

## **Glasgow Chess league AGM Minutes** Held at Larkfield Centre, 24 May 2023 @ 7.30pm

Voting delegates in attendance: Alistair Maxwell (A/Secretary, Cathcart. AM for minute purposes), David Deary (Bellshill), Alexander Marshall (Glasgow Polytechnic), Graham Dobbie (East Kilbride), Mel Burt (Bearsden), Harvey Dellanzo (Queens Park), Peter Griffin (Phones), Alex McFarlane (Paisley), Thor Saemundsson (Hamilton), Jim Mearns (Glasgow Montrose)

Other Attendees: Hamish Glen (A/President & Treasurer, Bellshill. HG), Derek Rankine (Queens Park), Jim Johnston (East Kilbride).

The meeting commenced at 7.36pm

### **1 Apologies for Absence and President's Remarks**

Apologies were received from Phil Thomas, Chris Perkin and David Reid. HG said that the league had run OK from his point of view and considering we had lost John McCartan and Jim Johnston from the committee and with AM acting as Secretary as there were no other volunteers and himself as acting President and Treasurer they had just had to get on with it,

### **2 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**

Alex McFarlane had asked if there was any sign of the 2019 minutes and AM confirmed that there were not. As there were no other matters arising the adoption of the minutes for 2022 were proposed by Mel Burt and seconded by Alex Marshall.

### **3 Secretary's Report (near verbatim)**

As I started the season as chair and ended up acting Secretary I can honestly say it has been an interesting season. By and large the league ran well and the Management Committee had very little to deal with and there were only a couple of minor queries, all of them being dealt with by correspondence with the clubs.

As I was also doubling partly as League Controller (Willie Hulme passed all queries to myself) it was a busy season for me personally and I will deal with the issues that arose under the league controller's report.

I would like to thank the Management Committee for their efforts during the year, Hamish for all his help and guidance throughout the season, Willie Hulme for keeping the LMS system up to date and helping me to resolve some player queries and Jim Johnston for keeping the website as up to date as possible from the updates that he received from me and also keeping me right on a few details!

### **4 Treasurer's Report**

HG said he hoped this was his last treasurer's report. Club and team entries remained steady in season 2022/3 and this was very encouraging and welcome after the 2-year break due to COVID-19. The bond fee continued to be applied and it is worth noting that there were no outstanding bond fees pre-COVID. As before clubs allowed their bond fees to be carried forward to 2022-3 season. Neither the Glasgow Allegro or Glasgow Congress took place last season. Nor did the Rapidplay League or AK Miller Cup.

The balance of the accounts were £11,895.44. The surplus for the season was £361.02. It is worth noting that the cost of engraving, mementoes etc for season 2022-3 will be shown in the 2023-4 accounts. The accounts had been audited by David Reid. The accounts were proposed by Mel Bury and seconded by Alex McFarlane. Hamish noted the increased cost of the mementos and clubs would be asked to pay the higher cost (agreed by the meeting).

## **5 League Controller's Report (near verbatim)**

Div 1: Was very keenly contested with Paisley coming out on top despite losing heavily to Stepps who had managed to drop points earlier on but finished a strong second. It was even more keenly contested at the bottom only decided in the last few games and Bearsden finally finishing bottom. Renfrewshire called off against Polytechnic A and as the game could not be rescheduled the match was lost by default. No further penalty was incurred as I accepted the reasons were outbreaks of COVID and flu amongst the Renfrewshire squad.

Div 2: Also had interest until the end of the season with 3 teams vying for the 2 promotion spots and the title. Bellshill came out on top, with East Kilbride pipping Giffnock for second. At the lower end Cathcart were always in trouble but did put up a spirited fight to avoid the drop but came up short and were the team relegated (as again only one team requires to do so). Polytechnic had a result reversed due to a breach of rule 8.2 as a player who had played 3 times in Division 1 played in Division 2. They appealed but the original decision was upheld.

Div 3A: Strathclyde University won quite handily only losing one game to Polytechnic C. Lenzie Basilisks lost 2 matches by default and 2 points were deducted as a result.

Div 3B: Was looking closer until Glasgow University defaulted matches towards the end of the season, leaving Queens Park as runaway winners. Both Hamilton teams in this section also managed to default matches.

Phones were penalised on a couple of occasions for playing ineligible players (mixing up C & D teams) – this was also done once by Lenzie but did not affect the match result as it was a 4-0 defeat. Strathclyde University won the Div 3 play-off on board count. Thanks to Nick Skettos for overseeing the fixture.

Hamilton, Glasgow University and Lenzie lose their bond fees for defaulting matches.

It had been planned to allow team captains to input results on LMS but it was unlikely to happen next season as the standard of reporting results is generally quite bad and Willie Hulme thinks there may be a new online grading system which may be available to make things easier. The Chief Grader is more reluctant to give a timescale.

## **6 Motions**

- 1) Proposed amendment to Rules for League Competitions:

Proposed by Phones Chess Club:

7.2 Teams in the Second Division will consist of 6 players

Proposed amendment: Change 6 to 5 in 7.2

After a general debate the motion was defeated 5 to 3 with 2 abstentions.

## **7 Presentation of Prizes**

Div 1: Paisley A

Div 2: Bellshill

Div 3A: Strathclyde Univ     Div 3B: Queens Park

Strathclyde University won the play-off so take the shield and clock for winning the division.

## **8 Election of Office Bearers**

President: Hamish Glen     Prop: Alex McFarlane     Sec: Mel Burt

Secretary: Alistair Maxwell     Prop: Alex Marshall     Sec: Graham Dobbie

Treasurer: David Deary     Prop: Hamish Glen     Sec: Mel Burt

The secretary proposed Thor Saemundsson, Douglas Bryson, Mel Burt, Phil Thomas, Alex Marshall and Ian Brownlee en bloc which was accepted unanimously by the meeting. Anyone else wanting to get involved could do so by contacting the secretary. Chris Perkin was thanked for his period on the committee as he was unable to continue next season for personal reasons.

## **8 Appointment of Auditor**

HG confirmed that David Reid was willing to continue as auditor and the audit report for this year was circulated.

## **9 AOCB**

Thor Saemundsson asked how many were promoted from Div 3 and it was confirmed that both section winners of Div 3 would be promoted.

Mel Burt outlined the pros and cons of increments. Pros: no need for QPF rules, games decided by players not necessarily the clock, prevent unfair wins. Cons: require digital clocks, open ended finishing time. There was a short debate and it would be considered by ManCom and perhaps may be put up as a motion for the next AGM.

Fixtures meeting: Agreed it would be September 6<sup>th</sup> and Jim Johnston had agreed to run the fixtures again.

Suggested that we try and reintroduce the other competitions if interest shown by clubs.

We were trying to find suitable date and premises for Glasgow Congress but cost of venue was a problem. If it did get run then would look at naming one of the tournaments after the late Ken Stewart as suggested at previous AGM.

The meeting ended at 8.26pm