

REPORT TO CHESS SCOTLAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2013 FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Lara A L Barnes - member prior to 2012 and re-appointed at 2012 AGM
Richard Heathwood, Chairman - appointed at 2012 AGM
Gerald Lobleby - appointed post 2012 AGM by Chairman's invitation
Patrick McGovern, Vice-Chairman - appointed at 2012 AGM
Judith Milton - appointed post 2012 AGM by Chairman's invitation
John S R Smith - appointed post 2012 AGM by Chairman's invitation
Ken Stewart - member prior to 2012 and re-appointed at 2012 AGM

MEETINGS

The Committee held meetings on 20 October 2012, 22 October 2012 and 27 January 2013; minutes were posted to the website. In addition, there were a number of Panel meetings, emails and telephone conversations.

PROCEDURES

The Committee agreed that the Operating Procedures document regulating their activity could be made clearer in order to avoid misunderstandings. The proposed amendments have been submitted for approval at the Annual General Meeting of Chess Scotland.

A pro forma "Complaint Cover Sheet" was posted to the website to assist the complainer and the committee to establish a summary level understanding of the complaint to be addressed. The cover sheet would of course be supplemented by any additional documents submitted by the complainer.

HOW TO COMPLAIN

A brief guide to effective complaining was published to the website.

COMPLAINTS

Each complaint was issued with a number. They were processed as follows:-

- 1201 was an attempt by a complainer to perpetuate argument over an issue closed by the previously constituted committee. No fee was paid and, although it gave rise to a number of emails, 1201 did not achieve the status of a formal complaint. No appeal was lodged.
- 1202 was a clearly defined complaint which was not upheld. Again, no appeal was initiated.
- 1203 was upheld but appealed by the original complainer. That appeal was not successful. A proportionate response to the original event was implemented by Chess Scotland.
- 1204 has been withdrawn.
- 1205 was rejected by the committee on the basis that there had not been any attempt to resolve the matter before seeking the committee's involvement.

The cumulative workload involved in these five complaints was excessive, particularly taking account of the fact that committee members undertake this difficult and unpleasant workload without reward. The committee members accept and discount as inevitable that they will have to endure adverse comment and criticism in carrying out their role. All members take their responsibilities very seriously and take all steps to act in a careful and conscientious manner.

ROLE OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Committee wish to use the opportunity presented by submitting this report to underline the importance of complaints being addressed as closely as possible, in both time and place, to the original incident. The Standards Committee should only be called on to look at cases where all possible approaches to achieving "local" resolution have been pursued but have failed.

RE-ELECTION

All members have indicated their willingness to continue in office.