

SCCA Executive Committee Minutes

Sunday 18th May 2008, 2:00pm at BB Headquarters, Dalgleish Court, Stirling

Present

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

Apologies

Raymond Baxter, George Livie.

Minutes of the Meeting 3rd February 2008

Accepted.

Matters Arising

The updated membership database has been distributed to the committee. A version in Excel format will follow shortly. **(Action: Jim Anderson)**

Our request that the ICCF webserver allows a manual override as well as random colour selection remains with ICCF for prioritisation. The ICCF Cologne meeting did not take place. Alan Borwell has demitted office, but George Pyrich is now on the webserver committee and will put forward any further suggestions we raise.

Alan Borwell reported that the ICCF Schools Prototype Webserver competition continues, though the Scotland entry is down to 1 team.

Late membership payments and entry fees have now been collected. Associate members have been added to the database and will receive membership application forms at this year's renewal.

Introductory games for new members have been organised, and the Challengers entry list has been finalised for Bernard Milligan.

The 2008 printed magazine subscribers list is complete and spare copies for promotional purposes have been sent to Kevin Paine.

Trophies for the 2007 season have been engraved and posted to the recipients.

Raymond Baxter has contacted the members who only have SCCA grades to advise them on the grading process in future. Most tournaments are now administered on the ICCF Webserver so that grading data is automatically processed by ICCF.

The Douglas Livie Memorial is now completed and prize winners paid.

The 30th Anniversary SCCA vs Rest of the World friendly international match has now started.

The facelift for the SCCA website has now been completed.

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Secretary's Report

2008 Events

Events are going well although we are down slightly on the numbers of players participating. We have 7 playing in the Championship, 2 sections of 7 and 6 in the Premiers and 2 sections of 6 in the Open. All tournaments started on time except the League which was still a couple of weeks late.

2009 League Format

We need to administer the Leagues on the ICCF webserver next year to offer webserver play and to automate grading. The current League format cannot be handled by the webserver, so the proposal is to change to a standard team format where each board plays one game against the corresponding board of each of the other teams. A 5 or 7-team division would give each player 4 or 6 games with an equal split of black and white. Team captains are to be polled before we finalise the renewal documents for 2009. (**Action: Jim Anderson**)

2009 Challengers Format

This rolling pairings and banding structure of this event cannot be handled by the ICCF webserver. Results can be entered retrospectively on to the webserver using friendly international format, which will allow grading data to be submitted. Pairings during the year can be made to allow postal, email or webserver play, but administration will need to be manual. A discussion will be held with Bernard Milligan before we finalise the renewal documents for 2009. (**Action: Jim Anderson**)

Membership Report

Annual Membership

One new member has joined since February, but no further renewing members. Emails to ICCF direct entry members have not resulted in any new SCCA members.

Life and Patron Membership

One life member has resumed contact and been reinstated on the database.

Associate Membership

All associate members are now on the database and will be mailed in September as part of the renewals process.

Introductory Games

A number of introductory games have been arranged by post or by webserver for new members.

Challengers

The February report contained a mistake and there are 13 members taking part in the Challengers.

International Report

Current Events

Play is continuing in the "Harro Otte Memorial Team Tournament", ICCF Champions League, 7th European Team Championship as well as Olympiads 16 and 17. The friendly international match against Sweden was recently concluded but other matches are still in progress.

New and Forthcoming Events

The 6th North Atlantic Team Tournament was scheduled to start on 15th May 2008 but the French organiser has recently announced a delay as it seems that a few countries are experiencing difficulties raising teams. ICCF Olympiad 18 is scheduled to start later in the year, likely

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September or October, and the 8th European Team Championships at the end of the year, likely December. Our 30th Anniversary Celebration match, Scottish CCA v. Rest of the World, commenced recently over 50 boards (38 server plus 12 postal).

Individual Events

Thus far in 2008 we have submitted 14 new entries including 2 to the 1st ICCF Veterans World Cup which started in April, 1 to the 1st ICCF Junior World Cup and 3 to the 3rd ICCF Webserver Open tournament. With regard to Invitational events, David Kilgour is playing in the AEAC 5 gm event, Tom Matheis in the BFCC 45th Anniversary event and Iain Mackintosh in the Len Goide Memorial tournament also organised by the BFCC.

ICCF Congress

The 2008 ICCF Congress is scheduled to be held in Pleven, Bulgaria from 20th to 26th September. We still do not know if somebody will attend the congress on behalf of SCCA. A final decision will be made at the next meeting in August.

Individual Entry Fees

George reported that some players in the Champions League still had to pay their entry fee - this is to be followed up. **(Action: George Pyrich and Gordon Anderson)**

Financial Report

Gordon reported that Alan Hind had audited the accounts, and that the surplus of income over expenditure in the 12 months ended 31st March 2008 was £575.75. Donations were up £230 against £185 last year and there was also an increase in the grant from Chess Scotland to £560 from £540 in 2007. Competition entry fees were down from £103 against £149 while international match fees were up £38 to £82. Individual income from ICCF competitions was also down from £130 in 2007 to £94 in the current year.

It was noted that total expenditure in 2008 was almost identical to total expenditure in 2007 albeit there are variations in the component parts. ICCF Affiliation fee was lower at £101.72, (£157.78), however this appears to be due more to favourable exchange rate movements than a reduction in amounts payable. Prizes have now been paid out on the Douglas Livie Memorial tournament and amounts due to ICCF have been brought up to-date at the year end. The cost of the printed magazine and the costs of distribution have reduced in the year to £242.80 (2007 - £275.80). £72 was repaid on the 100 club fund due to units not being included in a number of draws.

The financial position is very satisfactory and it is not proposed to increase subscriptions for 2008-09. Alan Hind has agreed to continue as Auditor.

Grading Report

George Pyrich presented a title proposal on behalf of Raymond Baxter. Tom Matheis had an ICCF grade of 2375 based on 74 results in October 2007. The 74 results include 14 new results since his first norm, an ICCF grade of 2354 in April 2007, based on 60 results. This is his second SCCA norm. He also obtained an IM norm for 6.5/10 on board 5 in the 7th European Team Championship. This is his third SCCA norm and he has thus qualified for the SCCA Master title.

The committee unanimously approved the award of the SM title to Tom Matheis.

Website Report

The makeover was completed just after the 10th anniversary of the website in March. The new site uses current international web standards and has been tested on Internet Explorer 7, Mozilla Firefox 2 and Safari 3 browsers. People using earlier or non-standard browsers may have

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difficulty accessing the site. The search engine is Google, which is still showing some pages from the old site as well as the new ones – the older references will gradually disappear.

AOCB

100 Club

George Livie reported that 81 units are currently taken.

CC Postcards

Iain has stocks of these, available to members at cost price.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on the 24th August, 2:00pm at 7 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth, with Skype facilities to link with Nottingham and Frome.