

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Milton Keynes Chess Club**

**Held on Thursday, 7th September 2023 in the Hub, The Open University**

In the Chair: James Alexander

Present: Members: James Alexander, Simon Banisi, Dominic Bartram, Sumit Bhalla, Nigel Collins, Adrian Elwin, Thomas Evans, Peter Hawes, Alan Heath, Dexter Lazard, Baird McCellan, John McKeon, John mcnamara, Mark Osborn, Micheal Page, David Phillips, Paul Sippitt, Graham Smith, Eion Tweeddale, George Ward, Dominic Watson, Steven Waynes, David Wells, Robert Whiteside

Present Observers:  
Claire Church

### **1) Apologies for Absence**

Andrew Bowler, Colin Solloway

### **2) Welcome**

Welcome to all the members to the club

### **3) Minutes of the AGM held 1 September 2022**

Proposed Adrian Elwin  
Seconded Micheal Page

Accepted by All

### **4) Secretary's Report**

Its been a good year with an influx of new members and juniors. I would like to thank those members who have been helping with the new members and the friendly play area. There are rumours about the OU moving location and changes but at present it looks like nothing will be happening over the next couple of years that should have an effect on the club playing here.

### **5) Treasurers Report**

2022/23 saw a surge in membership with no fewer than 37 new members including 17 Juniors. We started the year with 42 paid up members although 16 of those did not renew so the final tally was 63. (36 Normal and 27 Concessions) generating fees of £810.00. Compared to 2021/22 this was an increase of £265 or 49%.

If you paid the concessionary rate in 2022/23 because you joined the club late in the year. Please note that this only applies to that year and you will need to pay your 2023/24 subs at the appropriate rate.

In addition to being a paid up member of MKCC anyone who wishes to play for the club in the Beds League or in the internal competitions will have to be a member of the ECF. Please note that it is each individual member's responsibility to ensure that their details are published on the ECF list of members. If your name is not there for any reason you are not

eligible to play in the above games. As many subscriptions are due for renewal on 1 September, please ensure that you are up to date with the ECF as well as with the Club.

Total expenditure in the year was £323.90.

No equipment was purchased as we have sufficient even for the increased membership.

We entered 4 teams in the Beds League @ £15 per team.

Insurance is for cover of £1m public liability and £1800 for the digital clocks.

Website costs were incurred but I didn't receive the bills until after the year end. We are currently paying around £63 per year for Hosting and the Domain name. These costs will appear in the current year's accounts along with the charges for 2023/24.

No National tournaments were entered last year. The Christmas tournament was held for the first time since 2019. The costs were the standard prizes.

The Club changed banks in 2021 and we now bank with Santander. The banking details will be on the subs form that will go out after the AGM. If you have an internet payment set up with HSBC as our bank you will need to change this. Do not send any money to our old HSBC account as it will not be received by the Club.

An inventory of the Club's equipment was carried out on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August and I am happy to report that almost of all items were accounted for. One chess set was missing, although this may be due to lost pieces rather than a whole set. One broken mechanical clock which could not be located in 2022 has resurfaced. As the Club has adequate kit I do not propose to purchase any new items in the coming season.

Due to the increase in subs and decrease in expenditure the Club enjoyed a surplus of £486.10 in the year. I have already spent £296.85 this year renewing insurance and paying for the website. Despite this I estimate that we still have 3 years' worth of expenditure in reserves. The current subscriptions is £15.00 normal and £10 for concessions. Given the state of the Club's finances I propose that we leave the rates unchanged for 2023/24.

Alan Heath (Treasurer) 05/09/2023

## 6 ) Internal Competitions Report

The 2022 Club Championship was won by Graham Smith with 6 points followed by Rob Whiteside and Eoin Tweeddale on 5.

The Open Swiss was won by Rob Whiteside with Adrian Elwin and Dominic Bartram in 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Under 1850 Swiss was won by Alan Heath on 5 out of 5 with Dave Wells in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3 players sharing 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Open Knockout was won by Adrian Elwin beating Eoin Tweeddale in the final.

The Under 1850 Knockout was won by George Ward beating John McKeon in the final.

The Under 1850 Knockout Plate was won by Luke Singleton beating Steven Wayne in the final.

The 2023 All-Play-All Blitz was held last week after the stocktake. First was Eoin Tweeddale with 12 points followed by Adrian Elwin and Andrew Bowler on 11.

None of the tournaments started at the beginning of the year have yet completed, most being in their 3<sup>rd</sup> round.

## 7 ) Safeguarding Report

Nothing to report

## 8) Beds League Reports for 2021/2022 Season

### **A Team** - Sumit Bhalla

Division 2 came 2<sup>nd</sup>

4 wins and 4 losses and thanks to those who played

### **B Team** - Adrian Elwin

Milton Keynes B had a decent season, winning 5 matches, drawing 1 and losing 2, winning 21½ points out of 40.

2 wins against each of Bedford B and Leighton Buzzard B plus a win against Leighton Buzzard A and a draw against Bedford A left the team in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 11 match points behind Bedford A with 13.

3 of the reserves, Rob, Alan and Dominic scored 100% playing only 1 or 2 games. The only regular team member with a positive score was Graham Smith who scored 6 out of 8.

### **C Team** - Colin Solloway

On the LMS website, Milton Keynes C is positioned in the middle of the table in third place, although, as we had exactly the same numbers as Bedford D, perhaps we should be shown as having tied for second place with them. Perhaps someone can explain what determines the positions of teams who have the same results.

Both teams Played 8, Won 5, Drew 0, Lost 3, For 22, Against 18, Points 10

MKC: Wins 16, Draws 12, Losses 12.  
Bed D: Wins 19, Draws 6, Losses 15.  
(For = Wins + half the draws, Against = Losses + half the draws.)

MKC performed much better than last year, when we only won one match out of eight. Top C Team scorer was Dave Wells, with four points from six games.  
Thanks to Graham Smith for covering as substitute on a couple of occasions.  
An interesting statistic: Of the 80 matches played across Divisions One and Two, 79 were decisive. Only Bedford A vs Milton Keynes B ended in a draw.

*Note: The Adrian Elwin looked at the league and it puts teams that have the same points in alphabetical order and will look at seeing if this can be corrected in the future to display correctly.*

D Team - David Phillips

Interesting season, will thanks to my team and some good individual wins over the season but alas we were not able to win a match so ended up at the bottom of the table. I think we enjoyed most of the matches.

## **9) Election Of Officers**

- (a) Chairman - James Alexander
- (b) Secretary - David Phillips
- (c) Treasurer - Alan Heath
- (d) Tournament Secretary - Adrian Elwin
- (e) Safeguarding Officer - Baird McClellan
- (f) Deputy Safeguarding Officer - Dominic Bartram

All elected unopposed

## **10) Team Captains for 2023/24**

Possible number of teams 4  
Captains stepping forward and what teams they will captain will be decided after the meeting.

James Alexander, Adrian Elwin, Colin Solloway, Sumit Bhalla,  
(if needed) Eion Tweeddale Nigel Collins

## **11) Junior Chess at the Club**

Good influx and we had over what we could take.  
Could we find a place to run a junior club as the Open University will not allow us at this time.

Do we have member to help. Secretary is to send out a email to ask who is still willing to help if the junior club was on a different night and different venue.

Walton High has contacted the club for a friendly match against their students in November or December and this will be followed up to arrange. To ask if Walton High is a possible venue for a junior club

Talk to parents to encourage the schools to take up running clubs

All agreed to take this further

12) Any other business

### To discuss - Proposed Bedfordshire Chess League rule changes

Proposed rule change

Leighton Buzzard are proposing the following change to the Bedfordshire Chess League rules:

**Current rule (first sentence):**

8. No player who has played above board 3 in any division may play for any other team in that or any lower division.

**Proposed new rule (replacing the first sentence):**

8. No player who has played above board 3 in any division may play for any other team in any lower division. No player who has played above board 3 twice in any division may play for any other team in that division.

The remaining parts of Rule 8 to remain unaltered.

Original Rule

8. No player who has played above board 3 in any division may play for any other team in that or any lower division. No player who has played in any division may subsequently play for a team in a division, which is two or more divisions lower than that one, if his club has a team in an intermediate division. For the purpose of this rule, any name that appears against a board number on a team list drawn up by that team's captain (or acting captain) is deemed to have played.

So after a large discussion and explanations a vote was taken to see if the club was in favour to the change

YES 6            NO 11            Abstention 6

Therefore the club will vote not to the change at the Bedfordshire League AGM that is taking place next week, 14th September 2023

### **ECF Proposed changes for information**

ECF Are bringing new options of membership statues over Bronze, Silver and Gold  
Single membership or joined Silver & Gold  
Grandfather bronze membership may change too

Meeting Close 8:58