**BATTERSEA CHESS CLUB**

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the Battersea Labour Club**

**Tuesday 11 April 2023**

**Present:** Alan Palmer (Chair), David Blackwell, Stephen Welch, Djuna Tree, Zoya Boozorginia, Bill Drennan, Arnold Hunt

1. **Apologies for absence:** Leon Watson,Florence Borrelly, Midhun Unnikrishan
2. **Date for AGM**

27 June was chosen for the Club AGM, which will be prior to the London League AGM some time in July. **(Action: Leon to notify Club members)**

1. **Finance update**

In the absence of Florence, no update was available. She will be asked to provide some details for consideration by the Committee before the AGM. **(Action: Alan and Florence)**

1. **Committee roles for next season**

Chair – David has kindly agreed to take over from Alan at the AGM.

Secretary – It was felt that this role had probably become too large for just one person. It involves administrative, publicity and membership duties. It was proposed that Leon be asked to describe each of them and to indicate which if any he might like to continue to undertake.

**(Action: Alan and Leon)**

Size of Committee – It was decided that in spite of the numbers involved, since few committee meetings were necessary, it should include all team captains.

1. **Handover of Club competitions role**

Stephen announced that he wanted to hand over the organisation of the Grand Prix tournaments. Alan thanked him for the enormous contribution his efforts had made to the attractiveness and spirit of the Club.

Stephen provided a copy of the Grand Prix Rules and Playing Conditions and outlined the work involved. The main challenge has been organising the pairings for each round when continually faced with a number of last minute opt-ins and opt-outs. Zoya has kindly volunteered to take over management of the Grand Prix, but it was agreed that Stephen could remain in the overall role of Tournament Secretary and be available to supervise other Club events. Marco Flaccavento had agreed to continue to submit the games for grading.

**(Action: Stephen and Zoya)**

Djuna agreed to take over Zoya’s role as Women’s Recruitment Officer. She reported that she had set up a WhatsApp group for women playing in the London League and that she was also planning a competition for women’s teams from Battersea, Hammersmith and She Plays to Win. (**Action: Djuna)**

Stephen and David will work together to plan some special events

**(Action: Stephen and David)**

Zoya asked whether the Club might be prepared to give financial support to a Battersea women’s team entry in the 4NCL. Alan said it had his support in principle, but it would need to be considered in the light of the Club’s financial position and would require agreement at the AGM.

1. **Update of the Club Constitution**

Alan volunteered to review the Constitution and propose any necessary updates at the AGM.

**(Action: Alan)**

1. **Captaincy issues**

Captains appear to be finding the players they need for their teams rather better than last season.

Midhun has indicated his wish to stand down as captain of the LL 1st team. Stephen undertook to contact him to find out who he might consider as a suitable replacement.

**(Action: Stephen)**

1. **Battersea Labour Club issues**

Some concern was raised about the rude attitude of BLC members when women went to purchase drinks in the bar. It was recommended that the BLC be asked to have the bar extension open on all Club nights. It was also agreed that they should be asked again about whether we could have some proper storage facility. Alan and Arnold agreed to arrange a meeting with the BLC Secretary, Tracey Summers. (**Action: Alan and Arnold)**

Stephen thought that the Battersea Arts Centre might be a suitable alternative venue and agreed to make an enquiry. **(Action: Stephen)**

Bill proposed that in order to help sociability in the club, an annual social event should be organised, possibly to follow the AGM. **(Action: future Committee meeting)**

1. **Investment in multimedia equipment**

Djuna gave a short presentation proposing the acquisition of equipment to help the functioning of the Club and be more welcoming and inclusive. This included items such as a banner, DGT boards and display items that would be attractive to new members, including women in particular. The main considerations would be cost and storage, as well as access to a PC and projector. Djuna agreed to assemble a small team of members to provide more detailed proposals and costings. Stephen offered to obtain a quote for a banner.

**(Action: Djuna and Stephen)**

1. **Safeguarding policy**

Since the Club had a number of junior members, Alan felt it desirable that it had a formal Safeguarding Policy and procedure. One possibility would be to copy what Hammersmith have done and simply adopt the ECF policy (despite the fact that it runs to 30 pages).

As a rule, juniors are expected to be accompanied by a parent or guardian, but there are a few older children who attend on their own. It was agreed that when membership of the Club is registered or renewed for juniors, their parents should be asked to provide their own contact details and to be asked to give their consent to their child being unaccompanied, if that is their wish.

It was agreed that a Safeguarding Officer would need to be appointed and an emergency contact procedure put in place. (**Action: Alan and AGM)**

Djuna felt that there should also be a policy regarding harassment and undertook to provide a suitable draft. **(Action: Djuna)**

1. **AOB**

David questioned whether it was any longer necessary for member’s addresses to be collected. **(Action: AGM)**

**AHP**

**12.03.23**