

## Chess Scotland SGM and Council Meeting

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2012

**Time:** 12:00

**Location:** Bothwell Bowling Club

**Attendees:** Chris Hampton CH, Mac McKenzie MM, John Montgomery JM, Derek Howie DH, Patrick McGovern PM, David Deary DD, David Congalton DC, Paul MacDonald PM, IA Steve Mannion SM, IA Ken Stewart KS, Donald Wilson SW, IM Douglas Bryson DB, Peter Devenny, IM Andrew Muir AM, Michael Hanley MH, FA Andy Howie AH

**Apologies:** Pjil Thomas, Jacqui Thomas, IA Alex McFarlane, IA Lara Barnes, Dick Heathwood,. George Murphy, Graeme Forbes, Trevor Davies, Andrew McHarg

### SGM

#### **Motion 1. Proposal for changes to the Standards Committee.**

JM addressed the meeting stating it had taken 3 years and countless meetings to get to where we are. The position of the ACA is that they want clarification of the jurisdiction of the Standards committee. Objection was raised at the 2009 AGM. Proposals were sent to the 2010 and 2011 AGM and meetings held with DW. ACA have no issues with the committee or code but concerns about jurisdiction and the fact that the council are not following their own processes and meeting once a year.

SM asked what would happen if an issue arose in Ayrshire

JM replied that they have their own constitution and rules to cover them.

SM was then given the floor to speak on behalf of the standards committee. SM drew the meetings attention to section 2 and section 6 where it states that all parties should attempt to resolve before submitting to standards committee. Section 2 dictates that every attempt must be made at local level to resolve the dispute prior to complaint. SM commented that he believed that most leagues should take up the ACA model as it was sound. The standards committee cannot call in a complaint. The complaint has to be made to them . Amendments are needed to tighten the code up. In nearly 3 years of the Standards committee there has been 1 complaint which shows it is working as intended. SM then turned to the child protection aspects. AH and MH are responsible by law so it is SM's job to protect them. There are two factors that lead SM to go against the motion, 1. The aim is to push complaints to a lower level not to create more work for the Standards committee and 2. SM has proxies for most of the leagues in Scotland which indicates that ACA are in the minority with the changes. The wording needs to be tightened up

DH asked hypothetically if there is an issue in Ayrshire , it went to the ACA and they ruled one way. A complaint is made to the standards committee and they make a decision that the ACA disagree with and refuse to implement, what punitive measures can the Standards committee take?

SM replied that if something happened in Ayrshire and it was unfounded, then the Standards committee could only agree with the ACA. The standards committee has advisory powers only.

KS states that in his opinion, he did not think the case would be entertained as it would have been seen to have been dealt with by Ayrshire already. The standards committee is there to protect Chess Scotland not interfere with the ACA

SM noted that the motion states we can't have jurisdiction over leagues and members. We are all for GCL, ACA, ECL etc resolving their own issues, we can't go looking for a complaint, it has to come to us

KS advised that Craig Pritchett had been in contact, as he felt the Scottish Government would have concerns with the proposal

SW stated that they Ayrshire amendment has not changed paragraph 4 and he can't see why anyone has a problem with it as jurisdiction has not changed

DD noted that as an individual member he was not made aware of the code. How can he be held responsible to it if he is not aware.

KS noted it was on the website for everyone to read.

DD countered that it needs to be in the joining pack

SM proposed that the wording be changed to "nothing in this code removes the right of local association, leagues or clubs to deal with local complaints and disputes within their local jurisdiction. Chess Scotland encourages the resolution of disputes and complaints at the local level. See paragraph 6.

Ayrshire representatives requested a 5 minute recess to consider this.

JM returned from the recess to acknowledge that they agreed with the amendment

Amended motion was carried Nem.Con.

Further changes agreed at meeting and listed below.

Section 7 now reads

#### 7. Panel Procedures

In the event of a competent complaint to the Committee, the parties to the dispute will be given at least 21 days notice in writing of the date when the complaint will be heard by the Panel. The notice of the Hearing will contain a copy of the complaint.

The Panel will normally invite the parties to present their case by written<sup>1</sup> submission but may oral submissions from the parties, or their representatives. Written submissions must be received no later than 10 days in advance of the Hearing and will normally be forwarded to all parties. No further written submissions will be accepted by the Panel.

The Hearing will normally be held within 35 days of receipt of a competent complaint. It may be held in public, at the discretion of the Panel. The Chair of the Panel shall conduct the Hearing and is empowered to require the parties (if invited to be present) to give their evidence concisely and to limit such evidence to the subject of the case. The proceedings of the Hearing shall be minuted.

The Panel may adjourn the Hearing (but not for longer than 14 days) to hear further evidence. The Panel shall be entitled to consider any relevant evidence.

The Panel will retire to consider its verdict in private which will then be communicated in writing to the parties. In the event that the Panel is tied on any question, the Chair shall exercise a casting vote, in addition to his/her deliberative vote. If a unanimous verdict cannot be reached, the majority verdict shall apply.

Section 10 now starts

## 10. Appeals

Appeals must be made in writing to the Appeals Board (the "Board"), within 14 days of

### **Motion 2 – Introduction of a grandparent rule**

AH explained it was to bring us in line with other sports as well as to tidy up the decisions from the AGM

DD objected saying you should not be allowed to chop and change federation depending on your budget

AM stated he had spoken to the top players and they were against this

PM pointed out that this was not just about the top players, this is also about juniors.

DD stated that the person transferring has to be making a contribution

DB Asked if the BICC have been consulted.

AH stated that as yet no they have not

**Meeting decided to await consultation with BICC**

### **Motion 3 – 2/3 rule**

KS pointed out that only an SGM can amend the constitution

SM stated that this was ridiculous. The clue is in the title GM – General meeting

**Meeting decided to send to SGM with AGM to amend the constitution to allow the constitution to be amended at an AGM.**

### **SGM ended 13:30 – Council meeting started**

The council meeting started with a presentation on a presentation on PVG (can be downloaded with the minutes). This was well received by all

#### **1. Minutes of previous meeting**

##### **Accuracy**

Proposed KS, seconded DH

Carried nem. con.

##### **Matters Arising**

DB asked if the “FIDE Lite” rules were discussed by the arbiters committee  
KS replied that it had been omitted but will be covered in the next meeting

KS asked what had been the result of the clubs being polled about the Richardson and Spens  
AM replied that there had not been any responses

DH requested if it was possible to have budget comparisons  
MM replied it is possible as previous budget is on the website.

#### **2. Director Reports**

DH asked for an update on Chess in Schools

AH stated that MH, AM and AH had been to see the education department at Parliament in recent months and discussions were still ongoing. Danailov has made some massive strides at the European parliament that will assist us with this.

JM stated that Ayrshire would be interested in hosting and Arbiters course  
KS will follow up

DB We asked when Juniors were abroad representing Scotland if we can have games put up for all to see

PM Will ask the Head of Delegations to do so where possible.

### 3. Budget and Fees

MM Budget and fees are pretty self-explanatory with the exception of donations for the sensory boards. AH and MH are seeking sponsorship for them and have put a proposal in. Under the budget £500 has been allocated for hire. We need to charge when we are letting people use them. If approved, Edinburgh would be the first to be charged. We have £150 in donations and personal donations but need to repay over 2 years.

JM noted that this was not showing in budget

MM stated that £2500 budget for next year

JM asked how this worked

MM replied £3000 paid this year and the £2500 next and that is them paid. International budgets asked for more funds but there were none available. Membership fees have been increased and we are introducing a charge for hire.

AM asked what the dates were for budget and if we had the grant

MM replied that 1<sup>st</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> April and we do not know the grant status as yet. If we don't get a grant then we will have to put up grading fees. They have to give us 6 months' notice of grant removal so we will be well warned.

AM Stated that he needed to know what I can pay out for Olympiad and what happens if there is budget left over?

MM replied that it was up to AM how he used his budget and anything left over is pooled at the end of the year and used.

DH asked why insurance was going up

MM replied it was because of sensory boards

DH asked if we should be subsidising magazine as it is not standing on its own feet

MM replied that we were subsidising members as they get a reduction on the magazine costs. There has been an increase in costs due to postage.

DH commented that if posting is increasing then surely we need to increase costs.

MM replied that he felt we were at the maximum price we could charge

DH asked about the £560 to the correspondence association

MM replied that it was an agreement that was made quite some time ago. If we were to lose grant then it would be reduced

DH noted that in the 2009 AGM there was mention of a presentation and asked if it happened.

MM replied that Ian MacIntosh did so at a council meeting

JM asked if we can check with them to see if it was necessary

MM agreed to speak to them.

Proposal from DH, seconded by JM to reduce the amount to £300 dependant on grant was carried with one abstention

MM noted that storage of our archives costs £23 per month. It was set up by Sam Collins

MH and AH will attempt to find out what we have

DH asked if anything has been spent in the Schools Director Budget, and what is it there for as it never seems to be used

MM replied that it is there for Schools Chess, there was a suggestion a while back for it to be used to start up a coaching scheme in secondary schools chess.

Reports were accepted nem com.

#### **4. Dates for AGM and Council meeting**

Meeting agreed on 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> August for the AGM and 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> March for Council meeting. One will be a Saturday, one a Sunday.

#### **5. PVG – Covered by presentation at start of council meeting**

#### **6. FIDE Arbiters Fees**

AH advised that FIDE are bringing in fees for all FIDE arbiters from 1st January 2013. Costs vary from €80 for a class D FA to €300 for a class A IA. CS are looking at a bill of about €740. There is then the issue that the arbiters need to remain active otherwise we will have to pay for them again.

DB suggested that we raise the FIDE fees to cover this.

KS will determine how many IA's wish to remain active

Issue to be looked at before Christmas as there is a proposal for the GA to remove the fees.

#### **7. Proxy Votes**

AH commented on the fact that we had 83 proxy votes for the meeting and acknowledged that we need to look for ways to resolve this. AH asked if anyone had any suggestions.

JM suggested that voting papers go out by post or email prior to the meeting to allow people who can't make the meeting vote

DW suggested that proxy votes should only be used at a persons discretion and should not be mandated.

DB commented if we were to use a postal or online method then amendments would nullify the vote.

PM stated that we simply need to get more people to attend.

## **8. AOCB**

AH noted that he had received a submission from Jacqui Thomas that if a competition sits on an established date then should we not put it provisionally on the calendar to avoid unnecessary clashes.

Dick Heathwood will look at the feasibility of this.

**Meeting Ended 16:30**