

The 109th. Annual General Meeting of the Glasgow Chess League was held on Wednesday 31st May 2017 in the Larkfield Centre G42 7AY

In attendance were 13 delegates:

J. Johnston (East Kilbride), David Congalton (Cathcart), H. Glen (Bellshill), Andrew Muir (Hamilton), Douglas Bryson (Stepps), A. Mc Culloch (Giffnock), J. Mc Cartan (Dalmuir), Dairena Gaffney (Glasgow Polytechnic), Peter Griffin (Phones), Mel Burt (Bearsden), Ralph Stirrat (Cumbernauld), John Mc Kenna (Paisley), Phil Thomas (Renfrewshire). Also in attendance: Chris Perkin (Glasgow Montrose), Alistair Maxwell (Cathcart), Billy Reid (Renfrewshire), Andy Heron (Glasgow Polytechnic), Jim Webster (Chess Scotland) and Dwayne Spiteri (Glasgow University). Inverclyde and Bishopbriggs were not represented.

The President Alistair Maxwell opened the proceedings at 7.30pm.

1 Minutes of the Previous AGM and matters arising:

The minutes of the 108th. AGM were distributed and taken as read.

The only matter arising was H. G. informing the meeting that he had still been unable to identify the £61.50 income alluded to in the Treasurer's Report. The Report was accepted on a proposal by A. M. and seconded by J.McC.

2 President's Address:

A.M. began by welcoming the members to the 109th. Annual General Meeting of the Glasgow Chess League with a special mention to Jim Webster of Chess Scotland.

Alistair thanked his fellow Mancom members singling out the sterling work carried out by the League Controller J. J. He mentioned how proud he was of all the contributions the Mancom had made laying themselves on the line to execute their duties in what proved to be a very difficult and trying season. He ended with the hope that the meeting would be held in the usual manner of cordiality.

3 Secretary's Report

The Secretary J. McC. then delivered his report:

In the 108th. AGM Report I mentioned that as the League appeared to be still contracting the Mancom would endeavour to look at the possibility of a restructuring of the divisions. We discussed 4 formats which all had as a base, streamlining the number of teams in the highest division from 10 to 6. It was felt that perhaps this was too great a step and we will continue to closely monitor the League set - up. The number of candidates we have received for the 3 unfilled places within the Mancom so far is NIL which is extremely disappointing. We have been operating understrength for the last 4 years. The Mancom normally meets on 4 occasions during the season. The present Mancom have all signalled their intention to stand for another season. I would hope those 3 vacancies can be filled in time for season 2017- 2018. The number of defaulted matches has escalated from last season and is the basis for the Mancom's submission at 6.4

DEFAULTS	2016-2017	2015-2016
	4 Hamilton D	2 Hamilton D
	2 Phones C	1 Bishopbriggs

2016 – 2017 was an exceptional season not least of all in dealing with the normal run of events but in attempting to resolve certain grievances which arose among member clubs.

The Mancom dealt with two of these at our meetings. Hamilton v East Kilbride and Renfrewshire v East Kilbride. There is never a solution which is completely satisfactory to all clubs concerned in these situations and this season proved no exception. However I must point out that over the last

35 years to my knowledge the Minutes of Mancom meetings have never been circulated to member clubs, only amongst the Mancom members, and thus being asked for access to them has never been an issue until now. The Mancom is run along the same democratic lines as the GCL itself and any replies clubs receive can be a second or even third draft which has been agreed among the members before being sent out and to which only then will I append – John Mc Cartan Secretary GCL. In conclusion I apologise to the meeting for the length of this report.

4 Treasurer's Report and Auditor's Remarks:

Club and team entries increased slightly in season 2016-17; this meant the money from league fees shows an increase of £35. The Bond Fee continued to be applied. Two clubs required to pay their Bond Fee for season 2016-17 due to defaulting a match or matches without adequate reason in season 2015-16; the remaining clubs have agreed to allow their Bond Fees to be carried over to the 2016-17 season. No progress has yet been made in finding the best way to invest some of the money in the Treasurer's Account to generate the best return for GCL.

The Glasgow Allegro did not take place in season 2016-17. On paper, the season shows a surplus of £145.01. The balance shown in the accounts is now £7942.78.

The books have been audited by David Reid and a copy of his report is available tonight.

Auditor's Remarks: Following an inspection of the accounts, both the listed income and listed expenses are clearly correct. The surplus generated during the season was £145.01.

A reading of the bank statements shows that the closing balance is as expected. The closing balance is a healthy £7942.78. I find the accounts to be satisfactory, any surplus is welcome. *David Reid*

5 League Controller's Report.

Mr. Johnston informed the meeting that in Division 3 the section winners of 3A and B met at Cathcart in the Play – off match , overseen by Alistair Maxwell, with the result being Paisley “B” 2½-1½ Renfrewshire, thus ensuring Paisley “B” becoming Division 3 winners. He noted Division 2 was won by Giffnock “A” and Division 1 was won by Paisley “A”. The 2 teams relegated from Division 1 were Inverclyde and Glasgow Montrose “A” and from Division 2 Glasgow Montrose “B” and Cathcart “B”. This season there were no players who played up more than the allotted 3 times. He then went on to give the League a flavour of his work as League Controller.

This is my 13th season as League Controller.

For the first couple of years I shared the work with somebody else, who unexpectedly quit, leaving me doing it on my own for the last decade. I set about changing things from the beginning, adding some features to the website (such as a downloads page), and I completely redesigned the Contacts & Fixtures Handbook so that it's now got that "business card" look, displaying all the club's contact details, and in the margin there's a link to the club's website if they have one, and also a link to Google maps or Streetview showing the exact location of the club venue.

The old printed-out version of the fixtures handbook used to go out of date after a few weeks, and I changed it so there are constant updates online throughout the season. Every single re-arranged fixture date is now changed online that same day, and highlighted in bold italics so it can easily be seen.

I also decided right from the start I would do the results as they came in. The Chief Grader has told me it's the quickest results service in Scotland, which probably means in the UK, who knows... This means having the grading program open from about 10.30 to 12.30 every night, and my email alerts on so I know when they're coming in. The first results take about 10 minutes, but then a queue starts. I decided I would reply to everyone as soon as their result was online, even if I've got another one for the same division still to do, because I heard from feedback that some captains want to see how the league table looks after their result goes online.

As I'm also the League Controller for the Dunbartonshire League, and last season I did the Lanarkshire League as well, this means that an average Monday or Thursday night for me has half a dozen fixtures each to get through, and results come in even on Fridays, when there's no club open. People are surprised when they find out I have to do this for more than half a year.

The season begins on the first week of October and it goes on right to the last week of April, which is seven months. I get 2 weeks off at Xmas and New Year, but this is cancelled out by having to make up all the fixtures before the season starts, which is spread over 3 weeks in September. John McCartan and I do this as a team, both GL and DL fixtures, and we ask clubs to fill out an entry form ready by the Friday before the fixtures meeting. The deadline is midnight Friday and clubs wait till the last minute to send it in. Amazingly, people start asking us on the Saturday "Where's the provisional fixtures? I can't see them on the website!". Actually it takes almost the whole weekend to get them ready to go online on the Monday.

We also seem to have made our job harder by suggesting a couple of years ago that clubs could give us a list of dates to be fixture-free such as "Every 2nd Thursday of the month" for club championships etc., and that we would also try and avoid clashes between different leagues. The list of proscribed dates has got longer and longer and subsequently, harder to avoid clashes. After doing all one club's fixtures to suit their list, you later find their opponents have a clash and so it has to be moved, and then a chain starts. This extra work wouldn't be so bad but clubs actually complain to us if we give them one of the dates they don't like, even if we couldn't find an alternative. They seem to forget that these are only PROVISIONAL fixtures. That's what the fixtures meeting's for, to meet other clubs and find suitable dates...

After last September, John and I debated whether we might go back to the old way and just hand out the first dates we get, because of the grief. When people say they don't think we avoided their list of dates properly, or their teams in different divisions are playing on the same night, or they have no confidence in us, it's a bit of a let-down...

But don't get me wrong. I usually get positive feedback. I get a lot of job satisfaction when people say "we really like seeing the fast results" or "Thanks for all the work you do behind the scenes". I was chuffed when somebody once told me they even looked at the divisions they weren't playing in, just because it was "like reading the news"! So, after every summer break I'm usually refreshed and ready for it all to go around again, and I guess this summer will be no exception.

That's the end of this season's report, thank you.

The Controller's Report was accepted without further comment.

6 Hamilton:

The President asked Andrew Muir the Hamilton delegate if he wished to formally move the 4 Hamilton motions and speak to them. Andrew replied he would move the motions but declined to speak to them. Mr Maxwell addressing the assembly made it clear that he was disappointed that a proper speaker from Hamilton had not arrived to put their case formally and outlined the ManCom's reason for giving their decision. After he had read the letter submitted prior to the AGM he asked for a seconder to the Hamilton motions. No seconder was found and all 4 motions fell.

7 Presentation of Prizes and Trophies:

H.G. then presented the Divisional shield, clock and memento trophies to:-

Paisley "B" (John Mc Kenna) as division 3 winners. A.M. then presented the Division 2 shield and clock to Bellshill (Hamish Glen) and H. G. continued the prize - giving with the Division 1 shield, clock and trophies to Paisley "A" (John Mc Kenna), apologising that it had had not been engraved owing to the fact that it had only just been handed in that evening by Hamilton. All winners were given a round of applause.

8 Election of Office Bearers and Management Committee: Alistair Maxwell was elected President as there were no other nominations. Hamish Glen was elected Treasurer and proposed that David Reid be elected as Auditor and this was seconded. John Mc Cartan was elected as Secretary. The rest of the incumbent Management Committee Mel Burt, Jim Johnston, Chris Perkin, and Douglas Bryson were returned unopposed. The meeting was urged to nominate members from the floor, Phil Thomas proposed by Billy Reid, seconded by Alistair Maxwell, Andy Heron proposed by Hamish Glen and seconded by Dairena Gaffney were elected for next season.

9 Appointment of an Auditor:

David Reid was proposed by H. G. and seconded by J. J.

David Reid was then elected as no other nominations were received.

10 Submissions Etc.

Rules for League Competitions:

6.2 J. McC spoke to this motion on behalf of the Management Committee.

The motion was then passed with 12 votes for and 1 abstention.

6.4 J. McC spoke to this motion on behalf of the Management Committee.

An amendment moved by Phil Thomas was eventually withdrawn after some debate.

The motion was passed with 8 votes for, 4 against and 1 abstention.

7.1 Proposed by Giffnock Chess Club:

Seconded by Phones, Andy Mc Culloch spoke to this motion.

After a lively debate the motion was defeated with 2 votes for 10 against and 1 abstention.

6.5 Proposed by Giffnock Chess Club:

Seconded by Bellshill, Andy Mc Culloch spoke to this motion.

Again well debated Giffnock were asked if they could wait the outcome of 6.4 next season and if still unsatisfied resubmit this motion at the 110th AGM.

Giffnock agreed and withdrew their motion.

As all 4 Hamilton motions had been taken at item 6 and no seconder had been found, the meeting moved on.

11 Next Season:

Competitions:

a) The League will go ahead as planned but there was no merit in resurrecting the Allegro or Rapidplay tournaments.

b) Fees and Subscriptions:

There was no proposal to increase fees or subscriptions for 2017/2018.

These remain at £15 Club Subscription with Team Fees as follows :-

Division 1 £30.00 : Division 2 £25.00 : Division 3 £20.00

c) Fixtures Meeting provisional date was set to take place on Wednesday 13th September.

d) Next Mancom Meeting provisional date was set at Wednesday 21st June 2017.

11 Any Other Competent business:

There being no further competent business the meeting was closed at 8.40pm.

with a vote of thanks to the chair.