

East Kilbride Chess Club Man. Comm. Meeting 2008/9 – 1

Date: Thursday 27th November 2008

Attendees: Paul Denham (PD), Ian McKenzie (IMcK), Alasdair Macgregor (AM) , Jim Johnston (JJ) , Craig Miller (CM) , Peter Sidebotham (PS)

Apologies: Tony Dunlop

Unable to Attend: Tom Brisbane

The following notes minute the discussions and agreements made at this meeting of the Man. Comm. to discuss and seek agreement on a number of points associated with the running of the club in Season 2008/9.

1. Introductory fees for new members

PD raised this topic in response to the number of new members arriving at the club recently (John Shevlin, Thomas Jose etc) and in recognition of the fact that in recent times a number of possible new members seem to have been put off by either the rate or the structure of club fees.

PD & JJ proposed a situation where prospective new members would pay the following;

- First night free of charge
- For next 8 nights pay board fees only, at a rate of £2 per night
- After 9 weeks, if the prospective new member wished to join the club, membership of £15 (pro rata till end of season – e.g. if only 1/3rd of season left, then £5 membership fee) and board fees would be paid at a rate of £9 per month (as a lump sum or installments) till the end of the season

IMcK suggested the 2 months “pay as you go” period may not be long enough and that the club should consider a 3 month pay as you go rate for prospective new members.

The group agreed that the 2 month “pay as you go” option listed out above should be adopted until the end of Season 2008/9 and that this be publicised with in relevant club posters, web-sites and promotional materials. The group agreed that should a 2 month “pay as you go” still seem to put off prospective new members, that it would then be in the club’s best interests to review IMcK’s proposals again.

2. Family Fees

PD raised this topic in response to June Devenny seeking to reimburse the club for recent coaching sessions on Thursday nights. The group was aware that in the past a family reduction has been offered before, but was unsure of the details of this discount.

It was agreed that as Peter and Ruth Devenny pay as they go as juniors at a rate of £1/night in line with the established fee structure of the club, that June should similarly pay as she goes at £2/night for any nights she plays games or receives coaching. The group agreed that this meant no decisions regarding family fees and discounts need be taken till next year’s AGM.

3. Publicity

Update

PD provide an update on the excellent work that Scott Miller and Jim Johnston have undertaken in recent times to increase the club profile via written media and the internet respectively. Scott is to be congratulated in arranging a regular chess column (hopefully weekly) in the EK News. In recent times John Shevlin and Joe Brown have both found out about the club via the external club website, which Jim Johnston is now regularly updating.

PD also pointed out that the recent Glasgow Chess Congress where EKCC had promotional materials available and a tactics quiz, has netted us a new player – Thomas Jose.

Business Cards

PD raised the question of whether or not the club should get some “business cards” made up at the cost of around £10-15 for a batch, or use the “home made” cards which PD prepared for the Glasgow Chess Congress. The group agreed that we should stick to the “home made” cards as they are cheaper and still fit for purpose.

Business Card Stickers on Library Books

PD discussed an idea with the group to seek South Lanarkshire Council's permission to place tamper proof” business card stickers inside all chess books which the Council own.

These business card stickers would be simple and contain information on the 3 Chess Clubs operating in the South Lanarkshire Area. e.g.

“ Interested in Chess? Want to meet and play with like minded people?

There are 3 chess clubs in South Lanarkshire;
East Kilbride; www.ekchessclub.org.uk
Hamilton; www.hamiltonchessclub.uwclub.net/
Lanark; www.btinternet.com/~ianmcl/index.html
Come along to one of our clubs and meets us”

There are approx. 110 chess books in South Lanarkshire Council's library collection. A batch of 100 stickers will cost around £35. PD proposes to speak with the club secretaries at Hamilton and Lanark and if both clubs agree that EK, Hamilton & Lanark would share the costs of getting the stickers made up, if SLC agree to them being put on the inside front cover of their chess books.

The group agreed that PD should follow this idea up with Hamilton & Lanark Chess Club.

4. Repairs to the equipment Cabinet

As touched upon at the Club AGM in August 2008, the equipment cabinet is in need of some repairs.

JJ and PS have offered to look at repairing the cabinet.

JJ will keep the group posted on progress.

5. An on-line East Kilbride Team

Henry Lynn has suggested the idea of having an “on-line East Kilbride team” via the Game Knot chess playing web site. Game Knot is one of a number of web sites which offer such a service. Moves are made by logging on to the website, checking games which you are playing and then moving when it is your turn. Notifications that you have a move to make are made by e-mail,

though players regularly checking the website need not rely on e-mail prompts. Games can be played at a rate of around 1 move every 2 days, every 3 days, every 5 days or every 7 days. Generally play is a good bit faster when both players in a game are on line simultaneously. It can be a good way to get some additional chess in.

Players can play for free and PD has been doing so for the last month or so in response to Henry's initial suggestion.

Teams may have 2 or more players and can play in tournaments or in a "Ladder" type tournament. To be in a team you have to have won 5 games, but PD is willing to play prospective members 5 times and let them deliver fool's mate every time – to "fool" the system into giving them 5 wins and getting a team up and running.

One person requires having a Platinum membership in order to be a team captain. PD proposed that the club takes up Henry's idea of having an on-line EK team and that, as he plays many games on it, that Henry captains the team. To this end, the group agreed that the club should fund Henry increasing his membership from "Gold" to "Platinum" for 1 year.

Since the meeting, Henry has upgraded his membership and PD will issue an invitation to all players to try out Game Knot (it's free!) and to consider joining PD and Henry in this team.

6. Beginner's Chess Classes

PD raised the issue of beginner's chess classes as a means to increase membership of EKCC. Previously in late Sept/early Oct - PD has posted a poll on the games.group web pages of the club to see whether or not club members felt this was a productive thing to do. Since then PD has been offering some coaching to a number of people, to help them develop their chess knowledge and skills and to help PD get experience of coaching. PD had initially considered running a beginner's class in Feb 09 for 12 weeks, if the club felt this was a beneficial thing to do.

Since that time Thomas Jose has joined the chess club and taken up a membership, John Shevlin has come along to the club and intends to take a full membership out in the coming week(s) and Ruth Devenny has begun playing competitive games regularly. Andy Howie has indicated too that he is hopefully of playing some league games for the club in the New Year.

These players, in part replace members who are not currently actively playing club chess such as Andy Howie, Alex and Alex Ian Nisbet, Alan Jelfs and Andrew Williamson.

In discussion, the group considered that in light of;

- The effort and costs involved in running such a class
- The increase in membership in recent times
- The increase in club profile via the internet, posters and in the local press

.... That this idea should not be taken forward this season and that we accommodate beginners, newcomers on an ad hoc basis for the remainder of the Season. Even though both intend to play in league or Wilson games more regularly, PD and/or Andy Howie plan to be available for coaching on many nights of the remaining season.

7. Any Other Business

No new items were raised