

Minute of Munster Chess Union Annual General Meeting held in the Charleville Park Hotel on 11th September 2013.

ATTENDANCE

Frank Noonan, Simon Lawrence, John L. Walsh, Desmond Healy, Pat Meskell, Jan Heinrich, Gabriel Mirza, Patrick O'Sullivan, John Keane, Ray O'Brien, Stephen Danaher, John Alfred, Pat Twomey, Eric Salsac, Alan Salsac, Paul Carey, Edward Blackwell and Kevin Foley.

Apologies were received from John Cassidy and Rory Quinn.

Paul Carey agreed to be the minute recorder for this annual general meeting.

2012 AGM MINUTE

Minute of the 2012 AGM was read by the Chairperson, *Appendix 1*. It was agreed to change the word "Chess" in line two under ICU delegate briefed meeting to "Moves". It was also agreed to insert the word "not" after "is" on line one of Motion 1. The final amendment agreed to change was "John Alfred" to "Jan Heinrich" on line one under Nominees for Chairman after the words "proposed by".

The amended Minute was adopted on the proposition of Ray O'Brien having been seconded by John Alfred.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

Frank Noonan, Chairperson, thanked the members for making the effort to attend the 2013 AGM. He started his address by thanking the clubs for entering teams in both divisions last season. He was delighted that Division 2 was run. He stated that it was not ideal to have 2 sets of rounds of games doubled up in a month in division 1, twice, last season. He noted that this was owing to the late start of the League, which he said would be commented on by the League Controller in his report later on in the meeting. He regretted that Division 1 ended up with 7 teams competing. Whilst this was unfortunate, it resulted in teams receiving a match bye in each round, from round 3 onwards. He posed the question whether the League should revert to playing one game on a fortnightly basis. He also stated that "Rule 6 – Guest Players, introduced at last year's AGM had not the desired effect. He noted that there were 2 rule amendments for Rule 6 listed for discussion under agenda item 7 later on. He expressed his concern of teams having to give individual walkovers. In his conclusion, he hoped that the issue of walkovers could be addressed by the Clubs this season by giving a commitment to ensure that teams are fully fielded for all games.

LEAGUE CONTROLLER'S REPORT

Paul Carey read out the League Controller's Report which was circulated and adopted, *Appendix 2*. John Alfred apologised that his club had to withdraw their second team from Division 1 last season. He stated that it was not ideal but the membership of the team collapsed as 2 key players left the region.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Simon Lawrence circulated a financial report outlining income and expenditure in 2012/13, *Appendix 3* together with 2011/12 for comparison. He highlighted the Room Hire cost which had doubled last year. A sum of €100 was agreed to be written off as it was agreed that it related to the previous season. It was agreed to discuss the whole issue of club fees later on under AOB. The Treasurer's Report was adopted on the proposition of Pat Twomey having been seconded by Alan Salsac.

ICU DELEGATE'S REPORT

It was noted that John Cassidy was unavoidable absent as he was the Treasurer of the Limerick Chess Club and their AGM was also on tonight. However he forward on his Report to John Alfred who read it out, *Appendix 4*. This report was noted and adopted.

MCU RULE AMENDMENTS

Rule 4 -be amended to include "that at the end of this season 2 teams be relegated with 1 team promoted leaving 7 teams in Division 1 for the 2014/15 season". This was proposed by Paul Carey and seconded by Simon Lawrence. Paul noted that Division 1 moved from 6 to 8 a number of years ago as Division 2 had collapsed. He felt that the returning to 7 and maybe 6 in future years would return strength to Division 2. Following a robust discussion where the clustering of the 2 sets of 4 teams was discussed in depth, it was agreed to take a vote. The proposed amendment was defeated.

Rule 6 - sentence 1 "Any player who is not resident in Munster and who plays for another club in a league outside Munster is classified as a Guest Player" be changed to read "Any player who is living in Munster or Connaught may play in the MCU Leagues. This rule to be reviewed if Connaught start their own FIDE rated league." This was proposed by Paul Carey and seconded by Alan Salsac. Following a full discussion it was put to a vote. The proposed amendment was carried.

Rule 6 - sentence 2 "Each Club may nominate a maximum of two Guest Players per club on their team panels" be changed to "Each Club may nominate a maximum of two Guest Players per club, one per team" was proposed by Paul Carey, seconded by Frank Noonan. Following a discussion withdrawn and a counter amendment of "Each team may play only one Guest Player per match" was proposed by Alan Salsac and seconded by Paul Carey. This amendment was put to a vote and carried.

Rule 10 – Add in a new rate of play for games in the second division of 60 minutes plus 30 seconds per move from move 1 or 1.5 hours each. Paul Carey proposed this motion in response to correspondence received from team captains in division 2 and outlined in his league controller's report. This was seconded by Simon Lawrence and put to a vote and was defeated.

MCU LEAGUE

It was agreed to have 8 teams in the 1st Division namely – Adare, CCYMS, Charleville, Cork, Ennis, Limerick, Sarsfield and Tralee. It was agreed that this division would start on October 12th. It was noted that a team from St. Michaels and a second team from Adare would like to play in the 2nd Division. It was agreed that the League Controller would contact the existing teams in Division 2 namely – Ennis B, Dungarvan, Shannon and Waterford to ascertain if they are interested in fielding a team/teams this season. It was agreed that the League Controller may use his discretion in deciding the final number of teams and that this division would start later in November if possible.

MOTIONS

5 Motions were received, although 2 were ruled out of order. As per our constitution the proposer of the motion(s) had to be present to move the said motion(s).

Motion 1 – "That the MCU run an NCC/ECC compatible qualifying league for Munster Division 1 teams, over a weekend". "It would need to guarantee a minimum of 3 rounds, and sufficient numbers of teams taking part." Proposed by John Alfred and seconded by Jan Heinrich. Following a comprehensive discussion this motion was put to a vote carried. It was unanimously agreed that this new event would be self-financing.

Motion 2 – "The draw for the matches & locations to be changed every season and the teams/captains to be consulted when making the draw." This was proposed by Gabriel Mirza and seconded

by John Keane. Following a discussion and in the interest of fairness, this motion was put to a vote and carried.

Motion 3 – “That clubs may only use a former Munster Senior Champion if s/he resides within 30 miles of the Club’s premises”. This is to reduce the incidence of monopolistic practices. This motion was proposed by John Alfred. After a few moments John withdrew this motion.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairperson: Alan Salsac was proposed by Gabriel Mirza and seconded by John Alfred. As there were no other candidates Alan was deemed elected.

Secretary: Ray O’Brien was proposed by Frank Noonan and seconded by Pat Twomey. As there were no other candidates Ray was deemed elected.

Treasurer: Simon Lawrence was proposed by Pat Twomey and seconded by John Alfred. As there were no other candidates Simon was deemed elected.

League Controller: Frank Noonan was proposed by Pat Twomey and seconded by Paul Walsh. As there were no other candidates Frank was deemed elected.

ICU Rep: John Alfred was proposed by Jan Heinrich and seconded by Gabriel Mirza. As there were no other candidates John was deemed elected.

AOB

1. Mulcahy and Munster Individual Championship

Pat Twomey reported on the Munster Individual Championship which last year was incorporated into the Mulcahy Championship held over the Christmas period. He noted that 26 players were in the running for this competition and that Alex Lopez, IM eventually won and is currently the Munster Individual Champion. As Champion he was invited to play in the British Championship.

It was unanimously agreed to grant aid this competition this season with the same amount as last year i.e. €200.00.

2. Club Fees for 2013/14

Following an in depth discussion where various scenarios were outlined by the treasurer it was unanimously agreed that the fees for this season would be €200 per team in the 1st Division and €100 per team in the 2nd Division. The Treasurer noted that as per Rule 3 – “Clubs must pay all necessary fees before the completion of the third round.”

The Meeting then concluded.