Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Sheffield & District Chess Association, held on Wednesday 4th September 2013 at Swallownest Miners’ Welfare Club, Rotherham Road, Swallownest, Sheffield S26 4UR.

The meeting was called to order at 7 15 pm.

President Mike Smith thanked Peter Swanson and the Aughton club for offering the venue.

In memoriam: Peter Charles.

1. Apologies for absence : none received.  
 2. Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting were accepted as an accurate record, although a couple of inaccuracies as to personnel came to light in the course of the meeting.  
 3. Matters arising: none

All secretaries’ and team captains’ reports had been circulated in advance. There were no verbal reports on the night, apart from the Treasurer’s.

 4. Treasurer's Report. The accounts were received by the meeting in written form. Basically the state of finances was strong: £1700 in the bank, income and outgoings relatively small in relation to this figure, and unless we came up with a proposal which involved spending a large amount of this, no current plans that posed any sort of threat to this healthy balance.  
 5. Secretaries' / Captains’ Reports: Questions. The President asked for any questions about the reports and none were asked.

Presentation of Trophies was moved until after the rule change proposals to make best use of the available time of the person providing the sign language for the deaf.  
   
 7. Election of Officers, Auditors, Archivist & Match Captains.

Note some changes. Andy Hards was voted in as Vice President. Auditors will be Geoff Frost and Steve Mann: thanks to outgoing auditors Brian England and Tony Perry.

Divisional Secretaries: 1. Phill Beckett. 2. Tony Perry. 3. Steve Bracey 4. Phill Beckett; 5. Tony Perry replacing Phil South. Thanks to Phil for his work successfully organising this one under trying circumstances.

Championship Controller – Paul Bailey.

Junior Chess Secretary – Ian Hemingway.

The Crabb and Gurnhill will be organised by Shane Firth and thanks to Bill Ward for many years in this role.  
 8. Election of Chairman of the Executive. Thanks to Steve Mann for his years of effort in this post, from which he now retires. The new Chair of Executive will be Andy Hards.  
 9. Election of members to serve on the Executive: as before – Mick Clark, Geoff Frost, Alan Coupe, Pete Swanson.

10. Fixing of fees and subscriptions. To stay as before.  
11. Proposed amendments to the Constitution & Rules.

The following proposals were accepted, having achieved the required two thirds majority (rule 10(b)):

A) 9. PROCEDURE AT GENERAL, AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS  
(a) The General Secretary shall give at least fourteen days written notice to all member clubs, officers and individual members of all General Meetings. The notice shall include a full agenda including details of any proposed changes to the Constitution or Rules. For the Annual General Meeting the notice shall be thirty days. Proposal is to add: "Email shall be acceptable notification to those who have provided an Email address."

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B) 14. ORGANISATION OF THE LEAGUE  
(a) The Association shall organise a League for competition between representing member clubs, arranged in a number of divisions determined by the number of teams.  
(b) All divisions of the League except possibly the lowest shall consist of nine teams, each of which shall play two matches (home and away) with each other team.  
(c) The lowest division of the League shall be arranged to accommodate the varying number of teams from year to year; and shall consist of a minimum of six teams, and a maximum of fourteen teams.  
(d) The Fixture Meeting may allow clubs to arrange one match for double points in place of home and away matches, provided that their opponents agree.  
(e) In Division One of the League a team shall consist of eight players.  
(f) In Divisions two, three and four of the League a team shall consist of six players. [Revised 2012]  
**(g) In Divisions five and below of the League a team shall consist of four players.**  
[Added 2012]  
(h) Any team may apply for a vacancy in a higher division.  
[Added September 2008; re-lettered 2012]

The proposal is to amend (g) to:

(g) In Divisions five and below of the League a team shall consist of a minimum of four players, but this may be increased, by mutual agreement, to either five players or a maximum of six players.

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C) When a 4 player division was introduced last year, we did not consider a club running only one 4 player team in the context of the Richardson Cup competition which comprises 6 boards. At present each member club must enter at least one team in the Richardson Cup. The present rule could be mandating a club with less than 6 players to enter. This proposal is to make entry optional for a club in that position.

The current rule is:

24. THE RICHARDSON CUP COMPETITION

(c) Each member club must enter at least one team. There will also be a Plate competition for 1st round losers.

 Proposal is to insert: "except that entry shall be optional for a club that runs only one 4 player team."

The revised rule to read:

24. THE RICHARDSON CUP COMPETITION

(c) Each member club must enter at least one team, except that entry shall be optional for a club that runs only one 4 player team.  There will also be a Plate competition for 1st round losers.

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The following proposals were debated, but not accepted:

A ) 14. ORGANISATION OF THE LEAGUE

(f) In Divisions two, three and four of the League a team shall consist of six players.

(g) In Divisions five and below of the League a team shall consist of four players.

The proposal is to extend 4 boards to division 4.  Thus the rules would read:

14. ORGANISATION OF THE LEAGUE

(f) In Divisions two and three of the League a team shall consist of six players.

(g) In Divisions four and below of the League a team shall consist of four players.

If the previous proposal (Jeremy Hamm) is passed, the net result will be that:

14. ORGANISATION OF THE LEAGUE

(f) In Divisions two and three of the League a team shall consist of six players.

(g) In Divisions four and below of the League a team shall consist of four players, but this may be increased, by mutual agreement, to either five players or a maximum of six players.

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B) 20 (b) In all team matches, each player shall have 60 minutes on his or her clock to make 30 moves. If the game has not been completed by black’s 30th move, both clocks shall be set back 15 minutes and the players will have the remaining time on their clocks to complete the game. This allegro finish shall be conducted in accordance with BCF Quickplay Finish rules.

with the following:

20 (b) In all team matches, each player shall have 75 minutes on his or her clock to make 36 moves. If the game has not been completed by black’s 36th move, both clocks shall be set back 15 minutes and the players will have the remaining time on their clocks to complete the game. This allegro finish shall be conducted in accordance with FIDE laws of Chess Article 10 Quickplay Finish and Appendix D.

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C) 18. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

I propose that there is an additional sub-clause added to Rule 18 as follows:

“(e) All players are expected to be members of the ECF.  It is not a prerequisite to be a member of the ECF in order to be eligible to play for a club in any of the competitions organised by the Association, but non-ECF members shall not be permitted to play more than 5 games in total in such competitions during any 12 month period commencing 1 September.  After playing 5 games, a non-ECF member ceases to be eligible to play for any club.  The penalty set out at Rule 18 (d) shall then apply in the event that the individual plays any further competitive games

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6. Presentation of Trophies.

13. Approval of Clubs seeking membership to the league: there were none.  
14. Organisation of teams into Divisions. This proved problematic, but has been done with the result that divisions 1 and 4 will have eight teams, 2 & 3 nine; division 5 will have six. For the two divisions to have eight teams is unconstitutional, but seemed the least unsatisfactory solution and the executive will consider what is to be done about this.  
15. Any Other Business. There was none.

Meeting closed at 21 :50.