# MINUTES OF THE 67th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EAST CHESHIRE CHESS CLUB, 2014

**The 67th AGM was held on Wednesday 21st May 2014 at the Cheadle Hulme Institute. Nine members were present.**

1. **Apologies**. Apologies were received from Roger Beswick, Dave Broadbent, Keith Hodgson, Hartley Oldham and Steve Tranter.
2. **Minutes of the 66th AGM (8th May 2013), and of the EGM (3rd July 2013)** were approved without change and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters arising**. No matters were raised from those Minutes.
4. **Presentation of trophies**.

The winner of the **Kellett Trophy** was Roger Beswick (64 points) and the runner-up was Geoff Clarke. The Secretary accepted the Kellett Trophy on behalf of Roger Beswick, who is on holiday, and the Treasurer presented the runner-up’s trophy to Geoff Clarke. It was noted that fewer members had taken part in the Kellett Challenge competition this season, as a result, probably, of the busy schedule of inter-club matches. The winners were congratulated warmly.

The winner of the **Matchplay Trophy** for 2013-2014 was David Taylor (74% from 21 games), with Phil Ramsey (65% from 13 games) as runner-up. Both were warmly congratulated. The Chairman explained that under the long-standing rules of the competition, at least 7 games had to be played before a player could be considered for the Matchplay trophy. The Secretary agreed **to display this and other rules for the competition.**

1. **Treasurer's Report**. Bill Tait reported on the accounts for the past season, since the resignation of Andy Buckley in July 2013. He thanked the Secretary for preparing corrected accounts for 2012-2013. He stated that, because Dave Broadbent (the elected auditor) was away, the accounts had been audited by email, but they had also been verified by visual inspection of the Cheshire Building Society passbook and the Treasurer’s written records by two club members, Roger Beswick and John Reed. The key features to be noted in the accounts presented at the meeting are as follows.

**Balance**:  £331.02 on 3rd July 2013 and this has fallen by approx. £50 to £280.46 on 21st May 2014

**Income**:  £549.60, down by about £23 on last year (equal to about 1 member's subscription)

**Expenditure**: £600.16, however 2 new clocks were purchased at a cost of £112 accounting for this year's deficit of £50.56. If the sum for the clocks was considered to have been taken from our reserves, then the excess of income over expenditure was in the order of £50 (but our reserves fell accordingly).

**For next season** the Treasurer raised the following points:

**Subscription:** He thanked members for paying their subscriptions so promptly, and would be grateful for a similar response in the coming season. The only likely increase in recurrent expenses is in relation to the cost of purchasing League Handbooks (see below). In order to cover next year's expenses of £500+, assuming there was no significant increase in rent, we need 23 adult members. He did not advise any change in the annual subscription. However, he felt that it would be sensible to wait until September 2014 before deciding whether to purchase more digital clocks, unless we do increase the annual subscription.

**The Cheshire BS in Cheadle Hulme** is closing and we cannot use the Nationwide yet, however there is a branch of the Cheshire BS in Wilmslow which is remaining open. He suggested that we remain with the Cheshire BS for the time being. **This was agreed**.

He proposed (and those present agreed) that **it is the responsibility of the Treasurer to have the accounts audited by another member before the AGM each year**.

**League Handbooks**. The arrangements for payment for League handbooks bought by members should be improved. Having the £1 charge included as part of the annual subscription would simplify the collection of their payment. There followed discussion of how to collect £1 in cash from members who want a League Handbook (excluding those entitled to a free copy - Secretary and Captains). It was decided that **any such cash for handbooks should be charged as part of the membership fee**.

**Digital clocks.**  There was prolonged discussion of the need for additional digital clocks so that our teams playing at home could elect to use Fisher time control (80 minutes + 10 s per move added incrementally), which the Stockport League had accepted should be used at the discretion of the home team captain. It was decided to **postpone a decision about such a purchase until September**. The **Secretary agreed to poll members around the start of the season, to determine a more general view as to how the purchase could be financed**: the options were (a) to use reserves for the entire cost, (b) to use a combination of reserves and additional fee (£5, for example) paid by members team and (c) to ask members for donations to a “digital clock fund”. Ian Vaughan (Stockport League Secretary) confirmed that team fees would remain unchanged at £5 per team, and stated his belief that the charge for a handbook would remain at £1.

1. **Team Captains' Reports on the 2013-2014 season.**

**The A-team Captain, Phil Ramsey**, reported that the team had performed extremely well, and had been able to shake off close rivals Marple C and Stockport B in the final days of the season, just winning the 2nd Division on the basis of games won (one more than Marple C), to whom we had narrowly lost in the first match of the season. Later we managed to draw with them, thanks to a (at the time disputed) win by Dave Broadbent, also beating our East Cheshire B-team, Altrincham and Denton B twice. In the Charnley Cup Knockout competition we were swiftly eliminated by the eventual winners, Marple. The team had been strengthened by the addition of Steve Tranter after Christmas on board 3, who had won 3 and drawn 3 of his 6 games. Facing the prospect of a season in the 1st Division, he reported that team members had agreed it would be daunting but worthwhile, if we were promoted as expected.

**The B-team co-Captain, Paul Bamford**, reported on a season in which we had been unlucky to finish only second from the bottom of Division 2, given the close calls in many of our matches, given that the B team were heavily outgraded in every game in Division 2 particularly on the top boards.  Heavy defeats on the first 2 matches made it look like it was going to be a long season but we then started being competitive in virtually every match.  We finally just missed out on 5th position in the 2nd Division table by just one point (and one board) - a really decent effort.  The star player was David Taylor with great support from Alan and Bill and also Nick who picked up a number of points on board 2.  Paul then thanked his co-Captain Nick Flaherty for his valued support, and also everyone who turned out for the team (there were no defaults). He was reasonably confident that we could maintain our position in this Division next season.

**The C-team Captain, Bill Tait**, reported that the C team had had a much improved season finishing 3rd out of the 5 teams in the reorganised 3rd Division of the League. We won 3 out of 12 fixtures and finished the season on 10 points narrowly beating Stockport's C team. 11 players turned out for the team with 8 playing in 5 or more matches: the majority of these 11 improved their grades over the course of the season, with 4 players' grades rising by 20 points or more. He recommended that next season the club should again field a C team in the 3rd Division, which is clearly an appropriate level for us. Because he was standing down, a vacancy for the C-team captaincy exists.

 He had also acted as **Captain for the 2nd Tier Cup** (now renamed the President’s Cup) and our EC team played 3 matches reaching the final, utilising 7 players during our progress. In a tense final against Altrincham the outcome was uncertain until the last few minutes of the final game to finish. We ended the evening as runners-up to a narrowly victorious Altrincham.

**The Captain (Keith Hodgson) of the D-team,** which played in the Stockport grade-Limit League was absent, so his report was read by the Secretary. The newly introduced Limit League has been a positive success for those members eligible to play (graded 120 or below). Most were able to take the opportunity to compete in matches against similarly graded players. Keith thanked all those members who so readily made themselves available to play in the team and made his role as captain that much easier. He was happy to report that everyone who took part had enjoyed their matches and this was reflected in the superb team wins throughout the season. All of our players had good wins or draws with occasional losses thrown in by some, and the overall team performance was excellent: East Cheshire became clear winners of the Limit League, accumulating 16 points out of a possible 20, whilst our nearest rivals, Wilmslow, managed just 12 points. .Keith wrote that he had enjoyed his role as captain throughout the season and confirmed that he would be happy to continue in this role.

**All the Captains were warmly thanked by those present for their sterling efforts throughout the season.**

1. **Election of Officers**. The **Chairman** (Geoff Clarke), **Secretary** (David Taylor), **Treasurer** (Bill Tait), **A-Team Captain** (Phil Ramsey), **B-team co-Captains** (Paul Bamford and Nick Flaherty) and **D-team Captain** (Keith Hodgsin) were re-elected unopposed, with no votes against their election. Myles Heywood (proposed by Bill Tait, seconded by Roy Burrows) was elected unopposed by unanimous vote as the new **C-team Captain**. The Secretary asked the Captains to attend the League Fixtures Meeting in September, and to do their best when agreeing fixture dates to avoid close clashes, as they had done last year.
2. **Club Competitions**. It was agreed **that the same competitions would continue next season**. **Ian Vaughan** proposed that a new competition be held in which the best match game of the season was selected by members’ votes, and **agreed to arrange a trial of such a competition next season**.
3. **Club Social Evenings**. It was agreed that **these would continue in their current format**, **and on similar dates** (late September, mid-December, early May) as in the past season. They had been well attended and enjoyed by participants.
4. **Summer Chess**. There was discussion of the possible opening of the Club during the period June – end of August, and **the Secretary agreed to poll members to see if sufficient support existed for this to be self-financing (a minimum of 10 members required to pledge support).** Five members had already indicated that they would like the option of playing at the club during the summer. It was decided **not to enter a team in a summer league**.
5. Any Other Business.

**Phil Ramsey agreed to sell any of our unwanted analogue clocks on eBay**, to finance the purchase of new digital clocks.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

SIGNED …………………………………………….. DATE …………………………………..