

Chess Scotland Management Board

Date: Wednesday 24th July 2016.

Minutes of meeting

Apologies:

A Howie, D Congalton, A Burnett

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the February meeting have been circulated and there were no matters arising.

2. AGM 2016 Venue

The AGM has been set for: -
Saturday August 27th 2016
12:00 – 16:00 hrs.
Novotel Hotel, Glasgow

3. Scottish Championship Report

The report is appended to these minutes

4. BICC Meetings (Alex McFarlane)

BICC is the British Isles Co-Ordinating Committee. At its last meeting a couple of years ago it was agreed that anything calling itself British should accept membership of any home federation. I queried why this was not happening with the British Rapidplay. It turns out that the minutes of the meeting were never produced (David Sedgewick was to do it!). I feel that CS should be officially complaining. I believe there is talk of the ECF calling another meeting soon but since there was 7 years between the previous 2 I wouldn't hold my breath.

5. Panoptic Events – Craig McGee

This was the main focal point of the meeting in order to investigate how Chess Scotland could improve its sources of funding, particularly for major event, both home and internationally.

Ian Brownlee gave a brief introduction of Panoptic Events and Craig. Panoptic have a background in entertainment eventing, venue booking services and Sponsorship seeking. Craig gave the meeting an overview of the company and some examples of its work. Panoptics also provided assistance in obtaining a suitable venue for the 2016 Scottish Championships.

The main interest to Chess Scotland at this time is funding and potential sponsorship sources. The meeting felt it was therefore necessary for Panoptic to understand Chess Scotland, its range of activities, its spectrum of membership and the major events organised by and on behalf of Chess Scotland.

It was suggested that Chess Scotland needs to develop a suitable package, or brand, that will appeal to these potential sponsors be they small or large.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided that Craig would come back to the next Management Board meeting with some suggestions and/or proposals based on the input from the attending board members.

6. FIDE 'SCO'

There was a short discussion on this, however it was decided to add to the agenda for the Annual General Meeting.

7. Proxy Voting Form

The Proxy Voting form to be used for the AGM was presented and discussed by the board before being agreed for use by all attendees. The form will be available as a download from the Chess Scotland website with the AGM notice.

8. Next Management Board Meeting

October 19th 2016, Petal Meeting Rooms, 18:30 – 21:00

Report on Scottish – Management Board Meeting – July 2016

As you know finding a venue for this event proved very difficult. It was held in Strathclyde Student Union. Unfortunately, what was agreed in my first visit and was actually provided did not agree. The hall booking was done through a third party so less than usual was actually written in black and white.

I had arranged for an overspill area and the use of tables from the bar areas. A few days before the event I was told these would not be available.

The entry was considerably lower than hoped for which avoided potential problems in fitting everything in to the available space.

The lower entry was down to several factors including the delay in finding a venue but mainly due to transport difficulties. I've had three people contact me to state that transport from Lothians was the reason they didn't play. I believe lost entries to have cost about £1.5k

There will be a considerable deficit on the event – without donations this will be in the region of £5k, with donations it will hopefully half.

My thanks to all who helped particularly the control team who claimed zero expenses.

The event itself ran smoothly and was hard fought.

Scottish Champion: Keti Arakhamia-Grant

Scottish Senior Champions: Colin McNab, Stephen Mannion

Scottish U1750 Senior Champion: George Murphy

Scottish Junior Champions: Murad Abdulla, Declan Shafi

Scottish Girl Champion: Rachel Smith

Scottish International Open: 1st Matthew Turner; 2nd= Keti Arakhami-Grant, Danny Gormally ; 4th= Colin McNab, Stephen Mannion, Mark Lapidus. Rating Prize Declan Shafi

Scottish 7 Day Event: 1st George Murphy; 2nd James Watson; Grading Dave Watson, Bernard Cassidy, Ian Hope

Weekend Open: 1st Andrew Greet; 2nd Julius Schwart

Weekend U1750: 1st Iain Campbell; 2nd Stephen McQuillan; Grading Daniel Breslin

Weekend U1400: 1st Divyesh Selvaraj; 2nd Morven Petrie; Grading Mark Smith, David Watson.

I am currently in negotiations to run the Scottish in conjunction with a celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Dundee International in 1867. If this happens the event will be one week later than usual as that is when the hall is available (15-23 July). There would be a free venue but with additional costs this would save only circa £2.5k.

For 2018 I hope to hold it in Paisley as part of its bid to be UK City of Culture in 2021.

I hope to know better about the possibility of both of these venues within 6 weeks.

If no sponsorship/funding is forthcoming by the end of October, then something radical will need to be done for 2017.

Plan A – Dundee

Plan B – Edinburgh with sponsor

I have a plan C but even it would require £700 funding