

East Cheshire

CHESS Club

**NEWSLETTER #24, 31st August 2017**

1. **Matters arising from the AGM**

Firstly, I would just like to give you a quick reminder that there was a clean sweep of the Officers at the AGM. Thanks go to the outgoing Chairperson Geoff Clarke, Secretary Myles Heywood and Treasurer Bill Tait for all their hard work.

The new Officers are Chairperson: David Taylor, Secretary: Dave Harris, Treasurer: Steve Kelly.

Secondly, the Club now has a written constitution which was proposed by Steve Kelly and passed at the AGM.

1. **New Season start-up**

The club will re-open for the new season with its usual weekly club evening starting on

**Wednesday 6th September 2017**

From this date forward, members will be able to play matches for the Kellett Trophy competition. Alternatively, members may wish to come and play informal games in speed chess, rapid play or standard formats. I would like to encourage members to come and play such games in addition to attending for formal matches as part of a team against other clubs.

We are planning to kick off the new season with our usual Social Evening, involving a Rapidplay with a break for food and drinks on

**Wednesday 27st September 2017**

This event is usually good fun so why not come along, bringing some food and/or drink to share. Please send me an email if you are unable to attend on 27st September: if it turns out that a lot of people are away or unable to come, we could easily postpone the Social Evening for a week or two.

1. **Membership for the coming season**

I very much hope that you will continue your membership of East Cheshire Chess Club for the coming season – the annual subscription has been frozen at £20 for adults (£10 for juniors). Steve Kelly, our Treasurer, will be sending information soon to enable you to pay by bank transfer, cash or cheque. If anyone is planning not to continue their membership it would be very helpful if they could let us know now, both for budgeting and planning purposes.

1. **Summer Rapidplay League**

The Summer Rapidplay League entered its second season with the same format as last year, enabling us to host fortnightly club nights starting in June and finishing in August. In the Rapidplay League, East Cheshire was again represented by two teams, the East Cheshire Tigers and East Cheshire Eagles captained by Steve McCall and David Taylor respectively. We did have some difficulty in fielding full teams at the height of the holiday season.

David Taylor has very kindly written the following report (my apologies for the inconsistent formatting – my knowledge of Microsoft Word wasn’t up to the job of reformatting!).

“East Cheshire again fielded two 4-board teams, Tigers and Eagles, in the Rapidplay League organized by Stockport’s Peter Taylor. Both teams played seven matches; each match consisted of two 30-minute games for each player, as black and white against the same opponent. We tried to make our two teams roughly equal in grades, whereas Stockport’s 3 teams were, as their names suggest (Aces, Jacks and Jokers) more like our A, B and C teams in calibre-sequence.

The Tigers came bottom (sorry, Steve, truth will out!) and the Eagles, by winning two matches, came sixth out of eight, above Stockport Jokers and our Tigers. In all, twelve members took part, and most expressed their enjoyment of the tournament. Our fairly poor outcomes were undoubtedly due to our inability to persuade more of our strong club members to stay in the UK during the summer to take part! Realistically, if we are to field two teams next summer, we need more club members to take part, as both captains struggled to avoid defaults and as a result some noble souls played occasionally for both teams, which is permitted by the rules.

One interesting match was that between Stockport Aces, who won all of their other matches comfortably, and Marple Pirates. The Pirates, only on this occasion, fielded a team consisting of Alex Longson (219), Sarah Longson (198), Sean Hewitt (162) and Alan Hall (139). Marple won 7-1, but the competition was still won by Stockport Aces (at the time of writing they could be equal top with Stockport Jacks, a team two points behind with one match remaining).”

Tudor has also kindly supplied the following report:

“A valiant effort by the Eagles.

The team was marginally outranked and even then did well. Our opponents did not field their mightiest warriors who whitewashed the mighty Stockport Aces (who did the same to us).

The match involved one of those uncomfortable incidents that happen from time to time. I was already a game down, and playing for a mate with both players in time trouble, and in a complex position.

A Marple player who was observing saw that I had been in check for several moves, and pointed it out to my opponent. An illegal move is time-penalized, but observers should not interfere with the game, which is also illegal.

I objected, backed up by our imperious captain David. I agreed an offered draw, thus avoiding referring the matter to the disputes committee (yes, the league has one!).

I am still searching for the exact rules in summer league, or indeed in quick play tournaments. Any ideas? The other way is to shout for the captains to decide, before your clock falls.”

From my perspective, it would be nice to continue fielding two teams, in order to enable as many people as possible to participate. We could manage this if we increase the numbers in our pool of available players and provided that enough of those in the pool agree to play sufficiently often. So, if you didn’t participate this year, you might want to consider doing so next year. I know that the captain of the Tigers, Steve McCall, would prefer to go down to one team if we can’t increase numbers. Perhaps we can make a decision on this next May when we have to register teams for the Summer League. If anyone has any comments on the issue please email me.

This issue notwithstanding I think it is true to say that everyone involved enjoyed participating in the Rapidplay and looks forward to doing so again next year.

Thank you to both Steve and David for all the effort you put in to make this a success.

1. **Stockport League Fixtures Meeting**

As in previous seasons, we plan to enter 4 teams in the league this season. The fixtures meeting will be held at the Stockport Chess Club venue (Conservative Club, Mellor Road, Cheadle Hulme), in the third week in September, starting at 7.30 p.m. I have been unable to find out the exact date of the meeting and will send out an email when it becomes known. Team captains should attend, but all members are welcome.

1. **ECF Membership.**

We need to register our team players, with their up-to-date ECF membership number, at the League’s Fixtures Meeting in September. So, all those intending to play for one of our teams in the Stockport League are reminded that they must renew their ECF membership as soon as possible. To renew on-line just go to: <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/membership/joining/guide-to-renewing-your-ecf-membership/> and follow the instructions there. To renew by post send your cheque to The English Chess Federation, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, BATTLE, TN33 0YD or you can phone them on 01424 775222 and pay by card. Discount £1 if you renew on-line!

1. **Grades for the new season**

The current ECF grades, listed in numerical descending order, for our existing team players are shown below – these are taken from the ECF website and reflect gradings as per the July 2017 update. We shall use them when we register our team players with Stockport League in mid-September, along with existing/ estimated grades for any new members who have joined during the summer.

1. **A-Team captain**

Finally, at the AGM it was stated that Dave Newell does not wish to continue as A-team captain. Thanks go to Dave for all the work he has put into this. I understand that the A-team regulars have been emailed to ask for a volunteer or volunteers to captain the A-team.

Please let me know the current position on this as we will need an A-team captain for the Fixtures Meeting in the third week in September.

Best wishes for a successful new season starting on 6th September.

Dave Harris

Club Secretary

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| **Name** | **Standard ECF Grade** |
| Reed, John S | 173 |
| Tranter, Steve | 169 |
| Brindle, Geoffrey | 165 |
| Ramsey, Philip | 156 |
| Newell, Kieran J | 149 |
| Newell, David F | 147 |
| Holton, Keven R | 145 |
| Rickards, Tudor | 137 |
| Taylor, David R | 135 |
| Tait, Bill | 135 |
| Bamford, Paul | 135 |
| McKie, Jim M | 131 |
| Heywood, Myles | 126 |
| Flaherty, Nicholas C | 115 |
| Kelly, Steve | 113 |
| McCall, Steve | 111 |
| Cooke, Edwin | 105 |
| Clarke, Geoffrey | 97 |
| Hodgson, Keith | 96 |
| Smith, Geoff M | 83 |
| Harris, Dave | 79 |
| Pease, Arnold P | 58 |

NB If your name does not appear above, it is because you are not a current member of the ECF, or are currently regarded by the ECF as “ungraded” - but we can still register you to play in the Stockport League with an estimated grade provided that you are a paid-up member of the ECF.