

Minutes of pre AGM meeting of TAFCA held by Zoom on Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 7.45 pm

Present: J Warren, Peter Selbie, Keith Rose, Alan Borwell, Subhayu Banerjee, David Finday, Jean Chalmers, Alastair Dawson

1. J Warren reported on this season's online league: Division 1, 10 teams took part, Dundee A were winners while Perth A and Dundee B were relegated (6 games were defaulted). In Division 2 10 teams took part, Kirkcaldy A were winners with Dundee C in 2nd place (31 games were defaulted).
2. John Warren announced that he was standing down from TAFCA duties. AD responded by thanking John , (together With Ray Noble,) for all his invaluable work and the huge contribution that he has made to the TAFCA organisation over the year. He also said that a more formal 'thank you' will take place during the forthcoming AGM.
3. There was an initial discussion regarding the nature of TAFCA chess next season. There was a unanimous view that face to face chess in a TAFCA league should resume. In this discussion several other issues were highlighted. First, Peter Selbie stated that Kirkcaldy were still looking for a venue. Second, John Warren noted that Perth presently do not have a venue. Third , Alan Borwell asked if it was the case that the team composition in the respective leagues should be based on promotions and relegations from the online league and raising, also, the issue of Newport who did not take part in the online league. Fourth, there was a general discussion of what should the most appropriate time limits be. Fifth, Subhayu Banerjee made the general point that online chess has been highly successful during the pandemic and is clearly here to stay - what therefore should the TAFCA approach to online chess be in the future?
4. Other points to note were firstly that there was no representation of Perth, Newport or St Andrews at this meeting. TAFCA needs to make contact with these three clubs urgently so that they are engaged with the above discussions.

Discussion followed as to how the committee members felt about returning to over the board chess. The majority were in favour of this. The question was can it be as successful if we stop playing online. Online allows you to play from anywhere. There are some players who played online that will be unable to play over the board as they are remote. E.g. Graham Mooney. Alastair said that we are only concerned with TAFCA matches being played over the board. There are other tournaments e.g. SNCL that aren't governed by TAFCA that may continue to be played online. David wanted John Warren and Ray Noble to be recognized for all the work they have done. Things are beginning to open up. Scottish Chess held their first face to face tournament in Ayr last weekend and it was very successful. Jean reminded everyone that this meeting was only concerned with TAFCA arrangements. John said that it was always the intention to go back to over the board now that Covid has settled.

The TAFCA winter league would be over the board. Other events to be decided. Alan asked John how things had ended up with Newport who had not played online. This will be discussed at the AGM.

As John is resigning, Ray Noble was approached and has agreed to take over provided that someone else will organize the other events he runs.

It was noted that Perth and Kirkcaldy chess clubs are looking for new premises.

Alastair put forward issues for discussion at the AGM.

1. Over the board – agreed by committee
2. Who gets promoted -online or prior to that
3. Time controls and organizing matches to finish at 10.30 pm
4. Prepare and clean up venues

John Warren suggested that we look at Ray Noble's time control proposals, Start times had previously been discussed with clocks starting at 7.30 prompt. Rules had been amended.

Jean asked for the committee proposal for the AGM.

1. To move to over the board for next season. The committee agreed for the TAFCA league and allegro.
2. Should the composition of teams in the 2 Divisions be based on most recent promotions from online matches last season. Newport did not play online.
3. Time Controls. Rule 17 is current. Should we adopt the incremental system. Clubs would need digital clocks. See Ray Noble proposals
4. All match results should be sent within 48 hours by both team captains to the League Secretary by text or e-mail. Not post as previously done.
5. If the Covid situation changes in the future then a committee meeting will be called to decide which way to go.

Alan suggested that Jean send a reminder to committee members 2-3 before the meeting.

Alastair closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.