

Minutes of a meeting held on Fri 10/01/2020 at The Vale, Mansfield Rd, Arnold

Present: Nick London (league sec), Mike Naylor (records sec), Phil Morgan, Chris Holt, Dave Griffiths, Simon Scott

Apologies: Andy Robins, Chris Budd

1. Election of Chair

Chris Holt was unanimously elected as chair for 2019-20.

Simon Scott was welcomed as a new member of LMC.

Noted that there is still one vacancy on the Cte.

Action: NL to contact clubs not represented again.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (03/07/19)

Minutes accepted as a true record.

No matters arising other than those on the current agenda

3. ECF League Management System

Generally running well and most initial issues have been sorted out.

Significant time is being saved for the Records Sec, and results are published more quickly.

Eligibility check for new players is still an off-system process, and the withdrawal of EMCA from div. 5 caused some additional work.

A minority of team captains are not registered as inputters. Noted that Nomads have still not been supplied with working log-ins

Action: NL to chase up with LMS admin

4. Web Site

NL and DG gave update on work being done to redevelop the NCA web site.

LMC feedback on test pages to be passed on to Steve Burke; generally it looks good.

The intention is that a limited number of people will have direct input/edit access to their pages, including League Sec.

Development work is being done by DG's professional contact at his request

5. Dispute: Nomads 2 vs. West Bridgford 3

Decision made in November was reviewed and confirmed – win for Nomads and a request fro

Nomads to write to WB about the conduct of home players. Letter/email has not been written yet.

LMC repeats this request

Action: DG to draft a form of words for his club to send

Action: NL/CH to update WB officers.

6. Advisory Note to Clubs on 2 Minute Penalty

The above dispute highlights the need to clarify the existing FIDE rules about external interference in games and the appropriate action/penalties applied by team captains.

Action: NL to draft a note to clubs & team captains

7. EMCA

Noted with regret the withdrawal of the EMCA team from division 5 and the understandable reasons for it.

Agreed by LMC that any player appearing for EMCA team this season shall be permitted to play for another team if requested.

8. University Defaults

LMC reviewed the statement and request provided by Jonathan Finn on behalf of University (ref: lack of transport to distant venues and car drivers tied to higher teams)

Agreed by LMC that standard penalties should apply for the defaulted match Grantham 4 vs University 3.

Agreed by LMC that if future Univ. defaults occur in similar circumstances then points penalty will apply but the fine would be 50% of standard, in recognition of the club's pro-active approach to managing the problem. In particular:

- This only applies to fixtures outside the Greater Nottingham area that are difficult for public transport (i.e. Mansfield, Ashfield, Newark & Grantham)
- This is specific to University in recognition of their current and generic challenges in maintaining active league teams, and is ***not*** a precedent for any other clubs defaulting their matches.
- This provision is to apply only for this season

9. Other outstanding Fixtures

2 postponements have been rescheduled

Still awaiting new date for Univ 2 vs. Nomads 3

10. New ECF Grading Scheme

Latest information is that the 4 digit grading will not be published until next season, while test conversions are trialled during the year. Therefore no action needed at present on revision to league rules

11. Rules Revision Proposals

Proposal drafted by Drag Sudar to extend the default time in matches to 60 minutes after start (instead of 30 minutes) was discussed. Alternative limit of 45 minutes was supported by a minority, but LMC collectively did not wish to support at RRM.

Action: NL to update Drag

Also discussed – other changes to deal with perceived increasing reluctance to travel longer distances for matches especially during Winter months. Solutions to be considered at a later date for RRM proposals include:

- weekend or summer fixtures
- extending league season with a 'midwinter' break
- agreeing to fixtures counting double
- intermediate venues

LMC to meet prior to RRM to consider and draft rule changes

Nick London, League Secretary
19/01/20