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# QUEENS PARK CHESS CLUB: MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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**Date:** 15 August 2022, 7:00-9:00pm.

**Venue:** Brodies Bar, 777 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow.

**Present:** Harvey Dellanzo, Alex Lane, Rhys McCrosson, Graeme McKinnon, Julien Papillon, Alex Radevic, Derek Rankine.

**Apologies:** None.

## 1 Introduction & Previous Minutes

Julien chaired the meeting, which started at 7pm, and welcomed those new to the Committee. There were no issues arising from the 2021 minutes that were not already on the agenda.

## 2 Nomination of Role Holders

Julien noted there were a number of roles the Club planned to fill in a busy new season. He invited Derek to elaborate on the role descriptions outlined in a pre-circulated report, and then he requested expressions of interest and nominations for each role.

**Committee Members** – It was agreed the Club Committee would expand from three members to seven, with **all present agreeing to join**. In addition to attending the AGM at the start of each season, Derek noted Committee Members may be invited to attend Extraordinary General Meetings called during the season, and to vote or contribute views on occasional business via email or a Committee WhatsApp group.

**Club Tournament Controller** – **Alex Lane** was elected to the role, and **Rhys** as his deputy. It was agreed: the Tournament would use the same Swiss pairings format as the 2021/22 iteration; that the first round would begin in October 2022; that it would have five or six rounds depending on number of

members participating; and that a short set of rules would be formalised in advance of round one to enable clear, quick and fair decisions in the event of e.g. a member not showing up to their game. Derek agreed to introduce Alex Lane to the software and process he used last season.

**Team Captains** – There was a discussion on the number of teams and leagues the Club should enter. It was agreed the Club would enter one team of four in the Glasgow Chess League Division 3, and a second team of four in the Dumbarton & District Chess League Division 2. **Rhys** was appointed as team captain of the Glasgow team, and **Julien** as team captain for the Dumbarton team.

It was further agreed the Club would enter a stronger team in the Glasgow league, with a view to achieving promotion and entering a six-player Division 2 team in the subsequent season, and to use the Dumbarton team to help newer players build up experience. Harvey noted that it would be important to have a driver in the team for away matches in the Dumbarton League, which involve larger travel distances.

The new Team Captains agreed to attend league fixtures meetings on Wed 7 September at 7:30pm in the Larkfield Centre in Eglinton (Glasgow league), and Wed 14 September in the same time and venue (Dumbarton league). It was agreed Derek would submit registration documents and Julien would pay the fees via online transfer.

**Treasurer** – **Harvey** agreed to continue in the role for the new season. There were no other nominations and the re-election was approved. Harvey said he would appreciate Julien providing him with access to the online accounts; Julien highlighted that more than once last season, he submitted application forms to the bank for this, but with no resulting action. He agreed to try again.

**Secretary** – **Derek** agreed to continue in the role for the new season, noting that the demands of the role would be reduced for 2022/23 with the new roles and appointments. There were no other nominations and the re-election was approved.

**President** – Julien announced he would be standing down owing to new pressures on his time. **Graeme** expressed an interest in the role, and was subsequently nominated, and unanimously appointed. Graeme acknowledged Julien's extensive contributions to the Club, and said he looked forward to working with Derek and Harvey and the other Committee Members on an exciting new season.

**Social Media Managers** – **Alex Radevic** and **Rhys** agreed to continue their shared role in managing the Club's Facebook page. Rhys said he would be happy to establish a profile on Instagram as well. This was welcomed.

Julien, Harvey and Derek expressed appreciation to those willing to take on new roles as the Club prepared to expand its membership and resume participation in leagues.

### 3 Club Activities

Derek noted that league games and Club Championship nights would account for much of the season, but that there was plenty of space to accommodate different activities during regular meetings. A number of ideas were proposed, including: 'winner moves up' rapid games; simultaneous exhibitions; graded rapid tournaments; formal group coaching; and informal training/learning sessions led by Club members.

The ideas were welcomed by the President and Secretary. It was agreed they would decide which activities to adopt once details became clear on the number of new season members, their general experience/interests, and the budget available from membership fees.

Derek suggested that he and Rhys deliver a special introductory session on the first night of the new season, Tue 30 Aug, on rules, etiquette and practical tips for those new or returning to over-the-board classical chess. He said the session could be promoted via WhatsApp groups and social media. This was agreed.

#### 4 Membership Fees and Use of Budget

A discussion resulted in an agreement to charge a standard £40 annual membership fee for 2022/23, and a lower £20 fee intended for students, retired people and those on low incomes. It was agreed no reason would be requested of any members who chose to pay the lower fee, and that Harvey would take an inclusive approach to allow anyone in financial difficulties to delay payment, or pay in instalments. It was also agreed that those joining half-way through the season would receive a 50% discount.

Harvey reiterated that anyone could come to the Club meetings and play casual chess for free, and that membership would only be required for those who wish to play formal graded games, including league and Club Championship matches. He said membership fees not only contributed to the running of the club, but also demonstrated a commitment to taking part in organised activities.

Harvey said he would request membership fees by the end of September, and Graeme asked for monthly reporting on income and expenditure. Harvey noted that the Club could expect to raise around £400 from membership, a healthy sum that would cover fees due to league bodies and Chess Scotland, in addition to some ad hoc costs such as equipment, coaching and venue hire in the event the Wellcroft Bowling Club agreement for free hosting came to an unexpected end. Harvey added it would be important for the Club to hold some reserves as a buffer against unexpected challenges, and that the new membership fee structure would be likely to achieve this.

Rhys initiated a discussion on investment in online advertising, and Alex Lane highlighted the Club's poor rankings in online search engines. It was agreed: to pay for a Google Maps listing to improve discoverability; to make a fresh appeal to Chess Scotland to add the Club to its online map; to increase activity sharing on channels such as the 'Chess in Glasgow' and Shawlands Facebook pages; and Alex Radevic offered to work with Derek on improving the website source code metadata.

Graeme suggested that he, Harvey and Derek could meet monthly during the season to discuss budget and activity planning, with other Committee Members welcome to join. This was welcomed. Julien said that as membership and league/body fees were paid close to the start of the season, there may be little need for monthly budget reports and meetings, with a tendency for the Club to have no income or outgoings during the latter part of the season.

#### 5 Name of Club

There was a discussion over the potential value of changing the name from Govanhill Chess Club to Queens Park Chess Club, to develop a historical connection with a previous Club of that name, active

from 1873 to the 1930s, and to help attract new members from a wider set of neighbourhoods including Shawlands, Langside and Mount Florida.

Harvey reported that he voted in 2021 to retain the existing name, but having since learned about the historical Club, would now like to change the name to continue a historic local tradition. Julien and Graeme highlighted the reality that most members already come from the wider Queens Park area outside Govanhill. Derek said the change of name would be helpful in avoiding a situation in which small, precarious clubs are set up in the different neighbourhoods around Queens Park. He noted some online discussions about setting up a Shawlands Chess Club, and felt it would be better for a single, active and sustainable Club to serve the area.

Alex Lane asked if there would be any bureaucratic challenges associated with the change of name, and it was noted the Club would need to notify a number of parties, and change its website domain name, official email addresses, and Facebook page name.

There was a discussion about the merits and drawbacks, and Julien called the matter to a vote.

With five votes in favour of the change and two abstentions, it was agreed the Club would henceforth be known as Queens Park Chess Club.

Derek agreed to notify Chess Scotland of the change, and to use the new name in league registrations. Rhys agreed to look into the practicality of changing the name of the Facebook page, and if not possible he would work with Alex Radevic to create a new one. Julien agreed to register a new domain name and email address.

Graeme said he strongly felt the change was for the best, as a local person who has lived in, and is passionate about, several of the local neighbourhoods. Harvey said the Club's debt to Govanhill, and its period as Govanhill Chess Club, should be fully acknowledged. Derek said he was working on a historical webpage and would include a timeline and a prominent reference to its Govanhill roots.

## 6 Any Other Business

It was agreed Wellcroft Bowling Club would be the Club venue again for 2022/23, noting the open offer to continue hosting the Chess Club for free. Julien said he had produced a small gift for the Bowling Club and it was agreed to hand this in ahead of the new season.

Harvey asked if it would be possible to move the meeting night. Derek said that the only option available at the Bowling Club for the entire season were Tuesdays, with Mondays used for Bowling Club league activity from mid-March to mid-October, and Wed-Fris being reported as too busy with bar activity and functions. As moving from Tuesday to Monday and back would be difficult and have implications for scheduling home league matches, it was agreed to stick to Tuesday nights.

Julien proposed Saturday 3 September as a Club barbecue and 2021/22 prizegiving date, and this was readily agreed. He said he would share an invitation email with full details with all members later in August.

Julien initiated a discussion on starting a youth club in future. It was agreed it would not be practical to establish one in the coming season, but that interest and practical considerations would be monitored to revisit the idea in future. It was agreed, for the 2022/23 season, to reiterate that any

under-16s wishing to attend the Club must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times, and that Committee Members are welcome to signpost them to several junior Clubs in greater Glasgow.

Derek, Harvey and Graeme expressed gratitude to Julien for keeping the Club going through difficult times in 2019-21, including periods when it had no venue and very few members. Julien's extensive contributions as President were noted, and Graeme said he would be happy to step down next season, should Julien wish to resume the role.

## 7 Close

The Annual General Meeting concluded at 9:00pm.

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*Minutes by Derek / 16 August 2022*