

Minutes of the 68th Annual General Meeting of the Portsmouth and District Chess League.

The 68th Annual General Meeting was held at Cosham Chess Club at 7.30 pm on Thursday 18th Sept, 2014.

The president, Mr S.Smith, took the chair with 26 members attending; all clubs were represented.

1. Apologies for absence were received from P.Wake, M.Plumb, J.Wilson and W.Curry.
2. The minutes of the previous AGM, which had been circulated in advance, were agreed and signed.
3. Matters Arising. There were none.
4. The Hon. Secretary reported on the 2013/14 season.

The 2013/14 season had been an eventful season, producing the closest results in our history, with a tie for first place in all three divisions of the League.

The secretary thanked all those who helped to run the League during his medical convalescence - particularly Steve Smith, Chris Priest, Roger Marsh and Martin Buckley. We also had a new treasurer last season –Rob Davies, and a new controller of the Individual Championship – David Fowler.

Other changes included 5-player teams in Divs 2 and 3 with 2 nominations required, and the entry of Southampton Chess Club to the Cole Cup, where they progressed as far as the semi-final.

There had been problems with reporting our results on the Hampshire website, but we were fortunate in having Mick Plumb provide a basic reporting service on the Bognor and Arun website. The new Hampshire webmaster intended to resume some reporting of our results on the Hampshire website.

Division 1 produced a tie for first place between Emsworth A and Portsmouth A. Portsmouth benefited from the services of two strong Spanish players, and lead the division for most of the season, but then allowed the holders to overtake them with one round to go. The League was finally decided only when the last game, an adjourned position, finished, and Portsmouth emerged with 33.5 games to Emsworth's 32.5. Each had 14 match points.

Division 2 was, if anything, even closer. Only two points separated all five teams. Fareham B were declared winners with 9 pts and 22.5 games, ahead of Cosham B with 9 pts and 19.5 games. And the tie for last place between Chichester B and Portsmouth B was unbreakable – they each had 7 pts and 19 games.

The tie in Division 3 for first place was between Chichester C and Emsworth C, but Chichester had the better games score (23-22).

The Cole Cup was another triumph for Portsmouth, who beat Fareham in a close Final. Portsmouth B lost the Plate Final to last year's League champions Emsworth.

In the Individual events, Dominic Tunks chalked up his ninth successive win in the Individual Championship.

The Ruth Rose Cup for veterans went to Keith Davies (Chichester), and the John Grant Cup to Clive Gilliam (Emsworth A). The Wilf Pratten Cup was won by Chris Smithers (Fareham) and the Reg Clark Cup by David Ransley (Portsmouth).

The League had 7 clubs last season, with Southampton joining and playing in the Cole Cup. 109 players took part, down on the 111 of the previous season. And only 8 players were not members of the ECF.

During the season, we had lost former President Stuart Dean. He had been League President for over twenty years, and a regular player for much longer.

For the coming season, Portsmouth were dropping their third team, and Fareham and Gosport intended to stay at their new venues.

Many of our players were members of the Hampshire Under-140 team which won the National title for the third time.

Finally the secretary thanked all clubs and officers for their support during the previous season.

The secretary's reported was accepted unanimously.

5. The Treasurer, Rob Davies, reported on our financial position.

He produced an amended version of the accounts, which differed from the version issued with the agenda only in the contents of two footnotes. These referred to an amount of £22 in Game Fee liability, which the Treasurer intended to collect from the clubs involved; and an amount of £12 in Individual Championship entry-fees, which had now been collected.

At the end of the season, there was a deficit of £54.50, but a bank balance of £780.83. The deficit was expected, as the previous AGM had agreed measures to reduce the size of our bank balance.

The meeting agreed that the outstanding Game Fee from last season should be collected from the clubs involved, and should be forwarded to the ECF, even if they failed to send us an invoice.

A proposal to keep the financial year-end at the end of June was carried by 8-2, resulting in no change.

The treasurer explained that the deficit would have been less if he had billed clubs £2 per League team, but he was under the impression at the time that the AGM had abolished this charge.

The accounts still contain an amount of £449.28, which could be a liability to a previous treasurer. This money dates from the 2008/09 season, and could be owed to Matthew Ludbrook. Currently, all attempts to find Matthew Ludbrook have failed, and the liability will end in August 2015, at which point the money will be formally assimilated into the account. The meeting agreed that we should not give up yet our efforts to find Matthew Ludbrook.

The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously, on a proposal from C.Priest seconded by A.Butler.

6. The President then presented the trophies to the winners, as specified in the Hon. Secretary's report.

7. Election of officers.

The vacancy for League Rapidplay Controller was filled by Brian Cochran. All other officers were then re-elected in situ.

The League officers were now:

President	S.J.Smith
Vice-President	M.L.Newbury
Hon. Secretary	J.F.Wheeler
Hon. Treasurer	R.Davies
Individual Championship Controller	D.W.Fowler
Mike Cole Cup Controller	D.A.Cordner
Delegate to Hants Chess Association	D.R.Tunks
League Match Captain	D.R.Tunks
ECF Delegate	C.P.A.Priest
Summer Individual Rapidplay controller	M.G.S.Buckley
Rapidplay League Controller	B.Cochran

8. Alterations to League Rules.

8-1. Proposed by Martin Buckley (Portsmouth) and seconded by Dominic Tunks (Emsworth) Replace Section B (Rules governing the conduct of the Team Championship Tournament) with a new Section B. The new Section B is attached as a separate document.

The proposer comments as follows:

“This rule change is being put forward for the following reasons :-

- 1) Last season it was necessary to go outside the rules in order to have a League, and the League/A.G.M. needs to endorse the new reality.
- 2) These proposed rules give a better/more flexible framework by which the League Committee can come up with a League that fits the the number of clubs/teams/players we have.
- 3) These proposed rules keep as close as possible to the existing rules, whilst putting the new framework around the current structure.
- 4) These proposed rules give better/more flexible matchplay rules for team captains/players that fit into today's busy lifestyles and will keep the players we have and hopefully be attractive to new players.
- 5) Considering the limited time at the A.G.M. and the diverse nature of the changes made last season and proposed this season an 'entire package' is the only practicable way forward.”

A lively discussion ensued. D.Tunks proposed, M.Buckley seconded, an amendment to Rule B-4-a, to change ‘3,2,1 or 0’ to ‘5,4,3,2,1 or 0’. The proposal was agreed by 12-2.

The proposal then received 11 votes in favour, with 7 against and 5 abstentions, This did not constitute a two-thirds majority, and the proposal was declared lost.

8.2. Proposed by John Wheeler (League Sec)

Amend Rule 14-c to read

“The committee will decide how many boards constitute a team in each division. The visiting team will have white on odd-numbered boards.”

This proposal was seconded by K.Davies, and carried 20-0.

8.3. Proposed by John Wheeler (League Sec)

Amend the first sentence of Rule 14-b to read

“b. Should the same club enter more than one team in the tournament, then: where such teams are in different divisions, the club shall, before play commences, send to the League Secretary the names of three nominated players per team in Division 1 and two nominated players per team in other Divisions except the lowest. Every set of nominated players shall not play in any lower division in that season.”

This proposal was seconded by B.Cochran.

An amendment proposed by C. Priest that ‘the committee will decide how many nominated players per team’ was carried.

A further amendment proposed by R.Davies, seconded by M.Broom, proposed that ‘should a club enter more than one team in the bottom division, there would be no restriction on players playing for more than one team in that division.’

The proposal was carried 12-2 with 9 abstentions.

Finally the amended proposal was carried by 15-0 with 7 abstentions, which did constitute a two-thirds majority.

(end of rule changes)

9. League Fees for the 14/15 season.

The treasurer proposed the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a) League affiliation fee | £5.00 per club plus £0 per team. |
| b) Individual Championship entry-fee | £0.00 per entrant. |
| c) Cole Cup entry-fee | £0.00 per team. |
| d) Team Rapidplay entry fee | £0.00 per team. |
| e) Summer Individual Rapidplay entry | £0 per entrant, |

10. Any Other Business.

Website - a show of hands revealed that the majority favoured the reporting of our results on the Hampshire website if possible.

B.Cochran reported that the Portsmouth News was offering some free publicity on Fridays in the Portsmouth library. He would investigate further.

A new Junior chess club has been formed in Southsea, meeting at the Community Centre on Thursdays from 6-7 pm. Alan Butler suggested that the new club be registered with the League, and asked whether schools on the Isle of Wight were eligible for the Dupree & Loe

Junior tournaments – these were due to be revived in October 2014. The meeting was not qualified to give an opinion.

B.Cochran asked that our ECF delegate make the case for ECF Membership cards to be brought back.

11. The meeting closed at 9:39 pm.

Minutes of the League Committee Meeting held after the AGM on 18th Sept, 2014

The meeting was attended by the League officers, and a representative of every League club.

The purpose of the meeting was to determine the composition of the Divisions for 2014/2015 and make the draw for the Cole Cup.

Portsmouth withdrew their third team this year, giving 15 teams in the League for the 2014-15 season.

The committee agreed that 6 boards would be played in Div 1, and 5 in Divs 2 and 3. 3 nominated players per team would be required in Div 1, and 2 in Div 2.

The committee allocated 5 teams to each division.

Teams were allocated as follows:

Div 1: Portsmouth A, Emsworth A, Fareham A, Chichester A, Cosham A.

Div 2: Gosport, Fareham B, Cosham B, Emsworth B, Chichester B.

Div 3: Portsmouth B, Chichester C, Emsworth C, Chichester D, Fareham C.

The meeting then moved on to the Cole Cup, where eight entries were received – Chichester, Cosham, Emsworth, Fareham A & B, Gosport, and Portsmouth and Southampton. The draw for the first round was made by the committee.

The committee meeting closed at 10.25 pm.

Proposal to replace Section B (Team championship rules).

SECTION 'B' – TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP.

RULES.

B1) ELIGIBILITY.

- a) The Team Championship is open to all affiliated clubs, who are entitled to enter team(s) at the A.G.M.
- b) Clubs must notify the League Secretary of their intended entry/entries at least **5** days before the A.G.M.

B2) ENTRY FEE.

Clubs entering the Team Championship must pay the Team Championship Fee – set at the A.G.M. - before the end of November.

B3) FORMAT.

- a) The Team Championship is composed of **2, 3 or 4** divisions – ranked downwards 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th in this order. The number of teams in a division is either **7, 6, 5 or 4**.
- b) The League Committee decides on the number of divisions and sets the number of teams in each division after the A.G.M. - **having first sought the views of the members of affiliated clubs at the A.G.M.** - and decides which division teams are placed in.
- c) Under normal circumstances teams remain in the same division as in the previous season, except for promoted and relegated teams – **though this may be varied under exceptional circumstances.**
- d) New clubs/teams are placed in an appropriate division – **not the 1st division.**

B4) TEAMS.

- a) Clubs' teams are named the same as the club and are ranked downwards in playing strength 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E' etc. in this order. Teams may consist of **6, 5 or 4** players with **3, 2, 1 or no** nominated players.
- b) The League Committee sets the number of players in teams for each division, and the number of nominated players in teams for each division after the A.G.M. - **having first sought the views of the members of affiliated clubs at the A.G.M.**

B5) PLAYERS.

A player is eligible to play for a club/team during a season providing : -

- a1) **The player is a current member of that club, and is a current member of the E.C.F - or has paid the current E.C. F. game fee.**
- a2) The player has not played for another club in the Team Championship that season.
- a3) The player is not nominated for a club's higher team.
- a4) Where a club has more than one team in the 1st division the player has not played for another club team in the 1st division.
- a5) Where a club has more than one team in the 2nd, 3rd and/or 4th divisions – in each division : -
The nominated players may play for only the team they are nominated for.
The non-nominated players may play for any of a club's teams in the same division. Once a

non-nominated player has played for more than one team in the same division - and before the player plays again in that division - the club must notify the League Secretary, which team is the player's primary team. For this primary team the player is eligible to play in all of its matches, for any other club team(s) in that division the player is eligible to play in half its/their matches.

b) Clubs must provide the League Secretary with a list of all of their teams' nominated players before the start of the season.

c) During the season clubs may change their nominated players – only if new stronger player/players join the club. Clubs must provide the League Secretary with a new list of all of their team's nominated players. The new list of club's/clubs' team's nominated players comes into effect 3 days after it has been e-mailed by the Fixtures Secretary to all the clubs in the Team Championship.

d) A nominated player must play for the team the player has been nominated for in at least one of the team's first 3 matches, if not the club must nominate a replacement player.

B6) FIXTURES.

a) The season runs from the week after the A.G.M. to the middle of June – all matches/games must be played and finished during this time.

b) Clubs must provide the League Secretary with their club's - venue(s) (name, address and postcode), team's/teams' match night(s) and and Team Captain's/Team Captains' name(s) and contact details (phone numbers and e-mail addresses) at the League Committee meeting after the A.G.M.

c) The Fixtures Secretary must produce and e-mail to all clubs in the Team Championship a fixtures list detailing all matches – home and away teams and match dates, together with a list of all club venues (names, addresses and postcodes), Team Captains' names and their contact details (phone numbers and e-mail addresses) and team's nominated players – before the start of the season.

Should during the season clubs change their nominated players – the Fixtures Secretary must produce and e-mail to all clubs in the Team Championship, within 7 days of the receipt of a changed list of club(s) team's nominated players by the League Secretary, a new list of nominated players for all clubs/teams.

d) In each division each team plays each other team in its division : -

Twice – once home and once away – in a division of 7, 6 or 5 teams.

Thrice – twice home and once away, or once home and twice away – in a division of 4 teams.

e) Fixtures may be moved one week either side of the fixture list match date, providing both Team Captains agree and the Fixtures Secretary is notified in advance of the new match date. A match date may be moved once only.

B7) MATCHES.

a) Matches – all the boards – are played at the home club's/team's venue on the fixture list match date , unless the match date is moved.

b) Play on all boards starts at 7.30 P.M.

c) Before the start of play opposing Team Captains must write out and exchange match cards on which are teams' line-ups and for 1st and 2nd division matches player' preferences – S for single playing session (played to a finish on the match night), or D for double playing sessions (played to a finish on the match night, or in a subsequent adjournment session).

d) Once team line-ups have been exchanged no changes are permitted, except for replacement players for absent players.

- e) Should a player on a team's line-up be absent, that team's Team Captain may replace the absent player with a replacement player during the first 30 minutes of play.
- f) The away team has the white pieces on the odd numbered boards and the black pieces on the even numbered boards, and the home team has the white pieces on the even numbered boards and the black pieces on the odd numbered boards.
- g) Before the start of play the Team Captains must announce to the players - **which boards are finishing on the night, which boards are playing on** and the agreed finishing time.
- h) Players play one game against one opponent.
- i) Playing sessions : –
 - 1st and 2nd divisions – match/adjournment – 3 hours long.
 - 3rd and 4th divisions - 2 ½ hours long.
- j) Games are graded – E.C.F. standard play..
- k) Games are subject to F.I.D.E./E.C.F. standard play rules.

B8) RATE OF PLAY.

a) 1st and 2nd Divisions.

a1) For those games where both players' preference is **S for single playing session.**

The first 30 moves in 1 ¼ hours followed by a ¼ hour quick play finish.

a2) **For those games where one player's/both players' preference is D for double playing sessions.**

The first 30 moves in 1 ¼ hours, the next 24 moves in a further 1 hour, followed by a ¾ hour quick play finish.

b) 3rd and 4th Divisions.

The first 30 moves in 1 hour followed by a ¼ hour quick play finish.

B9) ADJOURNMENTS.

a) Should a D double playing session game not finish on the match night, **it is played to a finish in a subsequent adjournment session.**

b) **If one of the two players' preferences was S for single playing session that player has choice of venue. If both of the two players' preferences were D for double playing sessions the players decide between themselves the venue, if they can not the away player has choice of venue.**

c) The player with choice of venue must offer the opponent a choice of dates.

d) **The adjournment session must be played within 1 month of the match date, unless : -
Christmas falls within this month - 2 extra weeks are added.**

Easter falls within this month – 1 extra week is added.

The end of the season falls within this month - the month is shortened to the end of the season.

B10) SCORING.

a) Game Points.

a1) A player winning a game scores 1 game point for that player's team.

a2) 2 players drawing a game each score ½ game point for their teams.

a3) A player winning a game by default – no opponent after the first 30 minutes of play, or the opponent is an ineligible/disqualified player – scores 1 game point for that player's team.

a4) A double default – **both teams in advance notify each other that they will not have a player on the same board**, both players on a board were absent after the first 30 minutes of play, **or an ineligible/disqualified player has been awarded a win by default due to no opponent after the first 30 minutes of play** – neither team score any game points.

b) Match Points.

b1) A team winning a match – scoring higher total of game points than opposing team – scores 2 match points.

b2) 2 teams drawing a match – scoring the same total of game points – each score 1 match point.

b3) A team winning a match by default – the opposing team conceding the match, or no opponents after the first 30 minutes of play - scores 2 match points, and 6 game points.

b4) 2 teams conceding/defaulting their match neither scores any match points nor game points.

B11) MATCH CARDS.

For a match – the opposing Team Captains must write out a match card, on which are : -

The division, the clubs/teams, the players and which boards they are on, **for 1st and 2nd division matches the players' preferences – S for single playing session or D for double playing sessions,** the players' games' scores/(any) adjournments, the teams' match scores and the Team Captains' signatures.

B12) NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS.

a) It is the responsibility of Team Captains to notify - **by hand, post or e-mail** - the Fixtures Secretary of game/match results within **4** days of the match date, **and of (any) adjourned game(s) within 4 days of the finish of the game(s).**

b) It is the responsibility of Team Captains to ensure notified game/match results and (any) adjourned game(s) results are correct.

B13) WITHDRAWALS.

Should a team withdraw during the season - its match results in divisional tables are decided upon by the League Committee.

B14) DIVISIONAL TABLES.

Team placings in divisional tables are ordered downwards by their accumulated match points totals – with the highest in first place on down through to the lowest in last place., with ties ordered downwards by highest accumulated game points totals. Should teams still be tied the place is shared.

B15) LEAGUE CHAMPIONS.

When all matches/games in the 1st division have been played and finished – the team in 1st place are League Champions, and are presented with the League Championship Trophy at the next A.G.M. - to hold for the following season. **In the event of a tie the League Championship is shared.**

B16) DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS.

a) When all the matches/games in the 2nd division have been played and finished – the team in 1st place are 2nd Division Champions, and are presented with the 2nd Division Championship Trophy at the next A.G.M. - to hold for the following season. **In the event of a tie the 2nd Division Championship is shared.**

b) When all the matches/games in the 3rd division have been played and finished – the team in 1st place are 3rd Division Champions, and are presented with the 3rd Division Championship Trophy at the next A.G.M. - to hold for the following season.. **In the event of a tie the 3rd Division**

Championship is shared.

c) When all the matches/games in the 4th division have been played and finished – the team in 1st place are 4th Division Champions, and are presented with the 4th Division Championship Trophy at the next A.G.M. - to hold for the following season. **In the event of a tie the 4th Division Championship is shared.**

B17) PROMOTION AND RELEGATION.

a) The teams winning the 2nd, 3rd and 4th divisions are promoted to the next higher division for the following season - if they so wish it

Should there be a tie the League Committee decides on the means to be used for deciding the promoted team.

b) The teams coming last in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd divisions may be relegated to the next lower division for the following season.

Should there be a tie the League Committee decides on the means to be used for deciding the relegated team.

B18) PLAYERS' TROPHIES.

The John Grant Memorial Cup – awarded each season to the player, having played at least 5 games, with the highest percentage score in any single division of the Team Championship, and is presented at the next A.G.M. - to hold for the following season. Tie break – most games played, **still tied – shared.**

The Wilf Pratten Cup – awarded each season to the player, having played at least 5 games, with the highest percentage score in the highest division (division of the John Grant Memorial Cup winner is excluded) of the Team Championship, and is presented at the next A.G.M – to hold for the following season. Tie break – most games played, **still tied – shared.**

The Reg Clark Cup – awarded each season to the player, having played at least 5 games, with the highest percentage score in the lowest division (division of the John Grant Memorial Cup winner is excluded) of the Team Championship, and is presented at the next A.G.M. - to hold for the following season. Tie break – most games played, **still tied – shared.**

The Ruth Rose Cup – awarded each season to the veteran player (aged 60 years or more at the time of that season's A.G.M.), having played at least 4 games, with the highest percentage score in any divisions of the Team Championship with an additional percentage point added for each game played, and is presented at the next A.G.M. - to hold for the following season. Tie Break – most games played, **still tied – shared.**

B19) SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

The full League Committee may in special circumstances decide match rules for a club/team/player that are particular to that club/team/player, and at variance with the other rules of the Team Championship.

B20) DISPUTES.

Disputes and circumstances not covered by these rules are ruled upon by a special meeting of the full League Committee.