time despite the late start to the season. This year the competitions will start on time. The proposed structure will provide a better balance of matches. Nigel White had no objections to Guildford 3 being in the Beaumont and Guildford 4 in the Ellam. David Flewelling questioned why Ashtead 1 were not taking promotion to the Beaumont when they had finished first in the Ellam last season. On behalf of Ashtead Bertie Barlow explained that some of his squad were not available for many of the matches and fielding the extra board could be a problem which is why he preferred to stay in the Ellam. Marcus Gosling, Paul Dupre and Michael Wickham were all of the view that Ashtead 1 should play in the Beaumont. Dan Rosen stated that according to the relevant Bye Law the top team in divisions 2-4 should be promoted to a higher division unless there is a specific proposal to do otherwise.

There was a proposal that Ashtead 1 should be promoted to the Beaumont, Guildford 3 will be in the Ellam and Guildford 4 in the Centenary. Chessington 1 will be moved up to the Ellam. In consequence there will be 5 teams in each of Divisions 1-4. This proposal was passed with 24 votes in favour and 2 against.

4. Agreement on the number of boards in the Main League per division for 2022/23 season

The following was agreed:

Surrey – 8 boards

Beaumont – 7 boards

Ellam – 6 boards

Centenary – 6 boards

Minor – 6 boards

5. Allocation of teams into the various divisions of the Main League

Surrey Trophy

Coulsdon 1

Guildford 1

Guildford 2

Kingston 1
Wimbledon

Beaumont Cup

Ashted 1
Epsom 1
Kingston 2
South Norwood 1
Surbiton 1

Ellam Trophy

Chessington 1
Dorking 1
Epsom 2
Guildford 3
Surbiton 2

Centenary Trophy

Epsom 3
Guildford 4
Kingston 3
Richmond
South Norwood 2

Minor Trophy

Ashted 2
Chessington 2
Coulsdon 2
Dorking 2
Epsom 4
South Norwood 3
Surbiton 3

Ellery Williams

Ashted
Richmond
South Norwood
Wimbledon

Fred Manning

Ashtead
Chessington A
Chessington B
Epsom A
Epsom B
Richmond
South Norwood
Wimbledon

Stoneleigh

Ashtead
Dorking
Guildford
South Norwood

6. Draw for the Alexander Cup and Lauder Trophy

Pairings were made as follows:

Alexander Cup:

Round 1

Coulsdon v Wimbledon
Surbiton v Battersea
Guildford v Chessington

Round 2

Coulsdon/Wimbledon v Surbiton/Battersea
Guildford/Chessington v Epsom
Kingston v South Norwood
Wallington v Streatham

Lauder Trophy:

Round 1

Kingston v Epsom

Round 2

Kingston/Epsom v Guildford
Dorking v Chessington
Ashtead v Coulsdon
South Norwood v Wallington

In each case, the first named team is at home.

7. AOB

Michael Wickham said he had noticed some teams dropping out of league competitions and wondered if this might be due to the travelling for away matches. Would it not help if there was a central venue where such matches could be played. He also questioned whether there could be some “economy of scale” from hosting multiple matches at a venue such as Cheam.

Huw Williams responded by pointing out that the reason Wallington had not entered a league team was that they had been unable to appoint a captain. That factor and competition from other leagues has resulted in some clubs not entering league teams. None have mentioned travelling as a reason.

Dan Rosen advised that individual clubs could agree between themselves on a central venue but this was not a matter for the SCCA. Cost might also be a factor.

The meeting closed at 8.44pm.

Appendix

Note. Explanatory paragraphs are shown in *italics*.

Proposed change to Bye Laws – August 2022

In Bye Law 2.6:

- In the first sentence in “F category rating”, for “F” substitute “H or P”.

As set out in the document <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-rating-categories/>, the ECF has changed the rating categories with effect from 1 February 2022. Of the four new categories now in operation, new categories A and K correspond to the previous categories A-E, and new categories H and P correspond to previous category F or unrated.

The revised Bye Law 2.6 would read:

2.6 [Ratings]⁶

The [ratings]⁶ to be used for the purpose of any competition shall be those in the list in force at the commencement of that competition [, which for [Club Competitions](#) shall be the deadline for applications specified in Bye Law [3.1.2](#)⁴ [, but an [H or P]⁷ Category [rating]⁶ shall be deemed for the purpose of these Bye Laws not to be within that list]³. [Where a player has both Standard and Rapidplay published [ratings]⁶, that appropriate to the competition shall be used, but if a player has only one such [rating]⁶, this shall apply for all competitions.]¹ Where [a]² player is not in that list, but was included in a list published within the preceding four years, his [rating]⁶ shall be taken as the most recent published [rating]⁶, reduced by [40]^{5a} points for each intervening year, unless in special circumstances the relevant [Controller](#) decides otherwise. [The calculation shall take into account any general adjustment to [ratings]⁶ made by the ECF. In all other cases the [Controller](#) will determine the estimated [rating]⁶ using all available information.]²

1 Amended on 28 June 2009 at the AGM.

2 Amended on 30 June 2012 at the AGM.

3 Amended on 18 August 2015 at the EGM.

4 Amended on 27 August 2020 at the EGM.

5 Conversion to 4 digit ratings effected on 27 August 2020 at the EGM:

5a 5 → 40

6 Amended on 23 August 2021 at the ALCM.

7 Amended on 16 August 2022 at the ALCM.