

South Shields Chess Club

**Minutes of the 2024 AGM**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024

The Customs House



## **Introduction**

This document provides a summary of the key minutes from the AGM held on 28/09/24, at the South Shields Customs House.

The meeting broadly followed the agenda given below and was supplemented by the Chairman's report that had been distributed in advance.

List of Attendees; Eddie Czestochowski, Dave Patterson, Stan Johnson, John Moore, John Boyd, Yaroslav Kolodiy, Chris Sayers, Kevin Rowden, Paul Pocock, Alan Smith, Paul Bielby, Roy Merrin, Steve Nesworthy, Dennis Hawes.

Apologies Alan Blackburn.

## **Meeting Agenda**

1. Officials Reports
2. Internal Club Competitions
3. Captains Reports
4. Matters Relating to Northumberland County Chess Association (NCCA)
5. Matters Relating to Durham County Chess Association (DCCA)
6. The Way forward
7. Any Other Business (AOB)

### **1. Officials Reports**

#### **1.1 Chairmans Report**

Eddie Czestochowski (Chairperson) opened the meeting, welcomed everyone to this season's new venue (Customs House) and thanked the attendees for a good turnout.

EC ran through the previously distributed Chairman's Report reiterating key points. These included the move to the Customs House, the success of the weekly sessions at the WORD and an overview of the annual South Shields Blitz competition also held at the WORD.

Eddie also highlighted the recent passing of a member of the club George Richardson, who had played chess at the club many years ago but had enthusiastically rediscovered it and played regularly at the WORD.

#### **1.2 Treasurers Report**

Some of the club's financial details were given in the Chairmans report, however further information was provided by Stan Johnson (Treasurer) at the meeting.

The club is in a good financial position with currently over £200 of funds at the start of this season.

Stan was asked to look at combining the two sources of funds that we currently manage, into a single bank account, for ease of use and reporting. (Action: A001)

Anyone wishing to see more detail of the club's financial position should contact Stan directly, and if there's sufficient demand a regular report could be produced.

Discussions were held on the need to set any fees for this year. It was agreed that the club membership fee should remain at £5 for the 2024/2025 season but would be waived for all existing members. New members will be asked to pay £5, should they decide to attend on a regular basis. ECF membership fees will continue to be the responsibility of the individual if they wish to play in League or ECF registered competitions such as weekend congresses.

As the Customs House will not be charging the Chess Club (at the moment) for the use of the venue it was agreed that every regular member would be asked to become a Friend of the Customs House.

EC agreed to discuss the prospect of a discounted rate with the Customs House given the individual rate is £35 and a joint rate is £50 (for two adults). (Action: A002)

### **1.3 Competitions Organiser**

No formal report was issued; however, it was stated that the two internal competitions (see section 2 for details) were still in progress after considerably over running this year. It was expected that all remaining matches would be completed by end of October with a view to identifying the winners, presenting the trophies, and engraving the silverware this year!

Kevin Rowden (last year's winner of both competitions) returned the trophies, which are in safe keeping with Stan Johnson (Friends Bowl) and Dave Patterson (Stan Johnson Club Championship Trophy).

### **1.4 Web Master**

No formal report was issued, but Eddie outlined his intention to collaborate with the webmaster (Lewis) and create a fresh look website. Anyone with ideas or contributions should contact Eddie directly.

Stan offered to research the history of the Friends Bowl in a little more detail and provide the information to Eddie for inclusion on the web site. (Action: A003)

## **2. Internal Club Competitions**

### **2.1 Club Championship**

This is an all play all competition, open to any club member. The games are graded for ECF purposes.

Stan Johnson has agreed to run it again this year with fixtures and results recorded in the League Management System (LMS) open to all ECF registered clubs.

Stan will contact all members, including any new ones to ask if they would like to enter. Competition rules will be posted on the website. (Action: A004)

## **2.2 Friends Bowl**

This is a handicap knockout competition where the handicap relates to less moves or less material at the start depending upon the players respective ECF rating. This is designed to give even the newest of chess beginner an opportunity to win against any opponent, even the best in the club and the trophy.

Keven Rowden has agreed to run it this year, although this must be managed outside of the League Management System (LMS), as this competition does not meet the criteria for ECF grading.

Kevin will contact all members, including any new ones to ask if they would like to enter. Competition rules will be posted on the website. (Action: A005)

## **3. Captains Reports**

We had four teams playing in the Northumberland County League this year, simply named South Shields A, B, C and D.

South Shields A team was captained by John Boyd, playing in the A Division and finished a highly successful 2<sup>nd</sup> Place.

South Shields B team was captained by Kevin Rowden, playing in Division 2, and finished getting relegated this season.

South Shields C team was captained by Stan Johnson, playing in Division 5, and finished 5<sup>th</sup> Place.

South Shields D team was captained by Alan Johnson, playing in Division 6, and finished 5<sup>th</sup> Place.

Full details of the League fixtures and results can be found on the NCCA website and the LMS website.

Unfortunately, we will not be submitting an A team into Division 1 this year as we have lost several very strong players due to illness/retirement.

It has been agreed that we will submit three teams into the Northumberland County Leagues this year and take the opportunity to name them, for additional marketing opportunities.

- South Shields Arbeians,
- South Shields Sand Dancers
- South Shields Custodians

The Arbeians will be playing in League Division 2, which whilst very strong should give our new look B Team a fighting chance.

Alan Johnson will captain the Sand Dancers and play in Division 5.

Stan Johnson will captain the Custodians and play in Division 6.

Anyone wishing to play for any of these teams, please make yourself known to the respective Captains and they should be able to include you in a wider squad from which to draw upon for this season.

There are certain rules governing whether players can play for multiple teams which mean that you may become ineligible to play for specific teams as the season progresses. Captains can advise on these situations.

#### **4. Matters Relating to Northumberland County Chess Association (NCCA)**

The NCCA held significant discussions on changes to the makeup of the various leagues. The resultant outcome seems to be that things are unchanged. Full details will be available to see on the NCCA website. The 2024/2025 structure of Leagues and fixtures is now available on the LMS website.

#### **5. Matters Relating to Durham County Chess Association (DCCA)**

We only had one team playing in the DCCA League this year. It was as usual for recent years a very strong team.

The South Shields team was captained by Chris Sayers, playing in Division A and finished a very successful 2<sup>nd</sup> Place.

No details of the coming season's structure were available for discussion at the time of this meeting. It was however agreed that we would enter a single team into the A Division, with Chris Sayers continuing as Captain.

#### **6. The Way forward**

It is hoped that we may be able to start a junior offering, maybe by starting the club at 6pm on a Thursday, John Moore indicated his grandson Charlie would be keen to get extra opportunities. This is something we could start slowly.

We should really start to actively promote the club, this new venue together with The Word activities is a good start.

## **7. Any Other Business (AOB)**

- Next year's Blitz
- WhatsApp Group to be set up for ease of communication.