

ICU Committee Meeting Thursday 21st May 2015



Agenda

1. Minutes of last meeting of 26th March 2015.
2. Matters arising
3. Website
4. Rules on membership of ICU - update
5. Child Protection Policy
6. Forthcoming events - Updates
 - Irish Junior Championships 2015
 - Irish Senior Championships 2015
 - Glorney Gilbert etc events
7. Tournament Rules status
8. Members being refused entry to tournaments
9. Reports from Officers
10. A.O. B

Attendance

Pat Fitzsimons, Darko Polimac, Colm O' Muireagain, Andrew Kildea, Peter Scott, Desmond Beatty, Chris Sheridan, Tristan Sheridan, Bryan Tobin, Kevin O' Connell.

Apologies

Paul Cassidy, Gerry Graham, Colm Daly

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 26th March 2015 were noted and approved.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising that were not already included on the Agenda.

3. Website

The Aontas report on the website was discussed in depth by the Committee and serious concerns about its contents were expressed at the meeting. It

was agreed that the Chairperson would send a copy of the report to the previous webmaster asking for his comments on it and that a decision on how to proceed, taking account of any comments received, would be made at the next meeting of the committee.

4. Rules on membership of ICU – Update

The document on this issue circulated by Paul Cassidy was discussed. It was noted that the issue would be discussed further at the next executive meeting

5. Child Protection Policy

The final draft of the document circulated in advance was briefly discussed and Pat was commended for the work that he had done to bring the document to a conclusion. It was agreed that the policy would be posted on the websites.

6. Events - Updates

Irish Junior Championships 2015

It was noted that the championship had been well run by the Blanchardstown Chess Club and that numbers participating were up on previous years. The event sponsors, New Ireland Assurance, had provided t-shirts for all participants and a trophy for the best placed under 8 girl. The sponsors were very pleased with the event.

An application from Blanchardstown Chess Club to recoup a deficit of €592 on the running of the championships was discussed. It was noted that while the Irish Junior Championships are normally intended to be run on a broadly “self-financing” basis the rules governing the event allow the ICU discretion to provide funds where the event is run in Dublin. This is because a Dublin venue is likely to be significantly more expensive than elsewhere. It was noted, from the financial statements supplied, that the tournament controller had been paid €700 for his services and that this appeared to be in excess of the normal rate of around €300 for a weekend event.

Accordingly, it was agreed that the ICU would pay a grant of €192 only, by capping the recoupment for the tournament controller at the normal rate of €300.

Irish Senior Championships 2015

Pat updated the meeting on this event. He also mentioned that the Open Weekender was to be replaced by the Scarry Cup Competition, a team based event. It was intended to allow players selected for the Glorney/Gilbert events to enter for free and that it would represent a good “warm-up” for the junior

international events due to take place later in July. It was also noted that the prize for the first three teams would be free entry to 3 Irish events taking place in the 2015/16 season.

Glorney Gilbert etc events

Desmond updated the meeting on progress with the preparatory work for the events. It was noted that coaching for the junior players was continuing and that contact with the ECU, FIDE and the President of Ireland had been initiated. Desmond was confident the President would take up the invitation to formally open the event.

7. Tournament Rules status

It was noted that Pat would revert to the tournament organisers that had approached the ICU with a revised draft based on discussions amongst the executive, Paul's latest suggestions and issues raised by the organisers.

8. Members being refused entry to tournaments

Pat outlined his discussions with the organiser of the Ennis Chess Congress concerning the admission of a player who had been refused entry to the event. The Ennis Chess Club's committee had re-considered their initial decision to refuse entry to a particular player and had agreed to allow him play subject to him signing an undertaking as to (i) his good behaviour at the event and (ii) the consequences for any failure to adhere to the commitments given.

In a number of lengthy telephone conversations with Pat, the organiser had outlined the reasons why the particular ICU member had initially been refused entry. These included a concern that admitting the player involved to the tournament could result in him (the organiser) not having an arbiter or sufficient playing equipment available to run the event. The organiser identified the source of his concern to Pat and separately to another member of the executive.

Pat expressed concern about the alleged role of the person identified by the Tournament Organiser in this matter, given that the executive had been involved in discussions with some tournament controllers about the general issue of refusal of entries to events. It was noted that this issue would be raised with the person identified by the organiser at a future meeting.

9. Reports from Officers

No issues raised that had not already been discussed under other items.

10. A.O.B.

The recent problems with the INCC were discussed. The committee noted that because an illegal pairing had been made by the Arbiter of the event, it could not be FIDE rated as it did not comply with FIDE regulations. The question of ICU rating the event was also discussed and it was agreed that the event should not be rated.

It was also possible that the ECU might not accept Ireland's two entries for the European Club Cup (ECC) as the teams had been selected on the basis of an invalid tournament. The options, if this occurred, were to (a) nominate one team only to be Ireland's representative at the ECC (one team can be entered if a national club cup competition is not held – two can be sent forward if a competition is held) or (b) declare the recently held INCC null and void and run a new INCC competition to select two teams. It was noted that there was sufficient time to do this as the deadline for entries was sometime in July. If option (a) was chosen, the top two teams from the recent competition could, for example, be invited to play-off against one another to determine which team went forward to the ECC.

It was agreed that Andrew would make contact with the ECU to explain the situation and to enquire if the ECU would accept the two entries from the top two teams from the recently held INCC competition (Adare and Gonzaga). If the ECU did not accept the entries, then a new INCC competition would be held, probably in Bray.

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