

## Chess Scotland Council Meeting

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2011

**Time:** 13:10

**Location:** Adelphi Centre, Room 3

**Attendees:** Mike Hanley (MH), Andy Howie (AH), IM Andy Muir (AM), Donald Wilson (DW), Dick Heathwood (DH), Stuart Lampard (SL), Jacqui Thomas (JT), Phil Thomas (PT), Derek Howie (DHo), IM Douglas Bryson (DB), IA Ken Stewart (KS), Steven Hilton (SH)

**Apologies:** Mac McKenzie, John Montgomery, IA Alex McFarlane

### Minutes

#### 1. Minutes of the Previous Council Meeting

##### 1.1 Accuracy

##### 1.2 Matters Arising

DW pointed out that it should read Junior Selectors and not Junior Directors

Minutes proposed DW, Seconded JT

#### 2. Director Reports

##### Technical Director

DB asked if upturned rooks can be used as queens in team lightning or should it be considered an illegal move. DW requests that the next Arb. Com meeting consider FIDE "Lite" rules for domestic chess.

##### Membership Secretary

DH noted that membership was going down slowly, currently about 580. Edinburgh West have not paid their CS membership fee despite playing in the Richardson.

Council agreed that Club membership fee should be paid prior to entering.

DH advised that the new disclosure process PVG is being taken more seriously with persons not with CS disclosure having been removed from both the Arbiter and Coach / Chaperone lists.

PT asked if we should be trending membership data. DH replied that we are currently on the noticeboard

SL asked about the Rowson and Cherie Blair awards. Can they be combined with both the POTY announcements and voting requests. Council agreed with this suggestion

### **International Director**

All questions raised have been sent on to Mac

### **Chief Grader / Website**

DB indicated to Council that there was player disquiet that the West of Scotland had been processed for Grand Prix with a single point multiplier. At the start of the season DB, taking over the duties of GP invigilator from Hugh Flockhart, had stated in an amendment to the rules that the 11 year longstanding distinction between large double point events and small single point events would be set at 50 players = large (the West was 49). DB asked Council to decide if they wanted to keep the large/small distinction and if so how should that be implemented in future seasons.

After a discussion, Council agreed on the following from next season: Scottish Championships (including ancillary events) plus Main list events taking place over a single weekend would be worth double points regardless of the number of players taking part. Events restricting entry to players from a particular area, one round a week congresses and allegro would all be single point multiplier events.

### **International Junior Director**

DB pointed out that in some recent international junior events players following the event at home had not been able to see any games by the Scots taking part. DB asked if heads of delegation could try and put games on the noticeboard

PT agreed and noted that the IJD role needs to change, there has to be more delegation, finding a responsible person for each event and they are the Head of Delegation instead of IJD doing all the work.

Preliminary have Robin Moore in place for Bulgaria and Angus McDonald for Brazil

### **Executive Director**

DHo Asked about a timeframe for Chess In Schools. AH replied with current level of volunteers, probably 2-3 years before we are ready.

### **Home Director**

Polytechnic had suggested a series of rule changes for the Richardson. KS pointed out that we should be getting the view of the clubs on the changes. AM to poll the clubs on the changes

## **Financial Report**

Family membership is currently 2 x Adult + juniors. When it was introduced, it was 1 x Adult + juniors and appears to have been confused somewhere along the line.

Council debated the idea and concluded the fairest way would be to have:

Family, 1 adult + Children then £10 per adult living at the same address.

Proposed KS, Seconded AH agreed Nem Con.

The suggestion of Direct Debits was raised in the report with the figure of around 100 people needed to make it worthwhile. Council agreed to gauge the members thoughts on it. RH will contact the members and AH will give a breakdown of price bands. Mail will go out after agreement with Mac McKenzie (MM)

### **3. Budget and Fees**

AM noted that members had been asking if they can have their FIDE fees reimbursed as had been done in the past. Council has no issue with this provided it is budgeted for. AM will contact MM to see if there is anything left this year in the budget.

DHo requested that the previous year's actual spends are detailed beside the budget in the future to allow a comparison

DB noted that there was nothing in budget for equipment as per last years meeting

Budget proposed KS, Seconded DW and passed nem. Com.

### **4. AGM & Council Meeting 2012**

With the welcome increase in events this year, it was very hard to find space in the Calendar for the Council Meeting. AH suggested that we fix the dates for the AGM and next year's council meeting now and have them inserted into the calendar to limit clashes

Dates agreed on. AGM 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2011. Council meeting 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2012. DH will put these in the calendar

### **5. Website / Membership - IM Douglas Bryson**

DB mentioned how new programmer Andrew McHarg had revised the online grading system and updated the website. Although Andrew had been paid it was only a fraction of the true commercial rate for the job. Future ideas include the use of Wordpress to allow more immediate updates of the website without everything being submitted via the webmaster. Council documents include a list of Andrew's future ideas for grading and website. The initial

implementation of the revised grading lookup was that only Chess Scotland members would have access to their live grade, non-members only have access to their published grade. Council was asked for their opinion on the changes.

Council suggested that all players regardless of membership status should have full access to the online system for two weeks in August.

Council proposed a vote of thanks to Andrew for the work he has done

## **6 Matters raised by members**

**6.1** I would like to put the following motion up for discussion to council. This business between the EK and Irvine opens highlights the need for the Calendar to come under the control of the Home Director.

I propose that the chess calendar comes under the control of the home director. There is a clear need for this as the home director's remit covers the whole of Scotland and it is important that the domestic calendar come under the direction of the home director. This would enable the HD to intervene in disputes over the clashes of dates as he cannot do under the current arrangements. - **Stephen Hilton**

JT proposed a vote of thanks for DH for the work done on the calendar this year. It has been a big improvement. JT pointed out that we cannot intervene with duplicate events.

KS advised that disputes over date clashes have to be decided by the Standards Committee. Council agreed with this.

**6.2** Standards code – a meeting was held this year between Ayrshire Chess Association management committee and Donald Wilson representing Chess Scotland to agree proposals regarding the Standard Committee – these proposals should be agreed over the next few weeks and should be ready to be submitted for the Chess Scotland Annual General Meeting in August if that is agreeable. – **John Montgomery**

DW confirmed that he had attended the meeting and that they had reached agreement with the wording that will be presented to the AGM.

**6.3** Minutes of last AGM – I would like the minute corrected to say that I asked if Stephen Hilton had performed the duties of his post rather than saying that he had done so. - **John Montgomery**

KS confirmed that we can change the minutes pre AGM as they are considered draft until they are accepted as a true account of the meeting. AH will make the amendment

**6.4** I'd like someone to put to Council that I have requested to take on the role of fundraiser for Junior Chess with CS's blessing. Without it it's difficult to make serious approaches to people. That means I would need the official title of 'Promoter' 'Fundraiser' Co-ordinator or whatever so my mailed approaches have some substance. – **Angus McDonald**

Council agreed that this is an excellent idea. Other people are trying to find fund for the Junior events. Two names were put forward from this, Angus and Derek Howie and it was suggested that both take on the role as both have been working towards this. Council approved suggestion. Angus and Derek to keep MH and AH up to date with how they are getting on.

## **7. AOCB**

### **Walter Munn and Junior Grand Prix**

Funds from these are starting to get low, the question was raised, should we be funding out of budget. Was considered to be of high importance by all and should be included in next years budget.

### **Presidents Awards**

JT felt that there are people out there who have performed services for Chess Scotland for numerous years who are yet to be recognised and stressed the importance of this. The suggestion was could the money for this come from the budget? Council agreed that we should be doing this from next year. For this year both SL and PT have offered £50 from their budget.

AH asked if we had a list of whom has a President's award. Could this be added to the website?

Current list is. Ken Stewart, Alex McFarlane, Mac McKenzie, Tom Brisbane, Tom Lawson, Alex Bisset, Geoff Chandler and Keith Ruxton.

### **Junior Grand Prix**

DB asked if Council could clarify membership status for the Junior Grand Prix. It was understood that the bottom two sections did not require membership.

Council agreed with this by a majority

### **FIDE Titles**

DB asked why FIDE titles were not free yet as it was a manifesto pledge in the recent FIDE elections

AH promised to chase up

Meeting ended 16:40