

**Annual General Meeting 2019**

**Held on June 4 at Battersea Labour Club**

**Apologies:**

Tony Ashby, Joel Morales, Vic Rumsey, Steve Barry.Aldo Camilleri, Adrian Somerfield, Emil Todorow, Tim Valentine, Stephen Welch, Ali Hill, Tom Butterworth, Gregg Hutchence, Howard Groves, Midhun Unnikrishnan.

**Present:**

Leon Watson, Alan Palmer, Vic Rumsey, Chris Beckett, Tim Wells, Paul Stokes, Bill Drennan, Arnold Hunt, Malcolm Dancy, Derek Harvey, Fabio Buanne, Tim Allen, Chris Rebbeck, Joel Morales, Peter Yusoff, Duncan Kerr, Tommaso Penna, Rejean Dupuis.

**Minutes:**

Minutes from last year approved and seconded with no changes.

**Chairman's Report:**

Alan Palmer hailed a fantastic year for Battersea with lots of successes. AP says Battersea has been on the up for a few years now. Adam Taylor has become the first Battersea player for a generation to get the IM title and Bao Nghia Dong has got a first IM norm, Midhun recently won Hampstead Rapid with 6/6 and tons of junior successes with Boris and Viktor Stoyanov, Denis Dupuis, Luca Buanne, CM Shreyas Royal - too many to list them all out, but it's been a fantastic year for the juniors. Alan also asked for any ideas for how we organise ourselves better for juniors to be put to the committee. Chris Beckett, he noted, had the brilliant idea of putting a team of juniors out against Wood Green. On the teams front, MI have won division 6 for the third time in five years, Battersea 1 have one game to go and may finish a historic second. We did win the league back in 1939, Alan noted, but this is reputedly the strongest regional league in the country so that is quite an achievement. Meanwhile, Battersea 2 have been promoted to division 2 which is the first time possibly ever that we shall have teams in division 1 and 2. The third team tried very hard but unfortunately failed to get promoted out of division 4 and will continue there. Also the Summer Chess League last year was won by Battersea Horses, captained by Blair Connell. We also got a good plug thanks to Shreyas by being featured on the BBC One Show, we've also been featured in the Sunday Times chess column and The Guardian has mentioned us more than once and Magnus Carlsen met a couple of our players so there has been a fantastic lot going on. Leon Watson interjects to say also, the "Wetherspoons News" and then hands out an article in the pub chain's quarterly. What better things can we achieve, Alan asks, "fame indeed," he says.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Alan distributes the treasurer's report and summarises. The treasurer sent his apologies, his report issues a balance of about £1,200 at the end of the year and a loss of about £400 for the year, but despite that loss he notes we are in quite a strong position. Our main source of revenue comes from subs and we've had some donations. We have invested over £500 in new equipment. Overall subs have been down despite this, it is noted, due to players not being prodded. Alan notes we are lucky to have the premises that we do but they need to be paid for. He says it would be a great pity if we lapsed into becoming one of the clubs that just meet to play games and don't have club nights due to a lack of premises. The message from Adrian is if new memberships are converted to full memberships then we should have sufficient income to cover expenses. His recommendation is there need to be no change to subs for this season. Tim Allen raises the question of whether a "pragmatic" view is being taken by captains when it comes to team selection. Alan agrees saying, implicitly this is probably the case but perhaps captains should take a firmer view when it comes to selection policy. Leon adds that enforcement of subs payment has fallen into a bit of a grey area of responsibility and there has perhaps been a bit of a failure of the committee to iron that out. Alan says this is perhaps where a Membership Secretary would take a role. Vic Rumsey asks a question about the figures in relation to the club hire cost. No-one in the room is able to answer it. It is decided to accept the treasurer's accounts subject to a satisfactory answer to that query. "I'm sure there's a reason," Vic says, and everyone agrees. Duncan Kerr asks about London League fees and whether they will go up. Alan says there will be some increase there, but he doesn't know the figures. Fabio Buanne asks as a new member to the club why the fiscal year ends in July and not March. Alan answers that it is so the accounts are ready for the AGM which, according to the constitution, takes place at the start of June.

**Captain's Reports:**

**First team: Midhun Unnikrishnan**

We don't have a first team report and Midhun isn't here, says Alan. He refers to earlier statement about an historic second being possible and says the team wheeled in a GM to play the last match and jokes that Chris Rebbeck complained about being dropped for him. Chris says he was sore for a couple of days but got over it. That is a very pleasing thing, says Alan, referring to the team's performance.

**Second team: Tim Wells**

We have a very good season, says Tim, we achieved promotion to the second division with three matches to spare. Lots of strong individual performances and the outstanding player of the year was Tomasso Penna who won seven games "in very fine fashion, I must say" and had a performance grade of over 200. Conor Gay, Paul Stokes and Kazi Rahman also had very good win percentages. Next year will be a lot more difficult, Tim said.

**Eastman Cup: Ali Hill**

Read out by Alan. Ali said there was only one fixture, which we lost 6-4 against a very strong Wimbledon side with Robin Haldane down on board 8. Their captain however complimented us on our collective performance. Two excellent wins for Duncan Kerr and late stand-in Harry Williamson "playing a blinder" against Paul Barasi.

**Third team: Arnold Hunt/Bill Drennan**

It was a split captaincy, Bill notes. The team played 13, won 9 and unusually finished only fifth.By way of explanation, Bill says "there were some really good teams, like ourselves, and some really much lower calibre teams". Pride of place in terms of individual performances should go to Gary Smith who scored 9.5/12 on top board, but also Alex Ter Hark who scored 6/7 and Alan Palmer.

**Major team: Tim Valentine**

Read out by AP. Tim noted a good turnout with no defaults, and enclosed player stats for the season. 17 players were used with good rotation. He noted there was more than enough interest to field another team in the division and he would encourage it. Team finished just below mid-table.

**Minor team: Chris Rebbeck**

At the start of the season, Chris says, we had a plan to integrate new players but I mostly ended up sticking with the stalwarts of Joel Morales, Leon and Gregg and it turned out the results were excellent so it was difficult to pick new players. Team morale was excellent so I felt there was no benefit to chopping and changing, we were the strongest team in the league so we should try to win - and we did. Joel got 7/10, Gregg got 7/9.

**CLL1: Chris Beckett**

Chris recounts "a little bit of an annus horribilis" where for most of the year his team were behind the second team but eventually managed to "sweak" past them. However, Chris reports excellent individual performances from Bao who got 7.5/10, and Midhun "the mainstay of the team" who got 7/12. Chris said it was hard to get a team out pretty much every week due to availability - only 4 players managed more than 4 games. We didn't down and we finished above the second team, Chris said, laughing.

**CLL2 team: Emil Todorow**

Read out by Alan. Emil said it had been a "reasonably satisfying" effort by the team and it had managed to stay in this strong division for another year. Emil praised his players' loyalty, reliability and effort. Notable performances over the season from Viktor Stoyanov and Tommaso Penna. The team finished sixth, Emil said he is looking for an improved performance next season.

**CLL3 team: Howard Groves**

Read out by Alan. Howard was pleased to report his CLL3 team achieved its aim of increasing playing opportunities for members and earned fifth in the division. He fielded 20 players, whom he thanked along with the stand-in captains who helped over the season. Howard said he is standing down from the post of captain and from the club.

**Tournament Secretary's Report**

Read out by AP on behalf of Stephen Welch. Stephen noted the internal competitions have been revamped with great success so far. The Club Championship and the Barrow have become part of a Grand Prix formatwith 15-20 allocated nights held over the year and a winner hopefully coming to the fore in December. So far 87 games have been played in the GP, with the final total likely to be c150. This compares to 29 in the previous format last year. Last year 16 people took part, this year 55 have played at least one game. Stephen noted that the new format is not perfect and there are a few "wrinkles" that need to be ironed out but he is open to suggestions on how to improve it. Alan says it has helped make sure there is more serious chess available at the club. We now also have some league games played here, he notes. Chris Rebbeck reports back on the Spring Rapids and says it went well and he enjoyed running it.

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**5-MINUTE BREAK TO RECHARGE GLASSES**

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**Proposals for next year’s subscriptions:**

Adrian has said he is happy for the current rates to continue, he says. A 15-minute discussion follows and ends when Alan says subject to a bit more "discipline and process being brought into the thing" he is happy to propose from the chair on behalf of the treasurer that subs remain unchanged as they are. The vote is carried. Alan says "that is a shorter debate than we've had in previous years about subscriptions, let's move along quickly".

**League entries/teams for next season:**

Alan says that one or two older, more established members have complained they haven't been picked for quite so many teams because of the attempt by captains to bring more players into teams. Alan says the answer to that is to create more teams, but it requires captains for those teams and that is the challenge we are facing. Alan refers to the club survey sent out by the secretary which expressed a wish for more teams. Fabio raises the point addressed in the survey about entry into the Surrey Chess League.

**Election of club officers and team captains:**

**Chairman**

Alan's selection was proposed, seconded and carried before he could object.

**Secretary**

Leon Watson to continue.

**Treasurer**

Alan nominated Adrian. Proposed, seconded, the vote was carried.

**Membership Officer**

Chris Beckett volunteers to take over.

**Tournament Secretary**

Stephen Welch to formally take over the role with help from Chris Rebbeck and Aldo Camilleri.

**Website Manager**

Leon Watson to continue.

**Equipment Maintenance Manager**

Arnold Hunt to continue.

**LL1 Captain**

Midhun Unnikrishnan to continue.

**Eastman Cup**

Ali Hill to continue.

**LL2 Captain**

Malcolm Dancy to take over.

**LL3 Captain**

To be confirmed.

**Major Captain**

Tim Valentine to continue.

**Major II Captain**

Chris Rebbeck.

**Minor Captain**

Chris Rebbeck to continue.

**CLL1 Captain**

Chris Beckett happy to carry on.

**CLL2 Captain**

Emil Todorow happy to continue.

**CLL3 Captain**

Derek Harvey elected.

**Honorary Auditor**

Tim Valentine.

**Any Other Business**

Not recorded.