

Swale Chess Club
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 23rd June 2016
Time 7.45 pm Austen Suite

Members Present:-

Barry Sawyer
Anthony Fletcher
Ron Browning
Keith Nevols
Peter Blundell
Andrew Hillard
Tyrone Jeffries
Ian Lappin
Keith Hyde
Trefor Owens

Apologies for absence:-

Kevin French
Duncan Marsh
Rob Watts

A. Introduction - Keith Hyde

Keith thanked :-

Tyrone for all his hard work organising most adult games thru out the year.

Trefor for his tireless help for the juniors

A1. The presentation of club Trophies.

Congratulations to Peter in winning the plate.

Congratulations to Trefor in winning
the Brian Turner Cup

A2. The planned expenditure of the club is approved at the AGM and the committee execute the plan. No member has the authority to spend the club money other than as stated in the budget. Should the need arise to spend additional monies members must forward the request to the committee who will agree or disagree by a majority vote that the money should/should not be spent.

First Vote - All members voted to accept that members want the expenditure of their money to be carried out as described in A2 above.

B. Bank & review of cash position.

B1. Club dealings with bank.

Given the chaos, and waste of our time, with the bank last year, I think we should stay with the current arrangements and not make any official changes.

Second Vote - All members voted to accept that regardless of who officially is the treasurer next year that both Keith Hyde and Trefor Owens continue as cheque signatories and that Keith Hyde continues to receive the bank statements on the behalf of the club

Peter Blundell volunteered to be a bank signatory in case Trefor or Keith were to fall ill. Keith Hyde & Peter will progress this together in September as Peter not at the club again until September. Ian made his position clear in that he will not be involved in anything to do with HSBC.

B2. Cash Position.

Ian explained the reasoning behind the figures was to provide a financial cushion should we not have 13 members next year or if the juniors club was not as successful as this year.

Early in October we should know and will review the possibility of buying two further digital clocks.

The cash being carried forward has come from the juniors and members fees last year. It is reasonable to use £75 of this money to subsidise and allow the club fees to be reduced. The last bank statement we have is 31/05/16.

Bank balance 31/05/16.	£500.57
Additional deposits made.	£150.00

	=====
Cash Available	£650.57

June £100, July £80, Aug £25 (£205.00)

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Cash to be carried fwd	£445.57

Cash carried forward to September 1st 2016.

£445.57

Next year :-

B/FWD Cash.	£445.57
Optional purchase 2 x DGT2010 clocks. (£100 to £130)	(£130.00)
Planned Loss	(£75.00)
	=====
	£240.57

£240.57 to £370.57 is cash available to cushion the club against loss of members or revenue from the Junior club.

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Extra chess night on 4th August.

The current officers (committee) have agreed to go ahead with opening on August 4th 2016 at a cost of £25 in a match against Folkestone. UKP Leisure have increased the rate from £20 to £25 from 1st August.

Tyrone believes the summer quick play tournament can go ahead after Barry volunteered to join the team

The 4th August 2016 will be the last chess night for this season / year. We will open again on Thursday September 1st 2016.

B3. Stock

A stock check took place on 16/06/16.

23 chess sets.

10 junior chess sets courtesy of ECF.

8 digital clocks

9 analogue clocks

10 old boards

8 plastic boards

11 wooden boards

Training chess board for hanging on wall to help with special nights of training and the Juniors.

5 old analogue clocks

Wad of score sheets

Selection of chess books.

C. Review of budget & annual fees for 2016/2017.

C1. Discussion of the budget.

All members have been sent the proposed budget.

a) The English Chess Federation (ECF) (Notes included in budget sheet sent out)

The ECF grades all the games we play in the Swale Tournament and the Kent leagues En passant, Harvey and Fuller.

The budget includes league entrance fees payable to the ECF for three leagues. It is highly likely these will be the same leagues as we entered this year En passant, Harvey, & Fuller. Depending on the grades we all have in September we may consider entering the Intro league, instead of the Fuller.

This season all members paid the £100 Swale annual fee and independently joined the ECF by paying £13 for Bronze membership or more for silver membership.

Each member paid a minimum of £113. The ECF fees increase on Sept 1st to £15 for Bronze membership.

Trefor, Keith and Ian (the committee) are recommending that the Swale annual fee should cover the £15 cost of Bronze membership of the ECF.

As a Swale Chess Club member we would register you as an ECF bronze member. Anyone wishing to upgrade can do so and it will not cost them any more than if they joined directly as a silver ECF member.

eg. Bronze £15, Silver £22. To upgrade from bronze to silver would cost £7. Any members wishing to do this would contact and pay ECF directly.

The ECF fees will be paid by club cheque.

The grading of our Swale Tournament and league games makes the membership of ECF mandatory.

Any game rated for persons not ECF members incurs a £2.50 surcharge per player. If both players would cost £5. By including ECF membership the club eliminates this risk. We are an

ECF club and should make the total cost of playing for Swale clear to all members and potential members

Third Vote - All members voted to accept that the cost of bronze membership of the ECF be included in the Swale Chess Club basic annual fee.

b) KCCA league fees.

In the past our representative paid as requested the league fees and a deposit of £10 at the fixtures meeting. When it came to returning our £10 they said they have no record of it.

If we know the amount before 11th September fixtures meeting it would be better if we issued a club cheque for the league fees, so we have proof in the future.

It was agreed that a club cheque be issued to cover all the entry fees for the kcca leagues we enter. Tyrone will hand the cheque over at the fixtures meeting on 11th September. This will evidence the expenditure on the club's bank statements.

C2. The approval of the Swale Chess Club subscription rates/fees applicable from 1st September 2016.

The fee has been calculated on the assumption we retain the current membership of 13 paying members and that the junior club is as successful next year as it has been this year.

At the last AGM we voted to extend the season and play a few nights in December and open in July. We wish to retain this for a second year.

Having the Juniors club has increased our cash position considerably and for the first time in a number of years we can improve what you get for your fees.

The proposed annual fee is £100 and includes the £15 ECF registration, the KCCA league fees and 46 Thursday nights costing 25% more than last year.

This is £13 less than you all paid last year despite the ECF increasing their fee by £2 on September 1st. A real saving of £15.

The cost of membership for the new year works out at slightly less than £2.20p per night.

Fourth Vote. - All members voted to accept that the. Annual fee will be £100

C2. Payment of annual fees.

Having reduced the fees it is important we receive the cash as early as practical. In September we have to pay £180 to the ECF, £125 to UKP for room hire, and £88 for entry to the various leagues. In October £100 room hire and £200 for insurance. Nearly half our budget is utilised in our first two months!!

It would be the club's intention to register all players with the ECF asap in September. Therefore regardless of which of the two payment options you decide to take all members must pay £30 to the club in the first three weeks of September 2016 and £30 to the club in the first three weeks in October 2016.

Fifth Vote - **All members voted to accept that the** members agree to pay the annual Fee in one of the two ways outlined below:-

a) Whole fee in September 2016 or

b) by partial payments of £30 in September, £30 in October, and the remaining balance in November and January.

D. Reports

D1. a) The Junior Club

The membership thanked and applauded the great efforts made by Trefor, Teresa, Kevin & Keith in running and supporting the junior club. The fees received from the juniors was £600. The cash contribution for this year from the juniors is £350.

One or two of the Juniors could be considered for a fuller or intro league team next year.

Extra Agenda items to clarify members interests =====

Excluding holidays and illness, how many members intend to attend the club regularly on a Thursday?

Ron does not wish to be in the Tournament and does not intend to attend regularly. All other members intend to attend regularly between September and June.

How many members wish to play chess against other clubs in kcca league chess? All members want to.

How many members are prepared to play away matches on a Thursday night? Duncan does not everyone else does providing travel not too far away.

How many members are not prepared to play away matches at weekends? About half of members!!

How many members are not prepared to play away matches on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday? Duncan & Ian not prepared.

How much Kent league chess do the membership want?

It was agreed that the club enter three leagues.

The Enpassent(average 140 grade of team)for definite.

Once we have the new grades for our members Andrew as Captain of the second team will decide whether to enter the six board Harvey (grade 125) league or the four board Fuller(grade 110)

Once Andrew has decided Trefor,Captain of the third team,will choose between Fuller(if Andrew has not chosen it) and the intro (grade 95)

Running Swale Tournament chess.

The majority of members voted The Cup & Plate method used to run the Swale Tournament this year be used next year. The all play all was supported by 2 members.

The majority of members voted that the points earned in round 1 will be carried forward to round 2.

The zero points in round 2 was supported by 4 members

CLUB NIGHTS

Ian defines casual chess as a club night with nobody organising or pre planning who plays who.

A club night could be utilised for casual chess, but more often it will be a different night such as a visiting master, a quick play tournament on the night, a simultaneous or the amazing EU evening we had last week.

How much casual chess do members want?

It was agreed that the club will schedule three casual chess nights where no formal arrangements would be made. The first of these nights will be September 1st. On this day we will have some players testing out Tyrone's new time controls.

Communications

There is a lot of time spent on informing members of club activities. To date this has been done by email and a great many of them. We wish to change this to better use of the website if the members agree.

1. Utilising Swale Website

Are members willing to access the club website on a regular basis to find out:-

- A. Who they are playing next week in the Swale Tournament.
- B. All grades for all members
- C. To view the results and status of The Swale Tournament.
- D. To view how the club played in a kcca league match
- E. To view observations of how well members played.

2. Emails to organise teams for kcca league matches.

Team Captains will inform the selected team players directly at the club or via email. The team Captain will confirm to Trefor the players selected and the result of the match, so Trefor will update this information on the Swale Website for other members to see.

Trefor will email all members confirming when the updated web site will be available.

Thereafter the members agreed to try accessing the website in particular to see who they are playing in the Swale Tournament, what grade players have and where in the table they are.

D2. The Internal Swale Club Tournament

Everyone thanked Tyrone for running an excellent Tournament this year. Very enjoyable.

The format of the Tournament for this year will be maintained. A trial of new time controls will be carried out on September 1st

D3. Kent ECF Leagues

Is it acceptable that we enter leagues where we are unable to field a full team and effectively forfeit matches? Like Hastings!!

E. Issues to be discussed:-

E1. Issue requested by Ian.

The playing of Rochester club games at the Swale Chess club on a Thursday night.

Rochester and Swale are two independent Chess clubs operating from different venues on different nights. Tyrone works tirelessly at organising events for both clubs and we greatly appreciate his efforts.

Swale club members pay a fee to play at the club throughout the season.

Some Swale members are also Rochester members and play for both clubs.

This year each Swale member paid approximately £2.50 for each of 46 club nights whether they attended or not.

Should the Rochester members (who are not Swale members) be asked to contribute a fee of say £2.50 on each night?

The general view was that from time to time Swale members could bring a visitor into the club at no cost as long as this facility is not abused.

E2 . Issue requested by Ian - The format of the Swale Chess tournament.

Regardless of which option is chosen a definitive schedule will be produced based on 14 players (we have 13 at present). Each member will be issued/emailed a diary of planned Tournament dates. This information will also be available on the Swale chess club website. Any member can look up who they are playing next week on the website. As the Tournament progresses the results/points table will be shown on the website.

Option 1. For 14 players involves 26 nights of play.

To play 2 full rounds so all players play black and white against each opponent and not have to split between cup and plate.

Round 1 to be completed by March/April

Round 2 to be completed by end of July

Option 2. For 14 players involves 19 nights of play.

Retain the existing method where round 1 is all play all and round 2 is split into two groups based on the success in round 1. Group A play for the cup. Great B play for the plate.

Round 1 to be completed by April/May

Round 2 to be completed by end of July

Which format do you prefer? A vote on options 1 & 2 will take place.

A majority of members voted to keep the current cup and plate method but to bring forward all points made in round 1 to round 2.

E3. Issue requested by Tyrone.

To change how time clocks are to be used for the Swale Tournament.

The new format proposed is 75 mins plus 15 seconds per move made.

Tyrone will explain why he thinks we should change from the current 1hr 15mins for 35 moves plus extra 15 mins on clock to finish game in 3 hrs.

Do we stick with current method or change to new proposal outlined by Tyrone? A vote will take place.

This will be tested out on September 1st.

E4. Request from Tyrone for additional digital clocks.

Tyrone would like the flexibility to have two league games(10 boards) on the same Thursday night. (a six board team eg En passant or Harvey plus a four board team eg Fuller or Intro).

The club has 8 digital clocks and 9 analogue clocks and these could be used to support Tyrone's idea of two league games on the same night. If the club can afford it, Tyrone has requested the club buy four more digital clocks.

Prior to the proposed rent increase for our Chess room we could afford two such clocks at a cost of £100 to £130. This would give the club 10 digital clocks and Tyrone the flexibility he has requested. Due to the proposed rent increase to £25 per night (from £20) and our efforts to keep the annual fee as low as possible it is difficult to justify this expenditure when we can manage with what we have.

If matters change eg new members we could review this request again.

Once we know how many members we have next year we can review the possibility of buying two new clocks. This would happen in October 2016.

E5. Issued raised by Ian - some members do not wish to play away games and prefer club nights either Tournament or social. What they mean by social is to have club nights where no one is scheduled to play anyone, just to turn up and enjoy a social game of chess. **This issue has been covered earlier in the meeting.**

F. The management of the club from September 1st 2016.

Tyrone did a splendid job this year running the Internal club Tournament, organising all our KCCA league games and the summer tournament.

Tyrone has put himself forward for a position with the KCCA which means he cannot do as much for the club as he has in the past. The club is supporting Tyrone and either Trefor as Secretary or Keith as chairman will attend the KCCA AGM on 4th September to cast our vote for Tyrone. I am sure we all wish Tyrone good luck. On behalf of all members we thank him for all his hard work this season.

Tyrone has agreed to attend the KCCA fixtures meeting on behalf of the club on 11th September 2016 and organise the dates we play other clubs.

F1. Appointing the officers of the club.
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We have three officers and three volunteers.

The members vote to approve the officers of the club for 2016 will be :-

Chairman - Keith Hyde
Treasurer - Ian Lappin
Secretary - Trefor Owens

All members voted in favour of the three appointments above.

F2. Team Captains
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Team Captain for Enpassent will be Keith.
Team Captain for Harvey or Fuller will be Andrew.
Team Captain for the Intro or Fuller will be Trefor as we hope to play one or two juniors in the team from time to time.

F3. Swale Club Tournament
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Ian, Trefor & Tyrone (time permitting) have volunteered to help.

F4. Junior Club
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Trefor, Teresa, Kevin and Keith will continue to run the Junior Club.

G. Any Other Business.

If the club was to print promotion leaflets to attract new members Kevin has the contacts and offered help with the distribution of them on the Isle of Sheppey at no cost to the club. Something to consider in the future. Thanks Kevin.

Keith N suggested we have some pictures on the website. Winners of the cup and plate or shot of grandmaster at the club etc. Trefor will see what can be done.

End of AGM email, thanks Ian.