

Stonehaven Chess Club AGM Minutes 2025

Date: 27th August 2025

Venue: St James Episcopal Church

Present:

Lewis Matheson (Chair), Bruce Harrold, Tate Randle, Robert Lothian, Michael Clayton, Graham Stirling, Paddy Coffield, Caroline Duguid, Jamie Smith, Robbie Williamson, Alan Cundill.

Apologies:

Keith Emery

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM (22nd May 2024) were approved. Minutes of this AGM will be issued before the end of September.

Chair's Report

The Chair reported that the club had enjoyed a successful year, including:

- Securing lottery funding
- Strong performances in the SNCL and TAFCA leagues
- Growth in membership numbers

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the financial report (see attached spreadsheet). Key points:

- Adult membership fees collected: £390
- Venue weekly fees collected: £719
- Venue hire cost: £1,635 (significant shortfall)
- Additional costs: tournament entries, Chess Scotland membership, web hosting, engraving, etc.
- Lottery funding has provided a buffer but will run out by January 2026
- Chess Scotland membership remains unpaid; the new Treasurer will action this
- The club is now incurring a bank service charge, and alternative providers will be considered

Membership Fees 2025–26

Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed that:

- Adult membership will increase to £50 per year, with the weekly £3 fee retained
- Junior membership will be set at 50% (£25 per year), with no weekly fee if not playing in competitions. Juniors playing in competitions will pay the £25 rate
- The increase is intended to cover venue costs which have increased this year from £30 a night to £45 a night, and safeguard the club's finances
- It was noted that approximately 15 attendees per week are required to meet venue hire costs; current attendance averages 8–10

Club Hours & Venue Arrangements

A proposal was discussed to shorten club hours to 19:00–21:00. This was overruled, as the current 19:00–22:00 schedule is required for league matches and to accommodate late arrivals.

League Memberships

- TAFCA: Concerns were raised about securing four regular players. It was agreed the club will not enter TAFCA this season.
- North East League: The club supports the relaunch and will prioritise entering here, potentially with two teams. Wider membership interest will be gauged.
- SNCL: The club will enter again this year.

Club Competitions

The club will run:

- A Club Championship
- An Allegro tournament
- A Blitz tournament

Election of Officers

- Chair: Lewis Matheson (confirmed)
- Secretary: Alan Cundill (confirmed)
- Treasurer & Inventory Recorder: Tate Randle (confirmed)
- Tournament Director: Michael Clayton (confirmed, taking over from outgoing director Paddy Coffield)

Any Other Business

- Donation of surplus chess sets to local schools and care homes will be explored following completion of the equipment inventory
- Following correspondence with Aberdeenshire Council (Sarah Henderson, Planning Technician), the committee discussed erecting a poster in Stonehaven to promote the club. It was noted that although Advertisement Consent is technically required, enforcement would only occur if a complaint were received, in which case

retrospective application could be made. The committee agreed to explore the feasibility of producing and displaying a poster to raise local awareness of the club.

Congratulations also goes out to Alan Cundill/Graham McKay who were our joint winners of the Club Championship.

Alan Cundill was also the winner of our Allegro Championship.

Date of First Committee Meeting

The first committee meeting was scheduled for 5th September at 17:00, venue in Aberdeen (TBC).

Meeting closed.