

## **Stratford Chess Club: Minutes of 2025 Annual General Meeting held at Venture House, Stratford-upon-Avon on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025**

Members present: S.Payne, P.Budd, P.Davies, P.Stiff, M.Reason, R.McNally, R.Buxton, P.Ortolani, B.Larkin

Apologies for absence: M.Wheeler, A.Roberts, A.Grimes, A.Keavy

### Minutes of last AGM and matters arising

Minutes of 2024 AGM were accepted as being a true account.

The scoping group had reported back to the committee regarding an open tournament but, although venues were positive about this, it was decided not to proceed on economic grounds.

The safeguarding policy still needs updating.

The move to Venture House had now taken place.

### Secretary's report

PS reported that it had been a remarkable season with much silverware won. We won the U1600 Team KO trophy, RB had won the U1600 Individual KO tournament, we were Div. 3 champions and AR won the Stanley Gibbins trophy.

The Open KO team had got to the final, the U8750 team lost to the eventual champions Kenilworth.

### Team captains' reports

RMc reported that Stratford A's season in Div. 1 was one of two halves. There had been a slow start with 6 points from 8 games by January but then 3 wins and a draw from the last 6 matches resulting in a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish (again). The Open KO team lost to Kenilworth in the final.

C.Hibbard would be rejoining the club after a 13-year absence so there were grounds for optimism.

PS reported that Stratford B had bounced back from last year, winning 10 of 14 matches and finishing top of the league by 5 points – the most decisive performance for many years. Standout player was AR with 82% from 11 games.

RB for the C team advised that it had been a difficult season. There had been 5 named players at the start of the season which dwindled to 2 regulars after 3 months meaning lower-rated players from the D team moved up. The team finished bottom of the league with 6 points.

SP for the D team reported that the team's 2<sup>nd</sup> season was mixed. There had been new players in the team, and more wins were achieved than last year – 4 from 14. However, the team finished bottom of the league.

### Treasurer's report

PD presented the accounts for the year. There had been a small profit of c£130. That was helped by a kind donation of £250 from the estate of Peter Wassall who left the club in 1994 (RM recounted his memories of him). The annual subscription fee was proposed by SP at £80 for the coming season and agreed.

### Election of committee

The current committee was re-elected *en bloc* except for the Treasurer's role which RB will take over. PD will become Trophies Officer.

### Summer tournament

RB was happy to organise a Swiss summer tournament over 6 weeks. 13 players were interested at present. Results to be published on chess-results.com

### Worcester City Chess Club

Worcester City Chess Club would like to play us on as many boards as possible over the summer. PS to organise.

### Pre-season social

A multi-board simul would be organised if the Worcester match doesn't happen.

SP to organise another evening at Avon Spice.

### Teams and team captains for the forthcoming season

Current team captains agreed to continue.

Teams for KO tournaments agreed provisionally subject to September gradings (Open – RM, U8750 – PS, U1600 – PD).

### Any Other Business

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

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.