

SHROPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION

2026 Annual General Meeting



To all officers and members of the Shropshire Chess Association:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held at Telford Chess Club, The Royal British Legion Station Road, Dawley, Telford at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29th July

Please ensure that any trophies held by your club are brought to the AGM for presentation, where required.

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Apologies for absence** **19.30** (5 mins)
- 2. Minutes of the 2025 AGM (copies can be viewed online)** **19.35** (5 mins)
- 3. President's Report - Matthew Clark** **19.40** (10 mins)
- 4. Other Officer's reports. including trophy presentation**

	Officer	Incumbent	Time
a	League Controller	Dan Hilditch-Love	19.50 (5 mins)
b	Rapidplay League Controller	Chris Lewis	19.55 (5 mins)
c	County Individual	Nick Rutter	20.00 (5 mins)
d	Minor County Individual	Dan Hilditch-Love	20.05 (5 mins)
e	Cox & Minor Trophies	Dan Hilditch-Love	20.10 (5 mins)
f	Summer Quickplay	Connor Oswin (Acting)	20.15 (5 min)
g	Congress Organiser	Phil Love & Chris Lewis	20.20 (5 mins)
h	Rapid & Blitz Championship	Chris Lewis (Acting)	20.25 (5 mins)
i	Head of Junior Chess	Chris Lewis	20.30 (10 mins)
j	Inclusion	Paul Billington	20.40 (5 mins)
k	Head of Women's Chess	Kate Walker & Paula Sharp	20.45 (3 mins)
l	Community Events Officer	Nicole Heys	20.48 (3 mins)
m	Best Game Prize	Toby Neal	20.51 (3 mins)
n	Live Boards Controller	Phil Love	20.54 (1 min)
o	Treasurer (see appendix a)	Chris Lewis	20.55 (12 mins)
p	Auditor	Richard Thompson	21.07 (1 min)
q	Safeguarding Officer	Steve Szwajkun	21.08 (2 mins)

r	Publicity Officer	Peter Kitchen	21.10 (1 min)
s	Rating Officer	Nick Rutter	21.11 (1 min)
t	Website Editor	Vacant	21.12 (3 mins)
u	MCCU Delegates	Glyn Pugh	21.15 (1 min)
v	ECF Delegate	Chris Lewis	21.16 (2 mins)

5. Election of officers

21.18 (5 mins)

The following roles are currently vacant:

- Rapid & Blitz Championships Organiser
- Cox & Minor Knockout Controller (Ray Sayers has been nominated)
- Head of Senior Chess
- Head of Beginner's Chess
- Outreach Committee
- County Team Captains – U1450, U1650, U1850, Open or 4NCL
- Publicity Officer
- 2nd Live Board Controller

Break

21.23 (7 mins)

7. Proposals

21.30 (90 mins)

A) Amend Rule 9c to change defined Junior Age – proposed by Glyn Pugh

Although letting juniors play at home is a nice idea - I propose that the rule is amended to junior team with under 14's.

9c. A Junior is anyone under the age of ~~18~~ 14 on September 1st of the new season.

Below are the reasons

- Many clubs cannot field a complete junior side (maybe one or two players) and are being punished into playing extra away matches.
- New members we get are discouraged from playing as we get the 'not another away fixture syndrome'.
- The initial set of fixtures had clubs playing 3 or more fixtures away in a row
- Players availability is a lot better for home matches so it could be argued that there is a bias towards the juniors.

B) Amendment of Rule 6 (unrated players) – proposed by Richard Szwajkun

Rule 6 currently states that:

6. For the purposes of rule 8 (reserves) and 12 (board orders) if a player is currently unrated but had a rating in the previous 10 years, that last known rating is to be used provisionally until a new rating is obtained. If the player has no rating history or only a provisional “P” rating they have maximum flexibility subject to the league controller’s approval. Once an unrated player obtains a “K” or “A” rating then that player must use either the latest rating list published on the ECF rating database as at the date of the match or, if/when that player obtains an August “K” or “A” rating, the published August rating at the start of the season

The rules as currently written discourage the return of new players and should be loosened.

Option A

Introduce an option to use a players P rating for board order.

*Once an unrated player obtains a **“P”**, “K” or “A” rating then that player must use either the latest rating list published on the ECF rating database as at the date of the match or, if/when that player obtains an August “K” or “A” rating, the published August rating at the start of the season.*

Option B

Reduce 10 years to 5 years

For the purposes of rule 8 (reserves) and 12 (board orders) if a player is currently unrated but had a rating in the previous 5 years, for their first game that last known rating is to be used provisionally.

C) Clarification to Rule 6 (unrated players) – proposed by Christopher Lewis

Clarification proposed following a query during the season regarding eligibility. This amendment makes clear that the requirement to use K or A rating once obtained only applies to board order. It doesn’t apply to reserve status which rule 8 states are based on August ratings at the start of the season.

*6. For the purposes of rule 8 and 12 if a player is currently unrated but had a rating in the previous 10 years, that last known rating is to be used provisionally until a new rating is obtained. If the player has no rating history or only a provisional “P” rating they have maximum flexibility subject to the league controller’s approval. Once an unrated player obtains a “K” or “A” rating **then for rule 12** that player must use either the latest rating list published on the ECF rating database as at the date of the match or, if/when that player obtains an August “K” or “A” rating, the published August rating at the start of the season. **That player will still maintain maximum flexibility under rule 8 subject to the league controller’s approval.***

D) Remove Rule 17 (winter breaks) – proposed by Christopher Lewis

This rule was experimented with in its first season but the fixtures were too congested to implement it.

17. Any team may elect at the start of the season to have a 'winter break'. Elections must be notified to the league controller prior to the release of the fixtures. The nature and duration of the winter break will be at the discretion of the league controller.

E) Amend Rule 2 (rules and disputes committee) – proposed by Christopher Lewis

The league rules strictly define a Rules and Disputes Committee to adjudicate disputes when in practise this committee is formed of various impartial players.

Appeals against the league controller's decisions will be referred to "a Rules and Disputes Committee, consisting of the President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer and one other."

Replace with:

Appeals against the league controllers' decisions will be referred to a "Rules and Disputes Committee" formed by the general secretary.

F) Remove Rule 23 (Draw claims under 2 minutes) – proposed by Christopher Lewis

23. Where games are played as in Article 10, a player may claim a draw when he has less than two minutes left on his clock and before his flag falls. This concludes the game. He may claim on the basis a) that his opponent cannot win by normal means, and/or b) that his opponent has been making no effort to win by normal means.

In (a) the player must write down the final position and his opponent verify it.

In (b) the player must write down the final position and submit an up – to – date scoresheet, which must be completed before play has ceased.

The opponent shall verify both the scoresheet and the final position.

The claim shall be referred to an arbiter whose decision shall be the final one.

A player cannot claim a draw if incremental time controls are being used.

This rule is archaic and unnecessary. All matches are played with increments and even if not, this rule forms part of the official FIDE rules anyway and so there is no requirement for it to form part of Shropshire's rules.

G) Amend Rule 3 to remove reference to Council – Proposed by Christopher Lewis

Remove reference to Council from rule 3 to reflect current practise where the league controller has the power to balance divisions. Any player can petition for a council meeting for controversial changes.

3. It is the responsibility of the League Controller to decide which and how many teams shall play in each division (~~subject to the agreement of the Council~~), and to publish a fixture list before the start of each season.

H) Define Council – proposed by Christopher Lewis

In the General Rules governing all Shropshire Competitions I propose adding a new rule 8:

8) Council

Meetings of Council may be convened by the President as required. The Council shall comprise the Association's officers and the General Secretaries (or nominated representatives) of all affiliated clubs. The purpose of Council shall be to provide a forum for consultation and discussion between the Association and its affiliated clubs on relevant matters. The Council shall have no authority to amend the league rules or the rules of the Association.

10. Update on County Individual 100-year Anniversary

22.57 (2 mins)

11. AOB.

Meeting closes at 23.00

Appendix A

SHROPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2026



Income & Expenditure

	2026	2025
	£	£
Income		
Club League Fees	£666.00	£455.00
Individual Championship Entries	£271.00	£304.00
4NCL Income + Prizes	£0.00	£237.50
Quiet Chess Club	£250.00	£95.00
Women's Chess	£0.00	£0.00
Community Events	£0.00	£0.00
Junior Chess	£1,426.10	£1,246.00
Junior Chess Tournaments	£4,945.05	£3,684.45
School Tournaments	£0.00	£450.00
Shropshire Congress	£6,064.00	£6,614.30
Shropshire Rapid & Blitz	£602.00	£0.00
Bank Interest	£23.28	£43.05
Donations	£216.00	£100.00
TWINCL lottery	£73.50	£0.00
ECF Grassroots Funding	£0.00	£1,569.00
Live Board Hire	£181.50	£170.00
TOTAL INCOME	£14,718.43	£14,968.30
Expenditure		
Individual Prizes + Costs	£267.00	£302.50
Trophies - Engraving	£38.95	£150.75
4NCL	£0.00	£280.00
Quiet Chess Club	£136.83	£44.58
Women's Chess	£0.00	£0.00
Community Events	£247.66	£120.00
Junior Chess	£1,686.90	£1,216.52
Junior Chess Tournaments	£3,933.70	£2,849.72
School Tournaments	£682.33	£352.04
Shropshire Congress	£5,026.28	£5,025.63
Shropshire Rapid & Blitz	£811.15	£0.00
Website Fees	£232.06	£223.20
Donated/Subsidised Equipment	(£225.00)	£3,049.49
Insurance	£165.69	£221.20
Other Expenditure	£187.96	£265.77
Depreciation	£464.42	£399.22
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£13,655.93	£14,500.62
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	£1,062.50	£467.68

Accounts signed by:

Christopher Lewis 14/06/26
Christopher Lewis, Treasurer

Audited and found correct by:

Richard Thompson
Richard Thompson, Auditor 6.7.26

SHROPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2026



Balance Sheet

	2026	2025
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Trophies, chess sets, clocks	£2,942.93	£1,350.05
Current Assets		
Stock	£2,378.31	£1,852.86
Debtors	£117.43	£206.36
Prepayments	£112.32	£1,267.22
Deposit Account	£3,000.84	£2,450.01
Current Account	£2,359.53	£280.36
	<u>£7,968.43</u>	<u>£6,056.81</u>
Creditors: falling due within 1 year		
Accruals and creditors	(£588.00)	(£436.00)
Deferred Income	£0.00	£0.00
Net current assets	<u>£7,380.43</u>	<u>£5,620.81</u>
Creditors: falling due after 1 year		
Deferred Government Grant	(£2,290.00)	£0.00
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	<u><u>£8,033.36</u></u>	<u><u>£6,970.86</u></u>
Reserves		
General Account		
Balance B/F	£6,970.86	£6,503.18
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	£1,062.50	£467.68
TOTAL RESERVES	<u><u>£8,033.36</u></u>	<u><u>£6,970.86</u></u>

Accounts signed by:

Christopher Lewis 14/06/26

Christopher Lewis, Treasurer

Audited and found correct by:

Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson, Auditor

6.7.26

SHROPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2026



Notes to the Accounts

Fixed Assets

	Clocks	Sets	DGT Boards	Trophies	Junior Chess	ICT Equip	Community Events Equip	Total
Cost								
At 31 May 2025	£1,794.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£1,412.06	£185.28	£358.54	£0.00	£6,170.69
Additions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£422.90	£0.00	£0.00	£1,634.40	£2,057.30
Disposals	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
At 31 May 2026	£1,794.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£1,834.96	£185.28	£358.54	£1,634.40	£8,227.99
Depreciation								
At 31 May 2025	£1,334.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£811.48	£115.60	£138.75	£0.00	£4,820.64
Charged in Year	£115.00	£0.00	£0.00	£240.65	£37.06	£71.71	£0.00	£464.42
Disposals	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
At 31 May 2026	£1,449.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£1,052.13	£152.66	£210.46	£0.00	£5,285.06
Net Book Value								
At 31 May 2025	<u>£460.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£600.58</u>	<u>£69.68</u>	<u>£219.79</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£1,350.05</u>
At 31 May 2026	<u>£345.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£782.83</u>	<u>£32.62</u>	<u>£148.08</u>	<u>£1,634.40</u>	<u>£2,942.93</u>

Stock

Equipment to donate/subsidise	£722.00
Refreshments	£29.68
Junior Medals/Trophies/Prizes	£1,171.37
Scoresheets	£81.80
Coloured Paper	£32.73
Junior Polos/Hoodies	£340.73
	<u>£2,378.31</u>

Stock

Equipment to donate/subsidise	£722.00
Refreshments	£29.68
Junior Medals/Trophies/Prizes	£787.80
Scoresheets	£145.38
Coloured Paper	£41.13
Junior Polos/Hoodies	£126.87
	<u>£1,852.86</u>

Debtors

Wales/Staffordshire U11 County Contribution	£89.32
Interest	£6.01
Quiet Chess Expenses Overpaid	£22.10
	<u>£117.43</u>

Debtors

Live Board Hire - Hereford Megafinal	£170.00
Interest	£8.56
Overcharge - Junior Merchandise	£7.80
Scoresheets - Newport Chess Club	£20.00
	<u>£206.36</u>

Prepayments

Domain Renewal	£7.20
Website Hosting Fee	£31.48
Insurance	£73.64
	<u>£112.32</u>

Prepayments

Domain Renewal	£50.39
Website Hosting Fee	£220.35
Megafinal Venue - Charlton School (+other costs)	£996.48
	<u>£1,267.22</u>

Creditors

Shropshire Individual Prizes	(£130.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Prizes	(£155.00)
Shropshire Individual Engraving	(£20.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Engraving	(£10.00)
Other Trophy Engravings	(£100.00)
Megafinal Volunteer Refreshments	(£105.50)
May Venue Hire - Junior Chess Club	(£67.50)
	<u>(£588.00)</u>

Creditors

Shropshire Individual Prizes	(£120.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Prizes	(£155.00)
Shropshire Individual Engraving	(£38.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Engraving	(£10.00)
Credit owed to Oswestry (online league refund)	(£13.00)
Other Trophy Engravings	(£100.00)
	<u>(£436.00)</u>

Deferred Income

£0.00

Deferred Income

£0.00

Deferred Government Grant

T&W Councillors Pride Grant - Gazebo	(£1,400.00)
T&W Councillors Pride Grant - Tables & Chairs	(£890.00)
	<u>(£2,290.00)</u>

Deferred Government Grant

£0.00

SHROPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2026



Cashflow

	2026		2025
	£		£
Opening Balance 01/06/25	£2,730.37	Opening Balance 01/06/24	£4,135.01
<i>Income</i>		<i>Income</i>	
Club League Fees + ECF Game Fee	£779.10	Club League Fees + ECF Game Fee	£630.00
Individual Championship Entries	£271.00	Individual Championship Entries	£304.00
4NCL Income + Prizes	£0.00	4NCL Income + Prizes	£273.24
Quiet Chess Club	£250.00	Quiet Chess Club	£95.00
Women's Chess	£0.00	Women's Chess	£0.00
Community Events	£0.00	Community Events	£0.00
Junior Chess	£1,426.10	Junior Chess	£1,198.50
Junior Tournament Income	£4,945.05	Junior Tournament Income	£3,460.40
School Tournaments	£0.00	School Tournaments	£450.00
Shropshire Congress	£6,064.00	Shropshire Congress	£6,709.84
Shropshire Rapid & Blitz	£602.00	Shropshire Rapid & Blitz	£0.00
Bank Interest	£25.83	Bank Interest	£46.92
Donations/Council Grants	£2,306.00	Donations/Council Grants	£100.00
Twinkl Lottery	£73.50	Twinkl Lottery	£0.00
Live Board Hire	£351.50	Live Board Hire	£0.00
Sale of Equipment to schools/community groups	£225.00	Sale of Equipment to schools/community groups	£553.51
Total Income	£17,319.08	Total Income	£13,821.41
<i>Expenditure</i>		<i>Expenditure</i>	
ECF Game Fees	£144.00	ECF Game Fees	£162.00
Individual Prizes + Costs	£275.00	Individual Prizes + Costs	£232.50
Trophies - Engraving	£21.05	Trophies - Engraving	£95.75
4NCL	£0.00	4NCL	£285.00
Quiet Chess Club	£158.93	Quiet Chess Club	£44.58
Women's Chess	£0.00	Women's Chess	£0.00
Community Events	£247.66	Community Events	£120.00
Junior Chess	£1,687.22	Junior Chess	£1,795.67
Junior Tournaments	£3,347.39	Junior Tournaments	£2,932.39
School Tournaments	£637.02	School Tournaments	£756.12
Purchase of Equipment for schools/community groups	£0.00	Purchase of Equipment for schools/community groups	£1,811.60
Shropshire Congress	£4,875.07	Shropshire Congress	£5,097.34
Shropshire Rapid & Blitz	£811.15	Shropshire Rapid & Blitz	£0.00
Website Fees	£0.00	Website Fees	£0.00
Other Expenditure	£427.29	Other Expenditure	£544.73
Capital Purchases	£2,057.30	Capital Purchases	£1,348.37
Corporation Tax	£0.00	Corporation Tax	£0.00
Total Expenditure	£14,689.08	Total Expenditure	£15,226.05
Cash Movement in year	£2,630.00	Cash Movement in year	(£1,404.64)
Closing Balance 31/05/26	£5,360.37	Closing Balance 31/05/25	£2,730.37