

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM held on Zoom on 2nd September 2020

1. Attendance

Due to the coronavirus pandemic this meeting was held online via Zoom. Thirteen members of the association attended: Paul Kemp, Paul Hanks, Colin Emery, Stephen Pride, Paul McMahon, Jimmy Blair, Kevin Clark, Ollie Lenton, Philip Fallon, Peter Baddeley, John Wright, Francis Bowers and Chris Russell. The chairman opened the meeting at 7.32pm and thanked everyone for attending. He pointed out that the meeting was being recorded.

2. Obituaries

It was noted with regret that Marcus Misson died last year. Marcus had served the association in a number of years in a number of capacities, most recently as secretary. We will miss his friendly support and quirky sense of humour. It was also reported that Keith Woodhouse, a member of Royston club, had also sadly died in January.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Neil Greenwood, Richard Coats and Phil Turp.

4. Minutes of the AGM held on 12th June 2019

The previous minutes had been circulated by Chris Russell. He said that he had recorded the meeting to aid his minute taking and anyone was welcome to a copy. Paul Kemp proposed adoption of the minutes as a true record.

5. Matters arising

1. The 2019 Grand Prix winner was confirmed as Neil Greenwood.
2. It was decided not to appeal the £100 ECF fine for dropping out of the U160 county championship. Not only would we be required to pay an additional £50 appeal fee, but Paul Kemp concluded that the chances of success were negligible.
3. Paul Hanks said that a rapid-play in Peterborough had been suggested, but nothing came of it.
4. Paul Kemp and Neil Greenwood had agreed to stand as county captains.

There were no other matters arising.

6. Reports of Association officers for 2019/20

League Secretary: John Beck was not present. In his absence it was reported that the season has been curtailed by the pandemic, with the outcome yet to be decided. Chris Russell will contact John to confirm his willingness to continue. The league outcome is to be resolved by this meeting.

County Team Captains: Paul Kemp reported that the open team had finished third in our group and could have won, but had a disaster against Bedfordshire when we were winning 7.5-2.5 and lost all of the remaining games! With one extra point in this match we could have won the group. He said we did well on the top boards with Liam Varnam scoring 3/6 against strong opposition. Pleasing was the performance of our juniors, four of which made first team debuts. On the forthcoming season, He said that the EACU had decided there would be no OTB county chess. An online summer county championship was held but we unable (just) to raise a team. Another online

county championship will be held in January, when it is hoped that we will compete. Paul was thanked for taking up the reins and it was hoped that his team had enjoyed the season. The U160 captain, Neil Greenwood was not present and had not submitted a report.

Rapidplay Organiser: Paul Kemp said the Ollie Lenton had taken over as the Rapidplay organiser from January so the September 2019 Whittlesford event was his last event in charge. Numbers were down, due to a competing event at Letchworth on the same day. However, it was felt that lower numbers led to better playing conditions, and the maximum of 100 players may well be reduced in future years. The event did make a small loss, but there was a good selection of local winners. Paul expressed his thanks to the organising team, John Wickham (chief arbiter), Julian Ray (organisation), Phil Turp for the online entry system, Margherita Beroni (catering) and Francis Bowers (bookstall). He said that the 2020 event was planned but had to be cancelled due to Covid19. Social distancing measures would have reduced capacity to one third, making the event unviable.

Ollie added that the possibility of running the event online had been discussed and rejected. Therefore it will have to wait until next year, as moving the date would likely put it into competition with other events. He was asked if he knew of specific events running and said that it was a good assumption that once OTB competition resumed there would be an initial fight for spaces. There are still a few events running but Whittlesford is a small venue, so current social distancing rules may still make it unviable. Given the risks it was felt to be better to wait for our slot next year.

Paul Hanks paid tribute to Paul Kemp's running of the tournament, over a number of years, pointing out that its success had made the financial viability of our association possible.

Tournament Secretary: Francis Bowers said that there had been 31 entries for the County Individual Championship last November in Peterborough, and Andrei Timoshenko became county champion. Francis also ran the Jamboree in August, which was won jointly by Linton and Royston (shared). Francis was standing down as tournament secretary and was thanked for his contribution.

Grading Officer(s): Patrick Ribbands was not present, but no problems had been reported from his share of the grading. Chris Russell said that because it had been a short season results statistics were meaningless, except he noted that 117 players appeared in our league/KO competitions, up from 106 last year, which was encouraging. Dave Wilds EACU website will be retired at the end of the season, so we will be using the ECF LMS system from now on. The summer grading had gone smoothly enough, apart from a dispute with Peterborough over quality of data and checking. Checking to confirm that manually submitted data will be valid is just common courtesy, and checking ECF membership could avoid your club getting fined. Chris reported that he was standing down as grading officer, but he had two volunteers offer to replace him and he would be training a successor this season. Paul Hanks thanked Chris for his contribution to grading over many years.

Website Manager: Phil Turp was not present but had submitted a report (attached). On his behalf Paul Hanks noted that the website functioned well apart from some minor glitches. A major upgrade to the method of reporting results is planned, due to the retirement of Dave Wild's EACU website, from which they are drawn. Paul also said that he was sure Phil would be thankful not to have to do this during a live season and had done a sterling job keeping the website going. Phil was happy to remain in his post.

Junior Organiser(s): Francis Bowers said that there had been a junior section in the county individual championship and Alex Richards became the junior champion. A number of juniors attended from Linton and Stamford and also won prizes. Several local juniors from Oundle School and Laxton junior school have joined

Peterborough club. Francis had nominated Laxton school for an ECF prize, and they won a chess board for the number of juniors produced.

ECF & EACU delegates: Francis Bowers attended the ECF 2019 AGM in October. He had argued in vain against the £100 fine for voiding county championship rounds. It had also been proposed that if a good reason not be given, then the offending team should pay the opposition travelling expenses, though this did not pass either.

Jimmy Blair attended the ECF financial council meeting in July. The outcome has already been reported on the ECF website, but in summary, three issues were raised:

- a reduced budget was proposed for the coming year, due to reduced expected membership
- ECF fees are to remain at present levels
- The board requested special powers to alter the budget without consultation due to covid19. Jimmy voted against this as he saw no good reason for raising expenditure during the current emergency. However the motion was passed.

Francis also attended the EACU AGM at Whittlesford, but there was nothing major to report.

Paul Hanks thanked the delegates for representing us.

Disputes Committee: Paul Hanks said that there had been no disputes during the season.

7. Report of the Treasurer and Adoption of the 2018/19 Accounts

Paul Kemp had circulated his report and presented the accounts to the meeting (attached). They had been audited by Norman Hutchinson, and though Zoom Paul was able to demonstrate the sign off! He reported a deficit of £175 for the season due to two issues, firstly the one-off retirement gifts for Patrick Ribbands and Norman Wedley, (both who had been association officers for more than 30 years), and the unforeseen loss from the Rapidplay at Whittlesford. He hoped that this loss would not reoccur, but it was offset by £75 credited to our account from uncashed prize cheques, when we have lost contact with the recipient. Consequently we currently have a balance of £2800, which is healthy. In view of this and the uncertainty of the following season, Paul recommended levying no fees on clubs in 2020. However, he had received ECF fines for players from last season that were not registered, and he intended to forward those to the clubs concerned. In most cases these are regular players who play a number of games, so it was assumed it was simple oversight by those concerned, and that they would reimburse their club.

Paul Hanks thought that with the lack of county games in the current climate our costs should be substantially reduced over the season. Paul Kemp agreed, saying that our running costs would be minimal, considering that there would be no county chess, and the EACU had also decided not to levy any fees this year either. Subsequently Paul's proposal to charge no fees was agreed by the meeting.

(Trophies normally presented here: As the season was incomplete no trophies were presented at the meeting.)

8. Coronavirus issues

Paul Hanks said that we had two issues to decide; namely what to do about the incomplete season and how to proceed for the forthcoming year. He had hoped that we might be able to restart before Christmas, maybe finishing last season first but if anything the virus seems to be getting worse, and on a straw poll most clubs were

not ready to start OTB chess any time soon. A general discussion followed, with most clubs in agreement that we would be unable to start any fixtures before Christmas, with the Fenland KO competitions being expendable in the event that we needed to postpone further. It was considered likely that we will have to start with reduced numbers, so it was also suggested that the number of players in each team could be reduced by one. An alternative would be to combine the leagues to reduce the number of games, which would help small clubs where there was overlap, but it was argued that it would be prudent to wait until we see how many teams want to enter each competition before altering the formats. This will substantially be club led, as only once clubs reconvene will they know how many players they have available. If covid risks are still high, some may object to playing without a mask on, or prefer not to handle the same set as their opponent without hand sanitiser being provided. A two board alternative proposal met with an unenthusiastic response. Again, we will need to wait and see how clubs manage this at individual venues. It would be useful to share this information, so that we can all adopt what appears to work best. There was also concern that if we delay the restart then we shall lose too many players.

It was finally proposed that we nominally adopt the proposal to restart in January, with a buffer zone up to March. This was agreed by the meeting, but it was felt to be still too early to decide the precise format of the competitions. That will be dependent on the level of risk created by the virus, and to what extent clubs have properly restarted OTB chess.

That left what to do about the preceding season. Chris proposed that we scrap it and award no trophies. This will have to be the case for the FKO competitions anyway. He felt that the awards would be purposeless. However, a counter proposal would award the leagues on average points scored per game, which corrects for different numbers of games played. (This had been done by the Bury league.) But no promotion/relegation would take place, though titles would be awarded for each league. Our 550 league would be shared between the winners of the North and South leagues. This latter proposal was agreed after a vote (8-1). An amendment to decide the leagues on position alone was defeated.

Forthcoming season: Paul Kemp proposed a sub-committee with representatives from each club to meet and decide the format that this year's competitions should take and when they should start. It was felt that this was a good suggestion due to the uncertainty of when we could start. Chris said that we would need to fix hygiene regulations and numbers in teams, neither of which was certain yet. Starting in January was presently just an ambition.

Establishing a sub-committee for this purpose was agreed by the meeting. Paul Hanks said he would be happy to chair the committee and asked that each club nominate a representative. A meeting timescale will need to be established. It was thought that we would need to meet 2 months before the competition start date, to give a month to firm up entries and one more to draw up a fixture list. So it would need to first meet in early in November. Also, there may be individual venue variations in virus regulations and these will need circulation before the competition starts.

Paul Hanks asked whether we should get involved in setting up online competitions, or leave it to the clubs concerned. Paul Kemp said that in a recent EACU officers meeting (attached) it had been decided not to organise an extra level of competition on top of what individual clubs and counties were already planning; (Herts are organising their own events and Norfolk is organising the Icen league, to which the rest of the EACU counties have been invited to join.) He believed that one advantage of online chess was that it offered a range of new opponents further afield, as we had the opportunity to engage more with players of our own standard, so it was better if we largely took our own initiative here. He commended the Icen league is to local clubs. There will likely be 3 divisions, starting in mid-September and Linton is planning to enter 3 teams.

Cheating was raised as a concern for online chess, but the websites have algorithms in place to detect this. Also, it was thought that the stigma of being caught would be sufficient disincentive, especially as online results do not affect your official grade. Players with a large discrepancy will be flagged up. In summary, it was agreed that we would encourage entries to the Iceni league, and not organise any other events that might clash. However, individual clubs would be free to organise local challenges, friendlies, etc., as they saw fit to maintain interest.

Finally, it was asked whether we should have suspended the league earlier than we did, but that was thought to be a pointless debate, as we could not change anything now.

7. Election of Officers for 2019/20

There were some resignations to consider, but some positions do not need filling immediately in the current climate. Paul Hanks stood down as chairman so that Chris Russell, as vice-chairman, could propose him as chairman for the new season. Paul agreed to stand and was promptly re-elected into the chair again. Paul then asked whether the vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer and league secretary were prepared to stand. John Beck was not present, but with Paul Kemp and Chris Russell being willing to stand, it was proposed to elect these positions en-bloc. (With no other volunteers John Beck was to be asked if he would stand. We will need someone else when matches restart if he does not.)

Francis Bowers is resigning as tournament secretary. Since the county championship is normally run in November, we could leave it, but if an organiser can be found they may be able to run something in 2021. It would be a pity to be without a county champion for the sake of an organiser. There being no volunteer, it was decided to leave the post open.

Paul Kemp resigned as county captain, and proposed Paul McMahon as his successor. While there is no OTB county chess, online play was currently possible, and a national stage was proposed for early in 2021. Paul McMahon was duly elected. Neil Greenwood is prepared to stand as U160 county captain when OTB chess resumes and was also elected.

Francis Bowers also resigned as junior organiser. There were no volunteers to replace him. It was questioned whether we actually need an official organiser, rather than local volunteers, associated with certain clubs, schools or areas. With no one prepared to stand, the post was left open. In the current climate it was suggested that there would not be much need for the post.

Phil Turp was believed to be prepared to continue as Website organiser and likewise Norman Hutchinson as Auditor and both were reappointed (TBC).

Francis Bowers also resigned as ECF delegate. Jimmy Blair volunteered to replace him, which was gratefully accepted. Paul Kemp suggested that the best county representatives for EACU delegates would be the chairman and secretary. Paul Hanks and Chris Russell agreed to share the role. Patrick Ribbands is to be asked if he would like to continue as a delegate.

Chris also agreed to carry on as grading officer, but in view of his disagreement with the ECF over monthly grading he would be training his successor (TBC). He would also ask Patrick if he wished to continue as the grading officer for the south of the county.

As chairman, Paul Hanks will head the disputes committee and will co-opt volunteers from individual clubs as necessary, dependent on the nature of the dispute.

All other positions were proposed (in the hope and expectation that those not present would stand) as follows:

Position	Proposed (and voted into office)
Chairman	Paul Hanks
Vice-Chairman	Chris Russell
Secretary	Chris Russell
Treasurer	Paul Kemp
League Secretary / Team 550 Organiser / FKO organiser	John Beck (TBC)
Rapidplay	Ollie Lenton / Paul Kemp, John Wickham
Tournament Organiser (County Championship/ Jamboree)	Open to volunteer
Junior Organiser	Open to volunteer
Match Captains:	Open Paul McMahon U160 Neil Greenwood
Website Co-ordinator	Phil Turp
Grading Officers	Patrick Ribbands (TBC), Chris Russell (TBC)
Auditor	Norman Hutchinson
ECF Delegate	Jimmy Blair
EACU Delegates	Chris Russell, Paul Hanks
Disputes Committee	Paul Hanks (Chairman) plus one volunteer from each club (to be asked as necessary)

8. Any Other Business

Any potential need for an ECM has been replaced by the planned coronavirus sub-committee. An appeal will be sent out for club representatives shortly. The date of the (first) meeting will be decided by Paul as its chairman, dependent on the course of the pandemic.

Our next AGM is to be arranged by the secretary in June 2021, (provided the pandemic allows it) with enough notice to allow rule amendments to be proposed.

Colin Emery was thanked for organising the meeting through his Zoom facilities. There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Minutes Prepared by:

Minutes Signed by:

C. J. Russell

P. Hanks

Secretary

Chairman

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report and 2019/20 Accounts

The 2019/20 accounts, audited by Norman Hutchinson, are attached. The Association had a deficit of £175, which can be attributed to a loss on the Rapidplay and the parting gifts agreed at the last AGM for the long-serving chairman, Norman Wedley, and Under-160 captain, Patrick Ribbands.

The loss on the Rapidplay was the first for several years and arose from a lower entry partly as a result of a competing event at Letchworth on the same day. This is covered in more detail in the Rapidplay Director's report, but in spite of this the Rapidplay has produced a net surplus over the 15 events held in excess of £2000.

No engraving costs have been incurred this year as at the time the accounts were drawn up it was not known whether the 2019/20 competitions would be completed. If they are then (depending on whether we are able to have a 2020/21 season) there may be a double charge for engraving next year.

The overall loss is mitigated by a prior year credit of £75. This arises from previous years' Rapidplay prize or refund cheques not being cashed and confusion over ECF pay-to-play fees going back over many years. In last September's Rapidplay the prizes were paid by bank transfer (or cash for smaller sums) so the problem of non-presentation of cheques did not arise.

Turning now to the club fees for 2020/21 I am mindful of two issues. Firstly, chess is currently suspended and it is uncertain whether we will complete the 2019/20 season and the extent to which we will play in 2020/21. Secondly, the Association has healthy reserves whilst club finances are often stretched, and may be put under more pressure as a result of coronavirus. I therefore propose to levy no fees on clubs for the forthcoming season.

PAUL KEMP

Treasurer

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 May 2020

Income	2018/19	2019/20
	£	£
Club fees	140.40	166.40
Surplus on Rapidplay	112.50	---
Interest	14.19	15.85
Total Income	267.09	182.25
Expenditure		
EACU Fees	70.00	70.00
Website	104.00	86.26
County Championship	2.50	---
County matches	150.00	21.00
Trophies and engraving	30.00	---
Deficit on Rapidplay	---	66.97
Parting gifts for officers	---	113.68
Total Expenditure	356.50	357.91
Surplus / (Deficit)	(89.41)	(175.66)

Balance Sheet at 31 May 2020

	31/5/19	31/5/20
	£	£
Balance brought forward	2988.84	2949.43
Prior year adjustment	50.00	74.69
Outturn for year	(89.41)	(175.66)
Balance carried forward	2949.43	2848.46
Current Account	317.13	259.37
Deposit Account	2886.99	2502.84
Debtors	---	86.25
Less: Creditors	(254.69)	---
Total Funds	2949.43	2848.46

CAMBRIDGESHIRE RAPIDPLAY 2019

The fifteenth Cambridgeshire Rapidplay was held at Whittlesford on Sunday 29 September. The number of competitors was lower this year at 76, compared to the usual total of between 90 and 100. In part this was due to a competing rapidplay being held at Letchworth on the same day, but support from local clubs continued to be disappointing. Whilst Linton provided 14 entrants the rest of the Cambridgeshire-affiliated clubs managed only 11 between them.

The Rapidplay was nevertheless successful, and from the feedback received was enjoyed by the contestants. The lower number meant that the playing area was less cramped and the refreshment/analysis room benefitted similarly. The tournaments all had a similar number of entries and the event ran smoothly and to time. However the Rapidplay made a loss of £67.

Two players scored 5/5: Alan Merry from Suffolk in the Open and Paul Walton (Royston) in the Major. Apart from Paul Walton other local players who deserve a mention for their efforts include Edward Knox from New England who shared first place in the Challengers, Ishaan Bansal, a junior from the Cambridge area who won the Minor, and Giulio Sahinoz and Aarnavh Trivedi, two Linton juniors who shared the junior and grading prizes in the Open despite being at least 15 grading points lower than the other 19 competitors.

As ever the success of the tournament is down to teamwork and I would particularly like to thank John Wickham our chief arbiter, Julian Ray for handling the results and his all-round support on the day, Phil Turp for the website and online entry facility, Francis Bowers for the bookstall, and Margherita Boroni for handling the catering, ably assisted by Jyoti and Lorenzo.

Planning for the 2020 Rapidplay, scheduled for 27 September, began in earnest in January. Firstly Oliver Lenton, of the Ely club, kindly agreed to take over from me as the organiser. With the benefit of his fresh perspective we agreed a number of changes, including reducing the maximum number of entries to around 80-90, increasing the entry fee, offering free tea and coffee but otherwise dispensing with catering, and revamping the entry form. Unfortunately Covid 19 forced him to cancel the event. It is hoped to run the Rapidplay again next autumn provided it can be done safely and there is the appetite among chess players to return to over-the-board play.

PAUL KEMP

EACU Officers' Zoom Meeting 23 August 2020 at 7:00pm

Present – John Wickham (JW), Richard Freeman (RF), Adrian Elwin (AE), Patrick Ribbands (PR), Kevin Williamson (KW), Paul Kemp (PK)

Agenda description	Outcome of discussions	Action
1. Discussion of when OTB chess is likely to start up again.	<p>Not many clubs are starting up again at the moment (and although a few are, these are mostly for club members only, no visitors). For most, it seems unlikely they will re-open before January 2021, and one poll suggested that perhaps 50% of club members are unlikely to want to return before September 2021.</p> <p>However, as time goes on, perhaps more people will feel more comfortable about starting up again. Clubs should be proactive in keeping in touch with their membership, perhaps monthly, and regularly canvass opinion as to whether and when they might want to restart OTB chess.</p>	RF to advise county secretaries to advise clubs to canvass members on a regular basis.
2. When reopening does happen, what measures will need to be taken to ensure safety for all from COVID?	<p>Risk assessments will be required. A number of clubs have already drafted these. The ECF has drafted a very comprehensive one as well, which is available from the englishchess.org.uk website. Northumberland is planning on running a weekend congress from 25-27 September 2020, and has issued a detailed anti-COVID protocol which all entrants will be required to comply with.</p>	Review the feedback from Northumberland and any other events or club openings we find out about.
3. How practical are the current rules for OTB chess published recently by the ECF?	<p>OK for “friendly” games, but not so much for serious games (noise) or for rapidplay games (two boards, one clock).</p>	
4. How concerned should we be as regards local lockdowns/second and subsequent waves/potential new national lockdown, particularly as the chess season encompasses the autumn winter and spring months, rather than summer?	<p>Everything is very uncertain at the moment, and so we need to wait and see. Any start-up may be shut-down at very short notice. An effective vaccine roll-out will reduce this risk, but this may be unlikely until end-2021. So OTB EACU events, eg county matches, congresses, are unlikely to be able to be run in the 2020-21 season.</p>	Wait and see
5. Assuming we will not be resuming OTB chess anytime soon, what online activities should the EACU	<p>General agreement that anything organised by the EACU at the moment is likely to clash with other online events (eg 4NCL individual & team events, Icenis events, Herts events, ECF county matches),</p>	RF to advise county secretaries to advise clubs to inform members of online chess availability on a regular basis.

<p>undertake/advertise/promote?</p>	<p>resulting in either little take-up for the EACU event, or diversion from existing events, or both. There is plenty of online chess at the moment, so it is important to signpost our general membership towards this. General feeling was that this should be done at club level.</p> <p>However there is no one organisation which offers “everything to everyone”, and nor would we expect there to be. In terms of EACU counties, Herts offers a slowplay team tournament to Herts teams, while Iceni offers a rapidplay team tournament and a slowplay individual event to Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambs players. Could these be expanded to cover other parts of the Union, particularly as some players had expressed frustration that they were only playing members of their own club?</p> <p>Perhaps EACU could dip its toe in the water with an Online Team Tournament on a Saturday or Sunday in 2021.</p>	<p>RF to ask Herts if they might be interested in inviting teams from other EACU counties.</p> <p>JW to ask Iceni to invite Beds players to their events (not Herts as Herts are doing things already and Beds are doing nothing).</p> <p>Wait and see.</p>
<p>6. Is an EACU AGM required?</p>	<p>General consensus was No, as RF does not intend to levy county subscriptions for 2020-21, and the only costs are insurance and domain name renewal, both of which can be met from reserves. The Executive Committee has already agreed that the AGM otherwise required by 15 July 2020 should be deferred, to be reassessed in September 2020. This consensus would extend this deferral period, perhaps until significant decisions requiring input from all counties, not just the officers, need to be made.</p>	<p>RF to canvass county secretaries about this as well.</p>
<p>7. Any Other Business</p>	<p>Grand Prix for 2019-20 should be closed (only Newmarket and St Albans not included due to COVID-19), with Chris Davison currently having most points.</p> <p>Any trophies needing to be engraved should be engraved at the same time – when current restrictions are relaxed sufficiently to permit this.</p> <p>JW</p>	<p>PK to notify Chris that he is the winner.</p> <p>As and when.</p> <p>JW</p>

WEB MASTER REPORT - JUNE 2020

The Cambridgeshire website continues to function but an audit by Paul Hanks highlighted many problems that needed correcting. A lot have been done but spurred on by this I am now redesigning the site to be;

1. Responsive - so it presents on all types of devices from phones to desktops in a more professional way.
2. Easier to maintain - I made some poor design choices when I first designed the site and these have come back to haunt me.
3. Contain all the results from C4 site – as was mentioned at the last AGM I became aware of the forthcoming closure of Dave Wild's EACU site and to date I have downloaded most of the relevant results going back to 2011 and up to last year.
4. I intend to look at the new ECF LMS software once to see how it will/can be used on the Cambridgeshire site.

Hopefully this will go live by the end of the year.

Due to Covid the on-line entry for the Cambridgeshire Rapid play is not needed this year but hopefully will be in use again next year.

If anyone has anything extra they would like to see on the site please let me know.

I am happy to stand again unless anyone else wants to manage the site but it really would be great to get a proper Web Designer on board.

Phil Turp

2020 CCCA AGM - Grading Officer Report (North)

This will be the last year using Dave Wild's C4 database, as Dave is retiring it at the end of the 2021 season. So next year results will be submitted in parallel using the ECF LMS system. In view of the coronavirus pandemic, this season's results stopped in early March. Hence comparison with previous years is meaningless. Typically, most teams played 2 games less than expected.

Dave Wild kindly set up the club grading competitions (New England and Peterborough) for database entry, but unfortunately neither worked: New England because early championship drop-outs and replacements led to non-contiguous rounds being used; Peterborough because the organiser was unable to use the interface without error! I ended up having to use a mixture of pairing cards and the database to sort that out: 4 results were duplicated on the database, 3 results were only on pairing cards and 2 results were only in the database! This mess took twice as long to submit as all the other data combined and I remonstrated with the organiser. He still sent unchecked pairing data (with an error) for the rest of the season. This included several players not registered with the ECF, for which Peterborough could have received a £72 fine, had I not checked with their treasurer first.

I have some sympathy with club competition organisers as people drop out at a moment's notice, others enter late, making competitions difficult to compile. But I do not think it is unreasonable of me to expect some basic checking be done before submission; namely that the data is as error free as possible if manually submitted, and that all players entered are eligible.

I did note that Cambridgeshire fielded 117 players in league/cup matches (11 more than 2019), only 4 were non ECF registered (all Peterborough) but the clubs concerned have been warned. Note that the fine is now ECF Bronze membership (£18) per player. ECF membership can only be paid up to 30th June.

A monthly grading proposed by ECF is now being implemented using League management system software (LMS) is being implemented by ECF to support it. However I would recommend that we continue to use January/July grades in CCCA competitions as before. This works okay, but I would suggest we are lenient with 550 teams pushed into difficulties later in season; the competition is for lower graded players anyway.

Chris Russell

June 2020

Sad Loss of Marcus Misson (Tributes from Summer 2019)

It is with deep regret and sadness that I report that Marcus Misson died of a heart attack whilst receiving treatment at Sheffield Hospital on Wednesday 19th June. He leaves his partner Helen and two young sons William and Matthew.

Marcus was a long standing and core member of the Warboys Chess Club where he had been a member since his teen age years. In recent years he also represented Ely Chess club. In that time he must have played hundreds of games for club and county and was well known in the chess world throughout the East of England. He loved the game of chess, was always willing to turn out and play and won the seasons Grand Prix trophy on more than one occasion Marcus brought his individual style and sense of humour to the club and will be sorely missed not just for his ability at the board but also as one of the characters of the game. Warboys Chess club will miss their first team board 1 as a player, but also as a team captain, club secretary and organiser.

As well as his contributions at club level Marcus also took on roles at a wider level for chess in Cambridgeshire and East Anglia. He was Vice Chairman of the East Anglian Chess Union, Secretary of the Cambridgeshire Chess Association and the Cambridgeshire representative to the English Chess Federation.

Pete Wells
Warboys Chess Club

Marcus has been Vice Chairman of the EACU for many years as he held that position under John Shaw. He has run the EACU Grand Prix from its introduction and has been instrumental in its success. Despite his illness he was dealing with emails on this only a couple of weeks ago.

He was an effective ECF delegate for Cambridgeshire. I have attended several Council meetings where Marcus was also in attendance. He was good at questioning on the major issues. I travelled with him on a few occasions and with his wife and two sons briefly. Both sons are very young and much too young to lose a father.

John Wickham
Chairman, EACU

I am a similar age to Marcus and can remember playing chess with him 32 years ago at Warboys chess Club. The Late Jack Taylor used to take us to the EACU meetings as Hunts and Peterborough Reps. Marcus also gave us lifts to ECF meetings.

He was Team Captain of Hunts and Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, Team Captain for Warboys Chess Club and he was Cambridgeshire Secretary.

He used to live with his parents in St Ives before getting married. He was quite friendly with Richard Lamont and Karl Watkins, Bernard Duff, John Beck, Neil Greenwood. He was graded 172 and still played a good game on board one for Warboys chess Club.

Sadly Missed
Francis Bowers
Peterborough Chess Club

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the tragic news about Marcus.

I first met Marcus back in the early 1980's playing chess against Warboys in the Hunts & Peterborough chess association, when I was a young man and he was still a schoolboy, He and I have been playing chess ever since. Win or lose, he was always a perfect gentleman, and I always enjoyed our contests, though he won far and away the lions share. He became a leading light at Warboys chess club and an active supporter of both the Cambridgeshire association and the East Anglia Chess Union.

His early death is a loss to both Warboys club and the game. I will miss his quirky humour, especially at Cambs AGMs where he was an enthusiastic and willing supporter, helping run the association for many years. I wish there could be more people like him.

My sincere condolences to the family.

Chris Russell

Secretary, Cambridgeshire Chess Association