

SCCA Executive Committee Minutes

Sunday 5th February, 2pm, 2006 at 8, Wheatfield Avenue, Inchture.

Present

Iain Mackintosh (Chair), Jim Anderson, Raymond Baxter, Stuart Mackenzie, Alan Borwell and Alan Brown

Apologies

George Pyrich and George Livie

Minutes of last Meeting

Accepted

Matters Arising

It was agreed that the games from the 21st Anniversary tournament be published on the website
(Action: Iain Mackintosh)

The remaining copies of the ICCF Gold Book will continue to be given as prizes to winners in the Candidates, Premier, Major and Minor tournaments until the current limited stock is used up.

(Action: Jim Anderson to organise with George Pyrich)

Further immediate database developments will focus on the need for information by the Association's office bearers in connection with their duties.

Brochures (400) describing the activities of the Association issued to the SCA for inclusion with their magazine mailing in September 2005 do not seem to have been issued. It was agreed that the Membership Officer should follow this up **(Action: Alan Brown)**

It was also agreed that in light of the closure of the Chess and Bridge Suppliers (Scotland) premises in Glasgow any future possible effect on their Championship sponsorship should be discussed. **(Action: Iain Mackintosh)**.

Membership matters

Alan Brown presented a short report indicating that:-

- 1) 2006 membership and competition fees of £849.00 had been collected so far.
- 2) Currently there are 111 annual members listed although only 53 (including 10 new members) were "paid up" for 2006 and 5 had moved with no indication of a forwarding address.
- 3) Currently there are 86 life members listed but 24 have missing information with regard to current address.

It was agreed that details of those without address information be circulated to Executive members in order that each may check records in an attempt to re-establish contact with these members **(Action: Alan Brown)**

Attention was also drawn to the limited number members who are active in domestic competitions. It was agreed to consider this further under AOCB.

2006 Tournaments – status

Jim Anderson confirmed entries for domestic events:-

Championship	-	6
Candidates	-	6
Premiers	-	9
Majors	-	6
Minors	-	5+5
Quartets	-	5
Challengers	-	6
Openings	-	3

Jim also confirmed that games in both divisions of the League were about to get under way.

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100 Club Update

Following consideration of a report from George Livie concerned with registration and the advent of the new 2005 Gaming Act it was agreed that the practice of completing an annual lottery application be continued this year. (Action: **Stuart Mackenzie**)

It was hoped that in future under the new legislation procedures may be simplified. (Action: **Iain Mackintosh to clarify with Perth and Kinross Council**)

It was agreed that consideration be given at the next AGM to introducing the category of "associate member" for those not in membership of the Association but who are supporters, either in a financial sense or by direct involvement, and wish to participate in the "100 Club" (Action : **raise at AGM – Alan Brown to propose wording in AGM calling paper**).

Grading Report

The grading report was expected in approximately two weeks when Raymond has received all of the required results (Action: **Raymond Baxter**).

International Report

The International secretary's report was read and included:-

1) New and forthcoming events

7th European Team Championships Preliminaries started on the Webserver on 20th December.
Olympiad 16(postal) and Olympiad 17 (server) were both ongoing

2) Current Events

Play almost concluded in the Anniversary SCCA V ICCF match with only 3 games remaining and only one game to finish in the 2nd North Sea TT.
Friendly matches against Catalonia (we lost 111/2-261/2) and Norway (we lost 11-31) have just finished. Others against Canada, Romania, BCCS (ENG), Netherlands and Australia are ongoing. A new match against Sweden is planned for 1st March and volunteers to play by the server are required.

3) Individual Events

The launch of the ICCF Direct Entry Scheme is awaited (SCCA has been enrolled to the "Enhanced" Direct Entry Scheme)
We did not take up either of our two places in the World Championship Semi-finals during 2005
Following the ICCF Congress we now have a new stage before the Semi finals (Preliminaries) but our allocation of two places remains.
Iain Mackintosh will start play in May in the BCCA 100th anniversary Tournament GM section.

4) ICCF

The statement of Account for 2005 was received from the Treasurer of the ICCF European Zone. Fees of some £95 are due (the main item being £60.00 for the 7th European Team Championship). We await our "bill"
Med Samraoui officially became ICCF President from 1st January.
The 2006 ICCF Congress will take place in Dresden from 13th to 20th October.

ICCF Congress 2005 -Report

The Chairman indicated that this report was now published in full in SCCA Magazine No. 92.

Webserver Developments

Alan Borwell described Phase 2 priorities as:-

-Moving onto the webserver all types of correspondence chess tournaments

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-The processing of ratings

Although good progress had been made the rating engine was yet to be completed. And this was now recognised as a priority. In short the aim is to have a fully integrated system for describing and recording tournaments.)

-Linking direct entry/payment into the webserver possibly using Paypal or some other universally acceptable payment system.

-Enhancing and improving screen displays

-Updating help desk screens and extending the range of languages used

-Development of new inter-phases to provide appropriate checks on title norms and their timing. He also indicated that with current low liquidity and a lack of A/cs for the last two years a robust financial plan was required urgently upon which future webserver development could be confidently based.

A wide discussion upon the new ICCF Enhanced and Restricted Entry Schemes followed and it was agreed that the statement published in Magazine 92 in this regard be reviewed in light of any new information about the scheme with an update placed on the website. (**Action: Iain Mackintosh**).

AOCB

The treasurer, Stuart Mackenzie, gave a short update on the current finances:-

-surplus to date for the year is £429.15, though no adjustment for debtors and creditors has been made at present.

- this is a slightly lower surplus than last year and it is expected that this will be the same at the year end on 31/3.

-that this is the case is due to the presence of higher ICCF delegate travel costs and the one off tsunami donation this year although there was also additional funding through the generous donation from George Livie.

-currently at 30/12 there is £2606.72 in the Bank of Scotland and-£5000 in the Standard Life account plus interest of £212.91

-the treasurer confirmed his confidence in being able to complete the annual accounts and audit processes more timeously this year than previously due to improved reporting procedures associated with the recording of membership income.(this has now been placed on a monthly basis by the new membership officer).

Iain Mackintosh raised a letter he had received from Richard Beecham concerning the current range of SCCA tournaments and suggesting improvements for future consideration.

Following discussion it was agreed that Iain Mackintosh circulate a starter paper and Richard's letter to Committee members to promote an email discussion on the way ahead. Comment would be invited by the end of March with the intention of coming to a consensus by the end of April on the changes/improvements to be considered.. (**Action initially Iain Mackintosh and subsequently through comment by the members of the Executive Committee**).

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Sunday 4th June at BB Headquarters, Dalgleish Court, Stirling at 2pm.

This meeting would be followed by the SCCA AGM at 4pm at the same venue.

It was left with the membership officer to seek to make the usual arrangements with George Clarke of the Stirling Chess Club in this regard. (**Action Alan Brown**).