

It has been a year of trial and tribulation. A few different things been tried. Some have worked well, others not so. From these experimentations, the Committee has learnt some valuable lessons. We have been working on implementing a number of initiatives that will hopefully make next year plain sailing.

New members - a warm welcome to Iain Liddell, Chris Carr, Phil Elliott and Jim McIntosh The club has done well for membership over the year. Lawrence Fay, Gordon Lyall, Chris Tipper and Daniel Burgess joined us earlier in the year but for various reason were unable to stay.

Commiserations and sympathy – to Earl Roberts who lost his father recently and to David Paul whose wife passed away at the beginning of the year. Our condolences to you both.

Borrowing books from the library – the books are there to be used but also to be shared, so can people please remember to write in the notebook if they take out a book. We have one book missing ‘The Ideas behind the Chess Openings’ by Reuben Fine. Could the person who has this book please record it in the notebook.

Change to giving notice of non-play / defaults

In order to simplify and clarify the current guidelines on giving notice to play, the rules have been changed for next year to;

- If you miss a night you default your game to your opponent.
- Unless, at the discretion of your opponent, they agree to play it later.
- The terms of the catch up game will be of your opponent i.e time and venue.

Please have consideration for people who give up their time to come and expect to play a game. Remember some members travel quite a distance to be here.

Tournament format – where possible tournaments will be run as round robins. This is so the draw can be posted at the beginning and allows people to see in advance who they are scheduled to play and when. Also it has the advantage over swiss in that the weekly draw is not reliant on the previous round. Furthermore there is more flexibility for catching up missed games.

Tournament entry – players who entered a tournament late will forfeit earlier rounds already played unless there are exceptional circumstances. Catch up games are a privilege not a right.

Tournament withdrawal –if a player withdraws part way through a tournament their games and point score will be decided according to the following format. If they have played more than 50% of the scheduled games their results will stand. If the percentage is less than 50% their games will be declared null and void.

Club starting time – next year the games *will* start at 7.30. If you wish to have a cuppa and mingle and socialise come at 7.15. This measure is to help avoid late finishes.

Appointment of club ambassador - I am happy to announce the appointment of Phil Elliott to the unofficial position of club liaison officer. The role of this person is to facilitate the introduction of new and potential members into the club. It will be a way of easing people into the scheme of things and make their first experience of the club an enjoyable one.

Introduction of Most Valuable Player award - criteria – attendance, rating change, sportsmanship, service to chess, contribution to club, etc. Club captain prohibited except in exceptional circumstances showing service above and beyond normal duties in opinion of committee.

There are more improvements in the pipeline.

Next year's start Date – First week in February.