

**Metrowest Chess Club  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
November 16, 2000**

The MCC Board of Directors met on Thursday, November 16, 2000. The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Club Status and Identity
2. Financial Report
3. Club Charter Review
4. Policies and Procedures Review
5. Sponsoring Scholastic Events
6. Team Chess Events
7. Club Championship

Mark Kaprielian, President, called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. In attendance were Mark Kaprielian, Mike Barry, Harvey Reed, John Chamberlain, Jim Krycka, and Alan Hodge. The agenda was modified by the addition of Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs) to the Financial Report.

### **1. Club Status and Identity**

Mike reported on the status of his investigation into Club filings with the Massachusetts Secretary of State. He is continuing his efforts to confirm with the IRS the Club's tax ID number. There followed general discussion of the possibility and problems of filing as a new organization, implications for the Club's bank account and tax filing requirements, and feasibility of incorporating the Club. After discussion Alan moved that:

The Board will establish a committee to determine the feasibility and requirements of incorporation and to present a recommendation to the Board by December 10, 2000. The committee will comprise John Chamberlain, chairman, Harvey Reed, and Mike Barry.

Harvey seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of six in favor and none opposed.

Mark briefly discussed the issue of liability insurance for the Club. Currently liability insurance is provided by the City of Natick under our arrangement with the Senior Center, but the Center has requested that we obtain insurance in our own right. Mark estimates that the cost of this will be \$500-600 per year. Securing insurance is dependent, however, on resolving the other issues relating to the Club's identity and legal filing status.

### **2. Financial Report**

Mark reported that the current bank balance slightly exceeds \$10,000 and reviewed the tournament fee and prize structure for the years 2000 and 2001. He also explained the current cost of using the Senior Center facility, which is approximately \$100 per month.

Alan explained the spreadsheet that has been created to assist with Club administration. This spreadsheet serves as a record of several items:

- Income and expenses related to each tournament
- New and renewing USCF and MCC memberships

- Credits due to players and amounts owed by players to the Club
- Contact information for new MCC members
- MCC membership renewal data

This spreadsheet is continually updated and accompanies the current tournament files.

Mark then discussed recent price increases for TLAs published in *Chess Life* and recommended that the Club stop buying TLAs for its events. Two issues were involved: cost and flexibility. With respect to the cost issue, the savings realized by not paying the increased TLA cost was compared with the increased cost of submitting games for rating, since the rating fee charged by the USCF is higher for tournaments for which no TLA was purchased. The flexibility issue concerns the inability to make certain changes to a tournament's format, prize structure, etc., after a TLA has been published, unless a correction is also published. The practical effect is that the lead time stipulated by USCF for submitting TLAs requires that the Club commit to details of tournaments four to six months in advance.

There followed general discussion on the benefits and costs of publishing TLAs. There was general agreement that the Board should not define too rigidly the conditions for advertising Club events, for example, by establishing an enumerated list of vehicles for advertising events; and that TLAs are most appropriate for the Club's big money tournaments (April and November). These tournaments are likeliest, because of their prizes, to attract Masters who do not routinely play at the Club, and Masters commonly rely on TLAs for notice of tournaments.

John moved that:

Any Club event with a prize fund equal to or greater than \$1,000 shall be advertised in *Chess Life*.

Harvey seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of six in favor and none opposed.

The Board reached a consensus that TLAs will not be published for most Club events, but the Program Director has some discretion, subject to Board approval, in promoting events in accordance with the above passed motion.

(At this point Mike departed.)

### **3. MCC Charter Review**

The Board began its review of revisions to the MCC Charter proposed by Alan. Careful deliberation of the first three articles resulted in the adoption, rejection or emendation of numerous of the proposed revisions. The Board adjourned this work in view of the late hour, and agreed to complete its review of the Charter at its next meeting. No vote was taken on the revisions reviewed, and it was agreed that a vote would be taken on all revisions agreed upon at the conclusion of the Charter review.

Remaining agenda items were postponed for future consideration.

The Board agreed to meet next on Thursday, December 14, 2000.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm.