



# B.S.C.C.

## The Bishop's Stortford Chess Club



### Minutes for A.G.M. 2019

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 05.09.19
<b>Time:</b>	7:45pm Onwards
<b>Venue:</b>	Methodist Church Hall
<b>Chairman:</b>	Charles Willbe
<b>Secretary:</b>	Adam Hirst
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Robert Hitchings

<b>Members:</b>	Mr Ieuan Ward	Mr Nigel Kerby	Mr Neville Twitchell	Mr Gary Thurston
Mr Tim Acton	Mr Osilara Osiyemi	Mr Laurie Mercer	Mr Mark Heffer	Mrs Judith Heffer
Mr Charles Willbe	Mr Peter Jurd	Mr Adam Hirst	Mr David Hobden	Mr Robert Hitchings
Mr Jeff Clare	Mr Grzeg Grzegorz	Mr Paul Shellard	Mr Paul Kenning	Mr Kevin White
Mr William Young	Mr Neil Thompson	Mr Jack Jeffries	Mr Nathan Wong	Mr Andrew Cowlin
Mr Lee Walton	Mr Dominic Fanning	Mr Rob Davies		

Name	Present
Name	Absent

Agenda:		Minutes:
1	Apologies of Absence	Nigel Kerby, David Hobden, Mark Heffer, Judith Heffer, Neil Thompson, Gary Thurston, Osilara Osiyemi, Paul Kenning, Neville Twitchell, Laurie Mercer
2	Minutes of Last AGM	Having been previously distributed to all members for approval and receiving no objections – the minutes were agreed as correct.
3	Matters Arising	<p>There was 1 item noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In AOB it was agreed that club captains on match nights were responsible for the opening and closing of the club rooms/church. Was this the case? Is this system still viable?</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that the opening of the club was not viable as the only way to access now is with 1 of the 2 keys held by the Chairman and Secretary.</p> <p>It was noted that it is possible to lock the exit doors at the end of the night (provided they had not been initially opened with a key). It is therefore possible for Captains to lock up at the end of a night's match. This is to be reviewed again in the Chairman's report.</p>
4	Chairman's Report	<p><b>Charles</b> (Please see Chairman's report (on website)).</p> <p>It was noted by the chair that members must ensure they pay their ECF membership fees as well as club fees. The email address for this is:</p> <p><a href="https://ecf.azolve.com/Account.mvc/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f">https://ecf.azolve.com/Account.mvc/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f</a></p> <p>ECF Office: 01424 775222</p>

5	Treasurer's Report	<p><b>Mark (Charles, on behalf of...)</b>  (Please see treasurer's report (on website)).</p>
6	Secretary's Report	<p><b>Adam</b>  (Please see secretary's report (on website)).</p> <p>It was noted that getting feedback from newer members would be useful with their experience of first coming in to the club.  Andrew – noted it was busy. He felt that it was important that someone was available to play.  Nathan – found out about us from seeing the poster. He had a positive experience when first came in.</p>
7	Captains' Reports	<p><b>B.S.C.C. T1 Captains' Report – Ieuan Ward</b>  (Please see captains report (on website)).</p> <p>It was noted that the team were potentially the strongest in the league, however not all of the 5 team members were regularly available. Only 3 consistent members. It was also noted that a 'points' handicap hampered initial progress which was prompted by being stifled by another club.  It was noted that Kevin and Lara did well but others played around their own level.  It was noted that the loss of the Heffers will have an impact on the team, despite neither actually being team members.</p> <p><b>B.S.C.C. T2 Captains' Report – Nigel Kerby (Charles, on behalf of...)</b>  (Please see captains report (on website)).</p> <p><b>B.S.C.C. T3 Captains' Report – Pete Jurd</b>  (Please see captains report (on website)).</p> <p>It was noted that the team had a very good season with promotion to Div. 4 They did very well despite having M. Heffer on B4 in the team! 🥳</p> <p><b>H&amp;D League Captains' Report – Charles Willbe</b>  (Please see captains report (on website)).</p> <p>It was noted that the team almost qualified for the semis but just missed out.  It was further noted that no team beat BSCC twice.</p> <p>It was further noted that BSCC also took part in the H&amp;D Blitz tournament, with 2 teams entered and one of these coming second (WHCF winning it).  It was noted that in previous years we have mixed the ability of the teams whereas this year the 2 teams were sorted in grade order. This meant that those at the top end of the lower ranked team had some very difficult games, while those at the lower end of the higher graded team were not really challenged as all their games were against much lower graded players. As a result the experience was for half the players a little disappointing.  It has been suggested that we return to the previous organisation of the teams for future tournaments.  It was noted by the Chair that he will leave this to whoever captains the teams as he is the organiser of the tournament and not taking part in a playing role.</p> <p><b>The Russell Cup Captains' Report – Ieuan Ward</b>  It was noted that the BSCC Russell Cup team continued their long established tradition of losing the first round (also the quarter final). This time against Hertford, 2½ - 3½.</p>

		<b>The Sharp Cup Captain's Report – Tim Acton</b>
		<p>It was noted that the team beat Hertford in the quarter finals, 2 – 4. And lost in the semi finals against Watford, 3½ - 2½.</p> <p>It was noted that the run ended against Watford with Laurie playing the last game with the scores tied. He was against a player with 202 speed chess match but had been given a nominal grade of 159 by Watford. Laurie lost. Things did get a little 'vexing' after but ended up with us being knocked out.</p>
		<b>The U 140 Cup Captain's Report – Judith Heffer (Charles, on behalf of...)</b>
		<p>It was noted that the team won round 1, 5 – 0 against Welwyn Hatfield, they then won the quarter finals against Stevenage on board count but lost the semis against Hemel 1½ - 3½. Hemel won the competition on the same score against Hoddesdon.</p>
		<b>The U 120 Cup Captain's Report – Robert Hitchings</b>
		<p>(Please see captains report (on website)).</p> <p>It was noted that they repeated their achievement of last year by reaching the semis. The BSCC 120 Cup team won their first round against St Albans, 1½ - 2½. Won their quarter final against Little Heath, 2½ - 1½ but lost the semi against Watford, 1 – 3. Watford went on to win against Welwyn, 2½ - 1½.</p>
8	Internal Competition Organiser Reports	<b>Club Championship – Ieuan</b>
		(Please see organiser's written report (on website)).
		<p>It was noted by Ieuan that Ieuan won.</p> <p>It was noted that there are still a lot of defaults despite a lot of time available for matches.</p> <p>It was noted by Charles that getting games organised by deadline day was really good. It was noted by Adam that the early organisation, leading to the first 2 rounds being completed before Christmas, was really good.</p> <p>It was suggested that a split in the Club Championship into 2 by grade order might improve numbers taking part. This however did not garner much support as the current arrangement provides a rare opportunity for lower ranked players to play a proper, graded match against much stronger players. To provide variety, it was noted that Ieuan will look into ensuring first round pairings are not repeated from the previous couple of years</p>
		<b>Dr. Hewitt Cup – Charles Willbe</b>
		(Please see organiser's pdf report (on website)).
		It was noted that Robert won on deadline day!
		<b>Simultaneous (All V Ieuan) – Ieuan Ward</b>
		(Please see organiser's written report (on website)).
		<p>It was noted by Ieuan that Ieuan won 15/18 – well done Ieuan.</p> <p>It was also noted that 'time management' with the clocks required reviewing in future Simultaneous games to avoid 'back door' wins.</p>
		<b>Rapid Play – Adam Hirst</b>
(Please see organiser's written report (on website)).		
<b>Blitz Competitions – The Heffers (Charles, on behalf of...)</b>		
(Please see organiser's written report (on website)).		

9	B.S.J.C.C. Report	<b>Tim Acton</b>				
		<p>It was noted that the juniors section continues to thrive with robust attendance and 'spirited' activities. The club continues to run from after the Autumn half term through to Easter (but does not include the holidays)</p> <p>It was noted that Tim is determined to get the Junior Congress in motion and aim to complete before Christmas.</p> <p>It was noted that the club will look to run along similar lines to this last year. The dates for this are noted below in AOB.</p> <p>It was noted that it has been harder this year with fewer volunteers making themselves available. The first year saw more people available than we had this year. Also that many who said they would pitch in didn't really come through, making it harder to run the club smoothly.</p> <p>It was noted that Pete has asked if his son can join and then he will be able to regularly support the juniors. It was also noted that William is aiming to be more available also and look to help out where possible. Charles also has discussed the possibility of taking a role but with perhaps a focus on the parents, as part of a way to interact along with the children.</p> <p>It was noted by Charles that the inclusion of the juniors gives the club a much needed injection of funds to supplement club fees. It is also a possible future source for players making it useful for the club itself let alone the benefits to the children (the primary focus).</p>				
10	Trophy Organiser Report	<b>Judith Heffer (Charles, on behalf of...)</b>				
		<p>It was noted that the engraving of the cups is an expense that the club are ill-equipped to afford. It was noted that we currently have the trophies engraved every 2 years as this is cheaper than each year, and that the cost for this works out roughly to £254.00. It was noted that Pete asked how much it costs yearly – and that this would be around £126.00!</p> <p>The question was asked for possible solutions. It was suggested that we could perhaps remove some of the cups entirely. It was noted that Pete (especially his children) does like a bit of silverware. It was generally agreed that we should keep the cups but rather limit those that get engraved with the winners registered in some other format. It was noted that there is a list of past cup winners on the website and that this is updated every year. It was generally agreed that only the winners' cups continue to be engraved (not the runners up) along with the Chairman's Cup (and not the Brown or Ashley Cups). All winners and runners up are still noted on the website.</p> <p>It has since been noted by Adam (after the AGM) that the Challengers Trophy has been around since 1980 and perhaps we should continue to keep this engraved. The remaining cups (Leyn Cup, Capsey Tankard, Hobden Cup, Brown Cup &amp; Ashley Cup) are all newer trophies first brought in around 2006 and that not keeping these engraved but acknowledge the winners on the website is sufficient. This has not been discussed or agreed by the club but will be implemented subject to any objections made.</p>				
11	Presentation of Trophies (Winners)	<b>Club Championship</b>		<b>Blitz Tournament</b>		
		<b>Club Champion</b>	Ieuan Ward	<b>Trent Cup</b>	Ieuan Ward	
		<b>Challenger Trophy</b>	Pete Jurd	<b>Hobden Cup</b>	Andrew Cowlin	
		<b>The Hewitt Competition</b>				
		<b>Dr. Hewitt Cup</b>	Robert Hitchings	<b>Brown Cup</b>	Mark Heffer	
		<b>Leyn Cup</b>	Charles Willbe	<b>Ashley Cup</b>	Lara Osiyemi	
		<b>Rapid Play Tournament</b>		<b>Chairman's Cup</b>	Adam Hirst	
		<b>Crosby Cup</b>	Ieuan Ward			
<b>Capsey Tankard</b>	Neil Thompson					
12	League & Cup Teams to Enter for Next	<b>Hertfordshire (HCA) Leagues</b>				
		It was agreed that the club will register the following teams into their present divisions. These are:				

	<b>Season</b>	<p>B.S.C.C. T1 (Div.2) Capt: Ieuan Ward          B.S.C.C. T2 (Div.3) Capt: Andrew Cowlin          B.S.C.C. T3 (Div.4) Capt: Pete Jurd          B.S.C.C. H&amp;D: Capt: Charles Willbe          For any (who want to play) below 160          U120 League Capt: Robert Hitchings</p> <p>It was noted that teams will be kept in their grading order with the first 5 members comprising T1, the second 5 making T2 and the remainder into T3. That all members below 120 will be eligible to play for the U120 League and Cup competitions but not all will be available all the time.          It was noted that this does not as yet take into account any new members looking to join in the new season.</p>			
		<p><b>HCA KO Cup Competitions</b></p> <p>The club will register one team into each of the following:</p> <p>Russell Cup (Open) Capt: Ieuan Ward          Sharp (U160) Capt: Tim Acton          Under 140 Cup Capt: Adam Hirst          Under 120 Cup Capt: Robert Hitchings</p>			
13	<b>Internal Club Competitions for Next season</b>	<p>The following organisers have been agreed by members at the AGM. Some appointments have been made on behalf of absentee members but with their approval. Any appointments made without a member's consent are noted with an asterisk (*) and are subject to change.</p>			
		<b>Club Championship</b>	Ieuan Ward		
		<b>Dr. Hewitt Cup</b>	Charles Willbe		
		<b>Rapid Play</b>	Adam Hirst		
		<b>Blitz (&amp; Handicap Blitz)</b>	William Young / Adam Hirst		
		<b>Simultaneous</b>	Ieuan Ward		
		<b>Consultation</b>	Pete Jurd		
<p>It was noted that given the amount of league matches played, coupled with a possible cup run by more than one team, can limit the amount of free Thursdays in a chess season. As a result potential competitions may be subject to availability in the calendar.          It was further noted that the usual 3 Blitz nights only managed 1 last year and that perhaps keeping 2 of these is more feasible.</p>					
14	<b>Election of Committee, Captains, organisers &amp; Officers</b>	<p>The following roles/Captains have been agreed by members at the AGM. Some appointments have been made on behalf of absentee members but with their approval. Any appointments made without a member's consent are noted with an asterisk (*) and are subject to change.</p>			
		<b>B.S.C.C. T1 Captain</b>	Ieuan Ward	<b>H&amp;D Captain</b>	Charles Willbe
		<b>B.S.C.C. T2 Captain</b>	Andrew Cowlin	<b>Russell Cup (Open)</b>	Ieuan Ward
		<b>B.S.C.C. T3 Captain</b>	Pete Jurd	<b>Sharp Cup (U 160)</b>	Tim Acton
				<b>U 140 Cup Team</b>	Adam Hirst
		<b>U120 League Team</b>	Robert Hitchings	<b>U 120 Cup Team</b>	Robert Hitchings
15	<b>Election of Officers</b>	<p>In <u>addition</u> to the information stated earlier in the minutes.</p>			
		<b>Chairman</b>	Charles Willbe	<b>Trophy Officer</b>	Gary Thurston*
		<b>Secretary</b>	Adam Hirst	<b>Grading Officer</b>	Ieuan Ward
		<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Hitchings	<b>Tour Organiser</b>	
				<b>Librarian</b>	David Hobden
				<b>Webmaster</b>	Adam Hirst
		<b>B.S.J.C.C. Organiser</b>	Tim Acton		
<p>* proposed but not confirmed as not present.</p>					

16	Junior Chess Club	<p><b><u>Juniors Club</u></b> It was agreed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Juniors will run from after Autumn half term to end of Spring Term (excluding Christmas and Spring half-term holidays)</li> <li>Details of these 17 sessions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 sessions: 7<sup>th</sup> November – 5<sup>th</sup> December</li> <li>6 sessions: 9<sup>th</sup> Jan – 13<sup>th</sup> Feb</li> <li>6 sessions: 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>The fee is £25 each. It was asked for more volunteers for support on Junior Club nights. £20 after Christmas. £10 after Spring half term.</p>
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17	AOB	<p><b><u>Publicity</u></b> It was noted that the website is the main source of awareness about the club. It was also noted that the posters to the front railings also worked as Nathan found out about us from walking past these. It was noted that we continue to have sporadic coverage in the local CM23 magazine but as yet no member has joined as a result of newspaper, magazine, radio or Tourist or Council information. It was noted by Tim that an article to Herts Advertiser for the Junior Chess Congress would be of interest. It was noted by Charles that we could also contact our local councillor and Rotary club for money for the congress. We have a Rotary Club contact in the form of a grandfather who brings his grandson to the junior club sessions.</p> <p><b><u>Club Fees</u></b> It was agreed that: Full members/£60. This can be edited dependent on when in the year a 'new member' joins – (50% after Christmas, 25% after Easter. It was noted that some members have joined just over the summer holiday season, they have been charged £5. It was also noted that: Students/£30. Juniors/£25. (or as above). It was agreed that the charge for juniors makes them members of the club and eligible to club activities should they wish to attend. It was noted that new members are only asked for 50% before Christmas with the second half of the fee due in the New Year should they wish to continue.</p> <p>It was agreed that a 'Skittles' night would be held next week. It was agreed that the Simultaneous can be on a Thursday and September 26<sup>th</sup> was pencilled in to be confirmed later. It was suggested that the opening season Blitz competition be forgone in favour of the Simultaneous but the club maintain the main Blitz tournament (graded) in the middle of the season and an 'End of Season' Fun Blitz tournament, cunningly held at the end of the season. It was generally agreed (by the secretary only) that all possible dates for future competitions, and other skittles nights, should be added into the diary once the dates for the Leagues &amp; Knock Out competitions have been published by e2-e4 website. This was only noted by the secretary as it occurred to him after the AGM but noted in these minutes for any club members to comment should they wish to do so.</p>
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<b>Meeting ended at:</b>	10.30pm
<b>Club Secretary:</b>	<i>Adam Hirst</i> 05/09/19