

SCCA Executive Committee Minutes
Sunday 28th August, 2pm, 2005 at 7, Tullylumb Terrace, Perth

Present

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

Apologies

Stuart Mackenzie

Minutes of Last Meeting

Accepted

Matters Arising

The article on the bulletin 21st Anniversary tournament has to be finalised (**action:Alan Borwell, Iain**)

Alan Brown and Jim met twice in June and July to consider improvements to the database and to specify the necessary changes. While this work is ongoing an updated version is now in place to receive the 2006 data from the enrolment of members which will be carried out in October/November. Further improvements will be considered thereafter. (**action Alan Brown and Jim**).

George Pyrich confirmed that there have been no further sales of the ICCF Gold book and that he will be checking 2004 results with the secretary in order to issue the remaining copies as prizes (**action George Pyrich**).

Database developments

Jim took members through the changes being made to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the database. An updated version is now in place and will be used to enrol the members for the 2006 season later this year.

At the same time ongoing consideration is being given to ensure that the database is more fully representative of the membership and the entries to various tournaments, magazine requests, 100 club entries etc. and that this information is more readily accessible than previously. Further reviews of its effectiveness will be carried out with office bearers throughout this season with regular reports to the Committee. Some discussion was held about how information could be made readily available to those executive members who have duties which require it. This access will be discussed further over next season with a view to adapting the database to cope.

Membership matters

Alan Brown described some of the activities with which he has been concerned since 1st August when he took up the post of Membership officer.

Four new members have been enrolled and a further two enquiries are ongoing.

Four hundred copies of the Association's advertising brochure have been provided to the SCA for issue in their next magazine due out in October.

A further supply of brochures has been provided to the Chess and Bridge Suppliers (Scotland) for those interested.

Alan also confirmed that would issue the new application form and related papers (including information about the “100 Club” from George Livie) to all members at the beginning of October with a return date of no later than 1st November. In this way it is intended that all tournaments begin in early January 2006.

He also drew attention to the limited number of members who played in SCCA events. Although there are some two hundred members in total a significant number are inactive or only play a little chess through the Association. It was agreed that in light of the changes to the structure of events proposed below (under Challengers tournament item) and with the advent of the ICCF Webserver this situation should be kept under review and discussed again once the 2006 entries have been analysed. (**action Alan Brown to report**).

100 Club

George Livie confirmed that from next month there would be 89 units in the draw. He spoke of the need for better communication amongst those involved in its administration and the need to renew the gaming licence timeously. This he would undertake.

He drew attention to a number of points including the need for a more streamlined system of recording the period over which any one unit was in the draw and the need to move to position in which all units are renewed at the same time for a standard period. Within this framework he emphasised the advantages of encouraging members to pay for their units by direct debit.

Following a full discussion it was agreed that George should set out his suggestions on the way forward and send this (and a related standing order mandate) to members when the Membership officer sends his forms at the beginning of October. It was also agreed that a report should be prepared quarterly on the financial position of the “100Club” to monitor its activity. (**action George Livie and Stuart Mackenzie**).

Challengers Tournament

Consideration was given to a note received from David Cumming in which the nature and the future of the Challengers tournament were addressed now that there were only six current participants.

It was agreed that efforts should be made to sustain and develop this tournament which has provided a flexible and useful entry to correspondence chess at an appropriate level for many players. With this in mind it was agreed that entry to the Challengers and the re-established Openings and Endings tournaments should be free to members. In this way it is hoped that more members will be encouraged to play more games and in particular that the Challengers tournament will regain its viability and not be lost. It was also agreed that prizes in these tournaments would take the form of a free entry to a major or minor or quartet section in the succeeding season.

International Report

George Pyrich issued a situation report concerning a number of matters:-

1. ICCF Gold Book – no further sales – 12 copies remain and will be given as prizes in domestic events. (**action George Pyrich**)

2. New and forthcoming events

– 7th European Team Championships Preliminaries now scheduled to start on 20th November. (Probably on server)

-Olympiad 16 (postal) has now started

-New Olympiad 17(email or server) is due to start towards end of year or early next year.

3. Current events

-SCCA v. ICCF match almost complete (3games still in progress)

-All games in 15th Olympiad Preliminaries finished – we did not qualify for final.

-2nd NSTT – 3games remain unfinished

- Friendlies against Catalonia, Norway, Canada, Romania, BCCS (ENG) –where 3boards abandoned as their team captain failed to notify players of the event-and Netherlands.

A new match with Australia started recently – by Webserver. A similar event against Denmark is planned for end September.

4. Individual events

-ICCF direct entry scheme still not available – new administrator required.

-George Pyrich nominated to 66th (server) European Championships Semifinal

-We have an allocation for 2005 of 2 places in World Championship semifinals.

-BFCC have recently extended invitation to submit nominations for BCCA-100GM and IM events scheduled to start in May 2006.

5. ICCF Congress 2005

To be hosted by the Argentinean Federation,LADAC in Neuquen,Argentina from 31st October to 5th November 2005.

Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that George Pyrich attend as our delegate to the conference and that his expenses expected to be in the order of £1300 be approved.

Additionally in the light of a number of the matters to be discussed (eg appointment of new President; development of and priorities for the webserver etc.) that Alan Borwell be given partial support (£500) to attend. The Committee also confirmed the Association's support for Med Samraoui as the next ICCF President.

It was noted that the ICCF Statement of Account for the half year to 30th June 2005 has still not been received.

6. Webserver

Alan Borwell (Chairman of the Webserver development committee) described current developments with individual entries to events, friendlies and Olympiads being server based. Alan also indicated that the next phase of development will see ICCF ratings being integrated into the server with all tournaments using the webserver system. It is expected that within a 3 year period SCCA may use this integrated system to grade results.

Annual Accounts – 2004/05

The accounts which have not yet been audited were submitted.

It was agreed that the audit process be completed by end September in order to allow the audited accounts to be printed in the autumn magazine. The Treasurer was asked to work to this timetable and to distribute the agreed figures by email to all committee members (**action Stuart Mackenzie**).

Next Meeting

This will be held on Sunday 4th February 2006 at 14.00 at 8 Wheatfield Ave, Inchtute, Perthshire.