

Minutes of Dundee Chess Club Annual General Meeting, Monday 3rd June 2024

Present: J Anderson, R Flood, C Sim, B Wallace, J Chalmers, A Borwell, J Ophoff, K Emery, J Crofts, E Spencer, N Carroll, D Findlay, A Dawson, A Soutar, B Soutar, J Bovin, G Boyd, L Bisset, K McHugh.

1. Apologies for Absence

A Collins and A Woodcock.

2. Approval of Minutes

Proposed by J Anderson, Seconded by B Wallace.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. President's Report

David Findlay reported that season 2023-24 had been highly successful and featured the excellent play of Ed Spencer. Ed completed a string of victories the most notable of which was the Scottish Championship. Ed's success was particularly notable in that no Dundee player has won this famous trophy since the 1980s. Ed was also the winner of the TAFCA Individual Championship, the Jim Chalmers Grand Prix and shared 1st place in the TAFCA Online Championship.

Dundee Chess Club also was very successful in the Richardson Cup where we reached the Final against Edinburgh but unfortunately lost 2.5-5.5. David highlighted the successes in this tournament of Jacques Ophoff and Joshua Crofts who both scored 2.5/3 in the three rounds of this prestigious competition. Joshua Crofts was also the winner of the TAFCA Individual Battle.

Over the season the Club has continued to flourish with membership having increased significantly. Indeed, so popular has the Club become that the issue of sufficient space to play the various matches has become a recurring topic for consideration. St Peter's Church has been very accommodating in this respect in allowing the Club to use the upstairs room as well as the main hall.

The Club has continued to have a good relationship with Castlehill Chess Club. The clearest indication of this has been the participation of three Dundee City teams in the Scottish National Chess League while the Dundee City online team has also been very successful with its A-team winning the 4NCL title. In terms of the SNCL, the A-team finished this year in 3rd place while the B-team won promotion into Division 1. The C-team in the SNCL has also provided a good opportunity to give our junior and up-and-coming players to have a chance of playing in a national competition. Dundee City also made a significant impact in the World Chess League Live Online coming a creditable 4th place.

5. Competition Organisers Report

Jim Anderson reported that the Club had six teams entered this season in the TAFCA chess league. He noted that organisational difficulties resulted in the Club having defaulted a sizeable number of Division 2 games. In retrospect, the feeling was that we had entered too many teams into the TAFCA league during season 2023-24 and that for season 2024-25 there should be a reduction from 6 to 5 teams being entered. Jim reported that the large number of matches being played in the TAFCA league had led to difficulties in finding time to play the 5 rounds of our Club Championship. Jim also reported that in the TAFCA league our A-team won the Championship for the 11th year in succession while Newport were the winners of Division 2 and gained promotion into the top league.

A general discussion followed. Alan Borwell suggested that the Club might consider starting the Club Championship during September. Jim also reported that the TAFCA league had accepted a submission by Stonehaven Chess Club to participate in the TAFCA league during season 2024-25. Part of the agreement is that Stonehaven will play their 'Home' games at Dundee and Castlehill Chess Clubs.

6. Treasurer's Report

Bruce Wallace submitted a set of accounts for season 2023-24 together with a Summary Report. Bruce noted that Club income for the season was £2,474.50 with £2,044.50 derived from membership payments. Expenditure for the season was £2,727.30 leaving a spending deficit for the season of -£252.80 and an account balance of £1,977.30. Bruce reported that some difficulty was experienced during the season in monitoring exact membership numbers with significant numbers of attendees at the club changing on a weekly basis.

A general discussion followed on how to document membership during the forthcoming season. One suggestion was to have a dedicated Membership Secretary. A second discussion then followed on how membership payments should be made – with the options of a) cash payments, b) annual fee payments and c) monthly payments by Direct Debit separately considered. It was also proposed to introduce a membership ledger book at the door where weekly attendance and payment status could be monitored. Separately, it was agreed that payment issues relating to the attendance of Stonehaven Chess Club during season 2024-25 would be addressed at a later date.

7. Election of Office Bearers

In order to short-cut this matter given that all existing office bearers were willing to continue their duties, the re-election of existing office bearers was processed through a single proposal by Keith Emery and seconded by Jacques Ophoff. Keith Emery and Brian Soutar were co-opted onto the committee as Ordinary Members. Due to his leaving the area, Scott McKenzie has resigned his position as an Ordinary Member.

OFFICE BEARERS 2024

President	David Findlay
Vice President	Ed Spencer
Treasurer	Bruce Wallace
Secretary	Jean Chalmers
Coach	Christine Sim
Competition Organizers	Jim Anderson Alastair Dawson
Auditor	Daniel Coleman
Ordinary Members	Alan Borwell Norrie Carroll Joshua Crofts Keith Emery David Ewing Ray Flood Scott Mackenzie Kara McHugh Jacques Ophoff Amy Soutar Brian Soutar Alan Woodcock

8. Membership Fees

A discussion followed on Membership Fees. It was noted that the fees had not changed in many years and that the annual deficit reported by the Treasurer pointed to the need to increase membership fees in order to maintain the finances of the Club on a stable footing. Bruce Wallace referred to part of the Treasurer's Report that considered membership fee levels in more detail. He suggested that the annual fee should be increased from £30 to £48, that Juniors below the age of 16 together with students should have membership capped at £20. In addition it was proposed that an annual membership fee of £30 should be charged to adults who play for Dundee City in the SNCL and Richardson Cup while the charge to juniors and students to play in the SNCL and/or Richardson Cup should be capped at £20.

9. AOB

Jim Anderson described to the meeting some changes that have been proposed to the running of the Club website. He described how Paul Shafi has paid a £300 subscription to our Club website for many years. This is a website not only used by Dundee Chess Club but also used by the TAFCA league and the Dundee Chess Congress. With Paul now withdrawing from chess activities he is longer willing to pay this fee. There is a possibility that Castlehill Chess Club might also change their existing website such that all 4 organisations are administered together as a unit. Were this to happen, each of the four organisations listed above would be required to pay an annual charge of £75. A meeting is due to take place with interested parties to discuss this matter on June 6th, 2024 at Castlehill Chess Club.

10. Club Championship Presentation

The Club President presented a shield to Jacque Ophoff as this year's worthy Club champion.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.40 hrs.