

Glasgow Chess League AGM Minutes Held at Larkfield Centre, 11 June 2025 @ 7.30pm

Voting delegates in attendance: Alistair Maxwell (Secretary, Cathcart. AM for minute purposes), Hamish Glen (President, Bellshill. HG), Alexander Marshall (Glasgow Polytechnic), Graham Dobbie (East Kilbride), Mel Burt (Bearsden), Iain Shields (Queens Park), Thor Saemundsson (Hamilton), David Reid (Glasgow Montrose), Ian Aird (Dalmuir), Harry Marron (Lenzie Chess Academy), Ian Brownlee (Stepps).

Other Attendees: David Deary (Treasure, Bellshill, DD) Paul Cumming & Andy Chisholm (Queens Park), Jim Johnston (East Kilbride), Douglas Bryson (Stepps), Toby Knowles (Glasgow Montrose), Richard Menzies & John Larkin (Glasgow Polytechnic). Neev Lukhi (Lenzie Chess Academy)

The meeting commenced at 7.32pm

1 Apologies for Absence and President's Remarks

Apologies were received by John McIntyre (Phones), Christopher Nield (Strathclyde University), Derek McCormack (Paisley) and Willie Hulme (League Controller, Stepps). HG kept his comments very brief and again said it had been a good season as far as he was concerned and thanked the ManCom especially AM and DD, with Jim Johnston also thanked for all his help to the secretary.

2 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

The previous meeting minutes were moved by David Reid and seconded by Mel Burt with no matters arising.

3 Secretary's Report

This season was noted for the first year of increments which were implemented after the motion passed at last year's AGM. Despite the worries of games over-running there were no reports of this happening and no cases were sent to the Mancom to where the game was unfinished.

There was very little correspondence and any emails received seemed to revolve around team board order.

While trying to adopt a "light touch" approach it did appear that some teams board orders perhaps should have been checked before teams played! However, no one was penalised as a result. However, guidance will be updated on the GCL webpage and this will be based on the statistical guidance of the Chief Grader.

There was one case of a player who played for 2 clubs in different divisions and this was spotted and a penalty applied. Only 2 teams had points deducted for defaults, Hamilton A and Dalmuir both in Division 1. No teams defaulted a whole match and so no bond fees were forfeit.

Result reporting doesn't really get any better and clubs should remember to email both the Secretary and the chessresults@btinternet.com site. There were a couple of clubs who were a bit lax in sending results in (both teams are supposed to report the result within 7 days) and it seems that there are some clubs who don't seem aware of the rules. It may be that in future we will have to take a harder line, although I am loath to do so, but I will definitely be taking a closer look next season.

I would once again like to thank all the members of the Mancom for their valuable input during the year and again to DD and HG for their support as well. Another member of the Mancom resigned due to other commitments and our thanks to Phil Thomas for taking the time to participate over the last few years. This of course means we will be looking for a replacement and hopefully we can find someone under 60! Please note that we were running 1 short already last year so we require 2 new (or returning) members. Meetings are usually relatively short and there are only likely to be a maximum of 4 meetings a year.

I will be trying to keep the web pages as up to date as possible and I am aware there is still a fair bit to do in that regard, which brings me to my last person to thank and that is Jim Johnston who does all the updating that I send him usually within the hour! If it hasn't been updated it is usually my fault!

4 Treasurer's Report

Club and team entries remained steady in season 2024/25; this meant the money generated from the league fees increased by £10. The Bond Fee continued to be applied. No club was required to pay their Bond Fee for season 2024/25.

The Glasgow Congress took place in season 2024/25 in March 2025 at Glasgow Caledonian University following the return of the Congress in November 2023. We are currently working on a venue for the 2026 edition of the Congress. I would like to thank the 152 players for competing at the Congress and the support of the arbiters and organisers: AM, DD; David Reid, HG, Ruairidh McKay & Thor Saemundsson. The capacity event resulted in a surplus of £922.39.

In terms of league expenditure, the season also saw some exceptional spend as follows: 12 DGT clocks for

prizes at £779.76; renewal of the web domain for 10 years for £80.89 and bank charges of £8.50. On the later point we are presently switching to RBS who offer free banking and thus mitigating the £51 per annum for the privilege of having a bank account at Bank of Scotland.

The balance shown in the accounts is now £12,212.24 (prior year £12,019.00) / of which £4,758.90 is attributable to the Glasgow Congress.

Season 2024/25 shows a surplus of £193.24 (prior year £123.56). It should be borne in mind that the surplus in both years was entirely down to the return of the Congress. The League operated at deficit of £729.15 (prior year £5.25 surplus) largely due to the clock purchases this year. However, costs are increasing, and I am proposing a £10 increase in the club subscription currently £20 will move to £30. This will generate an extra c.£150 per annum and move the league into a more financially sustainable footing going forward. John Larkin asked why we presented clocks and AM had said that historically a clock had always been presented every year to Division winners but that it the practice had lapsed for some years without AGM agreement so it had been reinstated a couple of years ago.

The Treasurer's report and fee increase were accepted unanimously by the meeting,

5 League Controller's Report (AM did brief report in the League Controller's absence)

Division 1

A close race with Cathcart needing to beat Stepps 8-0 to win the league, and any other Cathcart victory would give Paisley the title. Cathcart's depleted squad lost 7-1 to give Stepps the victory. Dalmuir and Renfrewshire were relegated and both teams had trouble getting teams out. |Dalmuir and Hamilton both lost 1 point for defaults.

Division 2

Lenzie Chess Academy pipped Glasgow University for the title and I am sure no Division 1 side is looking forward to playing them next season! Phones B were relegated in the 9-team division, just below Cathcart B and East Kilbride.

Division 3

Cathcart C had done all the early running but a late season collapse allowed both Glasgow Polytechnic B and Glasgow University to overtake with Poly claiming the title. Phones C were related in another 9-team division and didn't score a match point.

Division 4

Cathcart D followed the Cathcart C path of starting out fast and collapsing at the end to finally end up third to Queens Park C taking the division with Bearsden C finishing a close second.

6 Motions

Resolution 1 - proposed by Hamilton Chess Club

RULES OF PLAY

Delete:

3 CHOICE OF COLOUR

After team lists have been exchanged, the match captains shall toss for choice of move at Board One: the move at the remaining boards shall alternate accordingly.

Insert:

3. COLOUR ALLOCATION

In all matches the Home team takes Black on board 1 after which colour will alternate on the remaining boards.

The motion was defeated with 3 for, 4 against and 4 abstentions

Resolution 2 - proposed by Management Committee

RULES FOR LEAGUE COMPETITION

2. CONSTITUTION OF DIVISIONS and MATCH FIXTURES

- a) **Delete 2.1** There shall be no more than thirteen teams in each section of the lowest division. All divisions above shall normally have ten teams
- Insert 2.1** All divisions shall normally have 10 teams
- b) **Delete 2.3** Each team within a division except the lowest shall play one match on a home or away basis with each of the other teams therein during a season. The lowest division will contain the rest of the teams

registered with the league. If the number of teams in the lowest division exceeds 14 then an extra division may be created.

- a) If the number of teams in the lowest division is less than 5 then the lowest division will be combined with the nearest higher division, which may then be divided into sections.
- b) When the lowest division contains 6 or 7 teams, then each team will play each other team within that division twice on a home and away basis.
- c) 8, 9, 10 or 11 teams then each team will play each other team within that division once on a home or away basis.
- d) 12 teams then the division will be split into 2 sections each containing 6 teams. Each team will play each other team within their respective section twice on a home and away basis.
- e) 13 teams then the division will be split into 2 sections of 6 and 7 teams. Each team will play each other team within their respective section twice on a home and away basis.
- f) 14 teams then the division will be split into 2 sections each containing 7 teams. Each team will play each other team within their respective section twice on a home and away basis.
- g) When 15 teams are reached then 2 divisions shall be created: A division containing 9 teams; and a new bottom division containing 6 teams. In the 9 team division each team will play each other team within that division once on a home or away basis. In the 6 team division each team will play each other team within that division twice on a home and away basis.

Insert 2.3 Each team within a division except the lowest shall play one match on a home or away basis with each of the other teams therein during a season.

The lowest division will contain the rest of the teams registered with the league. If this division has more than 10 teams then the Management Committee will decide the best format for this based on which teams have entered and this may require a double round with home and away fixtures against each team in the division or section of the division.

An amendment to add “or fewer” after “more” in the final insert paragraph of 2.3 was carried unanimously and that amended motion was also carried unanimously.

7 Presentation of Prizes

Div 1: Stepps A

Div 2: Lenzie Chess Academy

Div 3: Glasgow Polytechnic B

Div 4: Queen's Park C

8 Election of Office Bearers

President: Hamish Glen

Prop: Ian Brownlee

Sec: Mel Burt

Secretary: Alistair Maxwell

Prop: Thor Saemundsson

Sec: Mel Burt

Treasurer: David Deary

Prop: Ian Brownlee

Sec: Alexander Marshall

HG proposed Thor Saemundsson, Douglas Bryson, Mel Burt, Alexander Marshall and Ian Brownlee en bloc which was accepted unanimously by the meeting. There were 2 volunteers from the body of the meeting to fill the 2 vacancies caused by Phil Thomas's resignation and Andy Chisholm and Richard Menzies were accepted unanimously.

9 Appointment of Auditor

DD confirmed that he would get Andrew Gibson to audit next year's accounts as he had audited the 2023-2025 joint year accounts presented at the Treasurer's report.

10 AOCB

- 1) Glasgow Congress. AM reiterated DD's point that the Congress ran very well, the location was good and we were well look after by Glasgow Caledonian University, We had inquired about next year and for two adjacent halls but our original quote was very expensive and GCU had not replied to our request to look at reducing it so we were looking at alternative venues and HG also said we had dates in March/April 2026 in mind and hopefully we could firm that up shortly.
- 2) Increments. As per last year's minute we had a look at how the implementation had gone. It was generally felt that these had been accepted quite well by most clubs although a couple of people felt

that we should actually gather some data to see if it had really made the games finish much earlier which was a point of view some held. The meeting agreed that the ManCom should ask clubs to monitor this during next season and report back to the AGM, either proposing a new time control if required or expecting any club who wanted to table a proposal then to do so,

- 3) New Chess Scotland Grading System. The Chief Grader (Douglas Bryson) was asked if there was any update on the proposed new online grading system and he confirmed there was no firm date for implementation.
- 4) Constitution. AM felt that it had grown unwieldy over the years and believed it required a revamp. David Reid offered his services to help and it was agreed to canvas opinion from clubs to see if there was an appetite for change and to perhaps set up a small working group of volunteers to look at a new constitution fit for purpose.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

