

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee held at Langley Burrell Village Hall on Wednesday 17th September 2025

In attendance: R Carver (Vice-President), S Zeidler (Treasurer and Acting Chairman), A Gladwell (League Secretary), R Ludlow (Secretary), A Ransom (Tournaments Secretary), P Owen (Rating Officer), G Price, D Ross and B Ogunshola

The Secretary apologised for two errors on the agenda: (1) item 12: 2025 should read 2026; and (2) item 10 [final item] should read item 13.

1. **Apologies** had been received from J Bourne (Chairman), P Girdlestone (Junior Chess Officer) and D Auld

2. The **minutes** of the 2024 Executive Committee meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

3. There were no **matters arising**, not otherwise on the agenda.

4. AR reported that the **Blitz Tournament** held on 8th September had been very enjoyable and successful. There had been 17 entrants, including five juniors and one lady..

The joint winners were A Coffey, M Harris and J Sherwin. P North was the leading junior player.

AR thanked PO for hosting the event at Langley Burrell, and C Lamming and B Marie for helping to run the event.

5. **Intermediate and Minor Leagues**

It soon became obvious that it might not be possible to run a **Minor League** in the coming season. There was to be only one Swindon team, because they have few players with a low enough rating to qualify, and only one Trowbridge team, because of difficulties with fulfilling away fixtures last season, (Both clubs had entered two teams last season.) Moreover, it was unclear whether Chippenham would be able to field a team.

This led to lengthy discussions as to what could be done to ensure sufficient teams to run the League, ie a minimum of three. Ultimately, it was decided to run the **Minor League** if Chippenham could field a team. If this were not the case, the **Minor League** would not run, and the projected Swindon and Trowbridge teams would play in the **Intermediate League**. PO undertook to inform appropriate members of the Executive Committee when Chippenham had made a decision.

*The decision was that Chippenham could not field a Minor League team. Therefore, there will not be a **Minor League** next season.*

*The **Intermediate League** will have seven teams: Chippenham one; Devizes one; Swindon two; Trowbridge three.*

Major League

The **Major League** would have three teams: Swindon two and Trowbridge one.

6. It was decided that the **time control** for **all** Wiltshire league games would be 80 minutes plus a ten second increment.

7. BOg would circulate all secretaries of junior chess organisations in the County to ask them to forward to him the names of female players who might be interested in participating in a **County championship for female players**. This could be a one day rapidplay tournament. He will forward details of players to AR.

BOg thought that the Salisbury Club might well be interested in participating in the County championships for both male and female players.

8. BOg reported on the **First Swindon Chess Congress**, which had taken place between 22nd and 25th August. It had been satisfactory. Nearly 150 players had taken part. BOg would have liked more, but the number could be considered quite good. 18 federations had been represented. The Mayor of Swindon had visited. BOg intended to make the Congress an annual event and gradually to get more people involved. Two Swindon **rapidplay** tournaments were planned: Saturdays 4th October and Saturday 7th March.

Full details of all these events were available via the Swindon Chess Club website.

9. County Team Chess

Wiltshire will again participate in the Chiltern Chess League (B Division - below 1750.). This will involve four matches to be played on Saturday afternoons. Gary Loyden would be captain; please let him know if you would like to play. RL said how much he had enjoyed playing in the competition last season. BOg hoped that, as for last season, there would be at least two players from each club. The bottom two boards were reserved for junior players.

10.. SZ circulated the **summary of accounts** 20/5/25 - 17/9/25. The financial situation remained healthy. Fees would remain the same: £5 affiliation fee; £14 for one team in any league and £9 for each additional team. The accounts were approved.

SZ would send out spreadsheets to club treasurers, as a request for fees, by the end of October. Club captains were asked to ensure that all players are ECF members.

11. There were eight matters of **AOB**:

(A) AR will email to AG the Trowbridge Club events schedule.

(B) The Wiltshire Individual Championship semi-final results were as follows:

C Lamming 1 A Coffey 0

D Ross 1 default 0

Thus C Lamming and D Ross shall contest the final on Thursday 2nd October at Trowbridge.

(C) AR stressed that communication regarding matters like leagues and County team chess should be made to *all* members of the Executive committee.

RL would try to ensure that this happens..

(D) PO should have the Minor League trophy engraved and invoice SZ.

(E) The Swindon Club has a new venue:

G Catering Ltd., Unit A2, Star West, Westmead, Swindon SN5 7SW

The Club night will be Wednesday.

(F) The Swindon Club has a photograph of RC playing Victor Korchnoi. There was some doubt as to the century in which this game had taken place.

BOg asked that historical photographs like this should be added to the WCCA website.

(G) DR informed the meeting that the Devizes / Nationwide Club would henceforth be known simply as Devizes. The Club was to move to a new venue, which DR would communicate asap.

(H) Club secretaries were asked to post details of car parking on their websites.

11. The date, time and venue of the **2026 AGM** were confirmed as Tuesday 19th May at 7.30 pm at Langley Burrell Village Hall.

12. The date, time and venue of the **2026 Executive Committee Meeting** were agreed as Wednesday 16th September at 7.30 pm at Langley Burrell Village Hall.

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Roy Ludlow, Secretary, Wiltshire County Chess Association,
21st September 2025.