

## **STOURBRIDGE CHESS CLUB**

President: Julie Wilson Email: [juliew@stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk](mailto:juliew@stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk)  
General Secretary: Paul Sharratt Tel: 07515 688795 Email: [psharratt@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:psharratt@hotmail.co.uk)  
Treasurer: Steve Alcock

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### **Minutes of an ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at Stourbridge Institute and Social Club on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023, commencing at 19.30 hours.**

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**Present:** Steve Alcock, Hayden Brilla, Ben Doran, John Foxall, Eric Horwill, Paul Sharratt, Tony Shaw, Richard Wilkinson, Julie Wilson, Colin Woodall, Mason Yeung.

- 1. Welcome and Apologies:** The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were apologies from Sam Bradley and Chris Evans.
- 2. Minutes of the AGM of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022:** The minutes were agreed.
- 3. Matters arising:** There was a proposal to alter 2 elements of the constitution. It was proposed that:
  - (i) item 6.1.1 be amended by the replacement of the words 'in May' with 'at the end of the season';
  - (ii) item 6.1.2 be amended by the replacement of the words 'by 30<sup>th</sup> April' with '7 full days before the AGM'.

The proposal was passed unanimously.

- 4. President's Report:** It is good to have completed a full season of fixtures after the upheaval of recent years. It has been a season of transition, some players having left the club, but with several new members joining. It is pleasing that chess has become more popular and a lot of the new members have already honed their chess playing skills online. There is an urgent need to encourage new members, and to involve them in league chess if they demonstrate an interest in participating. Hopefully next year will be quieter than of late.
- 5. Secretary's Report:** There have been some difficulties in achieving full participation in some teams this year, most notably in BDCL2. Nevertheless, a very full programme of fixtures has been completed.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** The accounts were circulated and agreed by the meeting. There was an in-year surplus of £115.

**7. Captains' Reports:**

The BDCL2 team has been relegated, and the BDCL4 team has retained its place. The BDCL4 team has had a good run in the Townshend Trophy, finishing as runners-up. In WDCL2 the team has finished in joint third place in a very closely-fought competition. The WDCL3 team has finished 9<sup>th</sup>/11, but has been successful in providing games for new players. The team finished in last place in the Humphries Cup jamboree.

In DDCL3 the intention is to give our less experienced and new members some league chess. 11 different Stourbridge players played in this team. The best performance was from Ben who scored 3½ out of 5. Mark and Danny Spooner both won their first league games. We finished 4th out of 5 teams.

In both the Worcestershire Challengers and the Worcestershire Rapidplay the Stourbridge teams finished mid-table.

**8. Social Secretary's Report:** The Summer programme started with a blitz tournament on 1st June.

The Summer tournament started on the 22nd June with one round every two weeks. In the last round Chris Evans beat Tony Shaw to come first on 4 points. Tony Shaw, Eric Horwill and John Foxall tied for second on 3.5 points. The grading prize went to Ben Doran.

The Tony Evers match v Halesowen was hosted by Halesowen on 26th July. There was a really nice friendly atmosphere throughout the evening. The final result was a drawn match, but Halesowen won over the boards as there was one default. However, we did lend them Jeremy!

The club dinner was held at the Roedeer on the 8th August.

For the first time since 2019 we held the Brian Dudley memorial blitz tournament. Thanks to Steve for doing most of the organisation. It was dominated by Stourbridge players with Joe Friar winning the main section and Joe Conway-Lees coming second. Josh Greaves won the junior tournament.

An internal blitz tournament was held on 31st August to kick-off the 2022/23 season. Eleven players played in an all-play-all tournament. The winner was Joe Conway-Lees with 10½. Paul Sharratt came second with 9½ and Eric Horwill third with 8½.

We held a Christmas blitz tournament on 28th December. The tournament was won by Joe Conway-Rees with Julie Wilson second.

Throughout the year the online club has held tournaments on chess.com. Julie is now a chess.com affiliate and can award up to 3 diamond memberships as prizes. Currently, online tournaments are held once a month. We usually get between 5 and 8 players so could do with some more. Julie is trying to keep the online club ticking over as it attracts people to the OTB club. We also have the occasional daily chess match. Do let Julie know if there's any particular type of tournament you would like her to put on.

**9. Publicity Secretary's Report:** The local newspapers have stopped publishing reports submitted by Julie, who made a plea for items of interest to be sent to her, including match results and reports.

Posters and cards advertising the club are available from Julie.

There is a club notice board in the Institute for chess related material and tournament flyers.

In the club cupboard there are a number of files of club records. These go back to the 1890s, but there are no paper records from around 1997 onwards. Julie has therefore created a new file and added some documents to it. Please feel to add to this. She has also created a google drive for digital records. If you have any digital records that the club should keep for posterity, please send them to her or alternatively request access to the google drive.

The Website has been regularly updated throughout the year. Julie is gradually documenting the club's history. This is a major project which she expects to take several years, as the club's history goes back to 1852! Please let Julie have any information you may have about the club's history.

The Facebook group currently has 46 members. Jayne Greaves has kindly offered to help with the club's social media.

**10. Safeguarding update:** There were no incidents to report. Paul wished to stand down as safeguarding officer. Unfortunately, there was no evidence of the current policy on the website or elsewhere – this needed to be rectified as a matter of urgency. Paul was prepared to work with his replacement if a new policy was required.

**11. Presentation of Awards for 2022/23:** The following awards were made:

The Sidney Willetts Trophy (most reliable club member) – John Foxall

The President's Cup (services to the club) – Paul Sharratt

The Denis Fernihough Trophy (most improved player) – Joe Conway-Lees

**12. Summer programme:** The following events are planned:

- (i) Summer tournament – 5-round Swiss. This year it will start on 14th June and I am expecting a good turnout, particularly from our newer members.
- (ii) Tony Evers match v Halesowen (h) – 19<sup>th</sup> July
- (iii) Club dinner at 'The Bay Tree' in Kinver – 3<sup>rd</sup> August
- (iv) Brian Dudley Memorial Tournament – We have not yet decided what format it will take this year. If anyone would be interested in running the tournament, please let Eric or Julie know.

**13. Election of Officers for 2023/4:** The following officers were elected:

- (i) President – Julie Wilson
- (ii) General Secretary – Paul Sharratt
- (iii) Treasurer – Steve Alcock
- (iv) Social Secretary – Julie Wilson
- (v) Publicity and Website – Julie Wilson
- (vi) Safeguarding – Jayne Greaves
- (vii) Team captains – There was a significant shortage of captains for next season. Tony Shaw kindly volunteered to captain the WDCL2 team. For the remaining teams, Paul Sharratt offered to act as team manager, selecting the teams and organising transport. He would nominate a captain for each match on a rota basis. The nominated captain would be responsible for setting up and clearing away, hopefully with the help of team members. Members were reminded of the new arrangements for clearing away (as per the notice on the door of the room). These arrangements were agreed unanimously.
- (viii) Co-opted members – Eric Horwill and John Foxall

**14. Teams for 2022/3:** It was agreed that the teams for next season would be:

BDCL divisions 3 and 4  
WDCL divisions 2 and 3  
DDCL division 3  
Worcestershire Challengers and Rapidplay

There was insufficient interest to support an entry for the BDCL summer league.

**15. County chess update:** In both the Minor Counties and u1650 competitions the Worcestershire teams had been knocked out at the quarter-final stage of the nationals.

**16. Fees for 2022/3 season:** It was agreed that membership fees would remain unchanged.

**17. SISC membership:** The President reminded the meeting that the Institute expected that regular players would become members of the Institute at a cost of £95 (this does not apply for second-claim members).

**18. ECF membership:** Members were reminded that they could not play more than 3 games in any league (including cup matches) without incurring a membership fee for the English Chess Federation.

**19. A.O.B.:** There was unanimous agreement to the proposal to offer honorary membership of the chess club to Kata Toma.

The President thanked everyone for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 20:55.

