

Notts Chess Association

League Mgt Committee Meeting (virtual meeting via Zoom) 18 June 2022

Present: Chris Holt (chair), Nick London (secretary), Phil Morgan, Mike Naylor, Chris Budd (later during meeting)

Apologies: Simon Scott, Andy Robins, Dave Griffiths, Graham Ladds.

1. The meeting was not quorate at the start, so the acceptance of the previous minutes (12/9/21) was postponed.
Discussions ensued with a view to making recommendations for quorate approval remotely via email

2. Review for Season 2021-22:

- a. Fixtures were published and fulfilled with no issues before Christmas. Large number of re-arranged matches later in the season, due to rise in covid-positive incidents. Final fixtures slightly overran the scheduled completion date
- b. Mid-season break from mid-December to late-January worked OK and served to avoid both bad weather and covid peaks
- c. LMS functioned and without any problems; most team captains are now accustomed to it

3. Dispute Nomads 2 vs Grantham 1:

This was reviewed via email by LMC and a majority supported a draw as the outcome, with the game not put forward for rating. The decision did not affect the match outcome

4. League rules:

The suspension of some normal rules for 21-22 season were reviewed. The following proposed changes are to be presented to the NCA AGM for adoption for 22-23 season

- a. **Open vote at AGM on the standard time limit for games; either**
 - i. **65 mins + 10 secs per move (alternatively 75 mins per game) – as per 21-22**
OR
 - ii. **80 mins + 10 secs per move (alternatively 90 mins per game) – std league rules**
- b. **Number of players per team: propose 4 per team as in 21-22.**
 - Informal survey indicates this preference for the majority of clubs
 - Smaller team is more flexible and practical given the continued uncertainties.

- c. Rules to restrict team composition:

Agreed these need to continue to be relaxed to avoid problems of ineligibility for team captains and/or drivers. These rules are:

Rule C4 = players tied to higher team after 3 appearances above board 3

[Note: last sentence of C4 re: 1st team members, should not be reinstated]

Rule C6 = "Players may not be graded more than 20 points above anyone on a higher board..."

[Note: old ECF grade limit = 150 new rating points]

Proposal to AGM:

- i. **Suspend Rule C4 but reinstate Rule C6**
OR
- ii. **Suspend Rule C6 but reinstate Rule C4**
OR

iii. Suspend both C4 and C6 for the season 22-23

LMC recommendation is option (iii) to maintain maximum flexibility.

5. League Structure and Schedule:

Decisions on this are within the responsibility of LMC and dependent on entries, but clubs will want to know our provisional intentions to confirm team entries, club arrangements etc. The following should be circulated to clubs and comments invited at the AGM

- a. Divisions of 7 teams to meet survey preference for more matches. Different size for bottom division to be considered.**
- b. Formal promotion and relegation from 21-22 season outcome is not to be applied. Dependent on team entries and clubs' advice on average strength of teams, divisions will consist of 7-team groups going down the hierarchy of final placings in 21-22.**
- c. Formal promotion and relegation would be the aim for 22-23**
- d. A mid-Winter break as per 21-22 is still desirable given the expected rise in Covid incidence.**
- e. 22-23 league season may need to extend towards the end of May to allow for the mid-Winter break (this requires a suspension of Rule B1)**
- f. Key dates in the FIFA World Cup will be avoided in the fixture schedule if possible.**

6. Provisional Calendar:

W/b 15 Jul 2022	Team entries submitted
W/b 08 Aug 2022	Draft fixture list circulated
W/b 22 Aug 2022	Fixture list finalised and published
W/b 12 Sep 2022	Fixtures commence