

SUMMARY OF MCC GENERAL MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 7, 1998

The agenda and other related materials having been distributed, the general meeting of the Metrowest Chess Club was called to order by President Mark Kaprielian at 7:40 pm. In attendance were:

Mike Barry*	Jim Krycka
Larry Eldridge	John Niarhos
Edward Epp	Tom Powers*
Homer Franck*	Harvey Reed*
Alan Hodge*	Sam Scott
Mark Kaprielian*	Derek Slater

*MCC Board members

Note: Some of those listed above were in attendance for only part of the meeting.

After explaining the "ground rules" for the meeting, Mark raised the first issue for discussion.

One-Section Tournaments

Mark shared the results of the questionnaire recently conducted at the club on the topic of how many sections players preferred for "big" events. Nine (27%) preferred one section, nine (27%) preferred two sections, and fifteen (45%) preferred three sections. There ensued general discussion during which the following points (among others) were made:

- The number of sections in an event must be related to the number of rounds; one-section tournaments make no sense if there are only four rounds in view of the desired outcome of determining a single clear winner.
- One of the purposes of "big" events is to attract other players, especially masters, which helps the club grow by making it better known.
- "Big" events possibly contribute to changing the focus of the club away from "club" chess.
- With the growth in participation at MCC over the past two years, perhaps the focus of the club's thinking should change from seeking further growth to sustaining the present participation level and enhancing the benefits available to club members. Mark provided the following data regarding participation at the club:
 - ♦ 72 players have played at the club within the last two months.
 - ♦ 110 players have played at the club within the last six months.
 - ♦ 143 players have played at the club within the last twelve months.
 - ♦ Of the 110 players who have played at the club within the last six months, 72 are club members.
- The economics of "big" events are feasible within the current entry fee and prize structure of the club. "Big" event prizes are guaranteed, which introduces an element of risk for the club depending on turnout; but historically turnout has been sufficient that "big" events have been supported by only a modest subsidy of club funds.
- Dissatisfaction was registered by some present, and by proxy by other participants (specifically Senior Master Sergey Kudrin) with the half-point bye policy in effect for the 1998 Stanley Crowe Tournament.

The following resolutions were reached by consensus:

1. A “big” event is defined as an event featuring (a) large (by club standards) money prizes and (b) Grand Prix points, for the purpose of attracting master-level and other participants who do not normally play at the club and are not members of MCC.
2. MCC will continue to host big events according to the following terms:
 - There will be two big events per year.
 - The scheduling of these events will conform generally to the historical experience of the club; i.e., one event in April-May, the other in November-December.
 - The big events will feature large money prizes and Grand Prix points.
 - There is no requirement or compelling reason that either big event be the MCC championship.
 - Each event will be a six-round tournament.
 - Each tournament will have two sections, Open and Under 1800. (Players may play up.)
 - Prize money will be concentrated in the Open Section prizes.
 - The bye policy will be modified to address the problems encountered during the 1998 Stanley Crowe tournament: in order for a player to receive a **half-point** bye for round **three, four, five** or **six**, he or she must commit to the bye(s) before the Tournament Director begins round **two**.

If it is not too late to do so, Mark will modify the April event to conform to the above. The changes are: there will be two sections, not one; the prize structure will be modified; the new bye rule will apply. Mark indicated that it was likely that the event could be changed as indicated.

Revision of Policy Regarding Half-Point Byes

Because the bye rule represented a modification of the existing MCC bye policy, a motion on the proposed revision was solicited. Harvey Reed moved that the MCC bye policy be revised to read that in order for a player to receive a half-point bye for any round after the second of any tournament, he or she must commit to the bye before the Tournament Director begins the second round of the tournament. Alan Hodge seconded the motion. Present Board members were polled, with the result of five votes in favor of the proposed revision, none opposed, and one abstention; motion passed.

Note: The adopted motion modified the MCC bye policy only with respect to committing to half-point byes in future rounds of a tournament. In all other respects the existing policy remains in effect, and byes requested under the revised policy are subject to all other provisions, including but not necessarily limited to these:

- All such byes committed to in advance are irrevocable.
- Half-point byes requested for any future round(s) are distinct from half-point byes awarded for any game(s) missed due to late entry into the tournament.
- However, the total number of half-point byes awarded to any player for any single tournament, regardless of the number of rounds in the tournament, may not exceed two. This total includes both half-point byes awarded for any game(s) missed due to late entry and half-point byes requested for future rounds before the commencement of round two.
- A player entered in a tournament is still obligated to notify the club, according to current rules, if he or she will miss any round for which he or she has not previously requested a bye. Such notification for any round after the second round of the tournament will cause the player to be

awarded a zero-point bye. Failure to notify the club properly will result in the player being paired and incurring a forfeit loss, with attendant penalties. (More about forfeits later.)

Varying Section Breaks

It was agreed that the section breaks for three-section tournaments will alternate between 1800/1400 and 1900/1500. Time does not permit changing the events already scheduled for January through March 1999, so these events will remain three-section events with break points at 1800 and 1400. Alternating break points will be introduced with three-section events beginning with the July 1999 event.

It was agreed that regular five-round events (for months with five Tuesdays, except months when one of the two big events has been scheduled) will have two sections rather than three. The June 1999 event will be the first event in this new format. The break point for two-section, five-round events will alternate between 1900 and 1700. (Note that the break point for the two-section big events is 1800.) Mark will determine the specific schedule in accordance with these principles.

Club Championship

The topic of a club championship was briefly discussed and various opinions were expressed. It was agreed that a committee would be formed to develop and submit to the MCC Board a proposal for a club championship. The following were selected as members of the committee:

- Larry Eldridge (chair)
- Sam Scott
- Jim Krycka
- Derek Slater (*in absentia*, subject to his willingness to participate)
- Tim Newman (*in absentia*, subject to his willingness to participate)

It was agreed that there might be no championship event in 1999.

Forfeit Policy

The forfeit policy was revised to be as follows:

- A forfeit loss results when a player is paired in any round of a tournament in which he or she is entered, because he or she did not request a bye or otherwise notify the club (according to current rules and procedures) that he or she will not play that round, and then fails to begin playing the game, due to either absence or tardiness, within the time permitted by the applicable rules.
- Any player incurring a forfeit loss will be fined for each incidence occurring within a rolling twelve-month period according to the following schedule:
 - ♦ First incidence: \$10.00
 - ♦ Second incidence: \$20.00
 - ♦ Third incidence: \$40.00
 - ♦ The amount of the fine will double with each additional incidence within any twelve-month period.
- The forfeiting player must pay the assessed fine before he or she is permitted to play subsequent games at the club.

- Any player to whom another player forfeits a game will be given a \$10.00 credit toward the entry fee for any subsequent MCC tournament.
- The MCC Board reserves the right to take additional or alternative measures as may be deemed appropriate in particular cases.

*Using a Tuesday Night for a Non-Regular Time Control Event
Adding a G/30 Event in Parallel One Night a Month*

These topics were discussed briefly, during which several suggestions were made. No resolutions were reached at the meeting. The Board undertook to consider and decide on events for nights during 1999 that were not committed to a regular or big event, and also to consider further the proposal for a parallel G/30 event.

Other Business Carried Forward

The following agenda items were not considered during the meeting:

- Risk assessment and problem areas for the club
- Prospective Board members

Arrangements for addressing these items are under consideration by the President and Board.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and passed, and accordingly Mark adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:45 pm.

(These notes were prepared by Alan Hodge.)