

Nottinghamshire Chess Association General (Rules Revision) Meeting

Meeting held at Nomads CC, 7:30pm, Monday 20th May 2013.

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. Kenyon [Secretary], S. J. Burke [Treasurer], C. Holt, N. Graham, K. Walters, P. Sherlock, A. Walker, B. Hayward, M. Hill, J. Swain, M. Swanwick, D. Griffiths, D. Sudar.

The meeting opened at 7:35pm.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from D. Levens, T. Walker.

2. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 2012 AGM were approved without comment.

4. Bank Mandate

The proposal to reduce the number of required signatures on cheques over £250 from two down to one was carried unanimously. The only regular cheque over £250 is the main payment to the ECF. Getting the second signature proved awkward this year, and is likely to be so in future years, due the narrow time window to meet the deadline for the early payment discount. Withdrawals from the Building Society account, which holds most of the association reserves will continue to require two signatories at all times (current signatories S.Burke, R.Richmond, M.Barnes, A.Wright).

5. Digital Clocks

For rationales, please refer to the papers for the meeting. RR outlined these and the move towards digital clocks. It was clarified that these were proposed by SJB and seconded by RR.

- Proposal 1 - The NCA should in future purchase Digital Clocks for the County Set.

The proposal was carried unanimously. Discussion centred around which digital clocks would be purchased, their cost and the availability of bulk discount. SJ B has looked into the functionality of digital clocks with costs varying from £28-£30 at the lower end to £45-£50 at the upper end. A quote for bulk purchase has not been sought at this stage but this should be

considerable for the purchase of 16-20 clocks. Subsidizing the County Championship currently costs around £600-£700. It was stressed that the decision is not expected to increase league fees. All clubs who have so far invested in digital clocks have purchased the DDT Type, so this would be a good way forward.

ANW questioned whether the County should have its own set of digital clocks. The practical implications of the County not having their own set was discussed, but it was agreed impractical to use NCA club equipment with the difficulties of ensuring that it was in the right place at the right time and in working order. NG said that the County equipment should be locked securely and separately from club equipment as this has presented some difficulties during the year. The purchase of a lockable cabinet is being investigated.

- Proposal 2 - The NCA should purchase 16 Digital Clocks

The proposal that digital clocks be purchased was accepted. A second proposal was then put forward that 18 clocks be purchased providing a reserve of 2 to cover breakages/malfunction etc. This was accepted.

- Proposal 3 - Digital Clocks shall be awarded as prizes in the League, commencing the season just completed.

The proposal was accepted. Currently analogue clocks are given as prizes. It was felt that the awarding of digital clocks would ease the transition to digital clocks within clubs.

Addition to Rule B. 9(a) -

Proposal - Where a complete set of digital clocks is available Fischer (Incremental) Time Limits of [either (a) or (b) below, as decided by the meeting] may be used in a match by the mutual agreement of the team captains.

- (a) 65 minutes plus 10 seconds per move in the bottom division, or 80 minutes plus 10 seconds per move in all other divisions, for the entire game
- (b) 30 moves in 60 minutes and then 10 minutes plus 10 seconds per move in the bottom division, or 35 moves in 75 minutes, and then 10 minutes plus 10 seconds per move in all other divisions

RR clarified that if incremental time limits are used it must be for the whole match and by mutual agreement. He stated that option B above is nearest to current league time limits. SJB added that Ashfield's digital clocks were not programmable to this option.

DS said that Gambit were against this proposal since a player no longer had the protection of the 2 minute rule- a player with a drawn position but short of time can currently claim a draw. He felt that the proposal did not allow for this eventuality and was therefore impractical.

JS raised a concern that the proposal would mean that players did not know when a game was going to end and there was potential for games to go on long past the current finishing time. This he felt was especially unfair on junior players and their parents.

The proposal was put to vote and was defeated by a motion of 2 for and 8 against.

- Amendment to Rule B9(b) - this proposal fell without the time limit proposal above being accepted.

6. Any other business

B Hayward - Gambit have decided to purchase 2 digital clocks and asked for this to be added to the EC order to benefit from bulk discount. This was agreed and extended to all clubs.

MS - Raised the question of whether the U100 and U120 teams were going to be combined next year. He had struggled to get players for the U120 this year. N. Graham said he would report back on this at the AGM.

DS - expressed thanks to Neil Graham for organising County teams for the U160 and U180 in recent weeks.

RR - Said there were forthcoming vacancies for the positions of League Secretary and President and invited anyone wishing to express an interest in these positions to discuss this with him.

JS - Asked about ECF membership for junior events, particularly the Schools Knockout (previously Sunday Times). RR said;

- a) There had been inadequate thought about the implications for the new ECF membership for junior events.
- b) He had the Notts votes to a requisition for an EGM of ECF to stop the proposed requirement for ECF membership in the Schools KO.
- c) This requisition had sufficient votes to call an EGM. However, this had not been formally delivered to the ECF, the hope being the threat of such a requisition would lead to the ECF Board deferring this proposed requirement for a year, to allow for consideration of the issue at the next ECF AGM.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm