

Dumbarton and District Chess Association AGM 2023/24

Wednesday 19th June 2024, Larkfield Centre, 7.30pm

Present: Mel Burt (President), Caitlin McCulloch (Secretary), Rob Colston (Treasurer), Chris Cotton (League Controller), Jim Johnston (Webmaster), Iain Shields (Queens Park), Colin Macgregor (Renfrewshire)

Apologies: Zizheng Liu (Strathclyde University), Thor Saedmunsson (Hamilton)

No representation from Giffnock, Paisley, Phones, Polytechnic, Stepps.

1. **Previous minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. JJ raised that last year it was agreed for CC to send him knockout results to upload online.
2. **League officer reports:**
 - a. President (MB): MB thanked everyone for running another season and highlighted this year's winners - Strathclyde University (Division 1), Hamilton (Division 2) and Phones A (Knockout). MB is hopeful that the number of teams in the league will increase next season.
 - b. Secretary (CMcC): CMcC thanked MB and JJ in particular for helping to get to the grips with documents and processes. CMcC will be taking over organising the knockout tournament from 24/25 (see point 7).
 - c. Treasurer (RC): This has been a fairly standard year for the league - total income of £532 and a total expenditure of £470.
 - d. Controller (CC): CC gave thanks to MB and JJ for their support. It was noted that teams have been much quicker with reporting their results this season.
 - e. Webmaster (JJ): no specific points to add.
3. **Membership and bond fees:** The group agreed to keep membership fees at £30 and bond fees at £10.
4. **Presentation of prizes:** Individual prizes and group shields were not awarded as none of the winning teams - Hamilton, Phones and Strathclyde - were present. Strathclyde had previously collected their individual trophies **Action:** CMcC to contact Hamilton and Phones to arrange collection of individual trophies.
5. **Election of league officers:** All current officers were reelected to continue their roles:
 - President: Mel Burt (proposed RB, seconded JJ)
 - Secretary: Caitlin McCulloch (proposed JJ, seconded IS)
 - Treasurer: Rob Colston (proposed MB, seconded JJ)
 - Controller: Chris Cotton (proposed CMac, seconded JJ)

JJ also agreed to continue to support the league.

6. The two amendments to the Dumbarton rules were discussed.
 - a. **Change to 7.3** (playing across divisions). No additional discussion.
 - b. **Change to time control** (moving to 60+10). The group discussed whether an admin fee should be implemented if players and captain cannot agree on a result after the allotted time (2 hours 40 minutes) elapses. It was decided that this would be classed as a dispute and would fall under the league's official dispute procedure. In this case, both teams will send the information to the League Controller (not Secretary as initially

written). However, it was felt that a match of over 90 moves and being disputed would be a rare occurrence, so no admin fee will be implemented. The rule also states that positions will be sent to an 'independent expert' - it was suggested that this could be someone like Alistair Maxwell.

Both amendments were unanimously approved - the new wording is at the end of this document.

Action: CMcC to update documentation to reflect these changes.

7. Any other competent business

- a. **Knockout tournament:** This was the first time that the knockout had run in several seasons. This season, the same team received two consecutive byes. It was agreed that this was a mistake and that next season, more teams would receive byes (if necessary) to ensure there are an even number of teams from round 2 onwards. The initial draw was also set in such a way that teams could play their knockout match as a double-header which was positively received. CMcC will be managing the knockout from 2024/25.
- b. **New grading system:** There was a short discussion of the new grading system being created by Chess Scotland. It was agreed that the Committee would want such a system to be available for testing before going live. It was unclear whether it will fully replace the current software (League Management System) which has worked well for us.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm.

Next meeting: Fixtures meeting, Wednesday 11th September 2024, 7.30pm, Larkfield Centre

-----Amendments agreed:-----

Document – Rules of Play

6. The playing session will be a maximum of 2 hours 40 minutes (enough for a 120 move game). Clubs will indicate their start and finishing times at the start of the season. At the start of the match, the home captain must give a time at which they will ask for the clocks to be stopped. If at this point the players followed by captains cannot agree a result, the position(s) will be sent by both clubs within one week to the Dumbarton League Controller for resolution by an independent expert.

Document - Rules for League Competitions

7. Eligibility:

7.1 No player may play for more than one club in any one season in League and Knockout competitions.

7.2 Where a club has teams in more than one division, players are not tied to the Division for which they first play and may play up no more than three times in any one season.

7.3 Where a club has more than one team in one division, players may play up no more than once in any one season and players from a higher team may not play down/across to a lower team in the same division. Where teams are not designated A, B or C, then the highest to lowest team must be specified on or before the Fixtures Meeting.

7.4 No player may play for more than one team in the Team Knockout.