

Note of Meeting of the Chess Scotland Standards Committee

Held on Saturday 19 October 2013

Meeting conducted using Skype.

Present:-

Lara A L Barnes
Richard Heathwood - Chairman
Gerald Lobley
Patrick McGovern - Vice Chairman
Ken Stewart

Apologies:-

Judith Milton
John S R Smith

CHAIRMANSHIP & MEMBERSHIP

The members reaffirmed their agreement to continue in office. The Committee was at full strength, there were no vacancies to be filled.

REVIEW OF PAST YEAR

The Committee reviewed its operations over the preceding twelve months and agreed that previous practice should be continued. It was felt that progress had been achieved over the year by:-

- publishing the guidance notes, 'How to Complain'
- adopting a Cover Sheet to accompany each complaint
- achieving agreement at the Chess Scotland AGM to revised Operating Procedures

The above documents had been compiled/revised with a view to achieving greater clarity in how the Committee carried out its workload. That exercise, coupled with processing a number of complaints had resulted in a heavy workload to be carried by Committee members.

The main current concern of the Committee was to achieve general acceptance of the requirement that all disputes must be addressed locally and that a complaint can only be referred to the Committee if local attempts at resolution have been exhausted.

The additional point to get across was that both before and after their ruling has been given, it is not open to the Committee to enter into any public debate about a case. The Committee considers evidence from the complainer, the appellant and any witnesses. After a decision has been given the Committee's role has been completed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - TRANSPARENCY

At the 2013 AGM, there had been some discussion about transparency in relation to the Committee's activity. In response, the Committee agreed that a list of questions and answers should be published on the website in order to give more information. The questions and answers complied with the Operating Procedures and amplified the information supplied by the Chairman when he presented the annual report to the AGM.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

No requirement was identified for a further meeting in the foreseeable future.