

## **STOURBRIDGE CHESS CLUB**

President: Julie Wilson Email: [juliew@stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk](mailto:juliew@stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk)  
General Secretary: Paul Sharratt Tel: 07515 688795 Email: [psharratt@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:psharratt@hotmail.co.uk)  
Treasurer: Steve Alcock

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### **Minutes of an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING held at Stourbridge Institute and Social Club on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021, commencing at 19.30 hours.**

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**Present:** Steve Alcock, Ethan Chan Smith, Seth Chan Smith, Reece Cottam, Ben Doran, John Foxall, Tom Luxton, Paul Sharratt, Richard Wilkinson, Julie Wilson, Colin Woodall, Kypros Zenonos.

- 1. Welcome and Apologies:** The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Eric Horwill and Tony Shaw.
- 2. President's Report:** With over-the board league chess suspended for the whole season, online chess took its place, with several Stourbridge members participating in club and WMA competitions. The club also held regular Zoom meetings to discuss the resumption of over-the-board chess.  
An unfortunate disagreement between two members could not be resolved owing to the intransigence of one of the parties, who eventually resigned as secretary and treasurer, these posts being filled on a temporary basis by Paul and Steve, respectively.  
Thanks were recorded to Dave Scriven for his substantial efforts as club secretary and treasurer over a number of years. A collection in appreciation of this raised a very large sum.
- 3. Acting Secretary's Report:** Comments were made re the negative impact of both covid and the internal dispute.  
Fortunately, the club had felt the positive arrival of the online competitions at this difficult time. Thanks were recorded to Chris Evans, Nigel Towers and Julie Wilson for all their hard work in this respect.
- 4. Acting Treasurer's Report:** There was little change in the club's financial situation, a small loss in year having no real impact on a healthy overall balance.  
The Nationwide Building Society had given notice of their intention to close our account in the near future. Steve presented resolutions to facilitate a new account with the NatWest bank – these were passed unanimously.  
There was no need to increase subscriptions for the coming year.

- 5. Captains' Reports:** The captains for the WMA league teams reported that the teams had been run for members to continue to enjoy the opportunity to play competitive chess, and that there had been mixed success, but that the main objective had been achieved.
- 6. 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 held online, and won by Julie with Tony Shaw second. Online opportunities were provided for club members on a regular basis. Nigel Towers organised the West Midlands Area online league, which was very successful. We entered teams for 4 consecutive 'seasons'. The Autumn tournament was won by Mark Podlesak with John Foxall second. When attendance at online club events began to fall, Chris Evans and Julie organised the BDCL online club, and BDCL and Stourbridge tournaments were played on alternate Monday evenings. It is unclear as yet whether a Tony Evers match or Brian Dudley tournament can be held, but a club dinner will be organised.
- 7. Publicity Secretary's Report:** The local newspapers, 'Chronicle Week' and 'Stourbridge News' appear to 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. A club group has been established on Facebook. It currently has 16 members. Julie has added a section to the Website on the history of the club, which dates back to 1852. Any information will be most welcome.
- 8. Presentation of Awards for 2020/21:** The following awards were made:  
The Sidney Willetts Trophy (best player) – Nic Fallowfield  
The President's Cup (contribution to the club) – Julie Wilson  
The Denis Fernihough Trophy (most supportive club member) – Jeremy Humphries
- 9. Constitution:** The new draft constitution was passed *nem. con.*
- 10. Election of Officers for 2021/2:** The following officers were elected:
- (i) President – Julie Wilson
  - (ii) General Secretary – Paul Sharratt
  - (iii) Treasurer – Steve Alcock
  - (iv) Social Secretary – Julie Wilson (supported by Ben Doran)
  - (v) Publicity and Website – Julie Wilson (supported by Reece Cottam)

- (vi) Team captains – BDCL2 – Paul Sharratt  
BDCL3 – Sam Bradley  
WDCL2 – Paul Sharratt  
WDCL3 – Colin Woodall  
Worcs2 – Steve Alcock

It was agreed that Ben and Reece would attend committee meetings in a non-voting capacity.

**11. Teams for 2021/2:** It was agreed that the teams for next season would be:

BDCL divisions 2 and 3  
WDCL divisions 2 and 3  
Worcestershire division 2

The Dudley League would remain in abeyance for a further year.

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

**13. Fees for 2021/2 season:** It was agreed to continue with membership fees of £15 for adults, £10 for students and the unwaged, and £0 for under-18s.

**14. A.O.B.:** The new Worcestershire Chess League would be launched by the organisation of a Nick Harris Memorial match between Worcester City and Stourbridge (with guest players allowed).

The President thanked everyone for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 20.50.