

Chess Scotland Council Meeting 11/1/14

At Adelphi Centre in Glasgow

Attendees

Andy Howie (AH), Andy McCulloch (AMc), David Deary (DD), Sean Milton (SM), Derek Howie (DHo), Linda McCusker (LM), Gilbert Alomenu (GM), Ken Stewart (KS), Alan Borwell (AB), Alistair white (AW), Dick Heathwood (DH), Andy Muir (AM), Douglas Bryson (DB), Hamish Glen (HG), David Congalton (DC), Gerard Lobley (GL)

Apologies June Underwood and Alex McFarlane

Meeting started 13:15

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising (minutes as per CS website)

There were no matters arising

Proposed KS seconded AM

2. Discussion submitted by Council members

2.1 Role of Council and Directors within Chess Scotland – DHo

DHo Going back to previous meetings there are many things we've had agreed and to do that we haven't done. A simple example of this is the addition of the council member names on the website. What is the point of being a member of council if we can't even do these simple tasks?

HG We are trying to move this forward. We are looking at having more directors meetings in different locations and using technologies such as skype

DHo PVG announcement is another example of this. No one on council was consulted on this.

AH The Executive Director and Directors weren't consulted on this.

HG We didn't involve council as there wasn't time to do it.

DHo Surely there was time to send a mail round everybody?

AB Nothing of substance should be posted on the website prior to talking to council first

DD I agree that we need to put the names on the website

Action => AH to provide names for next meeting.

HG I agree with what is being said here and we will endeavour to make sure we involve council more in future.

DB We really needed to have roles and responsibilities on the website so that people know what everyone does. We used to have this but it was dated and removed.

HG There is no point to doing this until after the constitutional review. This will form part of it

2.2 Proxy voting - AM

HG This is something that is being looked at by the constitutional working party

AM I'm happy to drop this as long as it's been dealt with there.

A straw poll was taken to gauge whether proxy votes should be allowed. The vast majority said yes.

2.3 Grandparent rule – AM

AM If you live in Scotland than you qualify by residency, there has been lots of discussion as to whether having Scottish grandparents should allow you to be picked for Scotland. Is this something we want?

DHo No I think the selection procedures are strong enough as they are. We could have someone who has no connection coming in and taking away places from people who have worked hard for it. If it means the team is weaker then so be it.

AB I have to agree with Derek.

AH In September 2014 it is a distinct possibility that we may become an independent country. In the white paper description of what is Scottish, having a grandparent who is Scottish is sufficient. Any decision we make here may have to be revised after the referendum. We should not be tying down our selectors and anyone who has SCO as their FIDE country should be considered for selection.

SM We have a similar situation with junior selections. Especially up North we have parents on short term secondments meaning their children can be selected.

AB What is best for Scottish chess?

SM Matthew Turner does a lot of good work for the juniors in Scotland. That is a long term benefit and should be taken into consideration.

DB The procedure would be to change the eligibility rules. All sports except Commonwealth sports and Olympics have this rule.

AM I have carried out the polls. Only the 8 people replied. The result was 4 to 4. When you look at the grading of the player for players more than 2300 it was 4 yes 3 no.

- DB His registration is SCO. We have allowed him to change to SCO. It isn't right that we are preventing him from representing us.
- DD Matthew Turner's contribution to Scottish chess should be noted I feel bad about not letting him play for us
- AMc in 2006 he said he wants to play as long as he had the agreement of everyone in the team
- GL Can we agree it here or does it have to go to the agm?
- HG It can be dealt with in council

Vote 5 – 6 against

2.4 Blocking of a motion by the president - AM

- AM Although we dealt with this in the AGM, can we formalize the position?
- AB I would suggest that any motion submitted referring to an individual case will be rejected
- HG The working party will look at this

2.5 Naming guilty parties by the standards committee - AM

- AM I think the procedures should be standardized in that we either name the guilty party, don't name the guilty party or name the party in certain circumstances.
- KS Actuaries have a large Indemnity Insurance policy, we don't!
- HG The working party will look at this

2.6 CS Calendar – DD

- DD Junior tournaments have changed in the past year. SJC decided they did not want to run the traditional CS events. They have put their own events on and when you look at the calendar, it is easy to confuse what is CS and what is SJC. Calendar belongs to CS and when something competes with an established CS event then I should be consulted before it's published to prevent confusion with parents.
- LM Why not tag SJC events as SJC events?
- DHo I didn't like the word "official" in the title of the CS girls' championships

DD I did that as there is confusion as to which event is which.

DHo We are happy to listen to any suggestions

DC It is a nonsense! For SJC to run the same tournaments is provocative. It is antagonistic and provocative. Other junior organizations are happy to work with us but SJC are digging in their heels. You are getting the benefits but won't come to the party.

DHo I find that offensive surely having more tournaments than less is better

AM I think there should be one of each event not two all that causes is confusion

HG SJC entry form says Scottish girls' championship, not SJC girls' championship

DHo I'm happy to take away and recommend change

HG Where are you with for the umbrella organization for juniors?

DD Overall principle is to get representatives of all regions on board. Looking to bring all under one umbrella organization. Invites were sent out last night and in looking to meet start to mid February. I'm hoping SJC will be part of it but will see what the response is. Hope to be in a position to update council in March.

AOCB

DC Regarding the proposed budget the figures are looking to be roughly on budget and. The big item is international team as it is some way short. We are looking like only having £4500 for the international budget next season.

SM Would it not be more efficient if we had a 5 to 10 year plan?

DC I did try to introduce this at last year's council meeting but the idea was rejected. The proposed budget and fees for next season will be sent on to AH for publication prior to the next council meeting.

AM Is £4500 a final figure or is there leeway?

DC You would need to ask if CS are willing to dip into reserves. With the loss of grant the degree of flexibility we have had in the budgets has been severely reduced.

DHo I hope you're not going to increase the fees too much.

HG Given Andy is unable to speak I suggest moving the noticeboard motion to the next council meeting

HG I am aiming to give a progress report on the constitutional working party at the march of council meeting. The meeting will take place on Sunday the 16th March and we're hoping to have it in Edinburgh.

LM Is anything being done with the chess in schools project?

HG Andy is trying to tie in with the Kasparov foundation

GA We voted at the agm to make the noticeboard available to all. An ordinary person can no longer see it

AH(HG) That wasn't the case. We agreed that we would continue with having to register for the noticeboard and that will remain to be the policy

DD I think we should award double grand Prix points in the junior grand Prix for certain events to encourage people to enter.

DHo We can't change the rules halfway through the season that would be wrong. You also have the issue if a player is stronger than 1350 and they play in one of these events, it will mess up full grand Prix.

DB it would raise the status of the main events

Action => DB and DD to look into this and report back

Meeting ended 14:45