**East Cheshire Chess Club**

**Minutes of the 78th Annual General Meeting**

The 78th AGM was held on Wednesday 30th April 2025 at Cheadle Hulme Institute commencing at 7.30pm

9 members were present**:** David Taylor, Steve Kelly, Keith Hodgson, Tudor Rickards, John Reed, Geoff Brindle, Jim McKie, Geoff Smith, Andy Bain

1. **Introduction by the Chairman:**
David Taylor welcomed everyone attending the meeting. With there being no end of season social evening this year, light refreshment has been provided and will be available for members present at the end of the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence**:
 Edwin Cooke, David Harris, Keven Holton
3. **Minutes of 77th AGM dated 1st May 2024**The minutes, which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting were agreed and signed by the chairman
4. **Matters arising from the minutes**
There were no matters arising
5. **Treasurer Report**

The Treasurer’s statement of accounts duly audited had been circulated to all the members in advance of the AGM and were considered and approved by the meeting

With the bank account still showing a healthy balance Steve recommended that the subscription rate for the following season 2025/26 be reduced from £32 to £30 for adults and from £16 to £15 for junior members and for members in full time education up to the age of 25

The above recommendation was approved unanimously by the meeting and will be adopted.

1. **Secretary Report (appended at the end of the minutes)**The Secretary report (as appended) having been circulated to all the members in advance of the meeting was read and accepted with one minor amendment. regarding the membership. It is amended to show there is a total of 30 members which includes 5 new members. The Chairman thanked Keith for all his efforts during the past year.
2. **Team Captain Reports (appended at the end of the minutes)**Each report showed how the teams progressed throughout the season. All three teams, that is the A and B Teams and Limit League Team have fielded a full team for each match played. Each team has enjoyed reasonable success which is reflected in the current league tables appended to each report.
3. **Publicity Officers Report**
Tudor reported he will continue promoting chess to the wider community where he is able to do so. The new poster advertising the Club is now firmly in place, displayed for all to see and which is hoped will attract new members to join the club.
4. **Presentation of Trophies**
 a) Match play Cup winner – With league matches not yet completed the winner will be presented with the trophy at the start of next season

b) Kellett Trophy - The competition in a revised format started off successfully at the start of the season but sadly interest in members participation faded as the season progressed which made the competition to be ineffective
5. **Election of Officers**a) David Taylor had previously announced he would be stepping down as chairman at the end of this 2024/25 season
b) The current treasurer Steve Kelly announced he will be moving away from the area shortly and is therefore vacating his position as treasure at the end of this 2024/25 season The following were duly elected unopposed

a) Chairman - Tudor Rickards
b) Secretary - Keith Hodgson
c) Treasurer - Jim McKie

d) Auditor - Geoff Smith

e) Publicity Officer - It is deemed no longer necessary for this to remain as an official role and is therefore removed. As previously stated, Tudor will persist in advancing the promotion of chess within the broader community

1. **In-house Club Competition Review**

 Kellett Trophy:
Despite the disappointment of this tournament not being successful in its revised format the view held by the meeting was that the Kellett Trophy should remain a fixture within the club for those members wishing to participate. The meeting agreed that the tournament should return to its original structured format, which had previously demonstrated significant success upon its initial implementation.

David Taylor has agreed he will organise this for next season

Social Evening

Steve Kelly successfully organized the rapid play chess competition at Social Evenings this season. In making it the success it was he made use of the tournament management software available on the following website---- https://swisssystem.org

 With Steve now moving away, a volunteer is now being sought to organise this rapid play tournament using this technology at future social evenings.

1. **Stockport and District Chess League 2025/6**

 a) To agree on the number of teams the club will enter

The meeting agreed to enter three teams in the SDCL for the next season

 b) Appointment of Team Captains
The meeting unanimously agreed the following be appointed for the 2025/26
 season A Team – John Reed
 B Team – Jim McKie
 Limit League – David Harris

1. **SDCL and MCF summer season chess tournaments**This club will not be taking part in any summer tournaments
2. **Fixing dates of club events for 2025/26 season** a) Starting date of new season: - 03/09/25
 d) The Club will close for the summer on 20/05/26
 c) The club social evenings dates will be announced during the season

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed by Chairman -------------------------------------------------------------- Dated------------------

*Addendum to minutes – Reports below*

**Secretary Report (as amended)**

I am happy to report the chess season for the club this past year continues to run quite smoothly.

Membership

5 new members have joined this season, and the current membership is 30

League Matches

The Stockport League match fixtures have been well supported with full team attendance for most matches which had been scheduled – a great credit to each of the team captains representing this club for their efforts and team members for their continued support...

Club Social

The periodic club social evenings continue to be popular amongst the members although I have noticed perhaps only about 50+% of the membership usually attend. This is a great event, very well organised and run most efficiently by our treasurer Steve with the aid of modern technology

In house competitions

Attempts were made to reignite interest to encourage all members to enter a newly formatted Kellett Trophy tournament. The initial response to participate was mildly encouraging but it became evident as the season progressed towards the christmas break that any interest for its continuation was lacking thereafter. A complete rethink of whether it is worthwhile even considering continuing the concept of organising in house competitions in the future could be open for discussion at this next AGM

And finally – I am prepared to continue as club secretary for a further year if invited to do so at the AGM. However, I am willing to step down if any member wishes to volunteer to take on this role.

K. Hodgson Dated 30th April 2025

A Team Captain Report 24/25 Season

It’s been a mixed season for the first team.  A full-strength East Cheshire would be able to face most teams but a variety of reasons means we were only able to field this once and lost v Stockport! Tom with his new family only played once, and Alex was limited to some home games. Steve now spends a lot of time in Spain but still managed a few matches. I had a prolonged bout of ill health which stopped me playing for most of the season. So Geoff and Dan shouldered the burden of the upper boards and did very well. Without Jim, James, Kev & Tudor playing so often, and usually against higher graded players, we would have been in trouble. The high point was the away win v Stockport. A few years ago, that would have seemed a miracle, the low point the long trip to Ashton, where, heavily out graded, we were thrashed.

Our final game v Eccles produced the same grim result.

As Urmston lost to Stockport on 24/4/25 I have defaulted our away match v Eccles. Urmston cannot catch us and are last in Div 1.

Getting a team together has often been a real struggle and I’ve had to ask members to play, knowing they would play much stronger opponents. There is no easy answer. Members can’t play for perfectly good reasons.

**Division 1**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Team** | **Matches Played** | **Matches Won** | **Matches Drawn** | **Matches Lost** | **Games For** | **Games Against** | **Points** |
| Eccles | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 38½ | 15½ | **16** |
| Ashton | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 27½ | 20½ | **10** |
| Chorlton | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 30 | 30 | **9** |
| East Cheshire A | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 23½ | 30½ | **8** |
| Stockport A | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 25 | 29 | **7** |
| Urmston | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 17½ | 36½ | **4** |

John Reed

Team Captain Dated 26th April 2025

B Team Captain Report 24/25 Season

The A team successfully avoided relegation from Division 1 last season but consigned a strong Macclesfield team to Division 2 who this season have proved to be the form team of our division and they and Wilmslow have pulled away from the other 7 teams in the League. In my first year as Captain in charge of the B Team my ambition was limited to improving on our last place finish in the division last year. This we have achieved fairly comfortably with 3 wins out of our 7 games ( at the time of writing we still have an Away match at Northenden to play) I must say however I do think we could have done better as although we beat Glossop, Altrincham and Marple we lost against Macclesfield B and Stockport B which were off nights for us. Generally, in our other two losses ( Macc A and Wilmslow) we were pretty heavily outgraded and the standard of the chess in Division 2 seems to be increasing with a number of teams having some scarily good juniors.

I want to thank all the players who played for the B Team this year and for making their Captain’s job pretty easy. Special mention must go to two players in particular

1 Keith Hodgson who turned out in our hour of need at a winters away game at Glossop when getting a team together was tricky. Keith had just had a bad fall a few days earlier and was heavily bandaged up and should probably been recuperating at home.

2 Steve McCall, my immediate predecessor who when I had a late call off less than 3 hours before a match was due to start rode to our rescue and turned out for the Club in a match even although he was in the middle of moving to Wales.

In terms of results, the Board special mentions to our top 2 Boards Dan Shepherd and James Scorer who obviously had to deal with the best players the opposition could offer and in both cases they scored more than 50 per cent over their matches. Mind you at the time of writing Paul Bamford played in only one match which he won for a 100 per cent record.

Finally I am happy to continue in role for next season and would be grateful if any members would let me know if they want to be considered for selection for the B team.

**Division 2**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Team** | **Matches Played** | **Matches Won** | **Matches Drawn** | **Matches Lost** | **Games For** | **Games Against** | **Points** |
| Macclesfield A | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 30 | 10 | **15** |
| Wilmslow | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 27 | 13 | **13** |
| Northenden | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 21 | 14 | **9** |
| Altrincham | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 21 | 19 | **7** |
| East Cheshire B | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 16 | 19 | **6** |
| Macclesfield B | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 18 | 22 | **6** |
| Marple | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 14½ | 20½ | **6** |
| Stockport B | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 12 | 23 | **4** |
| Glossop | 8 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 10½ | 29½ | **2** |

Jim Mckie

Team Captain Date 22nd April 2025

Limit League Captain’s Report 2024-25 Season

This season was always going to be difficult for the Club as we lost all our Board 1 players, Paul Bamford, Steve McCall and Steve Tatlock, before the season began (although Steve McCall did play for us in the President’s Cup match).

We welcomed two new members to the Limit League team, Charles Gorry and Andrew Bain and another relatively new member, Luke Oldfield, became a regular player.

This season our Board 1 players were Steve Kelly, Edwin Cooke and Luke Oldfield. Board 2 players were Steve Kelly, Charles Gorry and Luke Oldfield. Board 3 players were Dave Harris and Keith Hodgson. Board 4 players were Keith Hodgson, Harvey Cheater, Luke Oldfield, Geoff Smith and Andrew Bain.

In the President’s Cup we lost in the first round to Urmston, 4 – 1.

We won 3 Limit League matches (against Altrincham, Stockport and Wilmslow - the last one being a default on their part), drew 1 match (Glossop) and lost 6 (Blue Club, Northenden, Chorlton Q, Marple, Ashton, Chorlton P).

There is one further match to play after the AGM.

I’m sure there was a very good reason for holding the AGM so early, but it made it more difficult to rearrange the Wilmslow match mentioned above. In future years, I think we should do our best not to hold the AGM during the SDCL playing season.

**Limit League**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Team** | **Matches Played** | **Matches Won** | **Matches Drawn** | **Matches Lost** | **Games For** | **Games Against** | **Points** |
| Ashton | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 26 | 14 | **15** |
| Blue Club | 11 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 25 | 19 | **14** |
| Chorlton Q | 11 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 24½ | 19½ | **14** |
| Chorlton P | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 24 | 16 | **13** |
| Marple | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 23 | 13 | **11** |
| Northenden | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 22½ | 21½ | **11** |
| Glossop | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 19 | 17 | **10** |
| Stockport | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 18½ | 21½ | **9** |
| Altrincham | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 20 | 20 | **8** |
| East Cheshire | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 17 | 23 | **7** |
| Wilmslow | 11 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 12½ | 31½ | **6** |
| Chorlton R | 10 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 12 | 28 | **4** |

David Harris

Team Captain Date 28th April 2025