**BASINGSTOKE CHESS CLUB**

**Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 14th September 2022**

Attendance: Philip Ware, Peter Beldaus, David Graham, Flora Lewis, Linda Mc Diarmid, Edison Brown, Gina Brown, Adam Matthews, Ojas Dhall, Megan Birch, Andrew Birch, Charles Oluwandare, Graham Phillips, Yasmin Phillips, Mo Negargar, Jay Negargar, David Long, Harry Smith, Anirban Ghosh, Shwetal Bhatt, Jamie Chilton, .

* **Chairman’s Report**. Philip Ware welcomed all and thanked the membership and fellow offices for the continued support given. He announced that Basingstoke Chess Club was now 125 years old and still going strong. Philip commented that he was extremely pleased with the progress of the clubs Junior players. He felt a number of the Junior players have now become very strong over the board players and it bodes well for the clubs future.
* **Treasurer’s Report**. Peter Beldaus presented the Annual accounts attached. Despite the problems of the Pandemic the accounts show a healthy balance. Peter advised of problems dealing with our local Lloyds Bank. Nowadays Clubs are classed as Business’s and although the account remains functional perhaps the club is not enjoying all the benefits a conventional account would offer. Peter will explore options with Graham Phillips who has kindly offered advice. Peter also commented on the amazing progress of the club’s junior players. Jamie Chilton audited the club Account which were approved. Peter has confirmed that the Annual subscription will remain at £30.00 per annum. The board fee for Adults will remain at £2.00. The fee for Juniors will rise to £2.00 from September 2022.

* **Secretary’s Report**: David Graham re-iterated his thanks to the club membership and fellow officers. Also Adam Matthews was thanked for the work he carries out on the club Website.
1. With the Pandemic still having influence the re-started 2021-22 season proved to be a Challenge. However the curtailed season has seen an increase in attendances which is of course welcome.
2. The main club competitions for 2021 were eventually completed with Steven Jones again winning the Basingstoke Individual Championship ( Joe French Cup). The 2021 Henshaw competition was won by Edison Brown a club Junior member.
3. The 2021 Basingstoke Junior Chess Championship was won by Ralph Morley and the 2022 competition winner was Saksham Rana.
* **Election of the Officers**: The existing three officers were elected to continue for another year. Philip Ware (Chairman), Peter Beldaus (Teasurer) and David Graham (Secretary).
* **Junior Chess:** The Junior section had a successful curtailed season. The club has seen the emergence of some very strong Junior players who have done well in the various competitions entered. As previously advised the Junior club now meets on Wednesday evenings from 5.30pm until 6.45pm.

There is a lot of activity from the ECF in regards to Junior Chess. Delancey who organise the Mega-finals are very active in promoting chess in Primary Schools. Recent announcements suggest that they are hoping to introduce Chess Academies into Chess clubs. We look forward to receiving details on this initiative. It is evident that the stronger players in the club would benefit from advanced coaching. To this end Steven Jones our top player has kindly agreed to carry out a Coaching session at the club on Saturday 8th October 2022. It would start at 10.30am until noon and cost £10 which includes the board fee of £2.00 which goes to the Bridge club. Additional details will be provided.

* **Berkshire League report 2021-22**. The two Berkshire League teams had very respectable half seasons. The first team finished third and the second team around mid table.
* **Borders League report 2021-22**. The Borders League team finished third in Division 2. Notable wins were achieved at Reading and Crowthorne who went on to be the eventual winners.
* **Southampton League report 2021-22.** The three sides entered all had successful seasons with the A and C teams winning their respective leagues. Most notable was the C team winning Division 5 with 22 of the 24 boards played occupied by our club juniors.
* **Basingstoke League 2022 .** This very informal competition proved to be very popular with many members participating. Basing were the eventual winners.
* **Season 2022-23 Season**. The plans are to consolidate all our teams into the Southampton Chess League for a season. Hence we have withdrawn from the Borders and Berkshire Leagues. Basingstoke Chess Club will have teams in Divisions 2,3,4, and 5
* **The Joe French Cup** has started with 24 entrants. The first player through to the third round is Edison Brown.
* **The Henshaw Shield Tourney** has started with 25 entrants also. The first five players through to the third round are. David Long, Adam Matthews, Harry Smith, Ralph Morley and Megan Birch.
* **Basingstoke League.** It is hoped to start the Basingstoke League in the not too distant future.
* **Any Other Business:**
1. Jamie Chilton suggested the possibilities of the club having a cycle rack be considered. He had obtained a provisional cost for the purchase of a rack. The Bridge Club have been approached and agreed the suggestion in principle. This was on the basis that the Chess Club purchase the cycle rack and the Bridge Club install it at the rear of the premises.
2. Discovery Centre; The first meeting of the season for the Family morning is scheduled for Saturday 24th September from 10.30am until noon.
3. Anirban Ghosh enquired about the 4NL league, It is understood some Basingstoke players already play in this popular league for Wessex. More information to be sought.
4. In order to bring our records up to date we would appreciate the attached Application for membership form being completed and emailed back. Thank you.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.07pm.