

SHROPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION

2022 Annual General Meeting

To all officers and members of the Shropshire Chess Association:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held at the Maddocks Club, Oakengates, Telford on Thursday 4th August 2022 at 7.30pm.

Please ensure that any trophies held by your club are brought to the AGM for presentation, where required.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies for absence** **19.30** (5 mins)
2. **Minutes of the 2021 AGM (approval and matters arising – copies can be viewed online)** **19.35** (5 mins)
3. **President's Report - Matthew Clark** **19.40** (10 mins)
4. **Other Officer's reports. including trophy presentation**

	Officer	Incumbent	Time
a	League Controller	Adrian Zdanowski	19.50 (5 mins)
b	Rapidplay League Controller	Chris Lewis	19.55 (5 mins)
c	Online League Controller	Adrian Zdanowski	20.00 (3 mins)
d	County Individual	Nick Rutter	20.03 (5 mins)
e	Minor County Individual	Chris Lewis	20.08 (5 mins)
f	Cox & Minor Trophies	Adrian Zdanowski	20.13 (1 min)
g	Summer Quickplay	Toby Neal	20.14 (1 min)
h	Junior Organiser	Chris Lewis	20.15 (5 mins)
i	4NCL Team	Charles Higgie	20.20 (3 mins)
j	4NCL Online Team	Matt Clark	20.23 (3 mins)
k	Treasurer (see appendix a)	Chris Lewis	20.26 (5 mins)
l	Auditor	Richard Thompson	20.31 (1 min)
m	Publicity Officer	Peter Kitchen	20.32 (3 mins)
n	Grading Officer	Nick Rutter	20.35 (3 mins)
o	Website Editor	Nick Holmes	21.38 (3 mins)
p	ECF Delegate	Nick Rutter	20.41 (3 mins)
q	Congress Organiser	Vacant	20.44 (5 mins)
r	Best Game Prize	Toby Neal	20.49 (5 mins)

Break

20.54 (6 mins)

5. Proposals

Charity Conversion **21.00** (10 mins)

- 1) To apply to the charity commissioner to register Shropshire Chess Association as a charity - *proposed by Chris Lewis (see appendix b)*

Future of the online Leagues **21.10** (25 mins)

- 2) We end the online leagues. Those most vulnerable to COVID can continue to play their OTB league matches online - *proposed by Chris Lewis, seconded by Dennis Bonner (see appendix c)*
- 3) The first fixtures in the over-the-board league run in September, October and November. We then have a break from over-the-board and play our online matches in December, January and February, when there is the worst weather, the shortest days and the most colds about. We then return to play all the return fixtures in the over-the-board league in March, April and May - *proposed by Charles Higgle*

Structure of the Shropshire OTB Leagues **21.35** (25 mins)

- 4) The OTB 2nd and 3rd divisions should be combined into a new 2nd division. The current 1st division of 5 teams can then be increased by 2 teams to accommodate the winner/runners up for the 21/22 season.. Then the remaining 5 teams from division 2 would combine with the current division 3 of 4 teams to make 9 teams for the new division 2. Leave the rule of promotion the same from division 2 to division 1 (2 teams up and down) - *proposed by Dennis Bonner*
- 5) In addition to the proposal for 2 divisions above, the divisions should include a third place play-off, third from bottom of Div 1 playing third placed in Div 2 with a home and away match. Also, Division 2 should be increased to 5 players per team - *proposed by Steve Wilson*

Grading List **22.00** (10 mins)

- 6) The league rules state that players must be ordered according to rule 13:
13. Players must be arranged in order of playing strength according to the latest E.C.F. rating list published on the Shropshire website; except that players whose rating differs by no more than 75 points shall be regarded as interchangeable for the purposes of this rule. The grading officer shall publish the August rating list and the January rating list on the website each year.

This list was not updated on the Shropshire site mid season meaning we were still technically bound by July's grading list at the end of the season. Does this rule need amending? - *proposed by Chris Lewis*

League Fees for next season **22.10** (10 mins)

- 7) If online chess is played then fees need to be paid for online teams the same as OTB - *proposed by Glyn Pugh*
- 8) League fees for next season - *Chris Lewis*

Rapidplay Proposals

22.20 (10 mins)

9) Teams should be docked a point per match for defaulting rapid matches not a point per night -
proposed by Glyn Pugh

10) Change the rapidplay time limit from 20 minutes to 20 minutes + 10 seconds increment -
proposed by Richard Parry (see appendix d)

6. AOB.

Meeting closes at 22.30

Appendix A

SHROPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

Income & Expenditure

	2022	2021
	£	£
Income		
Club League Fees	£140.00	£180.00
Individual Championship Entries	£455.00	£280.00
4NCL Income + Prizes	£281.00	£112.00
Junior Chess	£856.00	£0.00
Shropshire Congress	£0.00	£0.00
Bank Interest	£0.73	£1.05
Donations	£0.00	£11.00
Sale of Clocks	£105.00	£0.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>£1,837.73</u>	<u>£584.05</u>
Expenditure		
ECF Game Fees	£0.00	£0.00
MCCU Affiliation Fees	£14.00	£14.00
Individual Prizes + Costs	£423.00	£246.00
Trophies - Engraving	£71.00	£40.00
4NCL	£488.00	£140.00
Junior Chess	£579.91	£0.00
Shropshire Congress	£0.00	£23.98
Website Fees	£92.31	£80.45
Writeoffs	£30.00	£0.00
Depreciation	£68.44	£48.10
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>£1,766.66</u>	<u>£592.53</u>
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	<u>£71.07</u>	<u>(£8.48)</u>

Christopher Lewis, Treasurer

Christopher Lewis
04/07/22

Balance Sheet

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Trophies, chess sets, clocks	£168.26	£134.99
Current Assets		
Debtors	£20.36	£105.12
Prepayments	£615.39	£107.70
Deposit Account	£4,765.56	£4,765.08
Current Account	£350.39	£550.00
	<u>£5,751.70</u>	<u>£5,527.90</u>
Creditors: falling due within 1 year		
Accruals and creditors	(£562.00)	(£390.00)
Deferred Income	(£14.00)	£0.00
Net current assets	<u>£5,175.70</u>	<u>£5,137.90</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	<u>£5,343.96</u>	<u>£5,272.89</u>
Reserves		
General Account		
Balance B/F	£5,272.89	£5,281.37
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	£71.07	(£8.48)
TOTAL RESERVES	<u>£5,343.96</u>	<u>£5,272.89</u>

Audited and found correct
Richard Thompson, Auditor

Richard Thompson 27.7.22

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31/05/22

Debtors

4NCL Online Subs - Season 4 & 5	£48.00
Bad Debt Provision - 4NCL Subs	(£28.00)
Interest	£0.36
Individual Entries	£0.00
Club League Fees	£0.00
	<u>£20.36</u>

Prepayments

Domain Renewal	£3.52
Website Hosting Fee	£11.87
Megafinal Venue - Charlton School	£600.00
	<u>£615.39</u>

Creditors

Shropshire Individual Prizes	(£140.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Prizes	(£155.00)
Shropshire Individual Engraving	(£12.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Engraving	(£8.00)
4NCL Subs - Refunds Owed	(£55.00)
4NCL Fine - Late Withdrawal of Team	(£50.00)
Junior Chess Club Room Hire (May)	(£40.00)
Other Trophy Engravings	(£60.00)
MCCU Affiliation Fees (2019/20+2020/21+2021/22)	(£42.00)
	<u>(£562.00)</u>

Deferred Income

4NCL OTB Subs	(£4.00)
Individual Entries	(£10.00)
	<u>(£14.00)</u>

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31/05/21

Debtors

4NCL Subs	£9.00
Bad Debt Provision - 4NCL Subs	£0.00
Interest	£0.12
Individual Entries	£40.00
Club League Fees	£56.00
	<u>£105.12</u>

Prepayments

Domain Renewal	£24.63
Website Hosting Fee	£83.07
	<u>£107.70</u>

Creditors

Shropshire Individual Prizes	(£130.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Prizes	(£155.00)
Shropshire Individual Engraving	(£17.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Engraving	(£10.00)
4NCL Subs - Refunds Owed	£0.00
4NCL Fine - Late Withdrawal of Team	£0.00
Junior Chess Club Room Hire (May)	£0.00
Other Trophy Engravings	(£50.00)
MCCU Affiliation Fees (2019/20+2020/21)	(£28.00)
	<u>(£390.00)</u>

Deferred Income

	<u>£0.00</u>

Fixed Assets

	Clocks	Sets	DGT Boards	Trophies	Junior Chess	Total
Cost						
At 1 June 2021	£1,429.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£631.61	£0.00	£4,481.42
Additions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£101.71	£101.71
Disposals	(£175.00)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	(£175.00)
At 31 May 2022	£1,254.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£631.61	£101.71	£4,408.13
Depreciation						
At 1 June 2021	£1,429.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£496.62	£0.00	£4,346.43
Charged in Year	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£48.10	£20.34	£68.44
Disposals	(£175.00)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	(£175.00)
At 31 May 2022	£1,254.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£544.72	£20.34	£4,239.87
Net Book Value						
At 1 June 2021	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£134.99	£0.00	£134.99
At 31 May 2022	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£86.89	£81.37	£168.26

Statement of Cashflows
Year ended 31/05/22

Statement of Cashflows
Year ended 31/05/21

Opening Balance 01/06/21	£5,315.08
<i>Income</i>	
Club League Fees	£186.00
Individual Championship Entries	£435.00
4NCL Income + Prizes	£298.00
Junior Chess	£856.01
Shropshire Congress	£0.00
Bank Interest	£0.48
Donations	£0.00
Sale of Clocks	£105.00
Total Income	£1,880.49
<i>Expenditure</i>	
ECF Game Fees	£0.00
MCCU Affiliation Fees	£0.00
Individual Prizes + Costs	£355.00
Trophies - Engraving	£73.00
4NCL	£410.00
Junior Chess	£539.91
Junior Tournaments	£600.00
Shropshire Congress	£0.00
County Matches	£0.00
Website Fees	£0.00
Capital Purchases	£101.71
Total Expenditure	£2,079.62
Cash Movement in year	(£199.13)
Closing Balance 31/05/22	£5,115.95

Opening Balance 01/06/20	£5,493.21
<i>Income</i>	
Club League Fees	£160.00
Individual Championship Entries	£240.00
4NCL Income + Prizes	£133.00
Junior Chess	£0.00
Shropshire Congress	£0.00
Bank Interest	£2.26
Donations	£11.00
Sale of Clocks	£0.00
Total Income	£546.26
<i>Expenditure</i>	
ECF Game Fees	£36.00
MCCU Affiliation Fees	£0.00
Individual Prizes + Costs	£269.00
Trophies - Engraving	£40.00
4NCL	£140.00
Junior Chess	£0.00
Junior Tournaments	£0.00
Shropshire Congress	£0.00
County Matches	£0.00
Website Fees	£142.40
Capital Purchases	£96.99
Total Expenditure	£724.39
Cash Movement in year	(£178.13)
Closing Balance 31/05/21	£5,315.08

Appendix B

Shropshire Chess Association - Charity Registration?

Proposal:

- To apply to the charity commissioner to register Shropshire Chess Association (SCA) as a charity.
- To establish a committee to prepare an application to the charity commission, agree our charitable objectives, establish who the trustees would be and review/revise our constitution to ensure it complies with charity law.

Background:

The legal status of SCA is that we are an unincorporated members association. Although unincorporated SCA still has an obligation to pay corporation tax on any trading profits we make.

Most surpluses that have historically arisen in SCA are referred to as "mutual trading", essentially our members trading with ourselves. These profits are not liable to corporation tax.

With the opening of the junior chess club in September a new source of trading income has arisen. We are charging kids £2/week and by the end of the year, after costs, the taxable profit was £132.02 resulting in a corporation tax liability of £25.08 payable by the association. To comply with our tax obligations HMRC have already been notified a liability has arisen. Next year the junior organiser anticipates this liability to be much higher, potentially several hundred pounds.

It's also always been ambiguous whether the congress is protected by the mutual trading rule or not. Income arising from the membership likely is but any profits (if any) arising from non-Shropshire players is likely subject to tax once costs are apportioned.

We would not be the first association to register as a charity. There are several other county associations on the charities register who have already taken this step increasing the likelihood our application would be accepted.

There are pro's and con's of registering as a charity:

Advantages of registering as a charity

- No Corporation Tax on profits
- Enhanced reputational status for SCA of being a charity
- Potential gift aid on any donations made to SCA
- Removes the ambiguity around any congress surpluses

Disadvantages of registering as a charity

- Time commitment to register and file annual return with the charities regulator
- Additional administration for the trustees around minuting of decisions
- If the association were ever to fold the reserves would have to be distributed in line with the charitable objectives rather than back to all the members
- Any actions taken by the association would have to fall within our charitable objectives

Conclusion

Taking all of the above into account we feel that the advantages of registration outweigh the disadvantages and we recommend that the AGM adopt the proposal.

Mathew Clark (President)

Tony Preece (General Secretary)

Christopher Lewis (Treasurer)

Appendix C

Proposal - Ending the online leagues?

Proposal:

- To end the online leagues in 2022/23
- Whilst COVID levels remain high, to allow those most vulnerable to COVID to play their OTB league matches online.

I have had concerns for a number of months that the online leagues are a victim of their own success. I am proud that Shropshire online chess thrived through COVID whilst those of many other neighbouring counties and much larger associations stalled completely. However I do feel the leagues are now damaging over-the-board chess and in particular that they reduce attendance on club nights. It has not been uncommon to turn up to my club and realise there are more people playing from home online rather than attending the club. This makes attracting new members particularly difficult when they walk into a near empty club room.

There are also several clubs who have players who during the pandemic have chosen to play exclusively online and these players have yet to return to OTB chess. My hope would be that ending the online leagues would encourage these players back although I am not confident that this would be the case.

I have discussed this with a number of other clubs and one takeaway is that with the return of OTB chess to pre-COVID levels there is far less appetite for the online leagues with many clubs considering dropping their teams from the leagues. This may result in the leagues becoming unviable to run anyway.

I think it is important to recognise COVID is still out there and a new variant may return in the winter months. There are players as a result who may not yet feel comfortable playing over-the-board. Hence the 2nd part of this proposal to cater to those players.

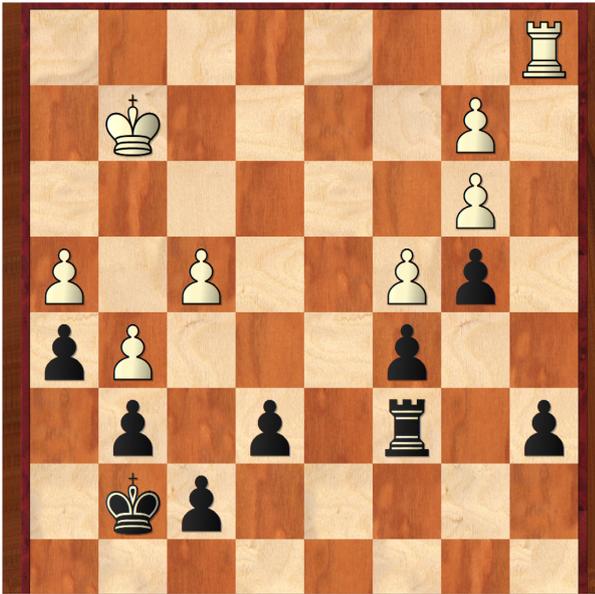
Finally ending the Shropshire online leagues does not mean that players can't get their online fix from elsewhere as the 4NCL online teams and the 5 counties team will continue to run next season.

In conclusion, I was on the fence on this one as I wasn't sure the association should be dictating what form of chess gets played. However when I discovered that a couple of the clubs were considering withdrawing their teams from the leagues I concluded they are about to become unviable anyway and it's the right time to end them.

Christopher Lewis

A very annoyed Black simply left managing somehow not to let White know what he thought of him.

2.



Black, a pawn up, is probably winning but only has 1 minute left to White's 3. Black offers a draw. White declines. Black loses on time. After the game White admits that his only reason for declining the draw was his belief that he would win on time.

Both of these situations seem, to me at least, against the spirit of the game. You simply should not be able to do what White did in the first – the position is drawn, and although in the second the position is not drawn, Black's good play(!) in reaching the position has virtually no chance of being rewarded – hence white's decision to play on.

I would like to suggest that Shropshire Rapid Play time limit should be changed to 20 minutes plus a 10 second increment per move. (This is the time control in the Birmingham Summer League Rapid Play). In both the above games Black would have had over 5 minutes left considerably altering the situation. Eg Black would probably not be offering the draw in the second and might well have gone on to win. In the first dead drawn position I think you should not be able play on just to win on time.

Maybe it is my fault for not being fully aware of the rules?

Have you already got a rule that forbids playing on in drawn positions just to win on time? If so, how would a player make a claim on the night and who would enforce the rule on the night?

You may consider that it's just me being annoyed that these situations happened to me and well 'tough'. However in almost 60 years(!) of playing league chess I have never had a situation as in game 1 above. I play chess for enjoyment, but there was no enjoyment in the first situation.

A dispute, appeals to committees, written evidence of what happened is to be avoided if at all possible. I believe my suggestion of a change in the time control would go a very long way to avoiding similar situations in the future, improve the standard of chess and make the evenings more enjoyable.

Richard Parry – Telford Chess Club