**MANCHESTER CHESS FEDERATION**

**Minutes of the Council meeting on Wednesday, 6th May 2020**

**Conducted online.**

This meeting was conducted online to comply with government guidelines during the COVID-19 lockdown.

**Present:**

Jon Lonsdale, John Walton, Andrew Shingleton, Damien McElvenny, Julian Clissold, Dave Kierman, John Reyes, Dave Hardy, Steve Farrar, Phil Adams, Ian Lamb, Reg Clucas, Mick Norris, Aidan Rawlinson,

**Apologies**

None received.

**Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

Not discussed.

**Matters Arising**

**Recording of Moves**

From Harry Lamb (via email):

*I have not time to look it up and quote chapter and verse. Also, I think it is in a supporting Fide document which may take some time to trace rather than the main laws of chess. But I am sure that a time adjustment for a player who cannot keep score with good reason forms part of the rules. I presume the time is decided by the arbiter. It is not meant as a penalty. It is meant to give a level playing field (board). As otherwise the player not writing the moves down would gaining a time advantage.*

**Officer Reports**

**Grading (Rod Middleton)**

The latest grading data has been submitted.

**Fixtures Secretary (Phil Adams)**

Mick Norris and Phil Adams have provided a report.



**Junior Organiser (Julian Clissold)**



**Post-Lockdown**

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The MCF should provide guidance and principles to clubs regarding the post-lockdown chess scene.

Some concerns are:

* Venues may have closed due to insolvency. Clubs typically play at venues such as pubs which may be among the last to come out of lock-down.
* Some players might be unwilling to participate. E.g. older players might be unwilling to play competitive chess until they’ve received a vaccine.

If clubs do not have a venue, they might have to find an alternative or possibly play at the opposition venue.

It remains unclear when the lock-down restrictions will be fully lifted and how this would coincide with the chess calendar.

It’s possible that further lockdowns might happen in the short-term e.g. in the event of a second-wave of the coronavirus. One suggestion might be to conclude the current (2019/20) season as and when possible during windows of opportunity. Priority could be given to cup matches. Clubs could still conduct friendly matches.

It’s virtually unfeasible to commence a new season in the short-term (e.g. to commence the 2020/21 season in September or soon thereafter).

There are approximately 12 weeks (3 months) worth of fixtures remaining. This is 62 individual fixtures including cup fixtures. Provisional fixtures have been drafted to recommence these from September.

It would be useful to get input from member clubs on their status. E.g.

* Will their venue be open?
* Could their venue host most than one match to provide facilities to other clubs?
* Will their membership be willing to play?

A questionnaire could be compiled to this effect. It would also be useful a way to engage with clubs which might be feeling isolated at these times. There are online facilities for this e.g. SurveyMonkey.

The MCF should attempt to assist clubs where possible. E.g.

* Allow flexibility in their registered players.
* Offer assistance with venue sourcing.

An aspiration to complete the current season could be communicated to clubs together with guidance regarding safe play.

E.g.

* sanitization of equipment
* Use of hand-gels.
* Distance between boards.

MCF Congresses host a large number of players compared to an evening league chess match. Further considerations should be given to how they could proceed in a safe manner.

The AGM would have to be postponed until matters are clearer and the season has completed.

**Online Chess Activities**

The MCF should look into providing an online offering for future seasons in order to remain relevant in the modern chess scene.

**Manchester v Liverpool league on-line match**

John Reyes will organise canvassing interest for this.

The speculation is that Liverpool will much stronger than in the previous encounter.

**ECF On-line Counties Championship (information attached)**



John Reyes will approach players to assess the feasibility of MCF participation.

**4NCL Activities**

The Manticores have not engaged have not yet engaged with 4NCL online.

**AOB**

**CSC Manchester**

Dave Hardy has sent a report.



**Meeting concluded: 9.10pm**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd June and held online.

While COVID-19 is an ongoing concern the short-term intention is to have short (1hr) online meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. They would typically be focused to a specific single agenda item.