# SHROPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION

# **2023** 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 Telepost Sports & Social Club, Railway Lane off Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 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 2022 AGM (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	Tony Preece (Acting)	<b>19.50</b> (5 mins)
b	Rapidplay League Controller	Chris Lewis	<b>19.55</b> (5 mins)
c	Online League Controller	Charles Higgie (Acting)	<b>20.00</b> (3 mins)
d	County Individual	Nick Rutter	<b>20.03</b> (5 mins)
e	Minor County Individual	Chris Lewis	<b>20.08</b> (5 mins)
f	Cox & Minor Trophies	Tony Preece (Acting)	<b>20.13</b> (1 min)
g	Summer Quickplay	Toby Neal	<b>20.14</b> (1 min)
h	Junior Organiser	Chris Lewis	<b>20.15</b> (10 mins)
i	4NCL Team	Charles Higgie	<b>20.25</b> (3 mins)
j	4NCL Online Team	Matt Clark	<b>20.28</b> (3 mins)
k	Treasurer (see appendix a)	Chris Lewis	<b>20.31</b> (5 mins)
1	Auditor	Richard Thompson	<b>20.36</b> (1 min)
m	Publicity Officer	Peter Kitchen	<b>20.37</b> (3 mins)
n	Grading Officer	Nick Rutter	<b>20.40</b> (3 mins)
О	Website Editor	Nick Holmes	<b>20.43</b> (3 mins)
р	ECF Delegate	Nick Rutter	<b>20.46</b> (3 mins)
q	MCCU Delegates	Glyn Pugh & Roger Brown	<b>20.49</b> (1 min1)
R	Congress Organiser	Phil Love & Dan Hilditch-Love	<b>20.50</b> (5 mins)
S	Best Game Prize	Toby Neal	<b>20.55</b> (4 mins)

#### 5. Nomination of new officers

**20.59** (5 mins)

The following roles have become vacant next season:

- League Controller
- Online League Controller Charles Higgie is willing to stand
- Cox/Minor Trophies Controller
- Minor County Individual
- Additional Congress Organisers

**Break** 21.04 (6 mins)

# 6. Proposals

# A) Adoption of the new general rules for the leagues & competitions

**21.10** (10 mins)

The successful registration of Shropshire Chess Association as a charity means there are currently two constitutions in direct conflict with each other. This proposal is in 2 parts:

- 1) Abolition of the existing constitution which has now been superseded by our charity constitution
- 2) Adoption of "Part 1" Rules Governing all Shropshire Chess Competitions which fills in the governance gaps of the various leagues and competitions not covered by the charity constitution. Every league and competition rules will be split into Part 1 and Part 2. For every competition Part 1 will read "this competition will be governed in accordance with the competition rules of the Shropshire Chess Association" with hyperlink to those rules (see **appendix b**). Part 2 will then be the specific rules for that competition.
- proposed by Matthew Clark, Tony Preece, Christopher Lewis

# B) <u>Determination of Rating for Board Order</u>

**21.20** (20 mins)

Rule 13 reads as follows

"Players must be arranged in order of playing strength except that players whose rating differs by no more than 75 points shall be regarded as interchangeable for the purposes of this rule. To determine whether 2 players are interchangeable the captain can use either the Autumn rating list as published on the Shropshire rating website, or they can use the latest rating list published on the ECF rating database as at the date of the match."

It is not logical to have 2 interpretations of ratings for the whole season. With one rule nobody can manipulate this rule by using 1 rule 1 week and another rule the next week and so we either need to use the grades at the start of the season or the latest grade as released each month. Suggest it to be changed to:

"Use the latest rating list published on the ECF database as at the date of the match"

This is clear and does not allow any other interpretation.

- proposed by Dennis Bonner

# C) <u>Determination of Rating for substitutes/multiple clubs</u>

**21.40** (10 mins)

Small tweak to rules 8 & 9 & 13 so that when they refer to the rating at the start of the season they all refer to the same one. All 3 rules will refer to the "published August rating at the start of the season".

# Rule 8 currently reads:

8. If a team in the second or third division uses a player who normally plays for another Shropshire club in a higher division during that season, then it is permitted only on condition that the player has a current July rating of below 1710 for Div 2 and below 1560 for Div 3.

# Proposal:

Amend "current July rating" to "published August rating at the start of the season" to make it consistent with Rule 13.

# Rule 9 currently reads:

- 9. A reserve may be drawn from a lower team, as follows:- any players regardless of whether they are nominated or tied to one team may be used as reserves for a higher team as follows (rules 9a to 9e). Players who are not nominated to a team may also play for a lower team.
- a) Players rated below 1710 can play for any of their club's teams in Division 1 without restriction, providing that the lower team, for which the player normally appears, and the higher team for which the player wishes to appear as a reserve, are not both in Division 1, in which case the restriction in sub paragraph d will apply.
- b) Players rated below 1600 can play up into any of their club's teams in Divisions 1 and 2 without restriction, providing that the lower team, for which the player normally appears, and the higher team for which the player wishes to appear as a reserve, are not both in the same Division, in which case the restriction in sub paragraph d will apply.
- c) Players rated below 1450 can play up into any of their club's teams in Division 1 and 2 without restriction.
- d) Where a player is used more than three times for a higher team, then (unless sub paragraphs a, b or c apply) he / she becomes a member of the senior team on the fourth occasion for the remainder of the season. Where a reserve wins by default the result will count as an appearance for the senior team.

# Proposal:

#### Add new rule 9e:

All references to rating in this rule refer to the published August rating at the start of the season.

# Unless amended above rule 13 currently reads:

To determine whether 2 players are interchangeable the captain can use either the Autumn rating list as published on the Shropshire rating website, or they can use the latest rating list published on the ECF rating database as at the date of the match."

# Proposal:

Amend "Autumn rating list as published on the Shropshire rating website" to "published August rating at the start of the season".

- proposed by Chris Lewis

D) <u>Unrated Players</u> 21.50 (10 mins)

The league rules do not reflect the new frequency with which ratings are released. New unrated players with no playing history currently have total flexibility for the full season regardless of how strong they are, even when actual ratings are available.

# Rules 13 currently reads:

Unrated players – if they have past history, the last known rating is to be used provisionally. If not, the player has the maximum flexibility subject to league controller's approval and a provisional rating will not be given if the last historic rating is older than five years.

# Replace the above rule with a new rule 6 that reads:

6. For the purposes of rule 9 and 13 if a player is currently unrated but had a rating in the previous 10 years, that last known rating is to be used provisionally until a new rating is obtained. If the player has no rating history or only a provisional "P" rating they have maximum flexibility subject to the league controller's approval. Once an unrated player obtains a "K" or "A" rating then that player must use either the latest rating list published on the ECF rating database as at the date of the match or, if/when that player obtains an August "K" or "A" rating, the published August rating at the start of the season.

- proposed by Chris Lewis

# E) Blue Badge Holders

**22.00** (10 mins)

The rule related to blue badge holders, 13B is as follows:

"Blue Badge holders may request to play any of their matches online. This request must be sent via their captain to the opposing captain 48 hours prior to the match. The match cannot be played online without the agreement of the opposing captain. The opposing captain should endeavour to find a player willing to play online and may select any of their eligible players to play against the blue badge holder. If the opposing captain is unable to find a player willing to play online all games must be played over-the-board. For the purposes of rule 13 the opposing player selected to play online can be played outside of the usual board order"

This completely discriminates against Blue badge holders as the opposing captain need not find a player to play the blue badge holder online and instead insist that the game be played over the board.

# Proposal:

Delete the sentence "If the opposing captain is unable to find a player willing to play online all games must be played over-the-board."

Also replace "should" in the sentence below with "must".

"The opposing captain **should** endeavour to find a player willing to play online and may select any of their eligible players to play against the blue badge holder. If the opposing team is unable to field a player they default that board.

- proposed by Dennis Bonner

**22.10** (15 mins)

For some time the Cox and Minor competitions, which were initially intended to extend the Shropshire chess season into early summer, have been diluted by teams being unable or struggling to field a team after the league season finishes.

# Rule 1 currently reads:

"1. The competition will be held immediately following the completion of the league programme"

# Proposal:

Replace rule 1 with "The controller will publish in advance at the start of the season the weeks during which each knockout round must be played and as the pairings become known they will publish the exact dates. The controller should ensure the knockout concludes immediately after the league season. Matches must be played on the appointed date unless in exceptional circumstances another date is agreed by the controller"

The idea being that the exact fixture dates will be at the controllers discretion but generally the first round should be towards the end of the first half of fixtures and the finals to be as an event quite quickly after the conclusion of the main league.

The current rules allow considerable flexibility for bringing in strong players from outside the Shropshire League during crucial matches.

# Proposal:

#### Amend rule 4 to read:

"A player can only play for a team if they were so eligible to play for that team in a standardplay league fixture. Additionally to be eligible:- prior to round 1 a player must have played at least 1 game for their club in the standardplay league. Prior to round 2 a player must have played a total of at least 2 games for their club taking the sum of their games in the knockout trophy and/or the standardplay league. Prior to round 3 a player must have played at least 3 games for their club taking the sum of their games in the knockout trophy and/or the standardplay league. If applicable, prior to round 4 (or 5) a player must have played at least 4 (or 5) games for their club taking the sum of their games in the knockout trophy and/or the standardplay league."

Although this rule is convoluted it is simple to understand and prevents ringers from playing in the knockout cup whilst allowing flexibility for teams to draw on their usual reserves.

- proposed by Nick Holmes & Chris Lewis

# G) Creation of new officials

**22.25** (5 mins)

There is a once in a generation opportunity for the association to expand. I propose we attempt to take full advantage of this by creating additional posts.

- Head of Senior Chess – to promote outreach at the opposite end of the scale to junior chess by introducing chess to older people through outreach into retirement homes etc.

- Head of Amateur Chess with responsibility for outreach to players who aren't necessarily ready to commit to competitive chess. This could include running small scale amateur tournaments OTB or online or advertising through board game cafes etc.
- Outreach Committee a committee with responsibility for setting up clubs in other Shropshire towns financially supported by Shropshire Chess. Market Drayton and Ludlow are both already primed to open new clubs if the association could set them up and then step away.
- Change of title of Junior Organiser to Head of Junior Chess only because I find it really awkward to explain to parents and teachers who I am when I'm fulfilling the part of the role that isn't organising (ie, setting up new clubs).
- Junior Committee establishment of a junior committee to assist the Head of Junior Chess who is struggling to manage a continually expanding role. Members could include both players and parents.
- ChessFest Committee to organise an annual event similar to the Darwin Centre and thus reach out to new members
- Head of Women's Chess
- Rapidplay Tournament Organisers in the hopes that Shropshire can one day organise its own rapidplay tournament
- Safeguarding Officer with the influx of juniors into the league this post needs to be filled ASAP. They would also take the lead in developing our safeguarding policies.

I don't expect all of these posts to be immediately filled (maybe none will be) but my hope is that by creating them we show our ambition to grow chess in Shropshire.

- proposed by Chris Lewis

6. AOB.

Meeting closes at 22.30

# Appendix A

SHROPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION	N		FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FO	OR THE YEAR ENDED	31 MAY 2023
Income & Expenditure			Balance Sheet		
	2023	2022		2023	2022
Income	£	£	Fixed Assets	£	£
Club League Fees	£306.00	£140.00	Trophies, chess sets, clocks	£173.94	£168.26
Individual Championship Entries	£310.00	£455.00			
4NCL Income + Prizes	£324.00	£281.00	Current Assets		
Junior Chess	£851.00	£856.00	Stock	£1,369.94	£0.00
Junior Chess Tournaments	£2,331.00	£0.00	Debtors	£211.82	£20.36
Shropshire Congress	£4,785.00	£0.00	Prepayments	£958.58	£615.39
Bank Interest	£14.52	£0.73	Deposit Account	£2,275.62	£4,765.56
Donations	£109.60	£0.00	Current Account	£1,313.92	£350.39
Sale of Clocks	£0.00	£105.00		£6,129.88	£5,751.70
TOTAL INCOME	£9,031.12	£1,837.73			
			Creditors: falling due within 1 year		
Expenditure			Accruals and creditors	(£504.62)	(£562.00)
MCCU Affiliation Fees	£0.00	£14.00	Deferred Income	£0.00	(£14.00)
Individual Prizes + Costs	£232.00	£423.00			
Trophies - Engraving	£24.00	£71.00	Net current assets	£5,625.26	£5,175.70
4NCL	£332.00	£488.00			
Junior Chess	£554.16	£579.91	<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	£5,799.20	£5,343.96
Junior Chess Tournaments	£1,979.25	£0.00			
Shropshire Congress	£4,339.66	£0.00			
Website Fees	£164.39	£92.31			
Donated/Subsidised Equipment	£724.94	£0.00			
Writeoffs	£0.00	£30.00	Reserves		
Corporation Tax	£138.51	£0.00	General Account		
Depreciation	£86.97	£68.44	Balance B/F	£5,343.96	£5,272.89
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£8,575.88	£1,766.66	Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	£455.24	£71.07
			TOTAL RESERVES	£5,799.20	£5,343.96
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	£455.24	£71.07			
			Audited and found correct		
Christopher Lewis, Treasurer			Richard Thompson, Auditor		

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31/05/23		Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31/05/22	
Debtors		Debtors	
Individual Entries	£10.00	4NCL Online Subs - Season 4 & 5	£48.00
Interest	£4.82	Bad Debt Provision - 4NCL Subs	(£28.00)
Sale of Discounted Equipment - Shrewsbury College	£197.00	Interest	£0.36
		Individual Entries	£0.00
_		Club League Fees	£0.00
-	£211.82		£20.36
Prepayments		Prepayments	
Domain Renewal	£39.19	Domain Renewal	£3.52
Website Hosting Fee	£169.39	Website Hosting Fee	£11.87
Megafinal Venue - Charlton School	£750.00	Megafinal Venue - Charlton School	£600.00
-	£958.58		£615.39
Creditors		Creditors	
Shropshire Individual Prizes	(£100.00)	Shropshire Individual Prizes	(£140.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Prizes	(£155.00)	Shropshire Minor Individual Prizes	(£155.00)
Shropshire Individual Engraving	(£12.00)	Shropshire Individual Engraving	(£12.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Engraving	(£10.00)	Shropshire Minor Individual Engraving	(£8.00)
4NCL Fines - OTB Defaults 22/23	(£40.00)	4NCL Subs - Refunds Owed	(£55.00)
Other Trophy Engravings	(£60.00)	4NCL Fine - Late Withdrawl of Team	(£50.00)
MCCU Affiliation Fees (2022/23)	(£14.00)	Junior Chess Club Room Hire (May)	(£40.00)
Corporation Tax 22/23	(£113.62)	Other Trophy Engravings	(£60.00)
<u>-</u>		MCCU Affiliation Fees (2019/20+2020/21+2021/22)	(£42.00)
=	(£504.62)		(£562.00)
Deferred Income		Deferred Income	
		4NCL OTB Subs	(£4.00)
_		Individual Entries	(£10.00)
-	£0.00		(£14.00)
Stock	04 44	Stock	
Equipment to donate/subsidise	£1,145.68		
Refresments	£29.68		
Junior Medals/Trophies/Prizes	£194.58		
-	£1,369.94		£0.00

# **Fixed Assets**

	Clocks	Sets	<b>DGT Boards</b>	<b>Trophies</b>	<b>Junior Chess</b>	<b>ICT Equip</b>	Total
Cost							
At 1 June 2022	£1,254.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£631.61	£101.71	£0.00	£4,408.13
Additions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£25.00	£67.65	£92.65
Disposals	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
At 31 May 2023	£1,254.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£631.61	£126.71	£67.65	£4,500.78
Depreciation							
At 1 June 2022	£1,254.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£544.72	£20.34	£0.00	£4,239.87
Charged in Year	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£48.10	£25.34	£13.53	£86.97
Disposals	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
At 31 May 2023	£1,254.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£592.82	£45.68	£13.53	£4,326.84
Net Book Value							
At 1 June 2022	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£86.89	£81.37	£0.00	£168.26
At 31 May 2023	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£38.79	£81.03	£54.12	£173.94

Cashflow Statement Year ended 31/05/23		Cashflow Statement Year ended 31/05/22	
Opening Balance 01/06/22	£5,115.95	Opening Balance 01/06/21	£5,315.08
Income		Income	
Club League Fees	£306.00	Club League Fees	£186.00
Individual Championship Entries	£270.00	Individual Championship Entries	£435.00
4NCL Income + Prizes	£333.00	4NCL Income + Prizes	£298.00
Junior Chess	£866.00	Junior Chess	£856.01
Junior Tournament Income	£2,247.77	Junior Tournament Income	£0.00
Shropshire Congress	£4,709.03	Shropshire Congress	£0.00
Bank Interest	£10.06	Bank Interest	£0.48
Donations	£109.60	Donations	£0.00
Sale of Clocks	£0.00	Sale of Clocks	£105.00
Total Income	£8,851.46	Total Income	£1,880.49
Expenditure		Expenditure	
ECF Game Fees	£0.00	ECF Game Fees	£0.00
MCCU Affiliation Fees	£28.00	MCCU Affiliation Fees	£0.00
Individual Prizes + Costs	£270.00	Individual Prizes + Costs	£355.00
Trophies - Engraving	£24.00	Trophies - Engraving	£73.00
4NCL	£370.00	4NCL	£410.00
Junior Chess	£619.29	Junior Chess	£539.91
Junior Tournaments	£2,290.49	Junior Tournaments	£600.00
Donated Equipment	£2,067.62	Donated Equipment	£0.00
Shropshire Congress	£4,233.35	Shropshire Congress	£0.00
County Matches	£0.00	County Matches	£0.00
Website Fees	£357.58	Website Fees	£0.00
Capital Purchases	£92.65	Capital Purchases	£101.71
Corporation Tax	£24.89	Corporation Tax	£0.00
Total Expenditure	£10,377.87	Total Expenditure	£2,079.62
Cash Movement in year	(£1,526.41)	Cash Movement in year	(£199.13)
Closing Balance 31/05/23	£3,589.54	Closing Balance 31/05/22	£5,115.95

# **Appendix B**

# **Rules Governing all Shropshire Chess Competitions**

adopted on the 24th July 2023

# PART 1

# (1) General

- 1.1 The Shropshire Chess Association ("the charity") shall organise leagues and competitions in line with its charitable objectives. In addition to their own rules, all competitions shall be governed in accordance with the rules in this document.
- 1.2 An amendment to Part 1 of the league or competition rules will require the support of a 2/3 majority of members in attendance (physically or virtually) at the AGM or SGM.
- 1.3 An Amendment to Part 2 of the league or competition rules will require the support of a majority of members in attendance (physically or virtually) at the AGM or SGM.

# (2) Annual General Meeting

2.1 An Annual General Meeting ("AGM") shall take place annually in line with the <u>charity's constitution</u>.

When considering matters not reserved for the trustees the meeting shall:

- 2.2 be chaired in line with paragraph 13 of the charities constitution
- 2.3 give notice for the meeting in line with paragraphs 11 & 30 of the charities constitution
- 2.4 meet the quorum rules in line with paragraph 12 of the charities constitution
- 2.5 take minutes in line with paragraph 25 of the charities constitution

Matters to be considered at the AGM include:

- 2.6 reports from the Association's Officers & Officials,
- 2.7 the awarding of trophies for the year's completed competitions,
- 2.8 report of the Charities Trustees
- 2.9 the audited accounts,
- 2.10 the nomination and election of officers, officials & trustees for the coming year,
- 2.11 discussion of issues both on the agenda and raised as 'Any other Business',
- 2.12 Proposals for the amendment of the league or competition rules. Amendments to the submitted proposals may be accepted on the night for discussion and voting, at the Chairman's discretion. Proposals for amendment to the rules unrelated to existing proposals on the agenda cannot be voted for although the Chairman will always have discretion where a proposal is uncontroversial and necessary to ensure the smooth running of the league or competition.

# (3) Special General Meeting

3.1 The officers or members may call a Special General Meeting ("SGM") in line with paragraph 10 of the charity's constitution. This meeting must be held in line with item's 2.2-2.5 above.

#### (4) Officers/Officials

- 4.1 Members at a general meeting shall elect officers & officials. Members may also create or abolish posts of any officials as they see fit. The election of an officer or official or the creation of abolition of officials posts only requires the support of a majority of members in attendance.
- 4.2 Any officer or official is elected for one season only. That officer or official may then stand for re-election at the next AGM.

# (5) Membership & Eligibility to Vote

- 5.1 Every member is entitled to vote on the league or competition rules in line with paragraph 15 of the charity's constitution with the following exceptions:
- 5.1.1 The right to vote will be denied to any member whose club has not paid its league fees for the previous season.
- 5.1.2 Members may attend the AGM virtually over the internet. These members will have the same rights as members physically present.
- 5.1.3 No member who does not attend the AGM (either physically or virtually) has the right to vote on the league or competition rules.
- 5.2 The membership of the association eligible to vote is as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Charity's Constitution.

# (6) Suspension/Expulsion

6.1 A majority vote by the controller of the league or competition plus the officers of the association (as defined in paragraph 16 of the charity's constitution) shall have the power to temporarily suspend (but not expel) a player from any of the leagues or competitions up until the end of the season. Any suspension can be appealed in which case the president shall create an appeals committee of independent members of the league. The appeal committee's decision shall be final. 6.2 Only a general meeting shall have the power to expel any club or player from the leagues and competition. Such suspensions, expulsions and removals shall require a 3/4 majority in a vote by Association members in attendance. No resolution for expulsion shall be voted on unless its subject has been invited to attend the meeting and been given written notice of the resolution and its associated reasons

# (7) Eligibility of clubs/teams to compete in the Shropshire Leagues & competitions

- 7.1 To be eligible to compete in the Shropshire League or any of the other competitions hosted by the Shropshire Chess Association, clubs/teams must be based within the historic borders of Shropshire. By majority vote a general meeting can allow clubs/teams from outside Shropshire to participate in any of the leagues or competitions
- 7.2 All clubs/teams must adhere to the Association's League Rules.
- 7.3 All clubs/teams entered in the league will be charged an annual fee for each team they enter in the league. This league fee will be proposed by the members at the league AGM but must be approved by the charity's trustees.

# PART 2

See rules for the relevant competition.