

## **Woodnesborough Chess Club / Sandwich Chess Club**

Minutes of AGM, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
held at the Phoenix Centre and by email

Attending: Harry Sharples (*President*), Roy Dawson, Mark Towlson, Jon Hunt  
Apologies: Daniel Allen, Robert Starley, John Thorley

Meeting opened 7.30 p.m.

### **1. Club Accounts / Treasurer**

From 2015 to 2019 the club made an annual operating loss of approximately £150 a year. The operating loss in 2019-20 was mitigated to £30 by the intervention of Covid-19 in March. Mark Towlson pointed out that at this rate the club would fold within two years, and that on the basis of these accounts the club requires an income of nearly £19 per week it meets in order to cover its costs. It was agreed that the operating loss cannot continue, and that this issue will be the priority for the incoming Treasurer. As there were no other candidates for the post of Treasurer, Jon Hunt agreed to stand, nominated by Mark Towlson and seconded by Roy Dawson.

**Resolution:** In light of these financial issues and the current circumstances regarding Covid-19, the annual membership subscription scheme has been suspended, to be reviewed in January 2021 at the earliest. For the time being, the club is strictly “pay to play” – adults £2 a week; juniors £2 a week (additional siblings from the same family £1). Jon Hunt was unanimously appointed Treasurer and will take up the post from 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

### **2. Club Name / Club Website / Constitution Update**

**Resolution:** There being no strong feelings against, it was agreed to change the name of the club to “Sandwich Chess Club” and to go forward with a club website, to be developed by Jon Hunt at no cost to the club. It has been suggested that a page on the site be devoted to the history of the club as Woodnesborough Chess Club. Members are warmly invited to make further suggestions for the site and to give feedback as and when parts go live.

**Resolution:** An updated club constitution was presented and passed unanimously.

### **3. Recruiting Members**

Harry Sharples explained the concerns which some members had expressed to him about the club meeting under the current circumstances. It was recognised that, had more members attended the AGM in person, then it would in fact have fallen foul of the new government regulations introduced that day.

There was an extensive discussion of the latest guidelines from government, the ECF and the Phoenix Centre. The view of the meeting can be summarised as follows:

(i) The club currently enjoys the full support of the Phoenix Centre, and – in accordance with the ECF’s August and September briefings – it is recognised that this support is essential to the club’s continuing to be able to meet in the current circumstances.

(ii) The new government guidelines definitely permit the junior session to continue up to the capacity of the hall (17 people).

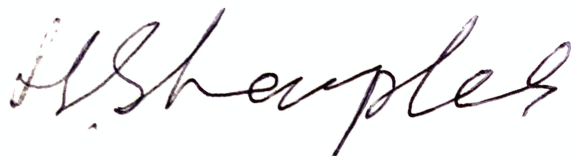
(iii) It seems reasonable on balance, the club being in compliance with the guidance of the ECF and the Phoenix Centre, and the government guidance not being definitive either way in respect of chess, to run an adult session up to the capacity of the hall (17 people).

(iv) As and when there are further changes or clarifications to any of the available guidance, the club officers will review the position in consultation with members.

[It should be noted that, in the first 24 hours of the new guidelines being in force, the government has in fact already softened its published position to indicate that any club meeting is in fact permissible providing there is not a “significant likelihood” of “mingling”.]

**Resolution:** It was agreed to continue to run and recruit for the junior session, and to run but not recruit for the adult session, for the time being. In addition to the hygiene and social distancing rules already agreed with the Phoenix Centre and already being strictly applied, from 28<sup>th</sup> September the club will apply further safety measures drawn from the ECF’s model risk assessment. Members should therefore feel fully confident to attend club meetings as and when they wish. However, with the annual subscription scheme suspended for the time being, members who choose not to attend should know that their colleagues respect and will continue to respect their decision, and that they continue to be full members of the club.

Meeting closed 8.00 p.m.



Signed (President):

Harry Sharples



Signed (Treasurer):

Jon Hunt