

Stratford Chess Club: Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting held at Methodist Church Hall, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon on 28th May 2024

Members present: S.Payne, P.Budd, P.Davies, P.Stiff, M.Reason, N.Cutler, R.McNally, A.Roberts, A.Grimes, P.Bennett, A.Keavy, W.Hunt, R.Buxton

Apologies for absence: M.Zawadzki

Minutes of last AGM and matters arising

Minutes of 2023 AGM were accepted as being a true account.

PS reported that a change to the league's mobile phone protocol would be ratified at the league AGM on 13th June (a phone would need only to be switched on). SP mentioned the need to claim the game immediately rather than continue playing.

Secretary's report

PS reported that we had performed respectably in the league team KO competitions with the Open team reaching the final and the U1600 team reaching the 2nd round.

The end of season curry night had proved successful thanks to SP and it was hoped this would become a regular occurrence.

There were too many teams in Div. 4 and AG said that the current arrangement wasn't satisfactory with some teams having to play stronger teams twice. PS said that this was a solution to a crisis and that there was a proposal for a new Division 5 as well as a rating cap. In addition, the league wanted to ban players from bringing their own refreshments to licensed venues.

Venue change

We would be moving to Venture House from 25th June which is another Town Trust venue (as was Foundation House which we had to leave at short notice). There is good parking at VH and hire rates are lower than commercial rates.

Team captains' reports

RMc reported that Stratford A had held their own again in Division 1. The standard was higher than ever so 4th place was impressive. Ben was the star player again. Thanks to AR and PS for stepping up in crucial matches. In the KO cup, the Open team had come up against Kenilworth and lost 3.5-1.5. RMc was confident about next season but Kenilworth seem unbeatable.

PS reported that Stratford B had had a tough season and avoided demotion on game points only. Overall individual ratings seem to have a bearing on a team's final position e.g. we conceded 300 pts against Coventry who together with Leamington B hoovered up most points. Standout players were AR with 65% from 10 games and AK with 50% from 11 games.

RB for the C-team advised that it did quite well with 3rd place achieved. The season was blighted by not playing some teams twice but the team still won 9 matches out of 13. All 7 registered players took part as well as 2 D-team players.

AG for the D-team reported that the inaugural season was a success with many new members having the opportunity to play. The team had 2 wins and finished 8th in Div. 4. Thanks to SP for assisting and

hopefully there would be an improvement next season although it was proving difficult to get players to play away matches.

Treasurer's report

PD presented the accounts for the year. There had been a loss of c£500 which was due to increased hire charges at the Methodist Church almost akin to a commercial rate. There had to be a balance between income and keeping fees affordable to attract new members. The annual subscription fee was agreed at £60 for the coming season.

Election of committee

The current committee was re-elected *en bloc*.

Summer tournament

RB was happy to organise a Swiss summer tournament commencing 25th June over 6 weeks.

Stratford Open Tournament

SP proposed that the club run a congress/tournament in summer 2025. AK and RMc will join a scoping group and will report back to the committee.

Pre-season social

RMc would be willing to run a multi-board simul at the end of August and would ask Ben to assist.

Pre-season registration

PD to organise.

Teams and team captains for the forthcoming season

Current team captains agreed to continue.

Teams for KO tournaments to be considered.

Amendments to policies

The safeguarding policy would be updated.

Any Other Business

PB proposed a vote of thanks to the committee which was passed.

The meeting closed at 9.34pm.