

Nottinghamshire Chess Association General (Rules Revision) Meeting

Meeting held at West Notts Chess Club, 7:30pm, Monday 16th May 2016.

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

Present were A Walker [President, in the Chair], A. Kenyon [Secretary], S Burke [Treasurer], R Richmond, B Abrahart, J Swain, D Griffiths, M Hill, D Sudar, C Holt, M Taylor, C Budd, B Hayward, F Hill, N London, J Wagenbach, K Morrison, B Redburn, C Cumbers, S Scott, S Grenham, R Laker, S Luland, J Huthwaite, D Padvic, M Naylor, M Barnes, G Giles, K Argyle, S Foster, M Hunter, R Murphy, R Willoughby, R Dawson, N Graham.

The meeting opened at 7:35pm.

Before the meeting the association was notified of the recent deaths of Cyril Johnson and John Buttery. A moment of silence was observed.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from T Walker, R Dyce and G Ladds

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were not presented at the meeting. They will be presented at the AGM in July.

3. Matters arising.

J Swain said there had been insufficient support for a Special General Meeting to be called regarding 'C4'. He requested that the EC respond to the issue as to why C4 was on the agenda at the last AGM. He recognised there a need to move forward and draw a line under the issue.

4. Presentation of League Prizes

League prizes were awarded as follows:

League 1: Grantham 1

League 2: West Bridgford 1

League 3: Long Eaton

League 4: West Bridgford 3

League 5: University 3

5. Proposed rule changes:

- a) Proposal for a new rule C7 - order of strength. Teams should be arranged in order of playing strength according to the ECF grading list (within 10 points). The grading results officer should be consulted for ungraded players.

Following discussion N Graham proposed (R Richmond seconded) that the difference be extended to 20 points. This was accepted by a vote of 29 for and 2 against.

The vote in favour of order of strength was accepted 22 for and 5 against.

The proposal to amend D7 was withdrawn.

- b) Proposal to amend C4/5 - eligibility (C Budd). It was proposed that if a player had played 3 times in total for a higher team above bottom 2 boards played they can not play for a lower team. This was accepted by a vote of 10 for and 8 against. There was no requirement to amend C5.
- c) Proposal to amend rule C4 - eligibility (D Sudar). Concern was raised with 3 clubs having 2 teams in league 1 next season creating a weaker league. Proposal rejected by a vote of 7 for and 12 against.
- d) Proposal to amend rule C5 (S Burke) - withdrawn

- e) Proposal to amend rule B9 - time control (S Burke). A proposal was tabled to consider 3 options regarding playing times. Following a number of votes it was agreed that intermediate time controls would be abolished and the time limit be 90 minutes (75 minutes in the bottom division) to finish the game. The vote was 18 for and 16 against.
- f) Voluntary rearrangement of matches after Christmas (S Burke) - following discussion it was agreed to move the cut-off date for voluntary rearrangement to the end of February from Christmas
- g) Braille Chess (S Scott) - the Braille Chess Association have discussed the banning of braille note takers as a result of concern regarding their mis-use. This would directly affect the access to chess of one of West Nottinghamshire's players who is understandably concerned. The association was agreed that a letter of support from NCA should be drafted by S Scott in support of the use of electronic aids by visibly impaired players.

6. Constitutional matters

- a) Proposal to amend the constitution (D Sudar). The document presented was discussed with the intention of reducing loopholes and ambiguities.

Article 3 - passed unanimously

Article 4 - passed unanimously

Article 6 - passed unanimously

Article 8 - Regarding Special General Meetings the wording was amended to include 'the secretaries of at least' 25%/33% of affiliated clubs. The proportion was then put to a vote which favoured 1/3 over 1/4 by a majority of 14 to 6.

The proposed alteration to the timeframe for arranging an SGM was agreed unanimously.

Article 9 aii) It was agreed unanimously to extend those able to propose/second alterations to the constitution, league rules or EC Standing Orders to include Treasurers. A vote to allow team captains this right was also agreed.

Addition to article 9 - In exceptional circumstances the Rules Revision Meeting may vote to defer consideration of a proposed rule change to the next general meeting, such a vote requiring a 2/3rd majority - was also passed.

Article 10 - withdrawn.

Article 12b - carried unanimously

Article 12c - For 18 against 2

Article 13h - for 5 against 13

Article 14a - carried unanimously

- b) Proposal to amend standing orders of the Executive Committee (D Sudar). The proposal to add 1b to the objectives of the constitution, 'ensure all meetings are convened in accordance with the constitution, and provide advice on constitutional matters to those meetings' was accepted 14 for and 4 against.

The proposal to amend the membership of the committee to a fully elected committee was accepted unanimously.

The proposal to amend the procedure by the addition of 'records will be kept of how each member votes' was defeated.

At ANW instigation, D Sudar withdrew the proposal to withdraw all the instances of striking out "and" after the penultimate item of lists.

7. AOB:

- a) A competition will be held to design a logo for the NCA. Details are on the website. ANW is leading on this.
- b) Best game prize - anyone wishing to enter a game should forward details to S Burke.
- c) There was a brief report on "Food Detectives" on Fri 13th May, which had featured Steve Burke, Tim Walker and Alex Meade, and is still viewable on iPlayer.
- d) AGM date to be confirmed but provisionally looking at w/c 11th July. There was a request for reports from officers and committees and for those wishing either to step down or to volunteer to make themselves known to EC.
- e) Games Cafes - a number of these are opening in Nottingham. They provide an opportunity to promote/raise the profile of chess. Details of where they are will be added to the website.
- f) Donation - M Taylor has kindly agreed to donate money towards prizes at the Nottingham congress for the next 3 years. The association thanked him for his generous donation and A Walker agreed to contact him to finalise arrangements.

The meeting closed at 10.33pm