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**COMMITTEE MEETING**

**On Monday 22 May October at 7.30pm**

**At The Nightingale, 97 Nightingale Lane, Balham, SW12 8NX**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Alan Palmer, Leon Watson, Adrian Somerfield, Tim Valentine, Midhun Unnikrishnan, Tim Wells, Arnold Hunt, Emil Todorow, Chris Rebbeck, Howard Groves

1. **Minutes of the last meeting (14 May 2018)**

Received

1. **Matters arising**

None raised.

1. **Finance – update**

AS says there is about £3k in the account but subs collection has been “pretty appalling”, he notes that quite a few “notable” people have not paid and looks to the end of the table in the direction of the secretary. He notes none of the first team members have paid any money for last year. Other than that he notes we have a “solid base”. AH raises the question of the new joiner fee. It is decided to fix it at £25 if you pay online via PayPal, to cover the fees, and £20 if paid via bank transfer. LW to edit website to reflect that. ET arrives. AP asks how much is outstanding, AS says “about £1,500, a significant amount”. ET suggests all captains should step in to help AS hassle players. LW reports he knows of no new sponsorship opportunities.

1. **Discussion about the future of Club tournaments and events**

AP opens discussion which takes in points 5, 6 and concerns how to revamp the internal competitions which have fallen by the wayside. LW refers to suggestions made by Aldo Camilleri, including the idea of dedicated “casual” and “quiet” nights to cut down on noise when internal games are taking place. AS asks “is it so terrible to play a graded game when it’s a casual night?”. TV asks whether we are restricted to one night a week at the Labour Club if we wanted to host more serious nights. The idea of Saturday events and junior events is raised, it is decided the club should explore this. “No harm in having one off events and seeing how they go,” said AP. Enthusiasm is shown for Saturday morning junior chess, if it is possible. LW notes that we have had a lot of interest from kids and have to find a way of harnessing it. The suggestion is made that we start earlier on Tuesdays.

1. **Appointment of a new Tournament Controller**

“It needs someone who’s a bit pushy,” says AH. “Emil did it once...” AP adds. ET suggests Aldo, but AH says he doesn’t want to. LW says he wants to do it in partnership with someone. CR says would help and it is agreed to approach Aldo with the idea of them taking over together “I do want my name first, or there’ll be trouble,” CR jokes, AS suggests he call himself the “Aldo controller”. CR was appointed official TC working in partnership with Aldo and given “carte blanche” to do what they wish to shake it up. The idea of a one-off Saturday event is to be pursued. AP suggests a “beer and comfort break”.

1. **Engagement of new members, including juniors**

See above.

1. **Appointment of a Membership Secretary**

LW expresses need for a bit of help, whether it is official or not, to welcome people to the club and keep track of new members and potential new members both in person and over email. MU offers to help at the club.

1. **Team selection issues**

Captains note they are over-subscribed with players and a finding they can not offer players enough games. We have too many players and not can not offer enough graded games, LW notes. HG and CR say have had 12 players for 4 and 5 board matches. “I can’t even get in my own team now, it is the final ignominy,” says HG. LW highlights a player who emailed in wanting to play games and says if we take his money for subs he will be disappointed because he will likely not get to play much graded chess. TV suggests a FAQ section on the website. AS suggests a new members’ section once a month. Both ideas are well received. “If we are sensible and forward-thinking we can see the through-put of new players for next season and cater for them,” says AP. CR says the internal tournament and team selection problems are linked and he will endeavour to encourage players to enter. LW says he is working on a system to collect players data and collate them into one place. Regarding new players, LW appeals to captains that if they don’t select them to “at least butter them up and keep them warm”.

1. **Basis for team selection next season**

AP mentions a suggestion for a Doodle poll put forward by Chris Beckett. AP asks if there are any problems captains want to raise. AH says there is always the problem of finding a team and giving people enough games. AP suggests nominating a reserve. LW asks if captains would like voluntarily-nominated squads for next season to help with the problems of getting new people games and to give players a “home” they can belong to. TV suggests that the season has just started, perhaps we should reflect towards the end of the season and see then. AP notes that having two teams in the same CLL division has posed problems, but ET says that problem has now been overcome. AP ponders entering a new Minor or Major team or even entering the Surrey League next season (2019-20) if the driving isn’t too bad. LW says it would be ideal if Batt 3 get promoted then we can have a new team in div 4. That is our intention, AH says. TW asks if there is any limit to the number of teams you can have in the LL. LW says no, and expresses a wish to have teams in every division. ET raises the question of the Surrey League. AP says yes that would create more chess for those happy to travel, that we left it about three seasons ago. He notes that at one stage, when he first joined the club, we had two teams in the SL. AH notes we left because of the travel.

1. **Equipment - any new requirements?**

AP asks whether we need any new equipment. He notes “one embarrassing week when we had two matches at Battersea and we didn’t have enough sets for everybody else who turned up”. TW says Aldo dashed off on his motorbike and brought back some sets. The question is raised about how many sets we have. About 19 with digital clocks and we need more, says AH. AS and HD suggests we buy some off Aldo. HD suggests it would recognise some of Aldo’s efforts to at least offer to buy them. TV says increasing events and new members there’s a logic to getting new sets. ET suggests we start with five clocks and sets and then later on buy some more if we need them, “we mustn’t get carried away”. Previously the club had 14 sets, it is noted, until AH donated five. AS says it costs around £160 for 10 and if LW and CB paid their subs… “there you go”. LW changes the subject, bringing up the cost of pairing software for use in events which is around £10. It is agreed that the cost should be met by the club. The question of having a club PA system is also brought up. It is agreed it’s a good idea, but the storage is a problem and it is asked whether we should talk to the BLC. AP suggests an occasional meeting with the BLC, perhaps an annual get-together. AH says this would be a good idea. After AH’s suggestion, it is agreed that AS should sign-off six sets, boards and clocks and boards.

1. **Any other business**

AP has one thing to mention: he says he has been asked to take over the presidency of the LL. Is that a useful interest or a conflict of interest, he asks. As long as that conflict of interest is in our interest, says LW. AP doesn’t think the president will have any excessive power at all. LW asks if we can “revisit the Mushrooms issue”, AP notes there may be a vote against him if he does. Meeting is closed.