**MEETING MINUTES**

**For the St Albans Chess Club**

**Annual General Meeting 2015**

**Date: 22nd June 2015 Start time: 7.45 pm Venue: County Constitutional Club**

**Present:** P Baker; J Barnes; D Bower; R Claret; I Cross; T Douse; A Ellis; Dr K Feldman; M Flatt;
A Gemmell; J Gemmell; C Irani; S James; P Lawrence; E Magee; A McMahon; S Narbeth; D Pugh.

Dr Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell in the chair.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

 Apologies were received from G Hollis; Dr M Lexton; Mrs R Phillips.

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM (23rd June 2014)**

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were signed by Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell as a true record of the meeting.

**Matters arising:** None.

1. **OFFICERS REPORTS**

Copies of the officer’s reports were made available at the meeting.

3.1 **President**. Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell welcomed members to the meeting. He said that there the membership has increased this season. The Early Knight’s were doing well, with a waiting list for new juniors wanting to join. The adult club had run 8 League teams this season, next season an additional team would be entered into HCA division 6.

There had been 2 overseas matches played in Holland in February and the club had hosted a visit by a team of 8 players from Metchelen, Belgium in May. The Lavers Ladder and Silver Rook competitions had been run successfully again this season. He thanked the team captains for their hard work.

3.2 **Secretary**. Ian Cross said that the Cheshire Board Match would be away at Watford in September. The first club night of the 2015-16 season will be Monday 7th September.

3.3 **Congress Director.** Ray Claret said that the 2015 Congress had been successful. The un-audited profit was £1425. He asked for more volunteer helpers to help set-up the equipment on the Friday before the congress. Next year’s dates were April 9th / 10th 2016, two weeks after Easter.

3.4 **Early Knights Organiser.** Michael Flatt said that there was a long waiting list for the Early Knights. He thanked Neil Willmott and Jacek Winter for providing coaching to the junior members. There were a lot of potential strong juniors, some of whom had qualified for the Gig final on 4th July.

3.5 **Club Website.** Michael Flatt said that the website had been hosted on another server, and had been consolidated in the process. He requested that club members provide him with news and other material for the club’s website.

3.6 **Team Captain’s Reports (Summary)**

**(a) HCA League teams**

The first team wererelegated from division 1 this season, having finished in 7th place.

The second team had finished top of division 3, so were promoted to division 2.

The third team had finished 3rd in division 4.

The forth team had finished 7th in division 4, so were relegated to division 5.

The fifth team had finished 6th in division 5.

The sixth team had finished in 5th place out of the 11 teams in division 6.

The under 120 team had finished in 3rd place out of 8 teams. 16 players had been selected.

**(b) H&D League:** The team had finished in 3rd place out of 5 teams. 16 players had been selected.

**(c) HCA Knockout Trophy teams:**

**Russell (Open):** Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell reported that Russell Trophy team had been eliminated by Hemel Hempstead 4-2 in the first round.

**Sharp (Under 160):** The Sharp Trophy team lost 3.5-2.5 at home in their first round match against Watford.

**Under-140:** The Under-140 team had been eliminated by Hoddesdon 3-2 in the first round.

**Under-120:** The Under-120 had been eliminated by Watford 3-1 in the semi-final.

**(d) Club Events**

**Simultaneous exhibition by IM Paul Littlewood:** Paul’s score against the club was 15.5 – 2.5.

**Cheshire Trophy:** The challenge match against Watford had been lost 11.5-8.5 at home.

**“Double Cross" match vs Harrow:** The 6th challenge match against Harrow had been won 24.5 – 15.5 by St Albans.

**(e) Internal Club Competitions**

**Silver Rook:** The winner of the Silver Rook trophy for the 2nd successive year was Aidan Ellis. Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell was runner-up for the second successive year.

**Lavers Ladder:** The winner of the Laver Ladder trophy was John Gemmell. Terry Douse was runner-up.

**Turner Prize:** The award was won by Mihiranga Jayawardena of the second team, with a score of 9/13.

**(f) St. Albans 2014 Overseas Tour:** This year’s tour had been to Holland, with matches played against West Amsterdam (Draw 3.5-3.5) and De Uil (Won 5.5-2.5). The destination of next year’s tour was likely to be Malta.

3.7 **Treasurer:** Simon Narbeth provided the meeting with a summary of the Club and Congress financial accounts. Income had increased for the 2014-15 season, but expenditure had also increased, mainly because of the increase in annual rent of £400). There had been an increase in the number of adult members and increased income from the Early Knights.

The 2014 Congress had made a profit of £1365, the difference from the figure quoted in 3.3 above (i.e. £1425) being offset by allowance of the congress insurance premium. Overall, the financial accounts showed a net income of £357 for the 2014-15 season.

The Balance Sheet showed a healthy reserve of £13210, up by £813 from the previous season.

The 2014-15 club accounts were approved by the meeting. (Proposed by R Claret, seconded by M Flatt).

**4. BUDGET & PROPOSED ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2015-16**

No financial budget for the forthcoming season was presented at the AGM. An exceptional item of 20 new DGT2010 digital chess clocks, at a total cost of £715, will be included in the expenditure for 2015-16.

The recommendation to the meeting was that the annual subscription should remain unchanged:

* £60 for adults, with a discount of £10 for payment received before 1st October
* £30 for students and unwaged, with a discount of £5 for payment received before 1st October.

The annual subscription rates for 2015-16 was unanimously approved by the meeting. (Proposed by D Bower, seconded by P Lawrence).

**5. CLUB COMPETITIONS FOR 2015-16**

**(a) Number of League Teams:** The club will enter a 7th team into HCA division 6 next season, bringing the total number of League team to 9.

**(b) Lavers Ladder:** The competition had proved popular again this season. A total of 178 games had been played by 31 players.

**(c) Silver Rook:** Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell said that the low number of Silver Rook played this season was disappointing. Because results are sent for ECF grading, this is a route to increase a player’s total of graded games.

**6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**The following club officers were re-elected:

**President**: Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell

**Secretary**: Ian Cross

**Treasurer**: Simon Narbeth

**Congress Director**: Ray Claret.

**7. PRESENTATIONS**

Thefollowing presentations were made:

**a) Turner Prize:** The winner Mihiranga Jayawardena was not present at the meeting to receive the trophy.

**b) Laver’s Ladder:** The trophy was presented to the winnerJohn Gemmell

**c) Silver Rook:** The trophy was presented to the winnerAidan Ellis.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business. Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell declared the meeting closed at 9:08 pm.