# MINUTES OF THE 72nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EAST CHESHIRE CHESS CLUB, 2019

**The 72nd AGM was held on Wednesday 22nd May 2019 at the Cheadle Hulme Institute, commencing at 7:30p.m.**

**Eleven members were present:** Paul Bamford, Geoff Brindle, Geoff Clarke, Dave Harris, Keith Hodgson, Steve Kelly, Steve McCall, Arnold Pease, Tudor Rickards, Geoff Smith, David Taylor

1. **Apologies**. There were no apologies received
2. **Minutes of the 71st AGM (23rd May 2018)** were approved without change and signed by David Taylor as Chairman.
3. **Matters arising**.

David Taylor pointed out that the minutes stated that the Club would enter 4 teams in the SDCL in the 2018/2019 season but that the way things turned out only 3 were entered. He asked if there were any comments concerning this but there were none.

1. **Presentation of trophies**.

The winner of the **Matchplay Trophy** for 2018-2019 was Steve Kelly with Geoffrey Brindle as runner up. Steve said that it was 48 years since he last won a chess trophy. Steve and Geoff were warmly congratulated as they collected their trophies.

The winner of the **Kellett Trophy** was Steve Kelly with Geoff Smith as runner up. Geoff pointed out that it was 5 minutes since Steve won his last trophy. Steve and Geoff were warmly congratulated as they collected their trophies.

Thanks were given to Geoff Clark for organising the trophies again this year and also to Roger Beswick for choosing the style for the new trophies for the winners to keep.

1. **Treasurer's Report**.

Steve Kelly had produced the accounts for the 2018-2019 season in advance of the meeting and they had been circulated to all members via email. Jim McKie had audited the accounts.

The club had a deficit for the year of £36 and there are reserves of £315.20p. The amount of the deficit was due to paying for 2 years’ worth of trophies. Changing banks from RBS to Santander had resulted in a £750 windfall to the Club and Steve proposed that the Club celebrate by levying no summer subscription this year for attendance at the Rapid Play evenings.

It was noted that that the new Santander bank account incurs bank charges but also pays interest on the balance.

The meeting conveyed its thanks to Steve and Jim for their work on the accounts. The accounts were unanimously accepted.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

The retiring Secretary had, in response to a request from Keith Hodgson, circulated to all members a document detailing the duties that the last three Secretaries had performed, amended in such a way as to reduce in a minor way the work required of a future Secretary.

David Taylor proposed deferring a discussion of the document to item 8 below.

1. **Team Captains' Reports on the 2018-2019 season.**

**The A-team Captain, Paul Bamford**

Our return to Division 1 proved as difficult as we may have feared although we didn't roll over and we had some good battles along the way.  A big thank you to everyone who turned out for the team and who were constantly heavily outgraded.

Our main rivals to avoid the drop were Macclesfield B and we managed to beat them in our home match after a thrilling winner takes all game by David Taylor.  Unfortunately we lost the return match at Macc and we were unlucky that Holmes Chapel put out a weak team at Macc B (instead of against us!) otherwise we possibly could still have stayed up.  We did however have a good run in the Charnley Cup and reached the semi's.

Special mention to Geoff Brindle who played 8 matches against strong players and incredibly only lost one - against a 221 grade!  Also, special thanks to Tudor and David Taylor who stood in for me when I missed a few games.

So it's Division 2 for us next season with promotion the aim (unless we tactically aim to avoid it!)

**The B-team Captain, Steve McCall**

Not the best of times this season. Two seasons ago we should have won the league. This year we finished bottom. Our best result was a draw against Worsley at home. They went on to win the league. Steve Kelly and Jim McKie were our best performers. Steve McCall was dreadful! We only won two games all season, three draws and seven losses. The message I give myself is we must do better next season.

**The C-team Captain (Limit League), Keith Hodgson,**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Team** | **Matches Played** | **Matches Won** | **Matches Drawn** | **Matches Lost** | **Games For** | **Games Against** | **Points** |
| Stockport | 12 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 29 | 19 | **17** |
| Denton | 12 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 28 | 20 | **14** |
| Macclesfield | 12 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 26 | 22 | **13** |
| Altrincham | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 21½ | 26½ | **13** |
| Ashton | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 26 | 22 | **12** |
| East Cheshire | 12 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 20½ | 27½ | **8** |
| Wilmslow | 12 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 17 | 31 | **7** |

A keenly fought division in this league with an increase of clubs taking part provided good competitive chess matches throughout although sadly we did not reach the dizzy heights of reaching within the top 4 places but came a lowly but respectable 6th spot avoiding the wooden spoon by 1point above Wilmslow. Every individual match played by each of our team members was well fought and whether won or lost was enjoyed by all who took part. The standard of match play throughout this division has been excellent. I thank all the team members who have given me their support in taking part and I am pleased to say not one board was defaulted through absence of a player.

I am happy to continue as captain next season if so elected

Avote of thanks was given to all the captains for their work over the season. Paul, Steve and Keith have all kindly agreed to continue next season as team captains.

1. **Election of Officers**.

It was agreed to defer consideration of the role of Secretary until the end of this item

The following officers were unanimously elected to their proposed posts:

* **Chairman: David Taylor**
* **Treasurer: Steve Kelly**
* **Website Manager: Geoff Brindle**

It was agreed that members would provide copy for the website manager to put up on the web site.

* **Publicity Officer: Tudor Rickards**
* **Auditor: Jim McKie**
* **Social Committee:** David Taylor proposed, and it was agreed, that this innovation was not needed and that he and Steve Kelly would co-opt a member if extra help were needed. Geoff Smith agreed to be co-opted.
* **Signage Committee:** David Taylor reported that although the sign had not been changed he would propose that this committee was no longer required. Professional design of a poster would be very expensive and all that was required was a copy of the electronic file that contained the current poster.

A very wide-ranging discussion of the role of Secretary ensued following on from the document mentioned in item 6 above. Given that no member had volunteered to take over this role, it soon transpired that the members present at the AGM were in favour of a much more radical overhaul and reduction in the Secretary’s load than that envisaged in the document.

Geoff Brindle proposed that the newsletter be abolished and this was accepted. Geoff also suggested that the role of Secretary could be abolished and the Club still thrive. However, after discussion, it was agreed to retain the position of Secretary but to abandon the checklist of duties that had been in operation for the last several years and replace it with the following much reduced list. As examples of reducing the work load of the Secretary

1. it was agreed that the First Team Captain would send the list of players for registering with the SDCL in early September.
2. Steve McCall agreed to look after the contents of the cupboard.

The Secretary would

* 1. be a member of the Executive Committee along with the Chairman and Treasurer.
  2. be a signatory on cheques (along with the Chairman and Treasurer).
  3. take the minutes of the AGM
  4. liaise with SDCL concerning their AGM and AFM (with no requirement to attend either)
  5. update the list of members

It was agreed that David Taylor would write the above list down and that it would be circulated to all members by Dave Harris with a view to a member coming forward and volunteering to take on this much reduced role of Secretary.

Finally, it was agreed to hold an EGM on the second Wednesday in September with a view to finalising the situation and confirming someone in the role of Secretary

1. **Club competitions next season:** It was agreed that the club competitions and tournaments should continue in their current format next season, and would be run by the following people:

* **Kellett** **cup**: **Geoff Clarke**
* **Matchplay: Jim McKie**
* **Rapidplays at the social evenings: David Taylor** and **Steve Kelly**, with a view to Steve eventually taking over from David

Steve McCall proposed that the Club hold a knockout competition next season and this was agreed. The precise details would be worked out later but it was agreed that all members would be entered and that a member not wishing to participate would default their game in the first round. Steve McCall agreed to run this new competition.

1. **Summer Chess**. It was agreed that one team of four players, under the captaincy of Steve Kelly, will be entered in the Stockport Rapidplay Summer League organized by Peter Taylor (Stockport Chess Club).

Geoff Smith once again invited members not playing in the rapid play to attend the club on the evenings in which home rapid play matches are played for an alternative of friendly and/or “patient play” games.

It was agreed that the club would open over the summer on those occasions required by the schedule for the rapid play league and that there would be no subscription for this (see item 5 above).

1. **Suggestions for the Trustee of the Institute**

It was agreed that the Club request that

* + - 1. an automatic door return be installed on the inner door to reduce disturbance during matches and conserve heat
      2. better access to the light switch in the ante-room to the main hall be provided and/or there be less clutter in the ante-room

1. **Important Dates for your diary**
   1. The Club will reopen and the new season start on the first Wednesday in September, namely, **Wednesday 4th September 2019.**
   2. There will be an Extra General Meeting to find a new Secretary on **Wednesday 11th September 2019.**
2. **Any Other Business**

Geoff Clarke suggested to the three team captains that it would be advantageous for the Club if the final matches of the season could be held earlier than has occurred in the last two seasons. This would enable more time for the trophies to be engraved and also for the social evening and AGM to be brought forward so that the Club’s AGM did not clash with SDCL’s AGM.

**Any Other Business**.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

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

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2019, 19.30 pm**

To be treated as an appendix to the minutes of the AGM on Wednesday 22nd May 2019

**Present were**: D. Taylor (Chairman), S. Kelly, S. Tatlock, G. Clarke, N. Flaherty, A. Millward, M. Nikfazan, G. Smith and T. Rickards.

**Apologies were received** from P. Bamford, R. Beswick, E. Cooke, D. Harris, K. Hodgson, W. Hesson, J. McKie, A. Pease and J. Reed

**ELECTION OF CLUB SECRETARY**

**The motion** (proposed by D. Taylor, seconded by S. Kelly), **that Stephen Tatlock be elected as Club Secretary of East Cheshire Chess Club with immediate effect**, was carried (8 for, none against). The Chairman indicated that he had received 8 emails supporting the motion from members not attending. He congratulated Steve on his election and hoped that he would receive the wholehearted support of all members in his new role.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Dave Harris had received an email, passed to David Taylor a few weeks ago, from Mr Frank Cave a friend of Ernest Pearson. Ernest is terminally ill in Warrington, and has expressed the wish that, after his death, his chess books are donated to East Cheshire Chess Club, which he thought was the club he belonged to some years ago. There are about 60 books. It had been explained to Mr Frank Cave by the Chairman that we had no recollection of Ernest’s membership, and that we had very limited room for so many books. After a brief discussion, it was decided to decline the bequest on the grounds of lack of storage space, indicating that almost certainly the large majority of these books would be donated to charity – which might sensibly be done in Warrington. The Chairman agreed to do this as tactfully as possible.

The meeting closed at 19.40 p.m.