

SCCA Executive Committee Minutes
Sunday 16th June 2013, 2pm, by Skype

Present

Iain Mackintosh (Chair), Gordon Anderson, Jim Anderson, Alan Borwell, Kevin Paine, George Pyrich (all Skype).

Apologies

None.

Minutes of the Meeting on 17th February 2013

Accepted.

Matters Arising

- No new committee members as yet, item carried forward. (**Action: Iain Mackintosh**)
- League fees for 2013 have been collected from TCs.
- Expense claims were eventually submitted but earlier action is needed in 2014. (**Action: All**)
- BoS bank mandate update completed; Barclays pending. (**Action: Gordon Anderson**)
- VWC4 semi-final TDs were appointed; IA qualification status was circulated.
- A number of CC articles have been published in Scottish Chess.

Membership Secretary's Report

Kevin reported no change to annual subscribers though one application is pending. Life and patron membership remains steady.

Online membership forms will be implemented for 2014 renewals, and the Autumn magazine will contain a feature with links in the pdf version. (**Action: Kevin Paine, Iain Mackintosh**)

Domestic Events Report

Jim reported that all 2013 events were progressing satisfactorily. 2012 trophies would be posted out this week. (**Action: Jim Anderson**)

Treasurer's Report

Gordon reported that our final surplus was £323 and our net assets stand at £10,340. Absence of the CS grant plus a £500 donation to CS was offset by patron membership income, increased donations and the absence of ICCF Congress delegate expenses.

CS has lost its grant from the Scottish Government and Alan offered to report back from their upcoming Council meeting as to what action CS proposes. (**Action: Alan Borwell**)

International Secretary's Report

George reported that the progress article in the recent Spring magazine was still current. New friendly matches against Germany and Spain have started. The 10th Euro team semi-finals have been rescheduled to start on 1st November.

ICCF World Cup 20 will start around end-2013 – an official announcement is pending.

Tom Craig and Philip Julian have semi-final places in the 37th World Championship, while George is playing in the Preliminary round.

The 2013 ICCF Congress will take place in Krakow, Poland from 20th to 27th July. George is planning to attend. ICCF is expected to adopt a proposal to cut entry fees with effect from

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January 2014. Alan suggested that ICCF might provide some expenses for national delegates, particularly since the next venue is Australia. George will put forward the idea to the EB. (**Action: George Pyrich**)

Grader's Report

George reported that David Cumming had achieved 2300+ grading norms in the 2012/2, 2012/3, 2012/4 and 2013/1 lists, with sufficient games played in each case to qualify for the SM title. This was duly endorsed by the committee.

Peter Bennett (5) and Robert Montgomery (6) had also achieved 2300+ ratings across the 2011-13 listings, but without sufficient games in all cases, so they both stand with 2 full norms at present.

ICCF Veterans' World Cup (VWC)

Alan reported the following status:

- **VWC2:** final started 1 Feb 13. Leader Dr. Gordon Evans (ENG) has sadly died, and his unfinished games are being adjudicated. No fixed end-date, but trophies expected in 2014.
- **VWC3:** semi-finals are in progress and will end 14 Nov 13. Geoff Lloyd and Alan Borwell are unlikely to make the final, which is due to start in February 2014.
- **VWC4:** preliminary sections ended on 1st March. 7 semi-final groups of 15 players are now in session, ending in November 2014. Peter Bennett is the only SCCA member involved.
- **VWC5:** organized by the BdF, this has a massive 36 preliminary groups, scheduled to end in March 2014. Peter Bennett, Geoff Lloyd, George Pyrich and Alan Borwell are competing.

Trophies would take the form of quaichs and would be awarded to the first 3 places in each cycle. A budget of £250 per cycle has been set. (**Action: Alan Borwell**)

AGM Preview

No additional issues or items were required for the AGM agenda.

Chess Scotland Articles

Iain reported that our articles continue to be published and asked for ideas to help maintain the profile. Ideas included:

- Playing for Scotland – a distinctive feature of SCCA membership over commercial sites.
- How good is computer analysis in certain positions?
- SCCA news & notices.
- Upcoming events, e.g. Webserver Open.
- Annual best game prize.

(Action: Iain Mackintosh, Alan Borwell)

3rd Webserver Open

The best start date was confirmed as late Oct/early Nov 2013. Three parallel webserver events were agreed:

1. Invitational. Top Scottish OTB and CC players. Rating 2200+; 13 or 15 player format; possible title norms; prize fund up to £750.

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2. Open A. Scottish OTB & CC players. Rating 1900-2200; section(s) dependent on entries; prize fund up to £250.
3. Open B. Scottish OTB & CC players. Rating <1900; no computer assistance; section(s) dependent on entries; prize fund up to £250.

The marketing period would run from late August to mid-October, and we plan to use the SCCA and CS websites, the SCCA magazine and Scottish Chess, plus direct email. We'll need to get CS consent to use their website and mailing list. We'll make initial contact with CS at their upcoming Council meeting. (**Action: Iain Mackintosh, Alan Borwell**)

Annual Best Game Prize

Raymond Burridge had floated this idea, following his entitlement to a commemorative award after taking out Patron membership. The committee was keen to proceed and suggested:

- Entries would be games which finished in a given calendar year
- Entries would be restricted to events organised by SCCA or ICCF
- Only SCCA members could submit their games (wins or draws)
- The submission period would be the month of January each year
- A winner would be announced by end-March each year
- The committee would appoint a judge each year (who couldn't submit a game!)
- A trophy miniature and certificate would be awarded each year, budget £30.

We'll confirm details with Raymond, and hopefully initiate the prize in January 2014. (**Action: Iain Mackintosh**)

British CC Championships

The committee had been circulated with correspondence initiated by Austin Lockwood, which proposed updates and clarifications to the conduct of British CC Championships (i.e. open to English, Welsh and Scottish players). The existing York Agreement dates from 1978 and needs to reflect current status of the national organisations as well the process employed. A meeting in York, hosted by Richard Hall of England, is the likely way forward and Alan and Gordon will be our delegates. (**Action: Alan Borwell, Gordon Anderson**)

ICCF Congress Motions and Voting

A large volume of papers for this year's Congress are now in circulation, but time didn't permit any detailed discussion at this meeting. The plan is for each committee member to advise George of any issues affecting SCCA by Sunday, 23rd June. George will produce a synopsis of these and advise our voting intentions by email. Anything contentious can be settled by email or Skype prior to the Congress. (**Action: Ali, George Pyrich**)

Next Meeting

No further formal committee meeting planned in 2013 – we'll use email and/or Skype if issues arise in any of the actions and projects listed above.

We'll reconvene in late January/early February 2014 as usual to herald the new season. Date and time tba, via Skype.