

Minutes of the 69th Annual General Meeting of the Portsmouth and District Chess League.

The 69th Annual General Meeting was held at Cosham Chess Club at 7.30 pm on Thursday 24th Sept, 2015.

The vice-president, Mr M. Newbury, took the chair in the absence of the President, Mr S.Smith, with 21 members attending; all clubs were represented.

1. Apologies for absence were received from S.Smith, R.Williams, R.Lukosius, K.Gregory, J.Wilkinson.
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 2014/15 season.

The 2014/15 season had started with an amended Rule 14-b, which allowed a player to play for more than one team in the lowest division. This had been proposed by Fareham, who envisaged entering two teams in division 3. In the event, Fareham did not enter two teams. But the new rule had proved to be very useful for two other clubs. When Chichester visited Portsmouth in division 3, Chichester D were able to borrow a player from Chichester C and thus avoid a default – a result which was welcomed by all. But they lost the match anyway. Our thanks to Fareham for making this possible.

The 2014/15 results were not as close as the previous season, when each division ended in a tie. Emsworth retained the League title, but only because Fareham lost their last match to bottom-of-the-League Portsmouth. This also enabled Portsmouth to move out of the bottom place. The division as a whole was very closely fought, with just six points separating all the teams.

Division 2 was won by Chichester B, four points ahead of Gosport, whom they beat in the last round. If Chichester had lost, Gosport would have won the division on tie-break.

Division 3 was won easily by Portsmouth B, who finished seven points ahead of their nearest rival.

Emsworth won the Cole Cup, beating newcomers Southampton in the Final, and Gosport beat Portsmouth to win the Cole Plate.

In the Individual events, Dominic Tunks won the Individual Championship for the tenth time in a row.

The Ruth Rose Cup for veterans was won by Bob Treloar.

The John Grant Cup went to Kier Eyles, the Wilf Pratten Cup to Rolandas Lukosius and the Reg Clark Cup to David Ransley, who had also won it the previous year.

109 players took part in League matches, representing seven clubs. These numbers were identical to the previous year.

The secretary reported the death of Hugh Storr-Best at the age of 96. He had been a regular

player for Petersfield and the League's grading officer for many years.

For the coming season, Portsmouth intended to enter a third team in the League. And the secretary also reported that ECF membership would cost slightly more in the coming season.

The secretary's reported was accepted unanimously.

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

The accounts showed an excess of expenditure over income of £91.02. but this still left us with a balance of £689.01.

The treasurer pointed out that it is now seven years since a surplus £450 appeared in the accounts, and despite strenuous efforts to resolve the issue, no progress had been made. The treasurer therefore concluded that the money could safely be disposed of as we wished.

To this end, he invited suggestions from members as to how to spend the money – eg purchase of new trophies, renewal of current trophies, temporary reduction in League fees, etc. The meeting wanted more time to consider its options, and agreed to produce suggestions before the next AGM (2016) for consideration at that meeting.

The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

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

7. Election of officers.

Chris Priest was standing down as ECF delegate, and it fell to the secretary to take on this role. 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	J.F.Wheeler
Summer Individual Rapidplay controller	M.G.S.Buckley
Rapidplay League Controller	B.Cochran

8. Alterations to League Rules.

8.1. Proposed by Keith Gregory (Fareham)

Amend Rule 17-b-1) – (Rate of Play)

by changing “If both players have chosen F (Quick-play Finish) ...”
to “If either player has chosen F (Quick-play Finish)...”

In Keith Gregory's absence, this change was proposed by Joe Coburn and seconded by Rob Davies. During the discussion, it became clear that Fareham supported the proposal, and Gosport opposed it. The motion was then defeated 4-14.

8.2. Proposed by Rob Davies (Fareham) and seconded by Joe Coburn:

Amend Rule 15-f (Points) – (Ruth Rose Cup)

by changing “Each entrant must play a minimum of five games...”
to “Each entrant must play a minimum of four games...”

Reason for proposed change

“When this Rule was set-up, the standard was for six teams in each Division meaning each team played five home matches & five away homes So even those who could only play in home matches (for example because of age causing travel difficulties) could still meet the criteria of a minimum of five games played.

At the Committee Meeting following the 2014 AGM, it was decided to have five teams in each of the three Divisions. So unless someone plays in more than one Division, there is a maximum of four home & four away games and consequently anyone who is unable to travel cannot achieve the current minimum of five game.

It is therefore fair & reasonable, in particular for the older of the Veterans, for the minimum number of games to be reduced from 5 to 4 “

The proposal was carried by 6-3, which did constitute a two-thirds majority, as required for rule changes.

8.3. Proposed by Joe Coburn and seconded by Rob Davies (Fareham)

Amend Rule 18 (Unfinished Games)

by adding “c. Played-on games shall not be graded.”

Reason.

“F.I.D.E. Rules, Article 11: The conduct of player.

11.3.b. During play, a player is forbidden to have a mobile phone and/or other electronic means of communication in the playing venue. If it is evident that a player brought such a device into the playing venue, he shall lose the game.”

After a long and sometimes acrimonious discussion, the motion was lost 2-15.

(end of rule changes)

9. League Fees for the 15/16 season.

The treasurer offered three options, which would raise amounts between £120 and £131 in total. The meeting unanimously voted for the cheapest option, ie -

- a) League affiliation fee £5.00 per club plus £3 per team.
- b) Individual Championship entry-fee £0.00 per entrant.

Minutes of the League Committee Meeting held after the AGM on 24th Sept, 2015

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 2015/2016 and make the draw for the Cole Cup.

Portsmouth entered a third team this year, giving 16 teams in the League for the 2015-16 season.

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

The committee allocated 6 teams to Division 1 and 5 teams to Divs 2 and 3.

Teams were allocated as follows:

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

Div 2: Chichester B, Cosham B, Fareham B, Emsworth B and Portsmouth B.

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

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

The committee meeting closed at 9.35 pm.