

**Minutes of the  
Bury Area Chess League  
Annual General Meeting  
Held 20th July 2021 online @ 7:30pm on Zoom**

1.
  - a) Present:  
Oliver Lenton(OL), Steve Lovell(SL), Alan Richardson(AR), Paul Kemp(PK), Norman Hutchinson (NH), Bob Jones(BJ), Mark Szymanski(MS), Stephen Pride(SP), John Daugman (JD), Phillip Fallon (PF), Michael Osborn (M)
  - b) Apologies: None received
  
2.
  - a) Minutes from last AGM:  
Were accepted as a true record of the meeting. With respect to the actions  
Trophies – OL yet to collect them, will ensure its done by Jamboree.  
Committee for the restarting of the league – weren't able to consider restarting yet before next autumn.  
Redrafting of rule 1.4 – 1.6 which will be rediscussed later.  
Honors for best games of the season winners:  
Div 1 – Aarnavh Trivedi  
Div 2 – Guilio Sahinoz  
Div 3 – William Gu  
Bury congress – SL preparing a smaller event at Moreton Hall, 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> October with a final decision to be made before committal of the bulk of costs mid September.
  
3.
  - a) Officers reports:  
Finance: (PK) The league has a balance of just under £1500 and the congress has a balance just over £1500.  
Proposal to waive all league fees this coming season (ECF fines and purchasing of handbook costs still to be passed onto clubs) – Agreed  
No other officer reports.
  
4.
  - a) Resumption of play:  
Proposal to restart league in mid-September with the pre-season Jamboree at Bury:  
The Cambridgeshire leagues 11 point plan for commencing their league was not liked or desired and most was common sense. It was highlighted that captains may need to communicate prior to the match date.  
Proposal for a rule change to allow postponement of matches due to players becoming unavailable at short notice through illness. Teams to substitute players at short notice where possible, and if not for a more flexible postponing and rescheduling of fixtures – Agreed – Rules to be redrafted to facilitate this – AR by Aug 15th  
Rules of venues / requirements / what refreshments available to be posted on the league website so that visiting teams are aware beforehand – Agreed – SL to gather information by Aug 15th.  
Mask: A proposal that if a player wishes, then they and their opponent must wear masks was debated followed by three votes:  
If one player wishes then the whole venue must wear masked – 0 votes  
If one player wishes then the both teams must wear masked – 0 votes

If one player wishes then they and their opponent must wear masks (unless a screen is available or the player is medically exempt)– 5 yes, 2 no – Passed

It was highlighted that board order can be flexible (within the current rules if both captains agree) so that a player that wishes to wear a mask is not paired with a player that doesn't wish too. The proposed teams for the coming season:

Linton – Div 1 x 2, Div 2 x 2, Div 3 x 1, RG1 x 1, RG2 x 2

Sudbury – Not present but thoughts were that a div 3 team will be fielded – OL to double check by Aug 1st

Bury - Div 1 x 2, Div 2 x 1, Div 3 x 2, RG x ? (Bury originally proposed 1 Div 1 plus 2 Div 2 which would unbalance divisions 1 and 2; Bob Joes to confirm that Bury can do two division 1 teams)

Cambridge - Div 1 x 2, Div 2 x 2

Ely - Div 2 x 1, Div 3 x 1, RG x 1

Stowmarket – Not fielding teams this season

The final list of teams to be entered to MS by August 1<sup>st</sup> – Agreed

Start deferred to first week in October with the Jamboree on the 30<sup>th</sup> September – Agreed

b) Ratings:

(BJ) All rules wording regarding 'grading' have been changed to 'ratings', but the rules themselves not changed.

Rule 5.4, regarding nominations: the July date to be replaced by August – Agreed

The tolerance (for board order) to be set at 100 ranking points – Agreed

The thresholds for Roger Goldsmiths as outlined in the draft rules – Agreed

c) Rule changes 1.5 and 1.6:

The meeting were happy with the draft proposal – Agreed

5) Election of officers:

All current post holders are willing to stand again – Yes, with no objections

The vacancy for Vice Chairmen was once again not filled.

6) Date for Bury Congress:

The confirmed dates are October 23/24<sup>th</sup> at Moreton Hall (the whole venue will be hired), with the final decision as to go ahead on the 15<sup>th</sup> September.

7) Patrick Ribbands:

Sadly Patrick passed away last year, there is a full obituary on the league website, as well as one that ran in the ECF newsletter. Other comments were made regarding Patrick; how he helped young players, he was president of the Cambridge City Club, his services to the English opening, and how he was full of great ideas – from a unique pairing system, to recently starting the online ICENI league.

8) AOB  
None