

Chess Scotland Council Meeting

Date: 21st March, 2010
Time: 11:00
Location: Bothwell Bowling Club, Bothwell

Attendees:

Donald Wilson (DW), Richard Heathwood (RH), Douglas Bryson (DB), Phil Thomas (PT), Jacqui Thomas (JT), Mac McKenzie (MM), Peter Devenny (PD), John Montgomery (JM), Michael Hanley (MH – Chair), Andy Howie (AH)

Apologies:

Trevor Davies (TD), Stephen Hilton (SH), Alex McFarlane (AMc), Lara Barnes (LB), Andy Muir (AM), Chris Hampton (CH), Ken Stewart (KS), Mike Scott (MS)

Minutes

1. Minutes of the Previous Council Meeting (22nd March, 2009)

Accuracy

The motion that the minutes be approved was proposed by PT and seconded by MM. The motion was passed nem. con.

Matters Arising

DB advised that all the old junior site material had now been removed and requested if new material can be added.

JT advised that the Girls Individual Trophy was still to be collected from Rebecca Childs.

PT asked if SH's name had been removed from Telextext. AH confirmed that it had been done straight after the previous council meeting.

2. Director Reports

Home Director

AH read out the following e-mail that he had received from TD with respect to the Home Director report.

Mike,

Please present my apologies for absence.

I note the Home Director's comments re the Standards Committee with interest. I believe that the report is misleading in two respects:

I do not accept his claim that he represents the "Leagues' view" (which he carelessly fails to qualify: is this an unanimous view, a majority view?) on the sufficiency or otherwise of the consultation when on his own admission only three Leagues were represented at his meeting. Moreover, of the two Leagues with which I am associated, this view is not, to my knowledge, supported.

(I might suggest that in any review of the Constitution, the question of a quorum for the Home Board (and other Boards) should be addressed. The dangers inherent in allowing an insufficiently representative group official status is all too apparent.)

My recollection, from the circular email received from Chris Hampton, is that no Minutes would be produced for this Meeting. In that case, the Home Director's report is inaccurate in that regard too.

I trust that these two points will be raised at Council and, if accepted, that the report be revised accordingly.

Regards Trevor

AH advised that he had forwarded this onto SH as he had indicated he was on 4NCL duty and could not attend the meeting. SH had given a response which was read out and follows.

Andy thanks for your email.

I do represent the views of the leagues who were present and also the views of Ayrshire Chess Association who have expressed concerns over the SC. There are concerns over the SC and these should have been sorted out before the SC was agreed upon.

If a proper consultation had been done, then these concerns would have been avoided.

Chris is working very hard to get the minutes of the board meeting ready for the council meeting, but we cannot guarantee this because Chris's tape recorder has broken down and the minutes were taped.

Best Wishes

Stephen

JM stated that SH does not represent the Ayrshire chess league in that view.

PT asked JM if it was the idea of a standards committee or the lack of consultation that the league was unhappy with.

JM replied that they were happy with the Standards Committee but uncomfortable about its jurisdiction.

There then followed a general discussion on the standards committee and its jurisdiction. The other league representatives were asked if they were happy with it. Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Central and SNCL all indicated they were fine with it.

Council approved that AH should approach TD or the chair of the Standards Committee with the idea of having a meeting with the Ayrshire league along with any other league who has concerns about the jurisdiction so that the leagues have clarity in this matter.

Customer Service Director

DB raised the matter of 40% of SNCL Division 1 not being members of Chess Scotland where membership is compulsory for FIDE grading. DB mooted that we should continue to allow this

RH asked why it should only be SNCL that is exempt; surely this should extend to all congresses.

DW stated that as we don't know who is going to turn up on a day, it is hard to enforce. The AGM was the following Sunday and we can put an edict out that all must be members of Chess Scotland

AH stated he would bring this motion up at the SNCL AGM giving the choice of no FIDE rating or all members. AH voiced concerns that this could drive people away from SNCL.

DW noted that he was sure that this was removed from the rules as it was no longer showing in the Rule book.

AH advised he would check and let everyone know (PLEASE SEE FOOTNOTE TO MINUTES)

DW suggested that could we charge more for non-members for grading and possibly have a differential rate?

After a discussion the rate of £1 for members and £2 for non-members was decided upon

DW asked if the cost FIDE rating was separate or would be billed with grading as appeared to have been in past.

DB advised that in future it would be separate as it appeared that this had been missed in previous years.

AH summarised the actions to be taken

- SNCL to determine if going to force compulsory membership for Div 1
- £1 for members £2 for non-members will be the FIDE grading fee from the AGM
- AH will check the FIDE regulations for clarification of the rule

Membership Secretary

RH advised that SH had brought up the suggestion that the Membership Secretary moves under the Home Board.

General consensus was that this post is best remaining under the Customer Service Director

International Director (Home)

MM replied to the written question in the report about monies being carried over. Budgets must be spent in the same financial year and not carried over. That is part of the rules set by the grant that we receive.

DB asked what happens to the excess cash that has been asked for

MM stated that if it appears that it could not be spent then the proposed fees increase would not go ahead.

DB disagreed and stated that it would be better if we continued with the increase regardless as the excess can be spent in other areas.

Schools Development

PT noted that he has £2,000 left in his budget, David Oswald has £1,000. This was to be combined to spend on a trip for 5 U21's to compete in Malakoff. This is a strong tournament and will prove useful training for them.

MM confirmed that he had received the invoices and it had been booked

IJD / Junior Home Director

PT stated that there was an imbalance of work between the Junior Directors and the workload was too great. PT also stated that he may not stand for IJD at the AGM and was currently considering his options. A way was needed to balance the workloads to make it viable for people to do.

There then followed a short discussion on the IJD post

JT explained that last year we had been surprised to find out that the 2 schools tournaments did not residue under the SDO. The same had happened this year when David had started to organise one of the tournaments thinking that it was under his remit.

AH suggested that JT, PT and David Oswald get together and put a proposal for the AGM covering who deals with what.

JM asked how much work was involved in transport and asked if it was feasible to speak to people we have used in the past to organise such as Braehead Travel

JT replied that they are normally booked by the organiser and repaid by the individual to the organiser. JT will investigate the suggestion by JM

PT noted that we are looking for ways to encourage girls as we have some strong ones coming through the ranks

JT stated that there is going to be an U21 training weekend in late September, we are still looking for strong coaches and JT is also looking to do a sponsored event to raise funds for the event as she can get her work to double the amount provided it is in by 21 May.

JM asked JT About the coach and offered for the Ayrshire League to approach and fund a local coach for the event. JM and JT to liaise on this.

JT confirmed that Braehead had been booked for the Primary team championships on Saturday 12th June.

Customer Service Director

DB noted that Gerard Blake had offered to help with a web page redesign. DB reiterated that we need to find people who will provide content and reports on events, especially on the junior pages. It had been noted that there was no-where on the site where the Junior Directors had been named,

PT replied that the junior selectors were PT, JT, AH, MH, DW, MS and DO.

Meeting adjourned at 14:10

Meeting resumed at 14:30

3. Budget and Fees

MM stated that he was still concerned about missing trophies. A list had been circulated and we still did not know the whereabouts.

DB will put the list on the Webpage; AH will also publish the list on the noticeboard.

MM noted that the valuations had not been done for many years as we are charged 10% of value.

MH asked if the Spens can be made free entry to try and encourage more teams to enter.

MM Stated that this had been done before and did not work,

There then followed a discussion on the merits of switching to either a central venue or a shared venue as East Kilbride and Hamilton had done. AM to float the idea of sharing a venue with the clubs.

DW asked about the postage for the magazine. In the past they had been handed out at congresses if there was one close to the time of production. Could this be done to save costs? AH to speak to DO to see if this is viable.

JT noted that the Primary Girls team and the Individual Quickplay are listed on the fees but have not existed for a few years. MM will remove

The Fees as set in the report was proposed by MM and seconded by DW. Proposal was passed nem con.

4. Scottish Championship

AH stated that at the AGM, one of his pledges was to split the Scottish Championship Organiser position from the Home Director position as it made the job almost impossible to perform. AH was asking the opinion of the Council regarding the recreation of the Championship Director post at the AGM.

Council felt that this was justified and agreed with this being created at the AGM.

5. AGM

AH stated that there would be no repeat of last year's AGM. Unfortunately due to the above, there would be a short EGM before the AGM started, however the length of the meeting would be closely monitored and debates cut short if they were becoming too lengthy.

The date of the AGM was proposed as 15th August at the Busby Hotel. AH asked JT if she would book it,

6. AOCB

Archive

MH noted that he had received correspondence from Alan McGowan concerning the archives as they are currently sitting in a storeroom. Some of the stuff we have should really be on display in a museum or in places such as the Edinburgh chess club. MM to contact Alan about inventory

Rules

DB asked AH about the new rules as they were not on the website. AH stated that he sent them prior to the AGM and did not realise they were not on the site yet. AH will resend.

SCDAD

MM & AH had received correspondence from the SCDAD. They are sending a team to the Olympiad and had received funding from us in the past.

MM confirmed that we had given £500 in the past and we had funds there should we decide to do so. MM is to decide amount and communicate accordingly with SDCA.

Equipment

AH noted that we were beginning to have issues with the digital clocks breaking down. We currently have 6 clocks down and are unable to get spare parts from Saitek. AH asked what funding we had for digital clocks.

MM noted that we had £1,800 nominally put aside for DGT boards that can be used for this.

AH stated that he would get together With DW, AMc and Peter Woods to put an invoice in for replacements.

JM asked if we can have a budget each year for this. AH replied that he had already spoken to MM about this and we were looking to put one in place from next year.

AH advised that we have had 2 anonymous donations for other equipment.

Lottery Grant

AH asked if we were to raise a lottery grant for DGT equipment, would it affect our grant.

MM stated that we had done so in the past and it should not.

AH noted that he was going to apply for a grant of £10,000 for DGT equipment as he was keen to get the new wireless boards which would make it easier to teach someone else to do.

Meeting closed 15:50

Footnote

After the debate about FIDE grading and the requirement for membership, both DB and AH contacted FIDE concerning this. The advice that we received was that membership referred only to a nation's membership of FIDE, not to the individuals membership to a federation.

I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the delay in the publication of these minutes. Due to an unforeseen series of events (including a computer breakdown), I was unable to produce them.

Andy Howie

Executive Director