

Chess Scotland Management Board

Date: Wednesday 2nd December 2015.

1. Federation Change Request

Chess Scotland has received a request to change Federation, however the player concerned subsequently withdrew the request.

2. Club Pages on Website

The data on the website regarding Clubs and their contacts needs to be updated with current details.

Post meeting notes:

- a. It has been agreed that the actual club webpage needs to be revamped to make it much clearer which clubs are members and those which are not.
- b. The contact details have now been updated.

3. Directors Website Information

There is a need to update information on many of the pages within the Chess Scotland website. All directors are requested to check and intimate any changes and updates that are necessary and submit these corrections to either Douglas Bryson or Andy Howie.

4. Malawi Charity Event

Ian Brownlee was asked by the Ayrshire Chess Association to pass on a vote of thanks to David Congalton for his assistance in ensuring the success of the Malawi Charity Event.

5. General Communications

The Home Director indicated that there was a difficulty in getting contact details for entries of tournaments covered in his remit (Richardson, Spens, Rosebowl, McIsaac and Nancy Elder) to facilitate communicating with all entrants – teams and individuals. This information is requested on the annual renewal form for clubs but currently this only goes to the Membership Secretary. CS needs to look at improving this in such a manner that information from these forms is made available to all relevant parties as soon as possible. Ian also reported that there was a complaint from one club not actually receiving the call for application.

There was no club contact information forthcoming from the membership secretary when requested.

Post meeting note:

This has now been addressed and the Clubs Page on the website will be updated regularly, as well as being given a much needed makeover.

It is essential that good communication be maintained with the members and although there are requirements under data protection laws this does not include internal use within CS.

(Comment: We could add to the membership renewal, a statement informing members that we intend to do this and give them a simple “opt-out” option if they do not wish such email communication.)

6. Disability Officer

Update

Stephen Hilton has, at least for the considerable future, declined the position of Disability Officer on health grounds. Stephen has decided to reduce his chess commitments for the present and refocus his activities to a suitable level. Stephen will continue to act in an “as required” consultant for Chess Scotland.

Chess Scotland wishes Stephen a speedy recovery

7. Affiliations

There is no clear indication of what constitutes the requirements for affiliations wishing to join Chess Scotland. Furthermore, the list of affiliated members on the website does not reflect any leagues or congresses that have formal affiliations to Chess Scotland.

The website is therefore to be updated to show all formal affiliations, once a complete list has been compiled. It is possible that this list can be created from affiliation fees collected annually in order to update the website.

Jim Webster will draft a set of "affiliation criteria" for any new applications and submit to the Management Board for discussion and improvement in order to create a straightforward Affiliation Application Form.

8. Arbiters & Coach List

At the meeting it was determined that these lists were not fully up-to-date and there is need for these to be maintained with latest data as it becomes available.

Coach List – This has now been updated by the Membership Secretary.

Arbiter List – This list is work in progress and it was decided that it would be better served if the information regarding Arbiters was provided by Ken Stewart to Douglas Bryson. Douglas would then update the Arbiters list with the latest information. A separate check is required to ensure that all Arbiters have current Chess Scotland Membership status.

9. Junior Update

The venue for the Primary Individual Championship is arranged, for 2nd weekend in June 2016 is being held at Dolphin House, Culzean Country Park. There currently are no further junior events being arranged.

Post meeting note:

A tournament, Woodmill Individual Fife Schools, was arranged by Glynis Grant and took place at Woodmill High School on Wednesday 25th November with an entry of 60 players from secondary schools throughout Fife. Results will be processed for grading in near future.

10. Application for Funds

The Management Board discussed an application for a grant from Chess Scotland Affiliation for the purchase of chess clocks. The overwhelming opinion of the board was that it could not approve or support such a grant.

There were two main reasons why the grant application did not gain the support of the board. The board felt it could not support the purchase of the particular clocks this grant was intended for,

- for the technical reasons previously intimated by Alex McFarlane
- it was also the opinion of the board that any purchase of equipment should be beneficial to all regions where chess is played in Scotland, as well as to the Chess Scotland membership as a whole.

Chess Scotland has equipment which it is willing to make available free of charge to affiliated clubs and organisations, as well as the congresses and events, such as the national league, which it already supports. We have over 100 digital clocks available, including the new DGT 3000, as well as the older XL model and the even older Saitek model. In addition to the clocks we are well equipped with boards and sets which we would also make available free of charge.

The loss of the annual Government Grant to Chess Scotland which we received for a number of years does severely limit the financial assistance we can give to the various regions and affiliated organisations. Government funding now appears to be far more targeted to regions and particular communities of the population, rather than to national bodies such as Chess Scotland

Post meeting note:

An email has now been sent, by David Congalton, to the LJC informing of the decision of the Management Board

11. Rowson & Booth Awards

David Congalton suggested that a selection panel be chosen to select the recipients of this year's awards. It was suggested that David contact the following individuals to form a selection committee with a minimum of 3 people on each selection panel:

Keti Arakhamia-Grant, Matthew Turner, Clement Sreeves, Andrew Green, Elaine Bamber and David Congalton.

Post Meeting note:

The winners have now been announced and subsequently posted on the CS website.

12. Lottery Funding

Alex McFarlane forwarded to the Management Board information regarding a new funding initiative from National Lottery. Namely "Big Lottery Scotland". Their website states:

- For the first time we are asking communities to tell us how their approach to what they want to do is people-led, strengths-based and/or connected.
We'll focus our Lottery funds to work with groups that are improving lives, as we know that many people experience challenges at some point in their lives and we want to support activity that helps them overcome these difficulties and become more resilient. And we'll support community-led activity with funding that aims to work with communities to bring real improvements to the places they live and the wellbeing of those most in need.

The Management Board should follow this up, but it would need to develop criteria in line with the above statements

13. Scottish Championships 2016

Negotiations are ongoing to determine a suitable venue for the Scottish and Alex McFarlane will keep the Management Board informed as to the progress made.

Jim Webster
President, Chess Scotland