



B.S.C.C.

The Bishop's Stortford Chess Club



Annual General Meeting 2025

Date:	Thursday 04.09.25
Time:	8:00pm Onwards
Venue:	B.S. Methodist Church Hall
Chairman:	Charles Willbe
Secretary:	Adam Hirst
Treasurer:	Andrew Cowlin

Members:	Mr Ieuan Ward	Mr William Young	Mr Neville Twitchell	Mr Tim Acton
Omolara Osiyemi	Mr Kai Rundell	Mr Andrew Cowlin	Mr Oak Tetlow	Mr Adam Hirst
Mr Charles Willbe	Mr Neil Thompson	Mr Peter Jurd	Mr William Bohn	Mr Robert Hitchings
Mr Nathan Wong	Mr Nick Harrington	Mr Sam Richardson	Mr James Male	Ma. Alex Thompson
Mr Perry Greenberg		Miss Kayal Vijay	Mr Tim Acton	Mr Vishnu Suresh

Non-Members:		

Name	Present
Name	Absent

Agenda:		Minutes:
1	Apologies of Absence	Kai Rundell
2	Minutes of Last AGM	Having been previously distributed to all members for approval and receiving no objections – were agreed as correct.
3	Matters Arising	One matter was carried forward from the previous AGM: the sorting of spare pieces. It was agreed that this still needs to be completed following the AGM. Action: Charles to coordinate the sorting of the spare pieces.
4	Chairman's Report	Charles Willbe See Report Varied last season. But this year a lot less good. 25 wins from 60 with 7 draws. New players. Do need players to come down especially when they don't have games. Not a good start – might want to get some longer matches in before the start of the season Miss all contributions as well as the man himself.
5	Treasurer's Report	Andrew Cowlin The Treasurer reported that as of 1st September 2025, the club's balance stood at £3,102.44, reflecting a healthy financial position with members' subscriptions covering all costs. Adult Subscriptions: Slightly higher than the previous year but generally stable at £1,320. Church Licence Fee: Remained unchanged at £1,000 for the year. Junior Subscriptions: Increased this year to £381 (previously £183) due to a rise in church session fees from £90 to £190. HCA Membership & Fees: Totalled £66.74 for the year. Expenditure: No investments were made in club facilities, and no engraving costs were incurred.

		<p>It was noted that whilst the church fees remained the same for the past year, a review is expected in the coming year. A potential increase is therefore anticipated, although given the current healthy accounts, this is not expected to have a major impact.</p> <p>The Treasurer thanked members for the prompt payment of subscriptions last year and encouraged the same this year.</p> <p>Matters Arising from Treasurer’s Report</p> <p>Ieuan asked if any clocks had been purchased – it was confirmed that none were bought.</p> <p>Club membership renewals are now due.</p> <p>An ECF reminder has been issued; however, Sam noted he had not received one.</p>																														
6	Captains Reports	<p>BSCC T1 (Ieuan)</p>																														
		<p>It was noted that Team 1 had a strong start to the season, leading the division after 7–8 matches. However, performance declined in the latter part of the season.</p> <p>William commented that, although the team struggled overall, he was pleased with his own individual performance.</p>																														
		<p>BSCC T2 (Lara)</p>																														
		<p>The captain expressed gratitude to all team members for their efforts throughout the season, with particular thanks to Team 3 players who stepped up when required. Special appreciation was given to the “3 Mr Reliables”: Matt, Tim and Vishnu, for their consistent support.</p> <p>It was noted that two years ago the team had been given little chance of survival in Division 2, but managed to remain there for two seasons.</p> <p>Despite the best efforts to stay up this year, the team was significantly affected by defaults, with 14 out of 60 boards not played. As a result, the team was relegated.</p> <p>The captain concluded by thanking all players for their commitment during the season.</p> <table data-bbox="395 1285 686 1814"> <tr><td>Andrew Cowlin</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Kai Rundall</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Lara Osiyemi</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Matt Farley</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Adam Hirst</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Sam Richardson</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Oak Tetlow</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Charles Willbe</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Perry Greenberg</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Nathan Wong</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Tim Acton</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Vishnu Suresh</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Bohn Williams</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Craig Osborne</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Default</td><td>14</td></tr> </table>	Andrew Cowlin	1	Kai Rundall	2	Lara Osiyemi	7	Matt Farley	9	Adam Hirst	4	Sam Richardson	3	Oak Tetlow	1	Charles Willbe	4	Perry Greenberg	2	Nathan Wong	2	Tim Acton	5	Vishnu Suresh	4	Bohn Williams	1	Craig Osborne	1	Default	14
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<p>BSCC T3 (Nathan)</p>																																
<p>Nathan reported that Team 3 had a very good season. The outcome of the division came down to the last match against Watford, who were acknowledged as deserving winners.</p>																																
<p>H&D (Charles)</p>																																
<p>(Please see report (on the website)).</p>																																

		<p>Russell Cup (Ieuan) It was noted that the club lost 5–1 against Hemel. No further comment was added.</p> <p>Sharp Cup (Andrew) It was noted that the team won their first-round match; however, they were the only team playing in that round. The team was subsequently defeated in the following round.</p> <p>U1750 (Adam) It was noted that the team lost their first game of the season, an away match. Matt and myself drew, which accounted for all points scored. Board 5 was defaulted. The team’s opponents went on to become the eventual winners.</p> <p>U1600 (Sam & Nathan) It was noted that the team aimed to provide players with experience, which could be challenging, particularly against larger clubs. Overall, the team won more matches than they lost during the league season.</p> <p>In the cup competition, the team won their first-round match by default, but were defeated in the second round against St. Albans.</p>
7	Internal Competition Organiser Reports	<p>Dr. Hewitt Cup – Charles Willbe (Please see report (on the website)).</p> <p>It was noted that perhaps a revision to the standard time format may help ensure matches get played more. It was suggested that a rate of 40m + 10s per move for the Hewitt competition might make the matches more palatable.</p> <p>Rapid Play – Adam Hirst (Please see report (on the website)).</p> <p>Blitz – Adam Hirst (Please see report (on the website)).</p> <p>Club Championship – Ieuan Ward The tournament began with the top 8 players, determined from the preceding Rapid competition, with matchups arranged as follows: first versus eighth, second versus seventh, and so on. Ieuan and Andrew played their quarter-final match, but no further quarter-final games were completed.</p> <p>Lara noted that the format did not work effectively. It was observed that the original straight knock-out format had functioned better. The general consensus was that the original format was awkward to manage, which led to the revised system of using Rapid Play to determine a final four, as had been done successfully in the previous season. However, the last season, which pared the tournament to a final 8, did not work as well.</p> <p>It was further noted that only one quarter-final was completed. As Ieuan won that match and was the player who progressed the furthest, he declared himself the overall winner.</p>
8	BSJCC Report	<p>Tim Acton (Nathan, in Tim's absence). Another year with 10/15 children. All good. Check Tim is OK to continue.</p>

9	Trophy Organiser	This was not required			
10	Presentation of Trophies (Winners) (The History and meaning for each trophy can be found on our website).	Club Championship		Blitz Tournament	
		Club Champion	Ieuan Ward	Trent Cup	Ieuan Ward
		Challenger Trophy	NA	Hobden Cup	Nathan Wong
		Dr. Hewitt Cup			
		Dr. Hewitt Cup	James Male	Brown Cup	Adam Hirst
		Leyn Cup	Sam Richardson	Ashley Cup	Nathan Wong
		Rapid Play Tournament		Chairman's Cup	Sam Richardson
		Crosby Cup	Ieuan Ward		
		Capsey Tankard	Matthew Farley		
		The Chairman's Cup			
11	League Teams to Enter for Next Season	Hertfordshire (HCA) Leagues			
		The club will register the following teams into their present divisions. Based on current membership, the squads will potentially be:			
		B.S.C.C. T1 (Div.2)	Ieuan Ward (Capt.)		
		B.S.C.C. T2 (Div.3)	Lara Osiyemi (Capt.)		
B.S.C.C. T3 (Div.5)	Nathan Wong (Capt.)				
B.S.C.C. H&D:	Charles Willbe (Capt.)				
U1600 League	Sam Richardson (Capt.)				
U1600 Cup	Nathan Wong (Capt.)				
This does not take into account any new members looking to join in the new season. Captains can only be allocated once we have an idea who is available.					
(B.S.C.C. H&D) The aim for this competition is more 'friendly than the league competition; however, it was agreed that for the coming season the focus should be to win and to keep a regular(ish) team together.					
HCA KO Cup Competitions					
The club will register one team into each of the following:					
Russell Cup (Open)	Ieuan Ward (Capt.)				
Sharp Cup (U1900)	Andrew Cowlin (Capt.)				
Under 1750 Cup	Adam Hirst (Capt.)				
Under 1600 Cup	Nathan Wong (Capt.)				
12	Internal Club Competitions for Next season	The following organisers have been agreed by members at the AGM. Some appointments have been made on behalf of absentee members, but with their approval. Any appointments made without a member's consent are noted with an asterisk (*) and are subject to change.			
		Club Championship	Ieuan Ward		
		Dr. Hewitt Cup	Charles Willbe		
		Rapid Play	Adam Hirst		
		Blitz (& Handicap Blitz)	Adam Hirst		
		Simultaneous Consultation	Ieuan – To be held on Thu 18.09.25		
13	Election of Committee, Captains, organisers & Officers	The following roles/Captains have been agreed by members at the AGM. Some appointments have been made on behalf of absentee members, but with their approval. Any appointments made without a member's consent are noted with an asterisk (*) and are subject to change.			
		Chairman	Charles Willbe	H&D Captain	Charles Willbe
		Secretary	Adam Hirst	Russell Cup (Open)	Ieuan Ward
		Treasurer	Andrew Cowlin	Sharp Cup (U 1900)	Andrew Cowlin

		B.S.C.C. T1 Captain Ieuan Ward B.S.C.C. T2 Captain Lara Osiyemi B.S.C.C. T3 Captain Nathan Wong	U1750 Cup Team U1600 Cup Team	Adam Hirst Nathan Wong
14	Election of Organisers & Officers	In <u>addition</u> to the information stated earlier in the minutes. Trophy Officer Not required		
15	Junior Chess Club Revival	Please see notes from Pt. 8 Fees agreed at £60. £30 before Christmas. £40 after Christmas. £15 after Easter		
16	AOB	<p>Lara: Introduction of 'Box League' Lara began by explaining the process of the 'Box League'. He noted that the best player rarely wins and emphasized that the league can run all season, with matches following classical formats.</p> <p>Management of the league will depend on club timetable availability, which can be limited due to the number of matches played. Overall, it was considered something worth reviewing in the future.</p> <p>AH: WhatsApp Groups & Communication It was suggested that all WhatsApp groups should be started anew. However, the best approach raised some issues. The likely solution is that all members eligible for each team should be added to their respective groups.</p> <p>Nick noted that a 'Community' setup via WhatsApp could simplify communication. AH will review this and implement it as soon as possible. This will require members to delete current group setups.</p> <p>Team Setup & Player Availability It was noted that team setups need adjustment, especially given the struggles of some teams—particularly Team 2—to field a full complement of players. Previously, Team 3 had supported Team 2 in matches based on availability. Considering that some players intend to participate only casually, it was agreed that the top two teams will now have 6 players each. This remains dependent on the players confirming their willingness to participate. Captains are responsible for checking player availability for the season.</p> <p>Player Lists & Captains' Responsibilities The list of players will be updated to reflect the new team divisions. Captains should use this list to verify player availability.</p> <p>Captains may choose their own music for future Instagram feeds. Preferences must be submitted in writing to AH.</p> <p>Previous examples include Team 1 using cheesy 80s pop and H&D using film scores.</p>		

Meeting ended at:	21:46
Club Secretary:	<i>Adam Hirst</i> 04/09/25