

Annual General Meeting of the Milton Keynes Chess Club

To be held on Thursday, 5th September 2024, 7:45pm
in the Berrill Cafe, at The Open University

In the chair : James Alexander

Present: Members

James Alexander, Simon Bansi, Dominic Bartram, Sumit Balla, Andrew Bowler, John Chandler, Claire Church, Guilherme De Rezende, Adrain Elwin, Thomas Evans, Alan Heath, Mark Osborn, Micheal Page, David Phillips, Paul Sippitt, Colin Solloway, Giuseppe Spigapiena, George Ward, Dominic Watson, Steven Wayne, David Wells, Rob Whiteside.

- 1) Welcome
The chair welcomed the members to the MK Chess Club AGM.
- 2) Apologies for Absence
John McNamra, Baird McClellan, Eoin Tweeddale, Nigel Collins, John McKeon
- 3) Minutes of the last meeting
There was no other matters from the minutes and accepted as a true record
- 4) Secretaries Report
Over all a good year and lots of chess been played as matches and friendlies. Middle of the season we had to move to our new location within the OU, The Berrill Cafe, and over all it seems to be working. Nice to have the chess cupboards in the same location and we seem to be using the two areas well for games.

I would like to thank members who have welcomed new members to the club and helped them settle in. I would also like to thank everyone for the support I have received while being the club secretary.

- 5) Treasurers Report
Milton Keynes Chess Club – Treasurers report for the year ended 31 August, 2024

2023/24 saw a net reduction in membership following the influx of junior players in the previous year. We started the year with 63 (2023 – 42) paid up members although 24 (2023- 16) of those did not renew. 16 (2023 - 37) new members joined during the year so the final tally was 55. (33 Normal and 22 Concessions) generating fees of £715. Compared to 2022/23 this was a decrease of £95 or 12%. (2023 – 36 Normal, 27 Concessions, Fees £810). Historically, despite falling by 8, last year's membership total of 55 was still the second highest it has been since 1999.

If you paid the concessionary rate in 2023/24 because you joined the club late in the year. Please note that this only applies to that year and you will need to pay your 2024/25 subs at the appropriate rate.

In addition to being a paid-up member of MKCC anyone who wishes to play for the club in the Beds League or in the internal competitions will have to be a member of the ECF. Please note that it is each individual member's responsibility to ensure that their details are published on the ECF list of members. If your name is not there for any reason you are not eligible to play in the above games. As many subscriptions were due for renewal on 1 September, please ensure that you are up to date with the ECF as well as with the Club.

Total expenditure in the year was £593.65.

No equipment was purchased as we have sufficient even for the increased membership. The keys purchased were for the two cupboards.
500 scoresheets were purchased for £23.45. (4.69p per sheet)
We entered 4 teams in the Beds League @ £15 per team.

Insurance is for cover of £1m public liability and £1800 for the digital clocks. The former increased by 19%, to £162.32 from the previous year (£136.56). The cover for the clocks remained at £36.40.

Website costs paid in the year actually spans four financial years. £13.86 was for the last quarter of 2021/22, £57.31 for the year ended 2022/23 and £64.73 for 2023/24. The figure also includes the hosting cost of the first quarter (£14.76), and the domain name for three quarters (£5.61) of the current financial year. We are currently paying around £67 per year for hosting and the domain name.

No National tournaments were entered last year.
The Christmas tournament costs were for the standard prizes.

An inventory of the Club's equipment was carried out on the 29th of August and I am happy to report that almost of all items were accounted for. One chess set which went missing last year reappeared. Although one mechanical clock could not be located. As the Club has adequate kit I do not propose to purchase any new items in the coming season.

The Club enjoyed a surplus of £121.35 in the year. I estimate that we still have 3 years' worth of expenditure in reserves. The current subscriptions is £15.00 normal and £10 for concessions. Given the state of the Club's finances I propose that we leave the rates unchanged for 2024/25.

Alan Heath (Treasurer) 5/9/2024

Subscriptions for 2024-25 Recommendation to stay as we are as we have the finances at present to keep the club in a healthy state.

Adrian Elwin proposed and James Alexander second
All agreed and carried to set as proposed by the Treasurer

6) Internal Competition report

The Club Championship was won by Eoin Tweeddale and Graham Smith with 5 out of 6 with Adrian Elwin 3rd on 3.

The Open Swiss was won by Dominic Bartram with 4½ points ahead of Adrian Elwin on 4 and Andrew Bowler on 3½.

The Open Knockout was won by Eoin Tweeddale who beat Alan Heath in the final.

The Open Knockout Plate was not completed.

The Under1800 Swiss was won by George Ward with a perfect 6, with Dave Wells in second on 3½ and 3rd shared by Dave Phillips, Dominic Watson, Colin Solloway and Vincent Edwards on 3.

The Under 1800 Knockout was won by Colin Solloway who beat Dave Phillips in the final.

The Under 1800 Knockout Plate was not completed.

A new competition, the Under 1400 Swiss seemed to be popular to start with, but fizzled out with half the fourth round games not played. Only 1 and a half rounds have been played so far in 2024.

The latest Blitz competition was held last week and won by Adrian Elwin on 8½ out of 9 with Eion Tweeddale 2nd on 7 out of 11 and James Alexander 3rd on 6½ out of 9.

7) Safeguarding Report

No incident reported in the last year, reported by Dominic Watson

8) Beds league Captains reports for 2023/24 Season

Milton Keynes A

Milton Keynes A Played 10 matches 6 Wins 2 Draws and 2 Losses.

We secured second place in the league, Team dedication and teamwork got us here, and it's a big win. While we missed the top spot, will be using this as motivation for next season. With focus and effort, we can aim higher.

I want to extend a special thank you to Nigel Collins, Mark Osborn, Andrew Bowler and Elliot Long who stepped in as substitutes on multiple occasions. Their contributions were invaluable and truly represented team spirit.

Whole team(Alan Heath, George ward, Peter Hawes, Dominic Watson, Sumit Bhalla) were awesome teammates. We will continue to support each other and aim for the top in the seasons to come.

Milton Keynes B 2023-24

Milton Keynes B ended up in a comfortable 3rd place in division 1, winning 6, drawing 1 and losing 3, scoring 30½ game points.

As we had a squad of 6 players this season, all players missed at least 1 game. Of these players, 4 scored over 50% while the other 2 had the difficult jobs of boards 1 and 2. Top scorer was Adrian with 7½ out of 9 followed by Andrew with 6½ out of 8, Rob with 5 out of x7 and Graham on 4½ out of 8.

Milton Keynes C - Captain's Report - 2023-2024.

We finished bottom of Division 2 on 5 points - half the number we got last season. We scored just 1 win (our home match against Bedford D), 3 draws and 6 losses. On a player basis the we played a total of 50 matches, made up of 14 wins, 10 draws and 26 losses.

Top scorer of the season was Colin Solloway, with 5½ points, made up of 5 wins and 1 draw, achieving a League rating performance of 1849.

Thanks to Mark Osborn for helping out when we were short

Colin Solloway. September 2024.

Open University Team

The Open University team enjoyed its best season for a number of years. It won two matches, memorable for being the first victories it has enjoyed since 2019-20. Despite this and two further draws, the team finished fifth in the league with 19½/50. James, Vince, Elliot and Mark between them played in 39/40 games and we were fortunate to call on Steve Wayne and Nigel Collins at short notice to escape with a single default through the entire season.

9) Election of Officers

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| - Chairman | James Alexander |
| - Secretary. | George Ward |
| - Treasurer. | Alan Heath |
| - Tournament Secretary. | Adrian Elwin |
| - Safeguarding Officer. | Baird Mccellan |
| - Deputy Safeguarding Officer. | Dominic Watson |

10) Bedfordshire League Team Captains

We have had all the captains that ran the Beds League teams last year happy to continue for the new season

11) Junior Chess at the Club

Decide not to advertise the club will take juniors but to update the website with details of local Junior clubs in the area.

12) Any Other Business

(a) **Old Mechanical Clocks**

Request from Baird to take the mechanical clocks that we never use anymore and donate them to the local schools for the schools chess clubs that he is involved with.

All agreed to pass this to Baird for use in the school

(b) **Club Website**

Dominic Watson and Micheal Page like to propose that we form a website steering group or online presence steering group (to include social media). We feel that we need to defend against the bus factor; there needs to be more than one person with access to the running of the site/ social media accounts.

We would also like to propose a revamp of the club website, including a member's area where we could include:

Member news and information

Online membership applications

Tournament pairings (with email notification when new pairings are out)

The ability to garage games

The ability to report game results

Library book bookings

Among other things.

Vote to agree to form a sub committee to rebuild a new website and social media presence for the club - All present agreed.

A group will then report to the committee. This group to start with will be, Dominic Watson, Micheal Page, John Chandler, Colin Soloway, Sumit Bhalla.

(c) To discuss - Proposed Bedfordshire Chess League rule change on game time proposed by Colin Solloway and if approved will be put forward to the Bedfordshire League AGM

Proposal to change the Bedfordshire League rules for the timing of games - By Colin Solloway.

FROM:

35 moves in 70 minutes followed by a 10 minute Quick Play Finish, plus a 10 second increment on every move.

TO:

All moves in 80 minutes plus a 10 second increment on every move.

My argument for this change is that our current system was designed for use with mechanical clocks decades ago, when there was no increment. The quick play finish was brought in to avoid external adjudication of unfinished games, which was costly to clubs.

With the advent of digital clocks featuring the facility to include an increment, the old time control followed by a quick play finish is unnecessary. Implementing this old system on digital clocks is confusing to a number of players. For example, as captain of a team in the League, I have had a number of enquiries during matches from players wondering why the 10 minutes was not been added to their clocks when they reached the 35 move mark. They expect their clocks to count moves, which they do not.

ADVANTAGES OF USING THE 'GAME IN 80 MINUTES PLUS A 10 SECOND INCREMENT' SYSTEM:

All of the confusing aspects of the old system on digital clocks is removed.

Players would no longer have to know, and agree with their opponents, when they have completed 35 moves.

The average length of games played under the new system would be the same as under the old system.

The initial setting up of the digital clocks would be simpler.

In Favour 18
Against 3
Abstain 1

Therefore the club representatives will vote for this change at the Bedfordshire League AGM

Note: In the event that this amendment is accepted by Bedfordshire League AGM, this time control change will be implemented for internal tournaments from 2025 onwards.

(d) Bedfordshire League proposed rule changes

Proposed rule change 1

League Controller is proposing the following change to the Bedfordshire Chess League rules (removal of superseded rule):

Current rule:

11. Matches must start at 7:30pm unless both captains agree in advance to a different starting time. Matches should last at least three hours. Clocks are to be started at 7:30pm (or pre-agreed starting time) or if not available at this time the lost minutes are to be deducted from the time of the home team when actually started. Prior to start of any match the captains shall agree the time to stop play, subject to the above conditions.

Proposed new rule:

11. Matches must start at 7:30pm unless both captains agree in advance to a different starting time. Matches should last at least three hours. Clocks are to be started at 7:30pm (or pre-agreed starting time) or if not available at this time the lost minutes are to be deducted from the time of the home team when actually started.

Supported by all present

Proposed rule change 2

League Controller is proposing the following change to the Cordon Trophy rules (correction):

Current rule (first sentence):

6. Each team shall consist of 4 players. Players within teams should be ranked according Beds league rule 12a

Proposed new rule (replacing the first sentence):

6. Each team shall consist of 4 players. Players within teams should be ranked according Beds league rule 12b

Supported by all present

Proposed rule change 3

Luton are proposing the following change to the Bedfordshire Chess League rules:

Current rule:

14. Sufficient chess clocks must be provided. The normal rate of play being thirty five moves in one hour and ten minutes plus ten seconds per move, followed by the rest of the game in any unused time, an additional ten minutes plus ten seconds per further move. Any time remaining at the end of the first time period shall be carried forward to the final time period. This procedure is to accord with ECF rules for allegro finishes. There will be no adjournments or adjudications.

Proposed new rule:

14. Sufficient chess clocks must be provided. The normal rate of play is all moves in one hour and twenty minutes plus ten seconds per move. There will be no adjournments or adjudication's.

Proposed rule change 4

Milton Keynes are proposing the exact same change as Luton..

Therefore as we voted to support the Milton Keynes proposal this would also be supported for Luton.

Proposed rule change 5

Bedford are proposing the following change to the Bedfordshire Chess League rules:

Current rule:

14. Sufficient chess clocks must be provided. The normal rate of play being thirty five moves in one hour and ten minutes plus ten seconds per move, followed by the rest of the game in any unused time, an additional ten minutes plus ten seconds per further move. Any time remaining at the end of the first time period shall be carried forward to the final time period. This procedure is to accord with ECF rules for allegro finishes. There will be no adjournments or adjudication's.

Proposed new rule:

14. Sufficient chess clocks must be provided. The normal rate of play being all moves in one hour and fifteen minutes plus fifteen seconds per move. There will be no adjournments or adjudications.

Vote on supporting this proposal if the MK and Luton proposal fails

For 11

Against 6

abstain 4

Therefore support will be given to the this proposal if the MK and Luton proposals fails.

Proposed rule change 6

Leighton Buzzard are proposing the following change to the Bedfordshire Chess League rules:

Current rules:

7. Any club may enter one or more teams in the competition. Teams shall consist of five players. Matches played in the lowest division may feature teams of a greater number of players provided both captains agree so in advance of play. No player may play for more than one club in a season.

8. No player who has played above board 3 in any division may play for any other team in that or any lower division. No player who has played in any division may subsequently play for a team in a division, which is two or more divisions lower than that one, if his club has a team in an intermediate division. For the purpose of this rule, any name that appears against a board number on a team list drawn up by that team's captain (or acting captain) is deemed to have played.

Proposed new rules:

7. Any club may enter one or more teams in the competition. Teams shall consist of five players. Matches played in the lowest division may feature teams of a greater number of players provided both captains agree so in advance of play.

8.

- a. No player who has played above board 3 in any division may play for any other team in any lower division.
- b. No player who has played above board 3 twice in any division may play for any other team in that division.
- c. No player listed above board 3 in the first match played by that team may subsequently play for any other team in that division.
- d. No player who has played in any division may subsequently play for a team in a division, which is two or more divisions lower than that one, if his club has a team in an intermediate division.
- e. No player may play for more than one club in a season.

For the purpose of this rule, any name that appears against a board number on a team list drawn up by that team's captain (or acting captain) is deemed to have played.

Our vote for supporting this change

For 1

Against 9

Abstain 9

Therefore our representatives will not support this change

Representatives for the Bedfordshire League AGM will be

Colin Solloway

Thomas Evans

Meeting Closed at 9:10pm