

Special TAFCA Committee Meeting: Minutes – Monday February 1st 2021, 7.45 pm (held online)

Present: A Dawson, Jean Chalmers, S Banerjee, J Warren, A Borwell, R Noble, J Anderson, D Findlay, K Rose, M Wylie: Apologies for Absence – None.

Item for Discussion:

Following a complaint by St Andrews University in reference to a TAFCA League match played on January 21st 2021 between St Andrews A and Dundee B, it was alleged that on Board 3, Frank Stevenson (Dundee B) had used computer assistance in his match with Stuart Ballantyne. As a result of these events, an emergency meeting of the TAFCA committee was held in order to consider the details of the complaint and what action, if any, the Committee should take.

The Committee members spend some considerable time debating this issue and were guided by the 'Fair Play Guidelines' previously agreed by the TAFCA Committee a copy of which is displayed online at the TAFCA website (see TAFCA website 'Documents'). The Committee agreed that adherence to the Fair Play Rules described above is vital to the successful running of the online TAFCA chess league.

Accordingly, prior to the meeting, all 5 games played by Frank in the TAFCA Online League 2020-21 were checked by Chess Scotland anti-cheating software and it was shown unequivocally that computer assistance had been used in all of his 5 games.

After being contacted by Ray Noble about this issue, Frank, citing personal difficulties at his work, did not deny the complaint and has intimated that he has decided to cease playing online chess. He has also resigned from his post as finance auditor for TAFCA with immediate effect. One consequence of these developments agreed by the TAFCA Committee is that all of the aforementioned 5 games are to be defaulted against him and individual match results and grading adjusted accordingly.

(post script 18/02/21: all of the above mentioned changes have been completed on the TAFCA Website (Winter League) and all teams captains affected by these changes have been duly informed).

Jean Chalmers

20/02/21