# MINUTES OF THE 68th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EAST CHESHIRE CHESS CLUB, 2015

**The 68th AGM was held on Wednesday 20th May 2015 at the Cheadle Hulme Institute. Thirteen members were present,**

1. **Apologies**. Apologies were received from Roger Beswick, Barrie Edwards and John Reed.
2. **Minutes of the 67th AGM (21st May 2014)** were approved without change and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters arising**.

**(a) Digital clocks**. Four additional digital clocks had been purchased, following a decision in the autumn and the raising of sufficient money from donations by members. Their more widespread use by members was strongly advocated, and **the Secretary agreed to a suggestion that simple instructions on their use should be placed on cards in their boxes, and a copy kept on the noticeboard**.

**(b) League Handbooks**. There had been no League Handbooks printed, and the Stockport League had decided at its AGM on 18th May not to print one for the 2015-16 season. Easily printable information would be placed on the League website. **The Treasurer proposed to reimburse those members who had pre-paid £1 for a Handbook last season, by reducing their membership subscription by £1 in the autumn**.

1. **Presentation of trophies**.

The winner of the **Kellett Trophy** was Roger Beswick (77 points) and the runner-up was Geoff Clarke (63 points). The Chairman accepted the Kellett Trophy on behalf of Roger Beswick, who is on holiday. The winners were congratulated warmly.

The winner of the **Matchplay Trophy** for 2014-2015 was Kieran Newell (78% from 7 games), with Geoff Smith (58% from 12 games) as runner-up. Both were warmly congratulated.

Tudor Rickards then presented attractive mugs to Phil Ramsey (Rapidplay competitions organizer and A-team captain), Bill Tait (Treasurer) and David Taylor (Secretary) in recognition of their exceptional contributions to the running of the club.

1. **Treasurer's Report**. Bill Tait presented detailed accounts (which had been verified by Roger Beswick) for the past year since the previous AGM. He alluded briefly to the problems which had had to be overcome in opening a new Club account at the Royal Bank of Scotland, which was now fully operational and permitted internet banking as well as the use of a paying-in book and a chequebook, without incurring bank charges.The subscription had been held at £22 for adult members, but club income had nevertheless risen from £549.60 to £794.34. In part this was due to the fund of donations for digital clocks which had raised £179, and as a result our reserves had increased by £167.16 to £447.62 after provision for trophies and engraving. **He proposed that the club should consider application of these reserves, with an expectation of an excess of income over expenditure in the forthcoming year, to either or both of (a) reduction of the subscription and/or (b) purchase of more digital clocks.**

After thorough discussion of the issues involved, **it was decided (i) to accept the accounts (unanimous); (ii) to reduce subscriptions by £2 to £20 for adults (£10 for juniors) to offset the rise in ECF bronze membership fees (rising by £2 from £13 to £15 p.a.) (unanimous); and (iii) to proceed with the purchase of four digital clocks (nem con),** ensuring that avenues were explored to minimise their cost. **Ian Vaughan agreed** **to contact other clubs in the league** to ascertain if any club wished to join us in a bulk order.

The key features to be noted in the accounts presented at the meeting are as follows.

**Balance**:  £280.46 on 21st May 2014 rising to £506.62 on 20th May 2015 (£59 cost of trophies and engraving not yet deducted)

**Income**:  £794.34 (£10 from sale of a clock, £179 by donations for digital clocks, £601 from subscriptions, £13.34 other miscellaneous items) an increase of almost £245 over the previous year (£179 of this was by donations to the clock replacement fund).

**Expenditure**: £627.18 including £180 for 4 digital clocks, with rental unchanged at £360, which resulted in an excess of income over expenditure of £167.16 (compared to a deficit of £50 the previous year).

**Next season’s subscription:** the Treasurer thanked members for paying their subscriptions so promptly, and would be grateful for a similar response in the coming season. He would still be prepared to accept subscription payments by cheque, but would be circulating members with details to enable them to pay subscriptions by bank transfer on-line if they preferred.

1. **Team Captains' Reports on the 2014-2015 season.**

**The A-team Captain, Phil Ramsey** reported as follows. We started off our season in Division 1 quite promisingly with an expected defeat to Stockport A and then a victory against Chorlton with fantastic wins by David N, Tudor and David T. Things then went downhill with heavy defeats to Holmes Chapel and Stockport, although Steve managed to win in 9 moves as Black against Siddal of Stockport (191). In our final match of the year we lost to Holmes Chapel again but I managed to get off the mark with a win against John Turner and Tudor managed a fine win against Hancock (178). In the new year we met Denton A, one of the two teams we could realistically take points off, but were narrowly beaten. We were the well beaten by Marple A before the return match against Denton A. This time we managed a draw, with wins by John and Dave N. Then came the crunch match with Chorlton. A victory should have seen us staying up. After five matches the score was 2.5-2.5 and Dave N had a strong attack but little time. As the final seconds ticked away Dave missed a mate in one and lost his Queen instead. So we lost the match and now needed to beat Marple to have any chance of avoiding relegation. This of course did not happen but Tudor did manage a fine win against a 190 rated opponent. So we finished the season with one win, one draw and eight defeats. A slightly below par performance but we were a bit unlucky in some of our matches with Denton and Chorlton. In terms of players it was great to have Jim in the team, strengthening the lower boards and being good humoured throughout.Steve performed very well with 4 points from 9 and a 182 performance rating. Overall we have gained a lot of experience and look forward to blitzing the 2nd division next season with an even stronger team.

**The B-team co-Captain, Paul Bamford** reported as follows League Division 2 provided tough competition and we were arguably the lowest graded team in the division along with Marple C. We bizarrely lost an early season match against a weakened Marple C by 4.5 to 1.5 (there only win of the season!) which then meant that we were flirting with relegation for the rest of the season. Fortunately we did the double over Altrincham A and then drew the final match against Marple C which was enough to keep us up. Of our 7 lost matches, 5 of them were by a 2-4 score line – so with a bit more luck we could have accumulated a few more points. We had some great individual performances along the way and we consistently punched above our weight. Many thanks to everyone who turned out for us, and I’m sure we will do even better next year.

**The C-team Captain, Myles Heywood***,* reported as follows.: With Macclesfield B very strong, and as such a little out of place and out of sight in Division 3 (although we did win on one board both home and away), and Altrincham B also strong on all boards, we were left to slug it out for position with Sale, Wilmslow and Stockport C. Despite managing to win both home and away against Wilmslow, with strong wins on boards 3-5, we narrowly finished bottom this season, our fate only sealed on the last day of the season. Fortunately there is no lower division to which we could be relegated and so expect to be playing 5-board matches again next season, which suits us since for every game where we struggled to field a team, there was another match for which we have had more than enough players raring to go, and indeed fielded 12(!) different players over the course of the season. We do end up with the feeling we’ve got our money’s worth over the course of the season in the way of combative games and interesting positions. Our stand-out performer has been Kieran, who with an impressive 5 out of 6 mostly on board 2 may alas now have too high a grading to have a C-team future. Cheers to all who played, and for next season we can prepare an assault on the giddy heights of mid-table!

**The Captain (Keith Hodgson) of the D-team,** which played in the Stockport grade-Limit League, reported as follows. After the tremendous success enjoyed by this club last season the first part of this season found us floundering at the bottom of the league by Christmas. As with all champions however we would not be beaten into submission and by the end of the season we appear, according to the results found on the league website, to have finished a respectable 2nd place in the league table – what better placing for us the champions of 2014 to relinquish the cup to an unassailable Marple!! At the beginning of the season only 5 clubs agreed to participate in this league which resulted in agreement being reached at the 2014 League AGM to play 12 league fixtures to enable it to work more effectively and provide its players with more match play experience. I feel this was a good decision as I sense from the team members how much they have enjoyed taking part in match play conditions against opponents of similar grade to themselves. I wish to thank all those members who so readily made themselves available to play in the team making my role as captain so much easier. I continue to enjoy being captain of this league and am prepared to continue in this role for the following season if requested to do so by the members.

All the Captains were warmly thanked by those present for their sterling efforts throughout the season.

1. **Election of Officers**. The **Chairman** (Geoff Clarke), **Secretary** (David Taylor), **Treasurer** (Bill Tait), **A-Team Captain** (Phil Ramsey), **B-team co-Captains** (Paul Bamford and Nick Flaherty), **C-team Captain** (Myles Heywood) and **D-team Captain** (Keith Hodgsin) were re-elected unopposed, with no votes against their election. The Secretary asked the Captains to attend the League Fixtures Meeting in September, and to do their best when agreeing fixture dates to avoid close clashes, as they had done last year.
2. **Club Competitions**. It was agreed **that the same competitions would continue next season**.. It was also agreed that **Club Social Evenings**.**would continue in their current format**, **and on similar dates** (late September, mid-December, early May) as in the past season. They had been well attended and enjoyed by participants.
3. **Summer Chess**. There was discussion of the possible opening of the Club during the period June – end of August, and **the Secretary agreed to poll members to see if sufficient support existed for this to be self-financing (a minimum of 10 members required to pledge support).** Six members had already indicated that they would like the option of playing at the club during the summer. It was decided **not to enter a team in a summer league**.
4. **Any Other Business**. **It was decided that** the club would hold some instruction/discussion event(s) early in the season, to be organized by Phil Ramsey and Tudor Rickards. The Secretary circulated information about the Stockport Blitz Tournament at the Guildhall on Sunday 12th July, and the Leek Rapidplay tournament on 14th June. **Ian Vaughan offered** to re-organize the club’s storage cupboard, an offer which was readily accepted..

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

**SIGNED …………………………………………….. DATE …………………**………………..