



Queens Park Chess Club – Club Championship Report on the conclusion of the club consultation.

On the 4th June 2024, The Committee launched a consultation on the proposed rules for the club championship for the upcoming season. This consultation ended on the 18th June 2024 and the Committee met on Monday 24th to discuss the feedback received and to make final decisions on the rules based upon the feedback received. The decisions made in finalising the rules are detailed below.

- In relation to the proposal, endorsed at the AGM, to increase the tournament to 7 rounds, all the feedback received was in favour. As such the decision was made to finalise this.
- In relation to the proposal to include the introduction of 2 ½ point byes there was mixed feedback, with some endorsing the proposal and some not. In particular the following comment was received and discussed at length.

My reason for disagreeing on point 2 is that weaker members of the club who have made every effort to attend all 7 matches and who are sitting on 0 points may be disheartened at seeing players above them in the table who have accrued two 1/2 points through non-attendance.

The committee came to the position that the introduction of byes, in general, was important to reduce defaults in the coming year. However, there is no desire to dishearten anyone and so the decision was made that we would allow only 1 ½ point bye, with further byes given at 0 points. This was felt to be a sensible middle ground which acknowledged the concerns of all parties and will be an agenda item at the next AGM.

- A concern was raised as follows:

I do wonder about managing an influx of new players with a first club championship round in September, it seems like a lot. I appreciate that early renewals etc will make it easier for returning members, but I'm thinking of people new to the club.

The club will re-open at the start of September and the first round will be planned for the end of that month. We are expecting earlier renewals this year and should be able to offer new members sufficient time for induction. All members will be encouraged to read The Laws of Chess which can be found [here](#).

- A suggestion was made to allow the round 7 game to be completed over 3 weeks to make up for not being allowed to take a ½ point bye in round 7. The committee felt that

allowing a full 3 weeks would be excessive, however extending the final round to a 15 day window to include 3 club nights at The Bungo should help to make it easier for round 7 games to be played.

- The final concern raised was surrounding tie breaks.

Personally I prefer no tie breaks. I am of the view that the sum of opponents scores method to sort can be unfair on players due to byes and defaults resulting in potential for the champion to win because he had more wins against players who had default wins. Would hence prefer first equal.

Tiebreaks aren't a topic with one satisfying solution, with this being debated right up to Grandmaster level, invitation only tournaments. The Committee does not feel that we will be able to settle this debate to everyone's satisfaction.

The Club uses Chess Scotland Tournament Performance Rating (TPR) as a tiebreaker for the Club Championship. Performance rating is the level a player performed at in a tournament based on the number of games played, their total score in those games, and the Elo ratings of their opponents. This excludes byes/defaults, hence players' tiebreaks won't be artificially inflated/deflated because of them. With the introduction of an additional round (which makes a sole winner more likely), and given how the performance rating is based on players' standard ratings, The Committee have agreed that we will continue to use TPR for now and that this will be an agenda item at the next AGM.

The Committee would like to thank everyone who took the time to respond with their thoughts and feedback. It is much appreciated.

/ends