

Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting of the Nairobi Chess Club held on 27th October 2018 at 3:03pm Goan Gymkhana, Nairobi.

Present: Kim Bhari, Chairman (KB)

 Mushfig Habilov, Director of Play (MH)

 Willy Simons (WS)

 Warren Pollock, Secretary (WP)

 Peter Gilruth, Vice-Chairman (PG)

 Hussein Shamte (HS)

 Meerabbas Afzali (MA)

 Paul Ochieng (PO)

Absent with apologies: Mehul Gohil (MG)

 Roberto Villuela, Treasurer (RV)

The meeting commenced at 3:03pm by KB reading the Notice of the AGM.

The minutes of the 59th AGM were proposed by WP, seconded by PG, and confirmed by all present.

The financial statements, Auditor's report, and the Chairman's report for the year ended 31st August 2018 were proposed by HS, seconded by PG, and confirmed by all present. MH requested a revision that sponsors be highlighted towards the beginning of the document, which the Committee agreed on.

Elections were held and the following posts were confirmed;

Kim Bhari, Chairman

Peter Gilruth, Vice Chairman

Warren Pollock, Secretary

Mushfig Habilov, Director of Play
Roberto Villuela, Treasurer

Willy Simons, Committee member

Hussein Shamte, Committee member

Meerabbas Afzali, Committee member

Issues discussed:

Membership: Chess Kenya (CK) has been discussing requiring membership for FIDE rated tournaments, but has yet to implement this. NCC decided regardless to switch our year-end to December in order to match CK's financial year, and support CK by including membership for the national organization in our membership. NCC membership with CK membership included to be set at 1700/= per year.

WP proposed Supporting Membership. With our website now live and providing some functionality for allowing people to sign up for and pay for membership, that opens the opportunity for an additional, less expensive level of membership catering for those who may want to support us but aren't regularly around Nairobi to attend club days. Committee decided a better way to accomplish this was to add a way to receive donations on the website.

WS proposed family and junior/student membership options. Committee agreed these should be implemented. Junior and student memberships, including CK membership, were set at KES 1,000/= per year. Family membership was set at KES 2,500/= per year.

Sponsorship: KB proposed setting up Friends of NCC as a charity in the UK, similar to Rhino Charge. He will request information regarding requirements from Aslam Adam. Decision of whether to do this to wait for more information. In addition, HS to approach China Telekom for sponsorship.

Activities: MH to maintain calendar of events and planned activities. Also to look into adding a ladder for members, and possible activities to attract juniors. Some activities to focus on improving the level of play. Calendar to be out shortly.

NCC to hold the usual major tournaments: Jamhuri Cup in December, Capablanca Cup moves to January to support membership drive with new financial year, Le Pelley Cup in February (WP suggested moving this later in the year to better space tournaments), NCC Open in August, NCC Closed to be scheduled between Le Pelley and Open.

Tasks: It was noted that most people respond to notifications done via Facebook or WhatsApp. PG/WP/KB volunteered to answer queries received via email, KB to answer queries via Facebook.

WS in charge of streamlining the process to register for membership through the website. In addition, committee agreed to move towards automating membership in general, shifting away from in-person registration. KB and WS to work on sending out yearly reminders to members that fees are due for the next year. With membership automated, that will help with attendance

and checking club day attendees are paid up, ideally with an app developed for the purpose. Attendance to be done by rota.

There is a program that “scrapes” the website for new posts and automatically sends out notifications. Scraper to be revised to that it sends post titles in notifications, so that important announcements don’t look like regular articles. WP and RV currently have weekly website articles, others invited to contribute if they have ideas for regular content. Success of website content to be revisited in the future to give it time to build an audience.

KB to introduce financial procedures to RV.

Chessbase trial has expired. KB/WS to look at paid subscription to hold our database of games, and possible alternatives.

For outreach, KB to email Sarit Centre about holding a simul. Two Rivers as alternate setting if Sarit does not agree. Also to look at asking embassies for a match.

Since relaunching, NCC chess.com club has added 50 members. Another meeting to be scheduled when RV available to discuss plans to better engage members.

NCC still has the W. Sims trust fund account in South Africa. KB to work on accessing the account.

2019 League: CK has yet to announce details. Committee decided NCC should participate. Should sponsors be found, there is space on NCC shirts for their names to be added.

Jamhuri Cup: Scheduled for December 8-9 2018, cap of 16 players. Further details to be planned with committee by email.

Venue: Committee recently received email from Silver Springs Hotel inquiring about a partnership. KB to look into this. If it doesn’t suit our needs, KB to ask KAM Place (across from where Nakumatt Ukay used to be) and Braeburn.

Donations: MH donated a copy of ECO to the club, as well as two selections of games and a selection of mating puzzles. PG volunteered old Chess Life issues, provided NCC controls access so they remain with the club.

There being no other points to discuss the meeting ended at 5:20pm.

Warren Pollock

Secretary

Nairobi Chess Club