

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Sheffield & District Chess Association, to be held on Tuesday 8th September 2026 at The Trades and Labour Club, 200 Duke Street, Sheffield S2 5QQ starting at 7.30pm

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising
4. President's Remarks
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Secretaries' Reports
7. Election of Officers, Auditors, Archivist & Match Captains

President

General Secretary

Treasurer

Auditors

Webmaster

Tournament Controller

Division 1 secretary

Division 2 secretary

Division 3 secretary

Division 4 Secretary

Division 5 Secretary

Summer League Secretary

Vice-Presidents

8. Election of members to serve on the Executive
9. Fixing of fees and subscriptions.
10. Proposed amendments to the Constitution & Rules (see below)
11. Approval of Clubs seeking membership to the league
12. Organisation of teams into Divisions
13. Any Other Business

Motions accepted under 9 “Proposed amendments”.

1.

Proposed change to Rule 20 (b)

Geoff Brown

This old chestnut again. However, it has been a couple of years since the last proposal to move to increments and everyone in the league is now used to using digital clocks. I’m not aware that any of our clubs are still using analogues.

The 2025/26 Sheffield Individual tournaments were all played with increments and not one game went beyond 2 hours 30 minutes. (There is, of course, the rider that in a Swiss System there is often a rating discrepancy in most pairings in the early rounds. League games between evenly matched opponents may have a propensity for going beyond the 60 moves allowed for in the proposal – 60 moves at 15 seconds per move takes 15 minutes per player, i.e. 2 hours 30 minutes for the game. Every additional 10 moves over 60 would add 2 ½ minutes per player, i.e. 5 minutes to the total time for the game).

20(b) In all team matches, each player shall have 60 minutes, plus a 15 second increment per move, in which to complete the game.

2.

Proposed change to the rules for the Individual Competitions

Geoff Brown

Entries to the Sheffield Individual Championships had been gradually decreasing over the years so last year I proposed a change of format. Instead of players making their own arrangements for their matches (be that at a chess club, down the pub, or in their own homes) it was agreed that we would try, temporarily for one season, playing all the matches in each round at a single venue, on a set night per month.

That arrangement seems to have been successful: there were 35 entries last season, pretty much tripling the entry for the recent seasons before then. And, as far as I could tell, everyone appreciated the new set up.

I would therefore like to propose that we now make last year's temporary changes for Rules 26 to 29 inclusive become permanent changes. Last year's wordings have been altered slightly to remove specific mentions of the 2025-26 season.

(If these changes become permanent then note that the plan for 2026-27 is to use the same venue as last season, the Sheffield Chess Centre, but switch to the last Thursday of each month, instead of Wednesday)

RULES FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

26.

SHEFFIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

(a) A Sheffield Individual Championship tournament shall be held annually. If there are sufficient entrants, then the format will be a six-round Swiss system tournament. If the number of entrants is low then the Tournament Controller can alter the tournament format.

(b) The winner shall hold, until the end of the following season, the title of "Sheffield Chess Champion" and the Bruce Trophy.

(c) **Entry shall be open to any member of the Association but note that ECF membership, at Bronze level or above, should be held and still in place on 30th June.**

(d) (i) The Tournament Controller shall 'seed' the six highest rated players before play begins. If fewer than 18 players compete, then one third of the entrants shall be seeded. The highest placed player not included in this list of seeds shall hold the Holroyd Trophy until the end of the following season.

(ii) The Tournament Controller shall 'seed' the six next highest rated players before play begins. If

fewer than 18 players compete, then one third of the entrants shall be seeded. The highest placed player not included in either list of seeds shall hold the Shapero Trophy until the end of the following season.

27.

CONDUCT OF TOURNAMENTS

(a) Entries shall be sent to the controller. The treasurer will make arrangements to collect the ECF game fee (£21.00 from 1st September 2025) from entrants without at least Bronze ECF membership.

(b) The closing date for entries shall be October 15th.

(c) Matches will be played at a single venue, starting at 7.30pm, on a set day (e.g. final Thursday) in October, November, January, February, March and April.

(d) The draw for successive rounds shall be made by the Tournament Controller as soon as possible after 15th of each relevant month. Players may request a half-point bye in any round as long as they notify the controller by 15th day of the month of that round.

(e) Should a tie-break be required to determine an outright winner in any of the sections then tie-break systems will be applied in the following order: (i) Direct Encounter (where the tie-break is required to separate only two players on the same score) (ii) Buchholz Cut 1 (iii) Buchholz (iv) Sonneborn-Berger

28.

CONDUCT OF TOURNAMENT GAMES

(a) The time limit for the individual tournament shall be 60 minutes per player plus 15 seconds per move.

29.

DEFAULTING OPPONENTS

(a) The Controller shall have the authority to disqualify players who default more than one game.

(b) The Controller's decision shall be final in the event of any dispute.