**MINUTES**

**OF THE**

**73RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**OF**

**EAST CHESHIRE CHESS CLUB 2020**

The 73rd AGM was held on Tuesday 23rd June 2020 online, via Zoom, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Nine members were present: Paul Bamford, Geoff Brindle, Steve Kelly, Jim McKie, Arnold Pease, John Reed, Tudor Rickards, Steve Tatlock, David Taylor.

1. **Chairman’s Introduction**: David Taylor welcomed all those present, and agreeing to the holding the AGM this year online via Zoom, due to the Covid pandemic.
2. **Apologies**: David Harris, Keith Hodgson, Steve McCall, Geoff Smith.
3. **Minutes of the 72nd AGM (22nd May 2019) and EGM (11th September 2019)**:

These were approved without change and signed by David Taylor as Chairman.

1. **Matters Arising**:

The refusal of the bequest of books from Ernest Pearson, due to storage, had been conveyed to the family by David Taylor, and an understanding acknowledgment had been received back.

1. **Secretary’s Report**:

Update on Stockport District Chess League: Still no indication when the competitions would resume, and whether the 2019/2020 season would be completed when it does. Steve Tatlock would update the Members as and when positive news was received in that regard.

Since the last AGM, there has been 4 new members joining the club: Alan Millward, Mohamed Nikfazan, Tom Jones and John Taylor had been welcomed.

David asked Steve whether the Secretary’s duties were proving onerous. Steve said he was happy with the refined position as defined in the 2019 EGM Minutes.

1. **Treasurers Report**:

Accounts to 31st March 2020 had been prepared by Steve Kelly and Audited by Jim McKie. Steve was pleased to report a surplus for the year of £735.24 with a Bank Balance at 31st March 2020 of £1,050.36. Copies of the Accounts are appended to these Minutes. Steve was delighted to advise that a further £500 had been received from Santander Bank in recent weeks (in addition to initial bank joining gift last year). It had not been possible to append the new Secretary yet to the Bank Mandate. This will be attended to as soon as the Virus situation allowed.

Other than the Trophies that would need renewing soon, there were no major costs at present. Geoff Brindle asked, due to the success of East Cheshire’s participation online at Lichess, whether a small donation to them be considered, say £20.00. This was unanimously approved by those present.

The Accounts were unanimously approved by those present.

1. **Reports**

**CAPTAINS REPORT**

**A TEAM: Paul Bamford**

The A team was greatly boosted by the arrival of Tom Jones to the club in the summer and he helped us get off to a flying start when the season began. We won our first 3 league games and sailed past Worsley in the Charnley Cup.

We then had a bit of a wobble with narrow defeats to Stockport B and Urmston in the Cup but then bounced back winning the next 3 league matches. This left us 2 points ahead of our main rivals, Worsley, with just 3 matches to go…before the Covid suspension. We looked in pretty good shape to go on and win the league and in fact, if we do get the chance to re-start, we just need to win our next 2 matches (against Wilmslow and Denton) to have it all wrapped up before the season finale against Worsley.

We had good individual performances from everyone along the way and special thanks to David T. and Tudor for standing in for me on a couple of occasions. We had no defaults which is always great.

As usual, many thanks to everyone who turned out for the team and your support.

**Division 2**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Team** | **Matches Played** | **Matches Won** | **Matches Drawn** | **Matches Lost** | **Games For** | **Games Against** | **Points** |
| East Cheshire A | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 28½ | 13½ | **12** |
| Worsley | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 26½ | 15½ | **10** |
| Wilmslow | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 23 | 19 | **9** |
| Stockport B | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 24 | 18 | **7** |
| Marple A | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 18 | 30 | **3** |
| Denton | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 30 | **1** |

**CAPTAINS REPORT**

**B TEAM: Steve McCall**

Now I know how Liverpool feel so close to winning the league (not entirely true) only to be left a King in his Castle, floored by Covid 19 and became a pawn in Mr Johnson’s end game.

As for the season so far, we were great at times but let ourselves down on occasions. (Oh, no that was me again).

Well let’s start with the Cup you cannot win. The Presidents Cup. Our first round to Macclesfield, that’s all I have to say about that.

As for the league, we got off to a great start at our friends in Northenden. We won 3-2 even being a man down. Then a win at Urmston (riding high), but followed by a loss at Macclesfield and it brought us back to earth.

Played Altrincham at home, nobody on the team lost. Jim and Steve T. were playing well. Another good win at Marple. Paul Bamford and I met a nice man at the bar there (NOT). In the very next game we lost to them at home.

On Wednesday 26th February this year we played the boys from Northenden at home which conspired to be the last game. We drew which was a bad result for me. A game we should have won all day long and it still hurts. We have 3 games remaining, Macclesfield away would have been the crunch game.

As I reflect on a Wednesday night playing our boys on line, all in the same boat, I wish you all well and look forward to sitting beside you all once again. We’ll meet again.

**Division 3**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Team** | **Matches Played** | **Matches Won** | **Matches Drawn** | **Matches Lost** | **Games For** | **Games Against** | **Points** |
| Macclesfield C | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 20 | 10 | **9** |
| East Cheshire B | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 15 | **9** |
| Marple B | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 21 | **9** |
| Urmston | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 17½ | 17½ | **6** |
| Northenden | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 17½ | 20½ | **6** |
| Altrincham B | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 19 | **3** |

**CAPTAIN REPORT**

**Limit League 2020 Season: Keith Hodgson**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Team** | **Matches Played** | **Matches Won** | **Matches Drawn** | **Matches Lost** | **Games For** | **Games Against** | **Points** |
| Stockport | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 24½ | 15½ | **16** |
| Ashton | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 31½ | 12½ | **15** |
| Denton | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 23 | 17 | **13** |
| Macclesfield | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 16½ | 19½ | **8** |
| Marple | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 17½ | 22½ | **7** |
| Wilmslow | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 10½ | 25½ | **4** |
| East Cheshire | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 8½ | 19½ | **3** |

The birth of the limit league some 7 years ago (2013/14 season) when the East Cheshire Chess Club reached the dizzy heights of becoming the first to be champions with 6 clubs competing, the standard of play has become increasingly much tougher for all clubs taking part which bears testament to the very reason why this league was introduced. It provides a much needed platform for those players not normally on the team selection rota to play in the higher leagues, to improve their match play experience and grading, should they be then fortunate to be selected to play in leagues 3 or 2 or even 1.

The popularity of the limit league remains very much in evidence with now 7 clubs competing this year which lends itself to even keener competition for all concerned. Sadly however the pandemic cut short the season this year with us only playing 7 matches – the fewest played compared to the other clubs. Our last match was at Denton, and despite us losing, was very well hard fought with draws on boards 2 and 3. Regrettably the possibility for us to rise from the ashes at the bottom of the league to a more respectable position could not be achieved this year.

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 took part, most of whom have regularly attended our club nights. 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

9th June 2020

**2019 SUMMER CHESS LEAGUE AND SOME OTHER EVENTS**

**Steve Kelly**

East Cheshire Tigers once again entered the Stockport District Summer League. We started with a match against the Stockport Aces, who started as favourites to win the league and went on to do so. We gave them a hard time, the score was 2-2 at half time, and we were hanging on at 3-4 down as the last match drew to a conclusion. The Stockport player was in severe time trouble, with our player also short on time. Would we win on time and draw the match? Alas, the pressure got to our man, who made an illegal move, and the extra two minutes gave the Stockport player the space he needed to press home his advantage and win the game. On such fine margins…

Eight different players took part, with a selection policy of aiming giving everyone the same number of games (which was approximately achieved). We ended up eighth out of nine, and I think everyone enjoyed the experience.

December saw the first Northenden Blitz Tournament, for four teams of four players. Everyone played all players from the other three teams. A controversial selection policy saw Messrs Tranter, Tatlock, McCall and Kelly represent East Cheshire, and we came a creditable second behind the all-conquering team from Stockport. It is hoped that the tournament will become an annual fixture, although we may not necessarily enter a mono-nomenclatured team next time!

Lockdown in March presented some interesting problems and opportunities. We were challenged to an on-line match by Northenden, who then struggled to find the ten players needed to match our team. It was an excellent mass-participation event, and the result went down to the wire. In the final game, with the score tied at 9.5-9.5, Jim McKie was attempting to press home his advantage but was beaten by the clock, so we lost by the narrowest of margins.

1. **Team Captain**:

Paul Bamford said that after 7 years as A Team Captain, he felt it was time for a change and having canvassed opinion, was pleased to say that Tom Jones would be taking over the position. Paul said he would be happy to see out the current season as Captain (if the Season re-commenced) for the remaining three games. All present approved this, and there was unanimous thanks to Paul for all his efforts and skill given to the Captain’s role.

1. **Club Competitions**:

Match play Trophy: Winner: Tom Jones

Runner-up: John Reed

Kellett Trophy: This had resulted in a tie between Geoff Smith and Steve Kelly. Steve Kelly had proposed he would be nominally runner-up thus the trophy would be held initially by Geoff for six months.

1. **Election of Officers**:

The following were unanimously elected to their posts:

* + Chairman – David Taylor
  + Secretary – Steve Tatlock
  + Treasurer – Steve Kelly
  + Auditor – Jim McKie
  + Website Manager – Geoff Brindle
  + Social Committee – David Taylor, Steve Kelly

Tudor Rickards proposed a vote of thanks from all those present for the efforts of the officers and Team Captains.

1. **Any Other Business**:

All members to be aware of extending Membership. Committee to consider reaching out to local schools.

Following discussion it was resolved:

Geoff and David to look at possibility of online chess with other clubs possibility to entering two teams online to compete.

Geoff, David and Steve K. to also consider internal online competition.

Geoff Clarke: Geoff had decided, due to age, that he would not be coming to the club when it re-opened. As a former Chairman, Secretary and Team Captain, David proposed, and all agreed, that a gift to recognise his efforts over many years for the Club would be presented to him.

It was known that the Brian Cox book “Wonders of the Solar System” would be appreciated, and it was unanimously agreed that David would make the presentation on behalf of the Club. David asked if members could send e-mails of support and thanks to him so they could be added on as part of the presentation to Geoff.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.25 p.m.

