

EAST KILBRIDE CHESS CLUB AGM 2009

Thursday 13th August 2009

Murray Owen Centre. East Kilbride

Start 8 PM

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Ratification of 2008/9 AGM minutes
3. President's Opening Remarks
4. Club Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report & setting of Annual Fees
6. Wilson Report
7. Club Championship & Allegro Cup Reports
8. East Kilbride Open Report
9. Motions
10. Election of Office Bearer's
11. Election of Tournament Controllers
12. Formation of Player Pools for all leagues
13. Selection of Team Captains
14. A.O.C.B
15. Close of Meeting

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EAST KILBRIDE CHESS CLUB HELD IN THE MURRAY OWEN CENTRE ON 28 AUGUST 2008

2007/08 COMMITTEE: I. MacKenzie (President), J. Dykes (Secretary), T. Brisbane (Treasurer)
Ordinary Members: A.Nisbet, C.Miller, J.Johnston, A.Williamson, P.Denham, AMcConnell.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from A.Howie and P.Devenny.

2. Ratification of last year's minutes

Jim Johnston pointed out that Kieran Woodward's first name had not been spelled correctly. With this correction, the adoption of the minutes as a true record of the meeting was proposed by John Melvin and seconded by Tony Dunlop. There were no matters arising which would not be covered in the course of this meeting.

3. President's opening remarks

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased with such a good turn out. There were 17 members present at the meeting. He apologised for last year absence. He also congratulated the players involved in the recent Flag of Friendship match with Troon Chess Club on winning the trophy.

4. Secretary's report

The Secretary said that as the teams had struggled in the varies leagues, he felt the 40th Anniversary Tournament held in June had been the highlight of the season. The tournament sub-committee had put forward some recommendations for a future tournament and these were circulated with the agenda. He said that there had been a good attendance at the tournament compared with some recent tournaments run be other clubs. 45 people had played in the EK tournament.

5. Treasurer's report and Setting of Annual Fees

The Statement of Accounts for 2007/08 had been circulated to all members present. The total income for the year was £4080.19 and the total expenditure was £3003.90 giving a surplus of £1076.29. The Treasurer pointed out the income had included 2 grants for which the club had been grateful (one from South Lanarkshire Council and one from INEOS Fluor). He also pointed out £777 had been used to purchase digital clocks although £310.8 had been recouped as some members had purchased clocks personally. Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Tony Dunlop and seconded by Paul Denham. The President then put the question to the members of what should the club do with the surplus. The options were 1) to reduce the club fees, 2) buy new boards and sets or 3) kept the money and update the equipment when required. The Secretary said that as most of the plastic boxes were falling apart, he had ordered 5 bags to store pieces. The club would purchase more if they are a success. He also mentioned that if another tournament takes place then a separate bank account should be opened to keep the funds separate from the club funds. After some discussion the vote on the 3 options were: 1) 3 votes, 2) 5 votes and 3) 9 votes, which means that the club will keep the money and will upgrade the equipment when necessary. Another suggestion was that the club purchase a new cabinet to store the equipment. This will have to be done through South Lanarkshire Council as they had provided the existing cabinet in the first place.

The club annual fees remain the same at;

- 1) Subscription rates of £25 for an adult member, £12 for an unwaged adult member and £15 for an adult member new to chess.
- 2) Board fee of £9 per month for all adult members and £1 per week for junior members.

6. Wilson Report

The controller, Jim Johnston, proposed that the results of matches and a leader board will be posted on the web site weekly. He also proposed that grading should be done weekly so that members can see how their grading varies. The winner of last season's trophy was Tony Dunlop on 13 points with Frankie Murray, Stewart McKay and Duncan McDonald second equal on 10 points. The controller reminded members that the competition starts at 7.45pm each evening so anyone wishing to play should try to get to the club on time.

7. Autumn Cup Report

The controller, Andy Howie, was not at the meeting to give his report. The winner of the cup was Tony Dunlop.

8. Election of Office Bearers, Team Captains and Controllers

Ian MacKenzie was nominated as President by Peter Sidebotham and seconded by John Melvin. The post was accepted by the nominee.

Paul Denham was nominated as Secretary by Duncan McDonald and seconded by Scott Miller. John Dykes was nominated as Secretary by Piero Gosetti and seconded by Henry Lynn. As both nominees were willing to accept the post there would have to be a ballot.

Duncan McDonald wished to say a few words on why he had nominated Paul Denham as Secretary. He said that this was a vote of no confidence in the current Secretary which related to an incident last year when the Secretary had made certain remarks about the captain of the Scottish National League Team in relation to the team selection. In Duncan's opinion this could lead to the club losing its two best players, and subsequently losing funds.

The Secretary responded by firstly reminding members that a family membership was in place so if both members did leave then the club would effectively be losing only one members fees. He also mentioned that during the incident referred to he was trying to ensure that the team entered for the Scottish National League truly represented the club and allowed all players who had volunteered, to play. Tony Dunlop proposed that as this incident had happened last year then the club should draw a line under it and move on. The Secretary asked Duncan McDonald if he had approached the 2 members to find out if they would be coming to the club this season. Duncan replied that he had not.

The President then asked members to vote for each nominee and the result was 9 votes to 7 in favour of Paul Denham becoming the new Secretary. Paul takes up his duties after the meeting.

Tom Brisbane was nominated as Treasurer but as he had been in the post for more than 30 years, he felt that it was time to stand down. Unfortunately, no one else was willing to be nominated for the post. After some discussion, Alisdair MacGregor volunteered to become the Treasurer's apprentice for a year so that he could take over in the season 2009/2010.

The following members accepted posts as team captains:

Glasgow League: A team - Jim Johnston, B team - Tony Dunlop, C team - Peter Sidebotham.

Lanarkshire League: A team - Craig Miller, B team - Paul Denham, C team - Peter Sidebotham.

It was agreed in principle to field a Lanarkshire League D team to allow juniors to gain match play experience. This team would be captained by Andy Howie.

Ian MacKenzie volunteered to be the captain of the Rapid Play team. Andy Howie was nominated as the Club Championship controller, Autumn Cup controller and the Dumbarton & District League team captain. Jim Johnston was nominated as Wilson Trophy controller and National League team captain. Other members willing to play in the National League were Tony Dunlop, Paul Denham and Frankie Murray.

Henry Lynn proposed that the members have another vote to unanimously accept Paul as the new Secretary and to give John Dykes a vote of thanks for all the work he has put in for the club in the past. The President said that although the intentions are good, the vote was not acceptable and John Dykes refused to accept a vote of thanks saying that the way to thank him would have been to vote him back in as Secretary.

9. Motions

1) The club shall maintain a list(s) of the rules of all internal club competitions and make these available to all members via the club web page. Proposed by Paul Denham. Carried.

2) The club shall maintain a list(s) detailing the scope and roles/responsibilities of each elected club officer and make these available to all members via the club web page. Proposed by Paul Denham. Carried.

Duncan McDonald suggested the a further EK Open Tournament may be a loss maker as the last one only made a profit of £47.94, a substantial part of which was from donations. In addition, 2 prizes had been supplied by John Dykes and Paul Denham. It was agreed that if another tournament is to be run then any loss would be limited to £200.

Ian MacKenzie had circulated a paper entitled 'Guidance for East Kilbride Team Captains'. He asked if this was helpful to members. He would be happy to incorporate any changes. Most members agreed that this was a useful document.

10 Presentation of Trophies

The Treasurer presented the Wilson Trophy and the Autumn Cup to Tony Dunlop, the Sword of Damocles Trophy to Paul Denham and the Gosetti Trophy to Peter Sidebotham. He also presented a keepsake trophy to Paul Denham as he was the top E.K. player in the 40th Anniversary Tournament. Frankie Murray collected the Flag of Friendship Trophy on behalf of the club.

11 AOCB

1) The Secretary informed members that Steven Mannion is willing to give another simultaneous display. The members agreed if it can fitted into the schedule.

2) The Secretary mentioned that the Lanarkshire League were looking for clubs to make any suggestions for improvements to the league structure.

3) Due to an overrun of the meeting, no auditor was appointed.

12 Close of meeting at 1030pm.

Club Secretary's Report - Season 2008/9

1, Fixtures & Teams

- For Season 2008/9 the club had a total of 7 teams playing league chess.
- The teams played a total of 66 matches.
- There were a total of 316 games played with only 7 (defaults) - a very good achievement and indicates that whilst mistakes can (and will be) made, our captains have been very effective again this season.

We started the season 5 players down (Alex & Alex Ian Nisbet, Andy Howie, Andy Williamson & Alan Jelfs) and this resulted in the club having to withdraw the East Kilbride C team from Glasgow League Division 4. However, our numbers rallied well later in Season 2008/9, thanks in part to a range of promotional efforts (local press, internet, Glasgow Congress etc)

Successes

East Kilbride CC were successful in winning two team trophies in Season 2008/9

- We won the Flag of Friendship Shield back off Troon in our annual 2 leg challenge match
- The East Kilbride Wanderers (the full club) won Division 2 of the Dumbarton & District League - unbeaten in 7 games (3 wins & 4 draws)

Also.....

The SNCL team managed to survive in the premier chess league in the country; the FIDE rated SNCL Division 1 held over 4 Sundays at the Glen Pavilion in Dunfermline. The non show of Aberdeen C.C for Rounds 6&7 and hearty lunches at the Chinese Buffet King to withstand 8 hours of chess were factors as of course was a great win against Hamilton B in round 2 with all 5 players getting a result

2. Grants

For 2nd year running the club secured a Community Involvement Grant from the Oil Refining & Chemical Company, INEOS (of Grangemouth), for £150.

The 2008 grant was put towards a 10 week trial period for adult beginners & juniors in Q1 of 2009 and a number of Juniors and their parents have attended regularly thereafter.

The unspent 2007 Grant of £150 was put towards a new cabinet to replace the old one which was badly damaged.

3. Management Committee Meetings

2 Man. Comm. Meetings were held and minutes for Meeting 1 were issued on the GamesGroup website, at the time of this AGM.

Meeting 2 was held on Tues 5th August in preparation for tonight's AGM.

4. Publicity & Promotion of the Club

Season 2008/9 has been a successful year in terms of promoting the club and attracting new players to the club.

The club has been promoted in 4 main ways;

- Regular club articles in East Kilbride News, co-ordinated by Scott Miller. Scott is to be commended for pro-actively establishing and maintaining an effective link with the East Kilbride News.
- Updating of Club Web-Site and inclusion of EKCC's details on a number of web-sites and web directories, by Jim Johnston
- Poster and Tactics Quiz at the Glasgow Chess Congress, held in Kelvingrove Art Galleries in NQV 2009
- Successful running of the 2nd East Kilbride Open Tournament, organised by John Dykes.

Indeed each of the above initiatives has successfully identified new members and prospective new member over the season.

I wish to praise Jim Johnston for the time, commitment and above all accuracy he has put in to keeping club websites and Gosetti, Wilson and Damoclesian leader boards up to date, and for the support he has given me in developing the new-style club directories.

4 new junior players under 10 attended the club in Season 2008/9. They were joined by several young players in the 11-21 age category, with some of the parents taking part in chess playing activities too. A number of adults new to club chess, represented the club in season 2008/9 and strong players such as Phil Thomas & Alan Jelfs returned or were added to our ranks.

The club continues to enjoy a good reputation within the chess community in Scotland as a well run club, with a good web-site, which actively encourages new players and caters for Junior players.

5. Appreciation for Hall Keepers

During Season 2008/9, the club received great co-operation and support from Alan Wheeler and the other hall caretakers in a number of areas;

- Arranging for the club to use the main hall for beginner's sessions in Q1 2009, for the price of a normal meeting room
- Help restoring life into the old cabinet
- Flexibility on closing up later when the S. Mannion Simultaneous Display ran on.
- Flexibility on use of the open plan area for junior coaching and post game analysis.

6. On-Line Team

In January 2009, at the suggestion of Henry Lynn, East Kilbride C.C entered a team on the GameKnot website. Henry captains the team and a number of players at the club have played for the team, or given it a shot. Moves are at the rate of one move every 3 days (though frequently each player will play 1 or more moves in any given day).

It is hoped the on-line team will continue to play on GameKnot next season. Club members are encouraged to join Henry's team and try it out.

7. Chess Training Nights at Busby Hotel

In May 2009, Phil Thomas approached the club with regard to utilising an offer for free use of a room in The Busby Hotel which he and his wife, Jacqui, had received from management of the hotel.

The Club have been able to support this initiative which has been successfully run over the months of May, June, July and August. A number of the juniors attending East Kilbride have attended the training sessions as well as a number of juniors, parents and adults, with no previous connection to EKCC. A number of club members have helped out with the coaching activities at these sessions.

Regular reviews of recent games on the demonstration board have also provided useful training for the established adults.

It is hoped that by running these sessions, EKCC can retain a number of promising juniors and add to these numbers in Season 2009/10.

8. Equipment

In addition to replacing the cabinet, the club also bought additional boards, to support the additional numbers of players & juniors at the club. At the end of the season the plastic boxes, which are quite bulky and many of which were damaged, were replaced with green cloth chess bags from Chess Suppliers.

These purchases were in line with the agreements made at the 2008 AGM to use some of the cash surplus to replace club equipment where required.

9. Tom Brisbane

Last Season, Tom received the Chess Scotland Presidential Award for services to chess and as he stands down tonight as club treasurer to hand over to Alasdair Macgregor, I wish to thank him personally and on behalf of the club for skill and dedication to the role of Club Treasurer over an extended period of time. I also wish to thank him for preparing the minutes from last year's AGM from the notes he took at that meeting.

10. The Season Ahead

I see 2009/10 being another positive year for EKCC given a number of exciting proposals in the form of tonight's motions. Attracting new members will continue to be important. Given an increasing number of players likely to be available only for home league matches, it is important we insure that we have the right number of teams next season such that each team has a strong and effective player pool. I encourage all of you to make share your views later in the meeting on where the balance of league matches vs internal competitions should lie.

*Paul Denham
Club Secretary
11th August 2009*

Motions

1. The surplus of cash in the main club account shall be reduced by means of offering club members reduced membership/board fees in the following form;
 - a) For Season 2009/2010 membership fees will be scrapped
 - b) New players to EKCC can "pay as they play" at the rate of £2 per night for the duration of their first foil (or part) season with the club *[note this extends the current arrangement for new members where they "pay as they pay" for the first 8 weeks following an introductory free night]*
2. The club shall appoint a fixtures secretary whose role will be to attend local fixture meetings, ensure manageable playing schedules for teams, provide advice to team captains with regard to rearranged matches and postponements, act as a single point of contact regarding informing club members of changes and maintain current fixture information on internal & external club websites. This shall not be an office bearing post but the fixtures secretary would sit on the club management committee. The post would be elected annually in line with all other posts within the club.
3. In Season 2009/10 the club shall hold weekly training and playing sessions for Junior Chess Players (those yet to mature or yet to develop chess skills to a level where they can regularly play for the main club and in regular adult club competitions). These sessions shall be held in a separate room in the Murray Owen Centre on club nights (Thursday's). The junior section will be run by volunteers (initially Andy Howie, Paul Denham & Phil Thomas) and will aim to run at cost (i.e no financial loss). The club will underwrite a maximum of £200 of losses for this event.
4. The monies which players should offer drivers for a lift to away games will increase to £2 per person for local matches (Hamilton, Cathcart, Giffnock etc) and £2.50 per person for more distant matches (Paisley, Cumbernauld, Lanark, Dalmeir, Dumbarton etc). *[These amounts were arrived at after looking at the complete spectrum of motoring costs and the price of a full adult return by First Bus (£3.20) and, with a view to passengers showing their appreciation]*
Lift money for SNCL drivers would increase from £2 to £3 per passenger.
5. The club will organise a lightening chess tournament [where players make their moves within 10 seconds (clocks to be used)] during Season 2009/10. This event is to be open to any chess player not just E.K.C.C players.
6. In Season 2009/10, the club shall organise an open evening Allegro Event on a free Thursday evening (ca. Mid March 2010). Tournament Director & Arbiters to be appointed.

Motions proposed as follows:

1. Outline proposal by Jim Johnston, developed after discussion with Man Comm. members
2. Proposed by Paul Denham
3. Proposed by Paul Denham
4. Proposed by Scott Miller
5. Proposed by Peter Devenny
6. Proposed by Paul Denham