

Stourbridge Chess Club

Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2026

Date: 9th June 2026

Venue: The Queens Head

Members Present

- Julie Wilson
 - Dan Billingham
 - Steve Alcock
 - Adam Ware
 - John Foxall
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President's Report

The President's Report will be attached alongside the minutes

Secretary's Report

This Season has been a tough year following the passing of 2 standout members at the club, Paul Sharratt and Eric Horwill. Both will be greatly missed.

We have unfortunately been relegated in both BDCL teams, but the new 4 board division for the second team in BDCL 5 will be a nice help whilst we build our players back up.

It was good to see a couple of new players joining and playing in the leagues this year, and we hope to keep that up next season.

There has been difficulties arranging teams and lifts primarily in the second teams, causing for quite a few board defaults and even some full match defaults. With the decision to drop the WDCL 3 team this will hopefully help reduce this number of defaults.

Fixtures for the next season are already underway, with BDCL being finalised later this month. And WDCL will be agreed around the middle of July. DDCL fixtures tend to come around middle or late August.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts, which are attached to these minutes.

The sale of the club's chess books through eBay has been progressing well, with £88.12 raised from the sale of ten books so far.

The legacy left to the club by Eric has provided a significant boost to the club's finances during the year. Part of this legacy has been used to purchase a new trophy.

The club recorded an overall surplus of **£344.61** for the financial year.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted by those present.

Team Captain Reports

BDCL Division 2

The season began strongly, with the team producing several good performances during the first half of the Season. However, results slowed towards the end of the season, ultimately leading to participation in a three-way relegation play-off, which the team unfortunately lost.

The standout players during the season were **Joe Friar** and **Dan Jones**.

The team also performed well in the **Terill Trophy**, reaching the quarter-finals.

BDCL Division 4

The BDCL Division 4 report was presented and is attached to the minutes.

WDCL Division 1

The team experienced many closely contested matches and narrow defeats throughout the season. Despite the results, it was felt that the team was not outmatched in the league. The Wolverhampton & District Chess League has agreed to allow Stourbridge Chess Club to remain in Division 1 for the forthcoming season.

The standout player of the season was **Nic Fallowfield**.

WDCL Division 3

The WDCL Division 3 report was presented and is attached to these minutes.

DDCL Division 3

The DDCL Division 3 report was presented and is attached to these minutes.

Social Secretary's Report

The Social Secretary's Report was presented and is attached to these minutes.

Safeguarding Update

There were no safeguarding concerns or issues to report during the year.

Awards for the Season

Awards for the 2025/26 season were as below:

- **Most Reliable Club Member (Sydney's Willets Trophy):** Nic Fallowfield
- **Most Improved Player (Dennis Fernihough Trophy):** Che Duljeet Adams
- **Contribution to Stourbridge Chess Club (President's Cup 2026):** Dan Billingham

Summer Programme

The following summer programme was agreed:

- The Summer Tournament will commence on **16 June**, with matches being played every other week. Players who are unavailable may take a half-point bye.
- The annual **Tony Evers Match** will take place against **Halesowen Chess Club** on the **3rd August Away** at the Townsend Social Club .
- The annual **Club Dinner** will be held at **The Crabmill** on **17 August**.
- On **25 August**, the inaugural **Eric Horwill Cup Blitz Tournament** will be held, with the newly commissioned trophy being presented to the winner.

Election of Officers for the 2026/27 Season

The following officers were elected:

Position	Elected Officer
President	Julie Wilson
General Secretary	Dan Billingham
Treasurer	Steve Alcock
Social Secretary	Julie Wilson
Publicity Secretary	Julie Wilson
Website Administrator	Julie Wilson
Safeguarding Officer	Adam Ware

Team Captains

Team	Captain
BDCL Division 3	Adam Ware
BDCL Division 5	Vacant
WDCL Division 1	John Foxall
DDCL Division 3	Steve Alcock

Teams for the 2026/27 Season

It was agreed that Stourbridge Chess Club will enter the following teams for the forthcoming season:

- **Birmingham & District Chess League (BDCL):** Division 3 and Division 5 teams, following the relegation of both teams last season. The club will also enter both cup competitions.
 - **Wolverhampton & District Chess League (WDCL):** Division 1 team only. Although the club has been permitted to remain in Division 1, it was agreed to withdraw the Division 3 team due to a lack of available players.
 - **Dudley & District Chess League (DDCL):** Division 3 team.
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Membership Fees for the 2026/27 Season

It was agreed that membership fees will remain unchanged:

- Full Membership: **£15.00**
 - Student/Benefits Membership: **£10.00**
 - Second Claim Membership: **£7.50**
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ECF Memberships

Members were reminded to ensure that their memberships are correctly renewed before the start of the new season. League rules permit players to participate in only **three matches per league** without an active ECF membership.

Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the Annual General Meeting of Stourbridge Chess Club was declared closed at **8:16 pm**.