

Minutes of a Virtual meeting held on Thur 09/07/2020 at ...various houses, 8.00 pm

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

Not available: Chris Budd,

(Virtual meeting conducted via 'Zoom')

1. Review of Votes & Comments from clubs on 19-20 Season

The current Covid-19 regulations have made any over-board-board chess impossible in the short and medium term. The responses to the request for comments and votes on various options circulated by the League Sec. were considered and discussed.

Points raised:

- a. Many clubs/players wish to avoid unnecessary risk of infection, especially the significant number considered vulnerable due to age or medical condition. This includes OTB club and league chess.
- b. Based on current government advice there is little/no prospect of the situation changing for chess until 2021 at earliest.
- c. The comments and votes supplied by all clubs are very helpful and informative, but should be taken as advisory and not binding.
- d. Noted that there are two or more ways of counting the votes. By one measure the top preference is option D (terminate the season and use a 'points per game' calculation), followed by option C (terminate with tables as is). By another method (single transferable vote), the option A has most support (postpone remaining matches until OTB can be resumed).
- e. Other neighbouring leagues show a mixed pattern:
Leics has terminated has season
Lincs has more or less completed anyway
Derbyshire had made no decision at the time of the meeting
[Since the meeting DCA has decide to terminate the league season using a similar method to option D]

2. Decision on Resolution of League Season 2019-20

Two alternative proposals were tabled:

[1] To follow Option A – to postpone remaining fixtures until OTB can be resumed, but to review the situation at the end of the calendar year

[2] To end the league season 2019-20 with immediate effect, the method of deciding league positions to be subject to a further vote if agreed

Votes were

Proposal [1] = 5

Proposal [2] = 2

3. Actions

- a. **LMC** agreed to reconvene in Dec 2020 to review the decision

- b. **CH** to draft a message to clubs explaining the current decision and plan

4. Other Business

- a. Noted that the 2020-21 league season is effectively abandoned in its normal format. This implies a lack of income for league entries for NCA.
NL to draw this to attention of the treasurer and Executive Committee
- b. It is to be hoped that OTB chess can recommence by Spring of 2021, in which case advance preparation and possibly a general meeting to modify league rules would be needed in Jan-Feb 2021.
- c. LMC noted the Covid-19 Risk Assessment form circulated by ECF for use by chess clubs. This is useful checklist and prompt for any clubs considering restarting OTB activity, and clubs are encouraged to use it in conjunction with their venue providers

Nick London, League Secretary
11/07/20