

## Note of Meeting of the Chess Scotland Standards Committee

Held on Saturday 20 October 2012 and Monday 22 October 2012

Meeting conducted using Skype.

Present:-

Lara A L Barnes (LB)  
Richard Heathwood (RH) - Chairman  
Gerald Lobley (GL)  
Patrick McGovern (PM)  
Judith Milton (JM)  
John S R Smith (JS)  
Ken Stewart (KS)

### INTRODUCTIONS

Following the most recent Annual General Meeting of Chess Scotland (held on 19 August 2012) the composition of the Standards Committee was as listed above. LB and KS had been members of the Committee in place before the AGM, PM and RH had been appointed at the AGM and GL, JS and JM had accepted the Chairman's invitations to serve as committee members.

The Chairman recorded his thanks to all concerned for agreeing to serve on the committee.

### VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman nominated PM to be Vice-Chairman and this proposal was accepted without dissent. The key role of the Vice-Chairman would be to replace the Chairman in the event of the Chairman being unable to act, for example being indisposed or directly involved in a complaint to be considered by the Committee. Looking to the future, it was likely that the Vice-Chairman would be the assumed successor to the Chairman.

It was noted that where conflict of interest arose, then it would be open to any member to avoid taking part in any discussion relating to a particular case. This option had already been invoked by a member in relation to a specific issue.

### MODUS OPERANDI

The committee accepted the Chairman's proposal that a collaborative approach should be maintained at all times. Any Committee response would only be released after agreement by its members. Inevitably, individual members would be involved in personal conversations with many chess players on a regular basis but if any conversation touched on a topic either currently or potentially to be referred to the Committee, the member concerned would emphasise that they were expressing a personal opinion.

Regular contact would be maintained amongst Committee members by using email but, where appropriate, meetings would be arranged, albeit on a less frequent basis.

A draft Cover Sheet was considered by the Committee (and, subsequent to the Meeting, was approved) - see Appendix. The objective of the sheet was to give a one page summary which would enable the Committee to establish whether or not a particular complaint would be competent for the Committee to process.

## COMPLAINTS

It was noted that no competent complaints had been received and, therefore, nothing was outstanding. The Committee were aware of two unofficial complaints, neither was currently competent.

## REDRAFTING REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The previous Chairman was aware of the need to revise his Report to the AGM. LB undertook to offer assistance to the former Chairman with a view to expediting matters.

## INCONSISTENCY OF WORDING

Unease was expressed over the wording in Paragraph 5 of the Standards Committee - Operating Procedures document.

"Any complaint made to the Committee must be made in writing (includes email) and as soon as practicable after the incident."

The Committee agreed that the words "as soon as practicable" would need to be interpreted in the light of the overarching, and fundamentally important, principle in paragraph 1 of the same document

"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."

In plain words, the Standards Committee will only look at a complaint if appropriate attempts have been made to resolve the situation and, even then, if the complaint passes the documented competency test. Paragraph six of the Operating Procedures is very clear,

"The Committee will not investigate a complaint unless all appropriate direct routes for its resolution, if any, have been exhausted by the complainant."

## PVG (Child Protection)

It was noted that certain issues, e.g. PVG (Child Protection), would not be capable of local resolution. Further thought would be given to the question of whether a recommendation should be submitted to amend the existing wording.

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

As already recorded, future Meetings would be convened as appropriate.

## Chess Scotland, Standards Committee - Complaint cover sheet

This cover sheet must be completed and forwarded to the Standards Committee along with all relevant accompanying documents and payment. The cover sheet will assist the Standards Committee in establishing whether a complaint is competent.

Name of complainant	
PNUM of complainant	
Date complaint submitted to Standards Committee	
Place, date & time of incident	
What resolution was attempted previously?	
Basis of appeal to Standards Committee:-	
Evidence was not examined properly	Yes / No
Resolution process was not conducted properly	Yes / No
Perverse judgement was given	Yes / No
Is legal action being considered?	Yes / No
Brief summary of complaint	
List of background documents attached	