# MINUTES OF THE 69th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EAST CHESHIRE CHESS CLUB, 2016

**The 69th AGM was held on Wednesday 18th May 2016 at the Cheadle Hulme Institute. Fifteen members were present,**

1. **Apologies**. Apologies were received from Roger Beswick, Jim McKie, John Reed & Steve Tranter, all of whom were abroad.
2. **Minutes of the 678th AGM (20th May 2015)** were approved without change and signed by Geoff Clarke as Chairman.
3. **Matters arising**.

**Digital clocks**. Four additional digital clocks had been purchased, following a decision in the autumn and were paid for from reserves (see Treasurer’s report below). They were being more widely used by members widespread use by members was strongly advocated, and instructions on their use had been placed in their boxes, and a copy is displayed on the noticeboard. Discussion of further puyrchases was deferred until the Treasurer’s report..

1. **Presentation of trophies**.

The winner of the **Kellett Trophy** was Geoff Smith (44 points) and the runner-up was Roger Beswick (41 points). Bill Tait the runner-up’s trophy on behalf of Roger Beswick, who is on holiday. The winners were congratulated warmly.

The winner of the **Matchplay Trophy** for 2015-2016 was David Newell (57.7% from 13 games), with Paul Bamford (57.1% from 21 games) as runner-up. Both were warmly congratulated. The Chairman agreed to deliver the winner’s trophy to Dave Newell.

1. **Treasurer's Report**. Bill Tait presented detailed accounts (which had been verified by David Taylor) for the past year since the previous AGM. He alluded briefly to the possibility that the Royal Bank of Scotland might in future impose a charge for our account. The subscription had been reduced to £20 for adult members, as a result of whicht club income had fallen to £530. However, our expenditure had also fallen slightly to £616, and the reserves were still at a level (£361) which were more than adequate for our needs. He proposed that subscriptions be maintained at £20 for a further year and that two additional digital clocks should be purchased at a cost of ca. £120. There would be a slight adjustment to the accounts (£5 more expenditure) due to additional cost at the engravers. After discussion **his report and the accounts were accepted** (***nem con***). It was further agreed **to purchase two additional digital clocks** (***nem con***) of the same type as those we now had.

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

**Balance**:  £506.65 on 21st May 20154 falling to £361.62 on 20th May 2016 (ca £5 added cost of engraving not yet deducted)

**Income**:  £530.00 a decrease of £264.34 over the previous year (£182 of donations received in 2014-2015 mainly for digital clocks).

**Expenditure**: £616 including £180 for 4 digital clocks, with rental of £370, which resulted in an excess of expenditure over income of £86 (compared to a positive balance of £167.16 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 or by cash, but would be circulating members with details to enable them to pay subscriptions by bank transfer on-line if they preferred)**.**  it was agreed that **the adult annual full-year subscription be held at £20 for a further year** (***nem con***).

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

**The A-team Captain, Phil Ramsey** reported as follows. The first surprise of the season was being put in the first division. Although this would mean lots of difficult matches, each EC team would be in a separate division. Before the season started I figured that if we could take some points off Denton A and Chorlton we would have a good chance of staying up. However the matches before Christmas were all against strong teams and predictably we struggled. A strong Macc. team beat us 4.5 - 1.5 and Marple then beat us by the same score. We managed to get 2 game points against Holmes Chapel but then lost by 4.5 - 1.5 against Stockport.

I was struggling in my role as cannon fodder on the top boards with 0.5 out of 4 but Geoff Brindle and Tudor Rickards had shown some good form. Finally, in our fifth match of the season we managed a surprise draw away to Holmes Chapel. I almost won my game, being a piece up in the endgame but didn't have enough time on the clock to work out the winning method. We were then very soundly beaten by Stockport 5.5 - 0.5 with John Read getting the only draw on top board. Finally, in the middle of February, we got our first match win of the season, away to Denton, with Steve Tranter, Geoff Brindle and Dave Newell getting wins and John Read drawing to win the match 3.5 - 2.5. In the next match we almost caused an upset, losing narrowly to Marple, and then managed to win the return match against Denton 3.5 - 2.5. This left us level on points with Denton and with two matches against Chorlton left. Unfortunately we lost our first match against Chorlton 4 - 2 although I did manage at least to get my first and only win of the season. Denton then lost 6 - 0 to Marple which left us needing 2 game points in our final match at home to Chorlton to stay ahead of Denton on goal difference. In the match we rapidly gained 2 points on the bottom 3 boards with 2 draws and a win. Unfortunately the top 3 boards all then proceeded to lose but a 4-2 defeat was enough to keep us off the bottom.

So a tough season, but we achieved our main goal of not finishing bottom and so should have the option of staying in the top division next season.

**The B-team co-Captain, Paul Bamford** reported as follows: We were involved in a League record in our first round President’s Cup match against Stockport when the results of all 5 boards were drawn - a first in Stockport League history and of which there is (currently!) no remedy within the rules. As a result a replay was agreed which we unfortunately lost 1 – 4.

Our league season in Division 2 got off to a slow start with 2 losses and a draw but then we managed to win 2 successive matches. We lacked a bit of consistency and lost matches that we should have won and then actually beat the eventual league champions – Stockport B. Going into our last match of the season against - Denton B – we still needed at least a draw to be sure of avoiding relegation. In the end Denton defaulted on 2 boards and we won comfortably 4 – 2.

Our final league position was a respectable 4th which in fact left us 4 points clear of bottom place and only 4 points behind second place. Thanks to everyone who turned out for us this season and I’m pleased to report no defaults throughout the season.

**The C-team Captain, Myles Heywood***,* reported as follows.: With last season’s star performer Kieran having played his way out of C-team availability for the 2015-2016 season, improving much on last season’s wooden spoon initially seemed a tall order. Macclesfield C were the runaway winners, but we more than held our own against the rest, and did the double over an Altrincham B side which hammered us home and away last season and wasn’t much weaker this time round. Of our squad of 10, Edwin Cooke was a near ever-present with10 games from 12 available and he notched up some fine wins (including one against a 128-grade) with his typically swashbuckling style. Our star performer was Keith Hodgson with 5/7 mostly on board 3, closely followed by Paul Bamford’s 6/9, usually on the next board up, with Geoff Smith finding some strong form at the end of the season and Bill Tait a highly effective top board throughout.

But overall it was a strong team effort across the board, with all our players at worst half a point off equality for the season, making us the only East Cheshire team to manage a positive goal difference, though given the critical contribution to this achievement of the B and D team captains, I won’t gloat. The result was that, thanks to a strong run mid-season when we won 4 games from 5, we managed a mid-table finish – a full half a table improvement on last year!

Thanks and well done to all who represented the C team this season.

**The Captain (Keith Hodgson) of the D-team,** which played in the Stockport grade-Limit League, reported as follows. Another good season saw our team again performing well and over the 10 matches played in this league of 6 clubs we won 4 drew 2 and lost 4 which saw us finishing once again in 2nd place with 10 points with Stockport winning 1st place with an unassailable 7 points lead.

When this league was first introduced back in 2014 I had a list of 13 members qualified to play as their grades did not exceed the maximum allowed 120. Since that time the number of players has been slightly reduced to 10. This I am pleased to say has not affected the team selection process and the dedication and enthusiasm of all the members taking part in the matches both home and away is testament to that. I am happy to report that we fielded a full team without defaulting a board throughout the season.

It had been my intention to step down as captain after 3 very successful seasons with our team winning the league the first season and achieving 2nd place in the last two. However Geoff Smith has kindly volunteered to share the captaincy with me next season so I am prepared to continue in this role for a fourth season. Finally I wish to thank all the team players who took part for their support in helping to achieve yet another successful season.

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

1. **Election of Officers**. The Chairman proposed that discussion of the role of the Secretary should be discussed after the appointment of the following officers. The **Chairman** (Geoff Clarke) was elected for a further year but stated this would be his last year in office. **Secretary** (David Taylor resigning: see below); **Treasurer** (Bill Tait) was re-elected *nem con*); the **A-Team Captain** (Dave Newell elected in his absence but with his agreement) replacing Phil Ramsey, who was once again thanked by all present for his outstanding contribution as the A-team; **B-team co-Captains** (Paul Bamford and Nick Flaherty re-elected); the **C-team Captain** (Myles Heywood re-elected, but see below); and the **D-team Captains** (Keith Hodgson, re-elected and Geoff Smith, elected). All the above were re-elected unopposed, with no votes against their election.

**The Secretary** (David Taylor, resigning) was then presented with a gift by the Chairman and Tudor Rickards on behalf of the club, and was profusely thanked for his contribution in office to the smooth running of the club. He responded by expressing his thanks for the gift and for the help and support of all the members during his time in office.

1. **Role of the Secretary in future, and creation of new officers.**

The Secretary tabled a paper proposing that in future the Secretary should not deal with (a) the club’s website, (b) the competitions and social evenings, (c) enrolment and league registration of members, and publicity. He should continue to deal with circulation of information to members, items of equipment, co-ordination of team fixtures, and being representative for the club with bodies such as the Institute Trustees and the Stockport League. After lengthy and detailed discussion it was agreed that **Phil Ramsey would be responsible for competitions and Social evenings, Edwin Cooke would be responsible for club website and blog, and the Treasurer would be responsible for membership including contact details, ECF membership and league registration.** **Tudor Rickards offered to promote the club in all forms of publicity.** These new appointments were unopposed and were voted for *en bloc* and approved.unanimously.

Myles Heywood agreed to be Secretary if a replacement for his role as C-team Captain could be found, and **he was elected Secretary by unanimous vote.** He offered to try to identify a new C-team Captain by the start of the playing season who would be elected at an early meeting of the club in September.

1. **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.
2. **Summer Chess**. There was a long discussion of the newly introduced Stockport Rapidplay Summer League organized by Peter Taylor (Stockport Chess Club). 13 members had declared a positive interest in playing, with another 4 willing to play on the few dates they were available. It was decided that **East Cheshire would enter two teams of 4 players, captained by Steve McCall and David Taylor**. It was further decided **to open the club venue** **for two Wednesdays per month in June July and August, charging those attending £1 each per attendance.**  Any member would be entitled to attend on this basis, in addition to teams playing home matches in the Summer League.
3. **Any Other Business**.

Ian Vaughan produced a Certificate to be presented to Roy Burrows as a tribute to his long and valuable contribution to the viability of the club. Shown to members and unanimously approved, the Chairman signed it and he and David Taylor proposed to present it to Roy at his home in the very near future.

The Stockport Blitz will be held on Sunday 10th July at the Guildhall starting at 1.0 pm.

Details of three decisions at the Stockport League AGM on May 12th were reported by the Secretary. These were (i) a change to the length of the playing season which now extends into May so that the Friday before the AGM is the last date on which results can be submitted, (ii) a requirement that both team captains at any match must email the result to the Fixtures Sec within 48 h, and (iii) a new rule that allows the Fixtures Secretary to replace estimated grades with ECF calculated current grades after January.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.48 p.m.

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