

Dumbarton and District Chess Association AGM

7:30pm 14th June 2023 at Larkfield Centre, 39 Inglefield Street, Glasgow G42 7AY

Present: Mel Burt (President/ acting Secretary), Rob Colston (Treasurer), Graham Dobbie (East Kilbride) Jim Johnston (East Kilbride), Max Cochrane (Bearsden), Caitlin McCulloch (Queens Park) Derek Rankine (Queens Park), Thor Saemundsson (Hamilton) Phones, Renfrewshire, Bellshill, & Stepps were not represented.

1. Apologies: Zhizeng Liu (Strathclyde U), Chris Cotton: (Controller)

2a. President's Address.

Mel Burt said that he was pleased the League had successfully restarted after the Covid shutdown and we could reasonably expect to have more clubs entering teams next season.

In the drive to restart Club competition some corners were cut such as the Team KO but there was an Agenda item to restart it next season. Mel thanked Jim Johnston for his continuing help with fixtures, website and generally advising a very inexperienced new committee.

The committee had achieved the goal of restarting the League but all its members came from one Club (Bearsden) which was not organisationally desirable and it was hoped that others would volunteer.

2b. Acting Secretary's Report (MB)

Bearsden A won the League with 10 points out of 12 closely followed by Stepps A with 9 & Phones A with 8. Strathclyde U won Division 2 with 15 points out of 20 very closely followed by Bearsden B and Phones B both with 14

Regarding relegation, Renfrewshire and Queens Park A were the bottom teams in Division 1 but the actual make-up of the Divisions will be largely determined by the number of new teams expected to register next season.

This season had again shown that the Dumbarton League is relatively trouble-free. There have only been a couple of readily-resolvable disputes in the last 20 years and this season had Zero disputes, no team match defaults and only two individual board defaults. Well done!!

2c. Treasurer's report

Rob Colston advised that there had been no financial transactions during the Covid shutdown and the League's online account had actually increased from £503.60 in June-22 to £625.80 in June -23 However since we had used trophies already "in stock" and had slightly discounted Chess Scotland fees and Bond revenue from new clubs, the costs next season would be substantially higher. Despite this he recommended leaving the Team and Bond fees unchanged at £30 and £10. Proposed GB Seconded JJ and approved.

2d. Controller's report

Chris Cotton was absent but MB read Chris' written report which thanked MB, JJ, Dougie Bryson, Willie Hulme and Ian Brownlee for their help during his first season. His only suggestion was on the reporting of results which could be slightly improved if he was given "editor" access to the new LMS system. (*This has now been given by Willie Hulme*)

2e. Webmaster's report

Jim Johnston said that he was again prepared to update and revise our relatively simple website and to provide a draft fixtures report after teams registered. To minimise reporting differences among LMS, Chess Scotland and the DDCA website it was important that he received regular frequent advice of match results and MB said that he would emphasise this to Chris Cotton.

3. Annual subscription and Bond Fees.

As noted in 2c above these will stay at **£30/team** and **£10/club**

4. Presentation of Prizes.

Bearsden A won the League and President Mel Burt presented the Division 1 shield and trophies to the Bearsden A captain Rob Colston, with applause from the meeting. Division 2 winners Strathclyde U had already received their prizes

5. Election of League Officers

The following people were proposed and elected. In each case there were no alternative candidates proposed so no need for a vote by show of hands

President: Mel Burt (Proposed GD, Seconded JJ)
Secretary: Caitlin McCulloch (MB, JJ) **Action:** MB to give files to C McC and meet to explain tasks
Treasurer: Rob Colston (MB, GD)
Controller: Chris Cotton (MC, RC)

Webmaster: Jim Johnston also agreed to continue his support.

6. Amend Committee Quorum

This was reduced from 5 to 4 just as in the larger Glasgow League

7. AOCB

7a. Restart team KO?

It was agreed that the Dumbarton League Team KO had been a worthwhile part of the League and that it would be reinstated for 2023-24 with no extra charge. The registration form would allow an opt-out if needed. MB will organise in the first season then transfer to the Secretary C McC.

7b. Introduction of increments.

The League currently has 75 minutes for each player with a Quickplay finish in the last 2 minutes. The meeting discussed the introduction of increments using 60 minutes plus 10 second increment/move with no Quickplay finish.

The advantages

(no need to describe and understand Quickplay rules, reduction of "unfair" wins by running the clock down and fewer panicky time-scrambles)

and disadvantages

(Necessitates use of multi-function digital clocks and possible open-ended finishing time)

This was extensively debated. However, since it was felt that all clubs did now have or could obtain suitable clocks and the proposed timing would allow games of 90 moves before the current 75 minute time allowance was reached, the meeting eventually unanimously agreed that the introduction of increments was preferable and should happen, after the elapse of one season, in September 2024

This approach was preferred as it will give clubs (and other Leagues?) time to prepare during next season and at their own AGMs. It was unanimously agreed that :-

"The Dumbarton Chess League will change the rate of play to 60 minutes plus 10 second increment per move (from move 1) from September 2024"

7c. Fixtures meeting

The Dumbarton League fixtures meeting will be on **13th September 2024 at the Larkfield Centre.**

There was a vote of thanks to the Chair and the meeting finished at 8:30pm.

Mel Burt 18 June 2023