

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Sheffield & District Chess Association
The Trades & Labour Club, 200 Duke Street, Sheffield S2 5QQ
Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7.30pm**

1. Apologies for absence

Sheffield Deaf, Andrew Hards and Steve Daykin.

2. Chairman's Opening Comments

Geoff started by announcing that he'd just broken his spectacles so was going to have a problem reading the agenda.

After a few brief comments about the well fought divisions over the last year he went on to give a eulogy to the late Paul Blackman who passed away recently. There was then a brief period of silence in Paul's memory.

3. Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 5th September 2023

These had already been circulated by email and were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Treasurer's Report

John Mercy produced a set of audited accounts showing an excess expenditure over income of £60.00. He was still waiting for full accounts from Sheffield A captain and was expecting to receive an invoice from the ECF re non-member fees.

6. Secretaries' Reports

Daniel Sullivan had prepared a report regarding Divisions 1 & 2 and also the cup competitions, and Geoff Brown had written a report re the Sheffield Individual tournament. Both of these had been circulated by email prior to the meeting.

There were no further reports at the meeting.

7. Election of Officers, Auditors, Archivist & Match Captains

President	Geoff Frost – persuaded to continue for another year
General Secretary	Geoff Brown
Treasurer	John Mercy – this will be John's final year in the post, he said
Auditors	Nigel Carpino and Dave Latham
Webmaster	Steve Mann
Tournament Controller	Geoff Brown
Division 1 Secretary	Daniel Sullivan
Division 2 Secretary	Daniel Sullivan
Division 3 Secretary	Phill Beckett
Division 4 Secretary	Phill Beckett
Richardson/Haystead Controller	Daniel Sullivan
Summer League Secretary	Daniel Sullivan
Vice-Presidents	all, with the exception of the late Paul Blackman, were re-elected
Sheffield A team captain	Mike Handley
Sheffield B team captain	Geoff Brown

8. Election of members to serve on the Executive

Oliver Brennan, Jonathan Arnott, Jamie Woodhouse and Alan McIntosh

9. Fixing of fees and subscriptions.

Treasurer John Mercy proposed that these should remain the same as last year and this was agreed by the meeting.

10. Proposed amendments to the Constitution & Rules (see below)

14 (c) "The lowest **two** divisions of the League shall **each consist of a minimum of six teams and a maximum of ten teams, each of which shall play two matches (home and away) with each other team. Where possible equal numbers of teams shall be allocated to each of these two divisions, otherwise the lowest division shall have the fewer number.**"

This had been proposed by Jonathan Arnott (in conjunction with Steve Mann) and was duly passed, with the voting being 17-1 and two abstentions, despite a discussion re relegations from divisions of only six teams.

The second proposal taken was proposed by Steve Mann

Rule 14(b) be amended to read

"Whenever possible, all divisions of the League except possibly the lowest **two** shall consist of eight teams, each of which shall play two matches (home and away) with each other team. When it is not possible to establish eight teams in a division at the AGM the president shall use his discretion to allow a lower number for that season."

This was carried by 18 votes to 0.

When it came to the third proposal (proposed by Steve Mann in conjunction with Jonathan Arnott), the chairman allowed a slight change to the original wording, in effect a clarification of the proposal, and highlighted in black below, to cover instances where clubs have more than two teams in a division.

18(b) Where a club has **two or more** teams in the same division, a player currently registered for one of those teams is ineligible to play for **another**. Subject to the following provisions which apply separately in any division in which a club has two teams, an unregistered player may become a shared player making them eligible to play for **two of the club's teams in that division**.

(i) At any time, the club may have no more than three shared players in the division. At the start of the season it has as yet no shared players.

(ii) When the club has less than three shared players, if an unregistered player who has already played for one team later plays for the other team, they then automatically become a shared player **of those two teams**.

(iii) When the club currently has three shared players, a player who has already played for one team in the division, but is not currently shared, is ineligible to play for **another**.

(iv) If a shared player becomes registered, they thereby cease to be a shared player."

This was carried by 16 votes to 2

At 8.46pm the meeting was paused for quarter of an hour to allow people to take food from the buffet. Dave Hill of Ravenfield left the meeting at this point.

The next proposal was from Daniel Sullivan and Martin Howard

19 (c) "At the start of each match, the two captains shall first exchange team lists giving the names of their players in descending order of strength from board one downwards. If the rating of a player on the ECF list in September is more than 100 points greater than that of a player on a higher board, then the rule has been broken and a game point will be deducted from the offending team unless the captain has been given an exemption from the rule by contacting the league controller before the match takes place. A captain may seek an exemption from the rule if he / she considers that the playing strength of a player is not accurately reflected by their rating e.g. a category P rating".

This was carried by 13 votes to 5.

Proposal number 5 was from Peter Ackley, raising the question about increments again.

20 (b) "In all team matches, each player shall have 75 minutes in which to complete the game. Where both captains agree, an alternative time limit of 65 minutes plus an increment of 10 seconds per move to finish the game may be used."

The voting was 7 for and 9 against the motion and so it failed.

Bill Ward's proposal, seconded by Woodseats Chess Club, came next

23(a) Teams shall be awarded three match points for each match won, and one match point for each match drawn. If a match is played for double points, then double the totals of match points and game points from that match are added into the teams' point totals. The teams in a given division shall be placed, first to last, in descending order of their respective totals of match points.

There was very little discussion allowed on this proposal and it received only 2 votes in its favour so was defeated.

The seventh proposal of the evening came from Jonathan Arnott (again with Steve Mann's help).

23(b) The team scoring most match points in each division each season shall be declared champions and hold the appropriate trophy until the end of the following season. The two teams scoring most points in each division, other than the highest, shall be entitled to play in the next higher division in the following season, unless disqualified under Rule15(e). A team wishing to refuse promotion may do so only by consent of the AGM.

This was passed by 14 votes to 1.

The final proposal of the evening, worded by Steve Mann was withdrawn without discussion.

23(c) In a division (other than lowest division) some teams may need to be relegated in the following season to the next lower division. The number of teams so relegated from a division shall be the number of teams promoted into the division in accordance with Rule 14(b) less the number of any withdrawals. If that number is one, then only the lowest-placed team shall be relegated. If that number is two, then the two lowest-placed teams shall be relegated. An otherwise relegated team may apply to be considered for re-election to its former division if there proves to be a vacancy in it due for instance to a withdrawal.

11. Approval of Clubs seeking membership to the league

There were no new clubs seeking membership.

12. Organisation of teams into Divisions

With 37 teams this coming season, and with the new rules about division sizes, these were sorted into three divisions of eight teams plus a six-team fourth division and a seven-team, 4-player, fifth division.

Phill Beckett will be the Divisional Secretary for the new Division 5.

So, Division 1 – SASCA A, Nomads A, Chesterfield A, Ecclesall A, Hillsborough A, Woodseats A, Barnsley A and Nomads B

Division 2 – Worksop A, Darnall & Handsworth A, University A, Hillsborough B, Ecclesall B, SASCA B, Chesterfield B and Rotherham

Division 3 – Darnall & Handsworth B, Worksop B, Nomads C, Barnsley B, Woodseats B, Chesterfield C, SASCA C and University B

Division 4 – Ecclesall C, Darnall & Handsworth C, Barnsley C, Woodseats C, Hillsborough C and SASCA D

Division 5 – Woodseats D, Ravenfield, Sheffield Deaf, Barnsley D, Hillsborough D, SASCA E and Darnall & Handsworth D

13. Any Other Business

- (a) John Mercy proposed a vote of thanks to Nomads club for providing a free buffet.
- (b) Jamie Woodhouse wanted to revisit the discussion re mobile phones and other electronic devices at matches. Although new guidance was agreed at last year's Fixture Meeting, this has still not been incorporated into our rules. Alan McIntosh said that he would come up with a rule proposal re phones for the 2025 AGM.

The meeting closed at 21.49 hours