

STOURBRIDGE CHESS CLUB

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Treasurer: Steve Alcock

Minutes of an ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at Stourbridge Institute and Social Club on Wednesday, 15th June 2022, commencing at 19.30 hours.

Present: Steve Alcock, Sam Bradley, Reece Cottam, Chris Evans, John Foxall, Eric Horwill, Jeremy Humphries, Greg Parkes, Paul Sharratt, Tony Shaw, Richard Wilkinson, Julie Wilson, Colin Woodall.

- 1. Welcome and Apologies:** The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.
- 2. Minutes of the EGM of 15th September 2021:** The minutes were agreed.
- 3. Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
- 4. President's Report:** On Monday 17th May 2021, the Institute reopened. With the rule of 6, could we meet again and still be compliant if we spread out? We used the opportunity to hold a committee meeting as there were 6 of us on the committee. After consultation with the Institute, it was agreed the chess club could restart as long as the boards were spread out and there was only one onlooker at a game! So, the club reopened on May 26th for social OTB chess. The Birmingham league restarted in October. This was followed by the merged Worcester and Worcestershire league and then a scaled down Wolverhampton league in November. It was great to be able to play competitive chess again and the membership didn't seem to mind too much if results weren't always that great. The one standout success was winning division 2 of the Wolverhampton league. We lost some of our regular members completely and it was difficult for more vulnerable members to justify coming to the chess club. On the upside we have several enthusiastic new members who have youth on their side and will only improve as they play more chess. In this jubilee year, we beat the queen by 100 years and on 20th May the chess club was 170 years old.
- 5. Secretary's Report:** It was good to see OTB chess being played again. The main changes for the coming season were the acceptable rating differences between team members – 100 points in the BDCL and 75 points in the WDCL. An outline of the new structure of the Worcestershire leagues was given.

6. Treasurer's Report: The accounts were circulated and agreed by the meeting. There was no need to increase subscriptions for the coming year.

7. Captains' Reports:

The BDCL2 team had secured another season in the division, but the BDCL3 team had been relegated.

In WDCL2 the team had been successful in winning the title – there was (thankfully!) no promotion this year. The WDCL3 team had finished in mid-table, but had been successful in providing games for new players.

In Worcestershire 2 we had finished 4th, using 14 players across 8 matches to keep everyone involved.

8. Social Secretary's Report: Owing to covid restrictions, the Tony Evers match, the club dinner and the Brian Dudley memorial tournament were cancelled.

The Summer tournament was won by Eric Horwill, with Martin Berridge and John Foxall tying for second place. Several new members also took part. This was followed by a quads tournament on Wednesday 18th August. We played in 3 groups and the winners of the groups were: Jeremy Fallowfield, Ethan ChanSmith and Joe Conway-Smith. The rules had been relaxed enough for us to hold a club dinner at the 7 Stars on 30th August. We held a 4 round late summer Swiss tournament, and nineteen players took part. It was won by John Foxall with Julie Wilson finishing second. The ladder tournament was unpopular and only a few games were played. It was won by Dylan Yates. With the number of covid cases rising, I decided against holding the usual Christmas blitz tournament and held a quads tournament instead. 5 people turned up to play, so we played a round robin with game in 10 minutes. Again, this was won by Eric, with Joe second. We held an on-line tournament on 20th May to celebrate the club's 170th birthday. Only 6 players took part and the winner was Nic.

9. Publicity Secretary's Report: The local newspapers have stopped publishing reports submitted by Julie, who made a plea for items of interest to be sent to her.

Posters and cards advertising the club are available from Julie.

The club records date back to the 1890s, but information from 1997 onwards is limited and any updates would be much appreciated.

The Website has been regularly updated throughout the year.

The Facebook group currently has 37 members.

There is a section on the Website on the history of the club. Any additional information will be most welcome.

At this point Eric Horwill, seconded by Tony Shaw, proposed a vote of thanks to the officers and team captains, which received unanimous support.

10. Presentation of Awards for 2022/23: After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Sidney Willetts Trophy should be awarded to the club's most reliable member.

Accordingly, the following awards were made:

The Sidney Willetts Trophy (most reliable club member) – Eric Horwill

The President's Cup (contribution to the club) – Steve Alcock

The Denis Fernihough Trophy (most improved player) – Joe Conway-Lees

11. Summer programme: The following events were planned:

- (i) Summer tournament – 5-round Swiss
- (ii) Tony Evers match v Halesowen (a) – 26th July
- (iii) Club dinner at 'The Roedeer' – 8th August
- (iv) Brian Dudley Memorial Tournament – 24th August

12. Election of Officers for 2022/3: The following officers were elected:

- (i) President – Julie Wilson
- (ii) General Secretary – Paul Sharratt
- (iii) Treasurer – Steve Alcock
- (iv) Social Secretary – Julie Wilson
- (v) Publicity and Website – Julie Wilson (supported by Reece Cottam)
- (vi) Team captains – BDCL2 – Paul Sharratt
BDCL4 – Steve Alcock
WDCL2 – Paul Sharratt
WDCL3 – Colin Woodall
DDCL3 – Sam Bradley
Worcs Challengers – Paul Sharratt
Worcs Rapidplay – Paul Sharratt

13. Teams for 2022/3: It was agreed that the teams for next season would be:

BDCL divisions 2 and 4
WDCL divisions 2 and 3
DDCL division 3
Worcestershire Challengers
Worcestershire Rapidplay

There was discussion about entries for the BDCL summer league, but it was decided not to proceed with this.

14. County chess update: The county would be entering teams in the Minor Counties and u1650 competitions in the coming season.

15. Fees for 2022/3 season: It was agreed to continue with membership fees of £15 for adults, £10 for students and the unwaged, and £0 for under-18s. The matter of second claim membership was discussed, and a new fee of £7:50 was agreed.

16. A.O.B.: There was none.

The President thanked everyone for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 21:05.