

Item 2



GOVANHILL CHESS CLUB: MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: 11 September 2021, 3:00-4:30pm.

Venue: Bees Knees Café, 83 Bowman St, Govanhill, Glasgow.

Present: Harvey Dellanzo, Julien Papillon, Derek Rankine.

Apologies: Suzanne Papillon, James Power.

1 Introduction

Julien chaired the meeting, which commenced at 3pm. The apologies were noted. The meeting proceeded with a quorum of three, and followed a seven-item agenda that had been pre-circulated.

2 Constitution

The pre-circulated draft constitution was discussed. It was agreed to make one amendment, to refer to the election of Trustees, which would enable the Club to apply for charitable status in future. Noting this change, the draft document was approved.

It was agreed to elect the following as office bearers for 2021/22: Club President – Julien Papillon | Club Secretary – Derek Rankine | Club Treasurer – Harvey Dellanzo. It was further agreed that appointments for the positions of Club Captain, Club Tournament Controller and Trustees would be made later in the season by through an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Julien proposed 14 September 2022 as the date of the subsequent Annual General Meeting. This was agreed.

3 Membership Fees

The suggestion of maintaining the 2019/20 fee structure – in which Members could use their own discretion to pay a standard fee of £30 per annum, or a discounted fee of £15 per annum intended for those on lower incomes – was agreed.

In the realistic expectation of having 12 Members for the season, and an equal mix of standard and discounted fees, it was noted the Club could expect to raise around £250 from Membership Fees in 2021/22. Harvey, Derek and Julien agreed to pay their Membership Fees promptly if helpful in assisting with any early season expenses.

In the context of the Club lacking existing funds, there was a discussion about whether Membership Fees would be sufficient to cover season costs, including venue hire, Chess Scotland Membership, league and tournament entry fees, and website production. It was agreed the Club would seek a free or low-cost venue for the 2021/22 season in order to comfortably meet anticipated expenses without additional fundraising.

Several venues were discussed. It was agreed to continue scoping for options, as previously used and recently identified venues were too expensive, and/or presented issues around space, noise or opening hours. Julien, Harvey and Derek agreed to contact several specific venues each, with a view to reporting back later in September and identifying a suitable option for the Club to use throughout 2021/22.

It was agreed the Club would meet weekly throughout the season, rather than fortnightly, to encourage regular attendance.

Julien noted that the South Seeds community organisation has secured land and funding to construct a new community hub for Govanhill. It was agreed this could make for an ideal base for the Club in the longer term, and that the Club should make initial contact with South Seeds later in the season.

Harvey agreed to draft a list of expected expenses for the season to improve understanding of the likely budget available for venue hire, if required. Julien agreed to contact the bank to restore online access and share responsibility for the Club bank account with Harvey.

It was agreed to offer Club Members a range of benefits for their annual Fee, including opportunities to: play over the board chess with other Members weekly; represent the Club in formal over the board and online competitions; work towards a national grading; and play in a graded internal Club Championship.

4 Name of Club

There was a discussion over the potential value of changing the name to Queens Park Chess Club to help attract new Members from a wider south Glasgow geography and to develop a historical connection with a previous Club of that name, active from 1873 to the 1930s.

It was agreed to retain the present name of Govanhill Chess Club for the time being to more accurately reflect the Club's roots, geography and relationship with the local neighbourhood.

It was further agreed that all Club Members for 2021/22 would be asked for their preference on the Club name later in the season, to inform a future decision on which name to use in the longer term.

5 Club Championship

It was agreed the Club should arrange an internal Club Championship to help unrated Members gain a national rating, to provide all Members with useful competitive experience ahead of the resumption of regional/national league competitions and tournaments, and to utilise a benefit of the Club's membership of Chess Scotland.

Harvey proposed a format for a classical over the board Club Championship, featuring a two-group round robin, followed by semi-finals and a final. Specialist software would be used to generate fixtures, and paired opponents would be responsible for agreeing a suitable date, and for accurately recording their moves, for each match. This format was agreed. It was agreed Derek would become the Club's point of contact with Chess Scotland, and would contact the administrative body to double-check that its Club Championship would be eligible for official grading.

Derek raised a query on whether unrated Members who played graded games in 2019/20, but did not meet the threshold of eight graded games by the end of 2020/21, would lose existing progress towards a national rating. It was agreed Derek would contact Chess Scotland to learn whether any allowances would be made for pandemic disruptions.

The idea of arranging 'home and away' friendlies with selected other Glasgow Chess Clubs in the Autumn was discussed. It was agreed friendlies could help re-energise Clubs that are missing the rhythm of meetings and competitions, and Derek said he would contact some other local Club Secretaries to see if there is interest elsewhere.

Harvey's suggestion that the Club explore participation in one-day rapid tournaments in other parts of Scotland, once such tournaments resumed, was welcomed.

6 Season Duration

Julien proposed a 2021/22 Club season running from 1 September 2021 to 1 May 2022. This was agreed. It was noted that this provides around 25 weeks of activity, allowing for a festive break and the ongoing search for a suitable regular venue.

7 Communications

It was agreed that the development of a Club website would be beneficial in attracting new Members and supporting engagement with external parties, including other Clubs.

Julien highlighted an offer by Suzanne to design a Club website for a very modest £20 fee. It was agreed to take up this offer and to give Suzanne full creative control over its appearance. It was noted that the need for information was minimal at present, and might extend to no more than contact details, Membership costs and benefits, and details on the venue and meeting times.

The value of James' role in continuing to manage the Club Facebook Page was noted. It was agreed one post a month would be helpful in promoting Club activity through Facebook over 2021/22.

It was agreed to set up Club email addresses for Club position holders. Julien agreed to manage a general 'info@' address and to take lead responsibility for responding to queries from prospective Members. Julien also agreed to handle regular email communications with existing Members.

Julien, Harvey and Derek also agreed to establish a WhatsApp group to enable efficient regular exchanges on relevant Club business.

8 Close

There was no additional business. The Annual General Meeting concluded at 4:30pm.

Minutes by Derek / 12 September 2021