

SCCA Executive Committee Minutes
Sunday 3rd June 2007 at 2pm in BB Headquarters, Dalgleish Court Stirling

Present

Iain Mackintosh (Chair), George Pyrich, Jim Anderson, George Livie, Raymond Baxter, Alan Borwell and Alan Brown.

Apologies

Stuart Mackenzie

Minute of the Meeting of 4th February 2007

Accepted.

Matters Arising

It was noted that there were now only 6 copies of the Gold Book remaining for prizes.

It was noted that support was now being offered to new TDs as required/requested.

The membership database had been issued to committee members for use in connection with their various duties. It was agreed rather than issue updates four times per year that the database be issued twice per annum in October and May. **(Action: Jim Anderson)**

The link on the CS website to the SCCA site has been updated and a link to the ICCF server implemented. Free access to a recent issue of the Association's magazine for promotional purposes has been established.

Results from the Minor B and Quartets tournaments have now been submitted for grading. The issue of trophies and medals was underway-it was agreed that this should be completed by the end of June. **(Action: Jim Anderson)**

It was noted that the manual setting of the colour draw in domestic webserver events was not included in the list of phase 4 alterations and improvements on the ICCF Webserver and would have to be considered when phase 5 is introduced. **(Action: Alan Borwell)**

A team has now been entered in the Haro Otte Memorial Team Tournament. The Friendlies list has now been passed to George Pyrich. The list of members who made entry to ICCF events in 2005/06 is still required by Iain. **(Action: George Pyrich)**

Membership Report

It was reported that one Associate member had been enrolled in May.

Domestic Events 2007

Jim reported on a small number of changes of mode of play due to individual circumstances.

Webserver Tournament

George indicated the possibility of a player qualifying in more than one section for the final stages of this tournament. It was agreed that if this were to happen then it would be necessary to consider the players who came fourth in each of these sections with a view to selecting an additional player for the final. **(Action: George Pyrich)**

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Meantime it was reported that this tournament which commenced with 3x11 player sections is now, due to withdrawals, proceeding with 3 sections- two of which have 9 players and one 10 players.

International Report

1. New and Forthcoming Events

Pairings were distributed in the new team event organised by ICCF European Zone-the "Harro Otte Memorial Team Tournament". Our team is Stuart Graham, Hugh Calder, Jim Anderson, Alan Armstrong Andrew Macmillen and Alex Scott. This event which is being played on the ICCF server starts on 17th June.

The 3rd season of the ICCF Champions League is scheduled to start on 1st September. Again this event is for teams of 4 players which may be entered through either national federations or via the ICCF Direct Entry Scheme (closing date 1st August) with play by server or email.

2. Current Events

Play is continuing in Olympiads 16 and 17 as well as the 7th European Team Championship. Current friendly matches still in progress and new matches on the ICCF server started recently against Slovenia and Poland. A friendly postal match over 15 boards against Spain should begin at the end of June and a corresponding server match is planned for later in the year.

3. Individual Events

We did not take up either of our annual allocation of 2 nominations for ICCF World Championship during 2006 and, as yet, have not taken up any of our 2007 places. It has not been possible to find a suitable nominee for the BFCC 45th Anniversary event.

4. ICCF Congress

2007 ICCF Congress is scheduled to be held in Benalmadena (near Malaga), Spain from 20th to 27th October.

Alan Borwell confirmed his intention to enter the "Lewis Chessmen" team in the Champions League and sought confirmation that the players concerned were agreeable.

Meantime Iain will arrange for the website to be updated to publicise the event and indicate that those interested in playing contact Jim in order that team(s) may be entered by the due date – 1st August, with play to commence on 1st September. **(Action Iain Mackintosh/Jim Anderson)**

Financial Report

Given the Treasurer's apologies for his absence the members considered the draft accounts which had been submitted but which were as yet unaudited.

In summary these accounts showed a surplus (£817.03) compared to a deficit (£394.08) in the previous year. The reasons for this were:-

- ❑ ICCF expenses were £500 less than the previous year.
- ❑ 100 Club income was inflated by a significant of 3 years arrears from one supporter comprising £330 which related to previous years. The Treasurer's note indicated that correct accounting practice would be to restate the figures for previous years to reflect this he had chosen simply to show this as additional income in the current year. In short the deficit for 05/06 is overstated as is the surplus for 06/07.
- ❑ While some expenses for 06/07 were less than for 05/06 an underlying concern remains a fall in membership income. However income from competition entries rose as did donations.

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- Balances on both bank accounts rose during the financial year and as there are unlikely to be any future drains on the Association's finances there appears little need to change subscriptions.

In view of the continuing unsuccessful search for a new auditor it was remitted to the President to sound out one or two members with the appropriate skills in order to secure an appointment even for the short term. **(Action: Iain Mackintosh)**

It was agreed that no further discussion be held upon the draft accounts until these can be audited. Thereafter the audited accounts will be displayed on the website and published in the magazine. **(Action: Iain Mackintosh)**

Grading Report

Raymond submitted a report concerning SCCA Master Titles and Norms, which described the qualification rules, and asked the members to ratify the award of first norms for the Scottish Master title to T. Matheis and I Swan. These were unanimously agreed.

Raymond went on to confirm his intention to step down as Grading Officer at the end of the 2008 season.

In view of the Association's intention to move all domestic events to the webserver next season it is clear that SCCA grades will not be relevant thereafter for the 20 or so members who solely have an SCCA grade.

ICCF grades will automatically be generated for players as provisional grades (when they have twelve webserver results) and subsequently as full grades (once they have 30 results.)

After discussion it was therefore agreed to phase out SCCA grades from January 2008. It was also agreed that this change be intimated as an addendum to the next grading list issued by the Grading Officer. **(Action: Raymond Baxter)**

Webserver Report

Alan Borwell reported upon the recent Webserver changes which had been put into effect before being signed off. He confirmed that further improvements will come to the playing screen as part of the phase 4 development over the next few months. Members indicated problems in the use of the tournament table index which was less user friendly than the previous arrangements.

Iain Mackintosh indicated that at present there were no further developments to report with regard to our own website.

Alan Borwell tabled a paper entitled the "ICCF Schools Prototype Webserver Competition" This competition will be organised for under-12s and under-17s with two sections at each stage-making 4 prototype tournaments in the northern hemisphere for school teams, not individual players.

He indicated that each section will have 7 school teams with certificates for all participating schools and trophies for the winners of each section.

The competition is scheduled to start on 1st October 2007 and be completed by 30th June 2009. The closing date for entry is 30th June 2007. All moves to be transmitted using the ICCF Webserver system.

Further arrangements for play were described and it was noted that Section B in the under 12 group had a place reserved for a Scottish Primary School. Alan confirmed that Craigclowan Primary, Perth had been invited to play.

After discussion it was agreed that in order to secure the participation of a Scottish team in the under 17 group Chess Scotland should be contacted to recommend a suitable entry.

(Action: Iain Mackintosh)

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SCCA 30th Anniversary – Commemorative Events

After discussion of a number of options three events were agreed as possible activities to celebrate the Association's 30th Anniversary; the 100th issue of our magazine and 10 years of our website. These were:-

1. A norm tournament for 2000+ players.
2. A Friendly Challenge Tournament against the Rest of the World (100 boards)

The President indicated that in the light of the ICCF assistance required for both he would discuss coordination of these events with George Pyrich. (**Action: Iain Mackintosh**)

3. A social event at a central venue to include a buffet meal and a chess-related presentation. It was considered that this event may best be held in early November.

George Livie undertook to carry out preliminary planning for this event and report back. Thereafter possible options will be circulated to members. (**Action: George Livie**)

The President thanked those members of the Association who had contributed suggestions.

League programme-Timescale

Alan Brown spoke to a paper about the short playing period (circa 91/2 months) for League games. This he contended resulted in many games not reaching a point at which clear advantage to either side can be determined with the result that draws are more likely. As these games are graded he asked that the playing season be extended either by ensuring an earlier start to the League programme as in other domestic events or by implementing a rolling start date each season.

After discussion it was agreed that the Secretary approach Kevin Paine, a member, with a view to seeking his assistance with the early preparation/administration of the League programme once all entries have been received in November. In this way it is hoped that an earlier start (in January) can be made to league games. It was also agreed to emphasise the Association rule that all games which are played by post (within one season) must use 1st class mail. (**Action: Jim Anderson**)

ICCF Congress –Spain-October 2007

It was agreed that up to a total of £800 be made available to support the attendance of the SCCA delegate George Pyrich at the Congress and make a contribution towards the attendance of Alan Borwell.

Update on CS Grant Award

The President described discussions with Chess Scotland concerning the arrangements by which the Scottish Office grant for Scottish chess is shared. It was agreed that the President continue these negotiations to establish a fair, transparent and acceptable methodology. (**Action: Iain Mackintosh**)

Request for Membership –Hans-Jurgen Isigkeit

Herr Isigkeit, a member of the German Federation and the new ICCF Finance Director had enquired about SCCA membership.

After discussion it was agreed that there was no reason why he could not join and play in friendlies but with no Scottish family connection it would not be possible for him to represent Scotland in competition. (**Action: George Pyrich**)

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AOCB

There was no other business.

Next Meeting

It was agreed to set Sunday 23rd September at 2pm as the date of the next meeting if one is required at that time. No venue was agreed.