



B.S.C.C.

The Bishop's Stortford Chess Club



Annual General Meeting 2023

Date:	Thursday 14.09.23
Time:	7:45pm Onwards
Venue:	B.S. Methodist Church Hall
Chairman:	Charles Willbe
Secretary:	Adam Hirst
Treasurer:	Robert Hitchings

Members:	Mr Ieuan Ward	Mr William Young	Mr Neville Twitchell	Mr Tim Acton
Omolara Osiyemi	Mr Nigel Kerby	Mr Andrew Cowlin	Mr Gary Thurston	Mr Adam Hirst
Mr Charles Willbe	Mr Neil Thompson	Mr Thomas Barnard	Mr Krzysztof Lapinski	Mr Robert Hitchings
Mr Nathan Wong	Mr Michael Dunsire	Mr Sebastian Blanco	Mr Robert Davies	Ma. Alex Thompson
Ma. Angelo Panayiotou		Mr Callum Davall	Mr Maxime Kuhry	Mr Lou Stap
Mr Perry Greenberg		Mr Tim Acton	Mr Sam Richardson	Mr James Newby

Non-Members:		

Name	Present
Name	Absent

Agenda:		Minutes:
1	Apologies of Absence	Apologies have been sent by: There are apologies sent from: Gary Thurston Neville Twitchell
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	There were no matters arising from the last A.G.M. minutes.
4	Chairman's Report	Charles Willbe It was noted that the club had a varied season. We had both good times and suffered bad times. We did enjoy lots of new players joining the club. We had a new look 'Club Championship' model, which was deemed a success. It was noted that the Juniors club was flourishing. It was noted we could do better; that 'regulars' are a little less regular than they used to be. It would be nice to see more of our players turning up for support new members turning up. It was noted that most new members haven't played long games. Over the board chess gives them the opportunity to do this. It was further noted that they like the interaction that 'OTB' chess gives them. It was noted that those new members that have recently joined have enjoyed it. Overall, an enjoyable season, Charles hoped that everyone else also enjoyed the season also.
5	Treasurer's Report	Robert Hitchings It was noted that, with a balance of £2,318.80 as at 14.9.2023, (£2,244.81 as at 15.9.22), the club's financial position remains healthy, with members subs continuing to cover all costs.

		<p>As usual, the major outlay was £1,000 for our rent. We are fortunate to have this excellent and large facility. A further investment was made in new clocks, which cost £200.94, and served to further upgrade our equipment, while £106 was spent on engraving our trophies.</p> <p>Robert thanked all members for their prompt payment last season and anticipate a similar response for the coming year.</p> <p><i>The following are notes of conversation afterwards:</i></p> <p>AC: Is the rent staying the same? CW: not something we like to discuss, (just in-case we jinx it). We suspect not but we will wait and see. We should be OK. RH: The club has a very good relationship with the church. NW: Are the subs changing? CW: There is no intention or need to change from our current position. CW: The new clocks purchase was precipitated by the theft of the old clocks. We currently have 10 in total. I propose we get more. AC: How much? CW: £25 (Approximately). The old-style cost about £100. ??: Can we buy cheaper? CW: We could buy from 'ebay' but I don't want to run the risk of buying our old stock back. We may also want to buy additional pieces, to supplement those sets with broken pieces.</p> <p><i>All those present were in agreement for the core to purchase on the club's behalf. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.</i></p>
6	Captains Reports	<p>BSCC T1 (Ieuan)</p> <p>It was noted that the team started off well, unfortunately things went downhill and finally ended 3rd from bottom. The team were surprised at what happened to the Watford team! It was suggested they read Watford AGM minutes from the previous November.</p> <p>It was noted that the team had a reasonably straightforward season with Kevin back, Neville continuing to perform well. It was noted by William that he played more games this season, but not well. It was further noted by Ieuan that he too had a less than stellar season. All in all, an average season for T1.</p> <p>BSCC T2 (Lara)</p> <p><i>Lara was absent for the meeting.</i></p> <p>It was noted that the start was very poor. The first game was away to Watford and only Lara was available from a team of 5 and he could only muster another 3 from Team 3 to take their place. The score was 5-0 but Lara was very proud of the effort his scratch team put in – they were not pushed over.</p> <p>It was noted that things improved. A couple of players returned, although 1 left again soon after.</p> <p>It was noted that the team were flirting with relegation. Having only won 1 game all season, the team were vying with Watford for last place. A lucky win near the end helped us stay up and the Watford team be relegated.</p> <p>It was noted by all that Lara was a great captain, but the squad has been erratic which can mean that the team can only struggle.</p> <p>BSCC T3 (Nathan)</p> <p>It was noted that the team ended up 3rd overall.</p> <p>The team improved as the season progressed, particularly with the introduction of new members (Sam joining and Matt joining was a big help). It was noted that away matches were a struggle to raise a team. It was noted that a more sustained team next season could see an improvement in the middle of the table finish last season.</p>

		<p>H&D (Charles) (Please see report (on the website)).</p> <p>Russell Cup (Ieuan) it was noted that the team lost to Letchworth in the second round. The first round was a bye.</p> <p>Sharp Cup (Gary) (Please see report (on the website)). It was noted that the B.S.C.C. won the competition.</p> <p>U1750 (Adam) (Please see report (on the website)). It was noted that we got through to the final but lost to a very strong St. Albans side.</p> <p>U1600 (Nathan) It was noted that the team did well. They were knocked out in the semi. Lost on board count.</p>
7	Internal Competition Organiser Reports	<p>Dr. Hewitt Cup – Charles Willbe (Please see report (on the website)).</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 It was noted that the 'Club Championship' has not been run for a few years due to Covid reducing over the board play.</p> <p>With everything back to normal it was agreed to run the competition with the format at my procrastination, I mean discretion. Previous incarnations included straight knockouts, group stages and finals, all-play-all's and 4/5 round Swiss tournaments spread over the whole year. All encountered the same problem - many games being un-played.</p> <p>So, this year another system was tried - a 6-round rapid qualifier held on a Saturday, with the top four making it through to the semi-finals. An added bonus of this system was that the higher placed finisher got white in the classical games, giving more incentive in the rapid and easier admin in the classical!</p> <p>The semi-finals and final were classical time controls (70+10). Both the semi-final and final were completed within a month and a champion crowned, with the following results:</p> <p>Semi-finals Ieuan 1 - 0 Thomas Neville 1 - 0 Charles</p> <p>Final Ieuan 1 - 0 Neville</p> <p>Congratulations to, erm, me!</p> <p>I have (or will if not already done so) posted the final game on my Library in chess.com (which is public, so hopefully anyone can see and analyse it). Username is 'Sacbutt'.</p> <p>If anyone looks at the game, you will see what a good game Neville played.</p>

8	BSJCC Report	<p>Tim Acton</p> <p>It was noted that last year saw 16 junior nights. Nathan, Tim, Pete were the regular organisers on the night(s). The children's age range were between 7 to 13. Tim noted that he was concerned about the payments were fully paid. Robert clarified that we were only short of the expected £150 by £10 only, so pretty good.</p> <p>The Juniors Championship was won by: 3 Andrew. 2 Isabel. 1 Sam</p> <p>It was noted that there will be a new trophy for next season.</p> <p>Tim noted that it was hard work but worth continuing.</p> <p>CW – So long as you enjoy it!</p>																																					
9	Trophy Organiser	<p>Gary Thurston</p> <p>All trophies are up to date except for the Brown Cup. It was noted that we might want to review the engraving process as the cost is quite extensive. It was noted that we had in a previous AGM, we had agreed to only engrave some, not all, of the trophies. We have had all done by Gary this year, so will bring this back into force from next year. Given this, it was decided that we don't need to fill the now vacant post with Gary departing.</p>																																					
10	Presentation of Trophies (Winners) (The History and meaning for each trophy can be found on our website).	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="357 707 967 745">Club Championship</th> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="967 707 1519 745">Blitz Tournament</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="357 745 644 781">Club Champion</td> <td data-bbox="644 745 967 781">Ieuan Ward</td> <td data-bbox="967 745 1198 781">Trent Cup</td> <td data-bbox="1198 745 1519 781">Ieuan Ward</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="357 781 644 817">Challenger Trophy</td> <td data-bbox="644 781 967 817">Neville Twitchell</td> <td data-bbox="967 781 1198 817">Hobden Cup</td> <td data-bbox="1198 781 1519 817">Maxime Kuhry</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="4" data-bbox="357 817 1519 855">Dr. Hewitt Cup</th> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="357 855 644 891">Dr. Hewitt Cup</td> <td data-bbox="644 855 967 891">Robert Hitchings</td> <td data-bbox="967 855 1198 891">Brown Cup</td> <td data-bbox="1198 855 1519 891">Thomas Barnard (12.5)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="357 891 644 927">Leyn Cup</td> <td data-bbox="644 891 967 927">Charles Willbe</td> <td data-bbox="967 891 1198 927">Ashley Cup</td> <td data-bbox="1198 891 1519 927">Thomas Barnard (+65)</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="357 927 967 965">Rapid Play Tournament</th> <td data-bbox="967 927 1198 965">Chairman's Cup</td> <td data-bbox="1198 927 1519 965">Lara Osiyemi</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="357 965 644 1001">Crosby Cup</td> <td data-bbox="644 965 967 1001">Andrew Cowlin</td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="967 965 1519 1001"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="357 1001 644 1037">Capsey Tankard</td> <td data-bbox="644 1001 967 1037">Neil Thompson</td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="967 1001 1519 1037"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Chairman's Cup It was noted by C (for the Chairman's Cup) that some years it is easy to give this trophy. Adam & Rob run the club. Retiring Rob Davies has been a stalwart with supporting others, new member's and different teams, and always cheerful. This year, the Cup is awarded to a player who has played more matches than anybody for the last few years, not only for his own team, which he captains, but also for higher up teams where he is consistently up against much higher graded players.</p>		Club Championship		Blitz Tournament		Club Champion	Ieuan Ward	Trent Cup	Ieuan Ward	Challenger Trophy	Neville Twitchell	Hobden Cup	Maxime Kuhry	Dr. Hewitt Cup				Dr. Hewitt Cup	Robert Hitchings	Brown Cup	Thomas Barnard (12.5)	Leyn Cup	Charles Willbe	Ashley Cup	Thomas Barnard (+65)	Rapid Play Tournament		Chairman's Cup	Lara Osiyemi	Crosby Cup	Andrew Cowlin			Capsey Tankard	Neil Thompson		
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11	League Teams to Enter for Next Season	<p>Hertfordshire (HCA) Leagues</p> <p>The club will register the following teams into their present divisions. Based on current membership, the squads will potentially be:</p> <p>B.S.C.C. T1 (Div.1) Ieuan Ward (Capt.) B.S.C.C. T2 (Div.2) Lara Osiyemi (Capt.) B.S.C.C. T3 (Div.5) Nathan Wong (Capt.) B.S.C.C. H&D: Charles Willbe (Capt.) U1600 League ??? (Capt.)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>HCA KO Cup Competitions</p> <p>The club will register one team into each of the following:</p> <p>Russell Cup (Open) Ieuan Ward (Capt.) Sharp Cup (U1900) Andrew Cowlin (Capt.) Under 1750 Cup Adam Hirst (Capt.) Under 1600 Cup Nathan Wong (Capt.)</p>																																					

12	Internal Club Competitions for Next season	<p>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.</p> <p>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 21.09.21 Adam Hirst</p>																								
13	Election of Committee, Captains, organisers & Officers	<p>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 members' consent are noted with an asterisk (*) and are subject to change.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Chairman</td> <td>Charles Willbe</td> <td>H&D Captain</td> <td>Charles Willbe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Adam Hirst</td> <td>Russell Cup (Open)</td> <td>Ieuan Ward</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Robert Hitchings</td> <td>Sharp Cup (U 1900)</td> <td>Andrew Cowlin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B.S.C.C. T1 Captain</td> <td>Ieuan Ward</td> <td>U1750 Cup Team</td> <td>Adam Hirst</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B.S.C.C. T2 Captain</td> <td>Lara Osiyemi</td> <td>U1600 Cup Team</td> <td>Nathan Wong</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B.S.C.C. T3 Captain</td> <td>Nathan Wong</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Chairman	Charles Willbe	H&D Captain	Charles Willbe	Secretary	Adam Hirst	Russell Cup (Open)	Ieuan Ward	Treasurer	Robert Hitchings	Sharp Cup (U 1900)	Andrew Cowlin	B.S.C.C. T1 Captain	Ieuan Ward	U1750 Cup Team	Adam Hirst	B.S.C.C. T2 Captain	Lara Osiyemi	U1600 Cup Team	Nathan Wong	B.S.C.C. T3 Captain	Nathan Wong		
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14	Election of Organisers & Officers	<p>In <u>addition</u> to the information stated earlier in the minutes.</p> <p>Trophy Officer Not required</p>																								
15	Junior Chess Club Revival	<p>Please see notes from Pt. 8 Fees agreed at £60. £30 before Christmas. £40 after Christmas. £15 after Easter</p>																								
16	AOB	<p>CW: Posters from the front will be replaced. CW: Junior playing at senior level. Decent but with issues that members need to be aware of. IW – Is it worth updating online? (I cant remember what this was for).</p>																								

Meeting ended at:	9:01pm
Club Secretary:	<i>Adam Hirst</i> 14/09/22