

**Agenda for the
General Membership Meeting of the
MetroWest Chess Club**
Last Revision 12-06-98

Date: Monday, 12-07-98
Time: 7:30 PM to 10:30 PM
Location: Natick Senior Center
Who may Attend: All Club Members

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- I. General Objectives and some of the methods by which they shall be achieved:**
1. To have an open forum of the members of the club to discuss the topics outlined in the agenda.
 2. To have a well-organized and well run meeting where impassioned debate may occur but all parties remain amicable.
 3. An Agenda shall be distributed in advance of the meeting.
 4. The meeting shall start and end promptly at the times stipulated by the agenda.
 5. The moderator shall explain and gently guide the attendees in the process of debate as contained within the clubs adopted rules of order and shall adhere to that process.
 6. Have prepared statements on various topics at the meeting to save time and present previously discussed material in a short and concise manner.
 7. As it is unlikely that the entire membership will be present, the board of directors shall act on behalf of the membership in deciding all matters, consistent with the bylaws of the Club.
- II. Specific objectives**
1. To have a specific plan to be implemented regarding the club championships.
 2. To resolve all issues sufficiently enough to allow the schedule of events for every Tuesday night to be set for January through July of 1999.
 3. To resolve all issues sufficiently enough to allow the schedule of events for every Tuesday night to be set for August through December of 1999.

III. Topics for Discussion

- A. One section events
 - 1. Should we continue to have one section events
 - 2. How many rounds should one section events be
 - 3. How many one section events should we have
 - 4. When should we have one section events
- B. Varying section breaks:
 - 1. Should we keep section breaks always at the same place.
 - a) If no, do we want to go back to leaving the breaks unspecified until round 1
 - b) If yes, should we change where section breaks currently are?
 - 2. Do we want to consider combining sections if the section is small for round 1.
 - a) What are the criteria for combining a section into another.
 - b) Can any section be combined out if it is too small
- C. Using a Tuesday night for non-Regular Time control event round.
 - 1. What to do with the currently free nights in May.
 - 2. Do we want to create additional "Free" nights during the year
 - a) If yes, what do we want to use them for
- D. The rules concerning Advance byes.
 - 1. Some basic ideas on modifying the current rules:
 - a) Require that the last two rounds both need two weeks notice regardless of the length of the event.
 - b) Require that the last two rounds both need two weeks notice when the event is more than 4 rounds.
 - c) Require that the last two rounds both need two weeks notice when the event is considered a "high money" event.
- E. Risk assessment and problem areas for the Club.
 - 1. Is there enough space if the clubs attendance should go up.
 - a) The club has recently purchased 12 new tables for the Senior Center, which will allow use of the third room.
 - b) If necessary, additional people could be squeezed onto the existing tables. Generally, there are 20 tables kept in the main room. This will accommodate 80 players.
 - 2. If the notebook PC dies just before a round starts:
 - a) There are one or two computers in the computer room that can serve as backup. An effort is made to occasionally verify that the current version of the pairing program, WinTD is installed and that the rating supplement file is present for looking up ratings. The computer environment back there is very unstable.

- b) Someone will have to manually pair the event. To this end, the old process of having a pairing card for each entrant is still followed. With the computer, the cards are really not necessary. Having the cards allows tracking of fees paid at entry and allows the TD to back fill them to try and pair. In order to do this, a wall chart or cross table should always be printed out and available at the club.
 - c) If a computer is always available and the TD is capable of getting one of the Centers PCs working, then the need for a TD present who can manually pair is eliminated.
 - d) The board should consider for a future discussion the idea of having a second portable.
3. The TD situation
- a) The pool of TDs who could manually pair an event with a reasonable level of confidence and accuracy are:
 - (1) Mark Kaprielian
 - (2) Tom Powers
 - (3) Mike Barry
 - b) The pool of active TDs who could probably use the computer to do the pairings are:
 - (1) Mark Kaprielian
 - (2) Tom Powers
 - (3) Mike Barry
 - (4) David True (not currently active)
 - c) The club is at risk due to having gotten use to reliance on primarily one TD.
 - (1) If a routine of sharing responsibility of TDing an event is established, then
 - (a) The club should be able to accommodate the gaining and losing of TDs over time.
 - (b) An active pool of TD's should be easier to train and maintain.
 - (c) The burden of effort will be shared.
 - (2) If the TD for the event is playing in the event, there should always be another TD present until the TD for the event is done with his game.
 - d) The playing rooms must be arrange and neat. If they are not, we get a call about it and it strains our relationship with the council that runs the facility.
 - (1) The TD is generally stuck at the end of the picking up the various rooms. This means that, given that the round starts on time the TD on duty will probably not get on the road till at least 12:15 AM.
 - (2) Since some games run late, it is not possible to completely arrange the main room without disturbing the remaining players. .
 - (3) We need to address the issue. Some solutions:
 - (a) Study group will make sure that the demo boards are returned to the closet and that the room is set up for skittles.
 - (i) Heavy hand: Don't start the round if the room is not prepped.

- (b) Excess chairs are neatly stacked in the main room before the start of the round. This will
 - (i) Make it easy to quickly tidy the chairs remaining at the end of the night.
 - (ii) Allow the players themselves to push the chairs in when they get up at the end of the game.
 - (iii) Will make the room easier to navigate during play.
 - (iv) Will make the seating more comfortable and feel more spacious
 - (a) Heavy hand: Don't start the round until the chairs are stacked nicely. Remind people to stack up chairs at about 7:20
- (c) Ask all those in the skittles room to tidy up all the rooms.
- (d) Be sure to announce early in the evening, what we ask/expect everyone to do.

F. Prospective Board members

1. Outline Responsibilities to those in attendance

- a) Keys to facilities, ensuring opening and proper closing.
 - (1) Tables and chairs arranged neatly
 - (2) No trash left about
 - (3) Protecting the pool tables (Senior Center hot spot)
 - (4) Closing windows, turning fans off
 - (5) Closing lights
 - (6) Making sure back and front exits are secured
- b) Participating in discussion and voting on policies and other matters that arise.
- c) Time commitment
 - (1) Board rarely meets in person. Almost all business done by email or individual face to face discussion
 - (2) Occasional situations require prompt attention to email to resolve issue before the next round.

2. Solicit from those in attendance whether they are willing to serve, desire to serve or wish to no longer serve on the board in the 7 various positions.

- a) President
- b) Program Director
- c) Treasurer
- d) Member at large (4 people)

G. Adding a G/30 Event in parallel one night a month.

1. Background Information.

- a) Historically, the club has poor attendance when it runs a G/30 or even a G/60 event with no lecture.

- b) Since the WCC runs primarily G/60, G/30 and G/10 events, the lack of such events at the MCC was presumably not going to be a deterrent to people playing at the club. Given that our average attendance is 55 players, the club seems not too hurt by this practice.
 - c) A number of players don't like to miss a round and especially two so they choose not to play in that month if they are going to miss.
 - d) A number of players will drop out of the last round. Often this appears to be because the player has not had a good event and is not in the running or it's an opportunity for Tuesday night off before a clean start in the next event.
2. The idea
- a) Give people a reason to show up on the last night of the round anyway.
 - b) Provide a one-night activity that lets a player get some rated games in.
 - c) Provides an additional member benefit by expanding our program to allow more choices.
3. Rough draft of how it would work
- a) Scheduled for ???
 - (1) Last Tuesday of every month regardless of number of rounds?
 - (2) Last round of any 4 round event that ends on the last Tuesday of the month?
 - b) Entry fees structure same as regular events; \$5 per game, Members get one round free.
 - c) Start time posted as 7:45 PM, registration ends with main event registration time of 7:20 PM.
 - d) Games would be played in the third room so as to not disturb the main event players
 - e) Format and Time control
 - (1) 4-player round robin G/30 groups as the main activity. Players grouped according to rating.
 - (2) If one extra player present (players = 5, 9, 13, etc), since it is the last round of the event, we may be able to induce one player to drop out of the main event and give them free entry.
 - (3) If two extra players present (players = 6, 10, 14, etc). These players will play each other twice, once with both colors. We will call this a "Double Header" group.
 - (4) If three extra players present (players = 7, 11, 15, etc), since it is the last round of the event, we may be able to induce one player to drop out of the main event and give them free entry.
 - f) Prizes
 - (1) Round Robin groups: \$30 1st place. If four club members were to play, we would collect \$40. This gives us some float for the occasions where we let someone play for free in a quad or a double header.
 - (2) "Double Header" groups: \$10 1st place. If both players were club members, we would collect \$10.
 - g) Pro arguments
 - (1) Offers greater variety to the clubs program.

- (2) May attract additional people to the club
- h) Con arguments
 - (1) May create additional drops from the main event for the last round.
 - (2) Some quad groups may have very unbalanced ratings.
 - (3) Will probably slow registration down if some people are concerned about how the groups are shaping up for the G/30 event. They may not like getting stuck in unbalanced groups or getting stuck with playing someone twice even with both colors.
 - (4) Puts additional stress on the TD
 - (5) The TD's game gets started even later than it does now.
 - (6) Might pull away from the WCC Friday night events.
- i) Suggestion on how we might start this new program.
 - (1) Try it out for several months and not make any effort to publicize it outside of the club. i.e. not Tournament Life Announcements.
- j) Possible enhancements in the future should the initial program work out.
 - (1) We could run speed chess (G/10) events in place of G/30 now and then or at the same time.
 - (2) We could run a G/60 event in parallel to the main event. This would allow people to get home early on a week night as well as open it up for more school kids to play. This could have serious impact on the regular event attendance and would sections and prize structure.
- H. Forfeit policy
 - 1. Should we change it
 - a) If Yes, do we ever allow you to ever get a clean slate again. (currently you pay your fine and that's it)
- I. Championships:
 - 1. Should we bother to have a championship event
 - 2. Do we have a single champion title for the club or multiple championship titles based on rating/class.
 - 3. Do we allow co-champions
 - 4. What should be the format of the championship event
 - 5. When will the championships take place
 - 6. Is the championships part of our regular type of events
 - 7. Is it run in parallel with our regular event schedule
 - 8. What does the champion(s) get, i.e. does it have money associated with it or any other non-honorary award.