

Nottinghamshire Chess Association
General (Rules Revision) Meeting

Meeting held at West Bridgford CC, 7:30pm, Tuesday 15th May 2012.

Glossary

AGM: Annual General Meeting; ANW: Secretary; CC: Chess Club; EC: Executive Committee; ECF: English Chess Federation; LMC: League Management Committee; NCA: Nottinghamshire Chess Association.

Present were R. J. Richmond [President, in the Chair], A. N. Walker [Secretary], S. J. Burke [Treasurer], C. Budd, A. Croasdale, R. Dyce, S. Foster, B. M. Hayward, F. Hill, M. J. Hill, C. Holt, A. Kenyon, S. Luland, M. Radford, D. Sudar, M. V. Taylor, T. D. Walker.

Meeting opened at 7:36pm.

Apologies; minutes of previous meeting; matters arising.

Apologies were received from N. Graham, D. G. Levens, N. London, A. E. Morrey, P. Sherlock and J. T. Swain. The minutes of the 2011 AGM were accepted without comment, and there were no matters arising. The President said that in the interests of saving time at the AGM, he would award prizes at this meeting where these were known and where clubs were represented. Accordingly, clocks were presented to Grantham 1 [Division 1 Champions), Gambit 3 (Div. 3), West Bridgford 3 (Div. 4) and Nottingham Central 5 (Div. 5).

Proposed changes to League Rules.

[For the proposals, proposers, seconds and rationales, please refer to the papers for the meeting. ANW] The proposed deletions of rules D8 and B9 [incorrectly given as B8 in papers for the meeting], with consequent renumbering of other rules, were passed nem. con. M. J. Hill asked whether it might be possible to claim compensation if a team defaulted without notifying the opposition. The proposal to delete rule 10b, thereby putting digital clocks on the same basis as analogue, was debated extensively. Several speakers said that weaker players were not happy with the proposal. M. V. Taylor said that Radcliffe and Bingham were now introducing digital clocks; he accepted that there was a learning curve, but it was not difficult to use digital clocks. The Treasurer said that analogue clocks also had problems, digital clocks are better, and players have to learn. The proposal was passed by 8 votes to 6. There was also extensive discussion of rule C6, concerning the eligibility of new players. The President ruled that as there had been no notice of any proposed change to C6a, no amendments to it would be considered. The proposal for a new C6b was amended to

(b) The information must be provided no later than their first match for the club.

D. Sudar suggested that the proposed cut-off date of 31st March should be brought earlier; the President proposed an amendment to 1st March, and this was supported nem. con. D. Sudar also sug-

gested that or be changed to and in the proposals, and this was accepted without debate. S. Foster asked whether it was appropriate to specify Nottinghamshire in the rule, and what the criteria should be for clubs outside the county. D. Sudar said that the proposals would reduce work for LMC. C. Holt added that LMC had discussed what a reasonable time-scale for a decision under the existing rule should be. Three weeks seemed reasonable; but a request last season had allowed only six days before the match. M. V. Taylor said that the proposed rule was too negative, and proposed the use of De Morgan's rules to recast it into a positive form. This was generally approved, but the meeting decided not to proceed with the detailed wording at this stage. Rule C6b, as amended above, was then put to the meeting and passed by 11 votes to 1. The amended form of Rule C6c,

(c) No player who hasn't previously played in the League and does not reside, work or study in Nottinghamshire may be introduced after 1st March for the current season.

was then approved in principle by 10 votes to 6. LMC was asked to re-draft this rule into the proposed more positive form and bring it to the AGM for ratification.

ECF Membership

The President spoke to his paper, circulated with the papers for the meeting. M. J. Hill asked about the status of the County Championship; the President replied that this was a domestic event, and a grey area in the proposals. M. J. Hill said that the proposals were a load on clubs. the Treasurer said that membership could be left to individuals. The President said that clubs would need a policy; M. J. Hill said that Nomads would require all members to join ECF, and D. Sudar said that Gambit had increased subscriptions by £5 except for individuals who opted out. D. Sudar reminded the meeting that those who played in the national stages of the inter-county championships would need to be members. T. Walker asked whether membership could be retrospective; the Treasurer said it could. S. Foster asked about correspondence games; as these are not graded, they are unaffected. The President said that as there had been no adverse comments, the proposals would go forward to the AGM.

Children in Need

The President said that D. G. Levens proposed a Saturday afternoon event of chess variants, open to a wide community, with the intention of raising money for Children in Need. This would also be good publicity for NCA. There was general support for the idea.

Any other business

D. Sudar noted with thanks that the County Championship was offering free entry and increased prizes this year, although he had proposed only one or the other. M. J. Hill said that LMC had considered a letter from J. Crawley concerning unsuitable arrangements for a disabled player. No proposals to deal with this were being put to this meeting, but there would be an entry in the Handbook. The meeting recognised NCA's responsibilities in

respect of disabled players, and that formal proposals might eventually be needed. M. V. Taylor noted that for some clubs, Radcliffe and Bingham could offer a suitable neutral venue. The Secretary said that the AGM would be held at West Bridgford CC on July 10th, and asked that officers reports and other agenda items for circulation be sent to him by June 19th. EC would be grateful for information about officers intending to stand down, and about potential volunteers. D. Sudar said that League entry forms would be out soon.

Meeting closed at 9:14pm.