Minutes of LDCL AGM 5/6/25

Present

Ben Graff (Chair BG), Gordon Christie (Deputy Chair/Registrations Officer GC), Tom Darling (Tres. TD), Julian Summerfield (Sec. JS), Dave Thomas (Fix. Sec DT) and Peter Stiff (Safeguarding/Webmaster PS).Mark Page and Andy Ward (Ken.), Richard Buxton (Strat.), Gary Jackson (Ban.), AndyJohnson(Dav.) and Matt Allen (Sol.).

Apologies

Rob Reynolds (Olt.) and David Riley (Rug.).

Agenda

1. Chair (BG)-
2. Thanked all club officials, including the committee for making the league function successfully.
3. Wished to remind all spectators not to comment whilst games are in progress.
4. Photos- PS highlighted that unfortunately we cannot use them due to privacy without individual consent (GDPR). **ACTION**- BG to take this matter to the committee to find a practical solution.
5. Minutes of AGM 2024 were approved- proposed by DT and seconded by PS.
6. Presentation of Trophies: D1 Kenilworth A, D2 Kenilworth C, D3 Stratford B, D4 Solihull C, Open KO Kenilworth, U8750 KO Kenilworth, individual U1650 Richard Buxton, Rapid Oladejo Olaleye. Blitz (Open)-Javier O Valdepenas (U1800) Keatan Patel, (U1500) Binu Manoharan.

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1. Treasurer (TD)-bank balance £2050 up from £1982, with board fees from 1 club of £36 being chased. An annual website certificate of £34 for the domain name will be required going forward, with a monthly bank charge of £4.25 (3 included in last FY), offset by additional trophy engraving costs catching up in the last FY.. Based upon continuing £3 board fee, TD expects to see a continued satisfactory surplus. TD recommended no change to the current £3 per board fee for 2025/26 season, seconded by BG and passed.
2. Safeguarding/Webmaster (PS)- A. **Safeguarding-**PS has loaded the ECF updated Safeguarding Policy onto the LDCL website. A reminder to all clubs to have a Safeguarding Policy and a nominated official. B. **Website** PS has the domain name- many thanks to Carl Hibbard for being its custodian over many years. Mark Page raised an issue that the roll of honour the LDCL website only goes back to 2000/1. Records go back c50 years with potentially a few gaps- some discussion as to the considerable work and time required to update the website. **ACTION** PS to look into and revert back to committee. Mark Page expressed concern of not being advised of news items added to LDCL website, via a link when they are added. **ACTION** PS to look into and assess practical options and revert back to committee.
3. Registration Officer (GC)- Total registrations were 282, an increase on PY of 12, however with Coventry leaving the league and having 22, expectations for 2025/6 are for the total will fall. Minimal issues to resolve and only 1 board order penalty applied. A reminder that the initial league registration covers board order within registered teams until 1st January grades are produced when teams must observe the latter updated grades. A request was made to use descending order on the registration form.
4. Election of Officers: Chair (BG)- proposed GC- passed unanimously- Deputy Chair (GC), Secretary (JS), Website/Safeguarding (PS), Treasurer (TD), Trophy (TD), Registration Officer (GC), Fixtures (DT)- all proposed by BG individually and passed unanimously individually.
5. DT had received all requests from member clubs for league matches-a total 32 teams for 2025/6. This is a reduction of 1 team- with Coventry withdrawing from the league, Kenilworth dropping their Division 2 team and Solihull adding an additional team in Division 4. The initial request was as follows:
6. D1- 8 teams unchanged- Ken. C replace S&W A.
7. D2- 6 reduction of 3- from D1, S&W A, replace Ken. C promoted to D1. Coventry withdraw from the league, Ken. D withdraw from D2. Promoted Strat. B wish to remain in D3 due to loss of key player in A team, Sol. B relegated.
8. D3-9 teams increase of 1- Sol B relegated from D2, Strat. B request to stay down in D3. Sol C promoted from D4, with Strat. C relegated to D4.
9. D4- 9 teams increase of 1- Sol. C promoted to D3, Strat. C relegated from D3- Sol added a G team to D4.

A discussion was held to see how the league teams could be more evenly balanced. Solihull agreed for their B team to remain in D2, although advised that whilst accepting Stratford’s desire for their B team to remain in D3 for season 2025/6, should Stratford’s B team win D3 for a consecutive season then it would be unfair for their B team to remain in D3 on other teams in D3 and expect them to accept promotion for the subsequent season. The impact of this adjustment was a structure of: D1 8- D2 7- D3 8 - D4 9

1. Rule amendments

A. Rule 3 - Current rule for tie breaks - game point difference, head to head scores from the team matches, followed by a play off- for the sake of clarity covers “championship, divisional titles, promotion and relegation scenarios”, carried unanimously.

B. Rule 7f - Current rule for playing up allows unlimited on bottom board for the team immediately above and twice above that before upward re-registration. This was amended to a maximum of 5 times on any boards of any higher teams. Once this limit is exceeded the player will be re-registered for the lower of such higher teams, carried.

C. Rule 10 - Current use of digital clocks relates to Division 1 and Open KO- this shall now be extended to all matches with analogue clocks only used in exceptional circumstances, carried unanimously.

D. Rule 14b - Current penalties for playing wrong board order. Currently rule for incorrect board order, results in a 4-0 or 3-0 loss, this shall now read to the affected boards and below, carried.

E. Rule 14b and 15 - Current 75 point board order tolerance in terms of board order flexibility, this shall now read 100, carried.

F. Rule 14d - Current 150 point board order tolerance, was voted on to be deleted, the vote was tied and was not carried by the vote of the Chair.

G. Rule 20 - Current rule team withdrawal - current presumption shall be the lowest team- amended to “discretion of the LDCL committee, but with a strong presumption that the lowest team will be withdrawn, except in exceptional circumstances”, carried unanimously.

H. Rule 22 - Current board elimination rule requires greater clarity, to be amended to “Boards will be progressively eliminated from the bottom if a match is tied, until a result is achieved,. Should all games be drawn, a reply will be needed”, carried unanimously.

1. Rule 23 - Stanley Gibbins trophy, for clarity relates only to the league matches of the division the player is registered for, carried unanimously.

J. (New) Rule 25 - add a definition for a junior to be under 18 on the 1st September, carried unanimously.

1. AOB, JS advised that Solihull had reserved the date of Wednesday 6th May 2026 to host the annual LDCL Blitz Tournament, subject to finding an arbiter to run the event.

Meeting closed at 10 pm.