

MetroWest Chess Club Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held 2004-12-30
Draft 01 – Initial Posting

*Kennedy Senior Center, Natick, Mass
Minutes Prepared by Harvey Reed & Mark Kaprielian*

Scheduled: 6:30 PM

Opened: 6:52 PM

Closed: 11:30 PM

<i>Board Members</i>			<i>Arrive</i>	<i>Depart</i>	<i>Director of Program</i>
President	Mark Kaprielian	Present	6:10		Website
Clerk	Harvey Reed	Present			Marketing, News Letter
Treasurer	John Chamberlain	Present	6:30		Weekly Chess Lesson
	John Bottini	Present			Scholastic Tournaments
	Jim Krycka	Present			Monthly Tournaments
	Matt Phelps	Absent			
	Jim Todhunter	Absent			
<i>Program Directors</i>					
				-----	Chess School
				-----	Game Advice
				-----	Games Archive
				-----	Library
<i>Other Attendees</i>					
	None				

Note: All vote tallies are shown as For – Against – Abstention, e.g. 5 – 2 – 1

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Meeting Called to Order

A. Introductory Remarks – Mark Kaprielian

President Mark Kaprielian welcomed those present to the meeting. He stated that if time permits after the meeting we should have some discussion regarding the recent attendance anomalies in the Monthly Events.

B. Review of Agenda – Mark Kaprielian

The following items were added to the agenda:

1. No changes

II. Reports – Officers

A. President – Mark Kaprielian

No report

B. Treasurer – John Bottini

For the year income slightly exceeded expenditure. We have no final numbers for December. The excess was below expectations.

C. Clerk – Harvey Reed

No report

Minutes of previous meetings:

Motion_2004-12-001

Kaprielian, Krycka 2nd

To accept the draft posted minutes of the prior meeting held on 2004-02-19.

Passed: 5-0-0

III. Actions prior to Reports

A. None

IV. Reports – Program Directors

A. Chess School – Harvey Reed

Harvey reported the following:

- \$370 for Larry Christiansen in May
 - \$150 for Mark La Rocca in Oct, Nov, Dec
- SUB TOTAL \$520

We took in (tickets):

- - \$200 (approx - 25 people X \$8 per ticket) ticket prices ranged from \$8-10
 - - \$100 (approx - 10 people X \$10 per ticket)
- SUB TOTAL \$300

This will be approximately \$220 outlay for the year which is within the projected \$300 budget.

The classes went well – we need to do better advance advertising. We are planning a 2005 class on openings with Mark La Rocca.

B. Weekly Group Lesson– John Chamberlain

This year was slow due to work pressures, not many special sessions. I am anticipating ramping up with a special session. There was discussion about correlation between quality of lesson and general attendance.

C. Game Advice Program – Derek Slater & Harvey Reed

No report, except to say that we think most people are too embarrassed to ask for help, and the only way this could work is in a time-intensive mentor program. Discussion followed about how to pair people with newbies to increase retention.

D. Library – Mark Kaprielian

No volunteer was found to maintain the library. No formal tracking or inventory is being performed.

E. Marketing – Harvey Reed

Harvey discussed the use and impact of the two oversized posters with branding which was created in early 2004. This is a good means to display key pages of the monthly newsletter and other flyers.

The newsletter was improved to be a Word/PDF format so that monthly results can be printed and used as an award certificate.

Harvey wants the Board to consider renewing the “Club TLA” in US Chess’ Chess Life.

Mark Kaprielian reported that an additional line of shirts from our supplier LL Bean was added to the selection available for ordering. If the newly added line meets with favor by those purchasing the items, the original Polo Shirts will be retired from availability. 24 items were ordered in 2004 with twelve of those purchased as part of the Summer Scholastics program.

F. Games Archive – Harvey Reed

The games have been updated periodically. The last post was in December 2004, with 571 games. Discussion followed about the relative importance of collecting all the Open section games.

G. Monthly Tournament – Jim Krycka

Jim spoke to the contents of the Monthly Tournament report posted on the web site. He provided an overview of the changes made to section breaks and prize money for the late months of 2004 and the schedule for 2005. In particular Jim highlighted:

- revamped section breaks (4 sections for 4 Tuesdays; 3 sections for 5 Tuesdays)
- 5 week tournament pays more than 4 week tournament
- Goal was to pay back 75% of entries as prizes, and we met the goal
- Attendance 6 months prior to proposal was 85; this is the basis of prize structure
- This worked out well, including section breaks (with the exception of Dec 2004)
- We also now have a Class Championship tracking as well as Club Championship tracking, as well as the Class Championship is now round robin by invitation
- I made slight improvements to the 2005 prize/section structure, but taking into consideration the Sept-Dec attendance, we can stay the course, but eventually need to do a serious review of attendance to figure out why before we put this into action

Jim posted the contents of the Championship series report on the web site.

H. Scholastics – John Bottini

John requested that his report be discussed when the 2005 Scholastics proposal is discussed.

The attendance of 2004 is very similar to the 2003 level, over 50 players; 3 events of 3 weeks each, 2 rounds each night, with 3 sections. Feedback from players and parents is positive. Our balance sheet is approximately even, and since this is a break even event, we met our fiscal goal.

3 events is a big commitment. I had a lot of help from Steve Eddins and Matt Phelps who did a phenomenal job, especially when I was out of the country on business. We might consider a change in format, for example some people in the Open section want longer games. We need to recruit more help.

I. Website – Mark Kaprielian

Minimal work and maintenance has been the practice followed by the web team for the 2004 year. Currently four people have access to the Website and serve differing roles on the team. The four people with their primary areas of coverage are:

Mark Kaprielian – Primary maintenance and interface to web provider. Posting of weekly results

Matt Phelps - Posting of weekly results

John Bottini – Scholastics postings, backup for posting weekly results

Harvey Reed – Newsletter and Historical postings, and updates to game archives

V. Reports – Committees and other Initiatives

A. Tournament Directors – Mark Kaprielian

Mark reported that he is always on the lookout for candidates to increase the size of the TD pool. The table below shows the current status of the TD pool.

Mark states that in his view the club over the course of the year has had effectively 4 TDs. The ideal is to have a minimum of 4 TDs on any given night, with at least two present to get the event underway and two to close up. In addition, the first round ideally has at least 4 and one volunteer serving as New Member Information and Welcoming person.

While TD operations have run fairly without problems, there have been several occasions when the TDs who could be in attendance have been too low at both the early and late shifts.

The addition of two trainees is desirable.

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Primary “shifts”</i>	<i>Participation Level</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Gatumba	Abu	Early, Late	Active	Becomes less active during certain sports seasons
John	Bottini	Early, Late	Very Active	
Neil	Cousin	Early	Very Active	
Mark	Kaprielian	Early, Late	Very Active	
Matt	Phelps	Early, Late	Very Active	
Severine	Wamala	Early, some Late	Sporadic	
Nicholas	Allgaier	TBD	Start training in Jan 2005	

B. Demographics – Mark Kaprielian

No Report.

C. Facilities – Mark Kaprielian

Mark reported that he had done the research and drafted a grant proposal for the Senior Center in late 2003 to obtain free high speed internet access. In 2004 the Senior Center, after waiting out several other initiatives related to computers and connectivity decided to go forward with the grant request and obtained high speed access in the late summer months. The club purchased a wireless router and installed it at the Senior Center to provide wireless access to the several rooms of the site. Use of the router is provided for both the Senior Center's other activities and organizations that meet there. The club uses the access for both checking ratings online when needed and if time permits, posting the rounds results directly from the playing room before closing down for the evening.

The club continues to enjoy the good relationship with the Senior Center as it has throughout its 8 ½ years at the site (moved to the Senior Center in June of 1996)

VI. Topics for Discussion and possible Action

A. 2005 Summer Scholastics Proposal – John Bottini

Highlights of the 2004 report were reviewed and general questions about the program were discussed.

Final proposal to be presented in early 2005

B. Purchase of New Laptop – Mark Kaprielian & Matt Phelps

The proposal as posted on the web site prior to the meeting was discussed.

Motion_2004-12-002

Kaprielian, Bottini 2nd

To accept the proposal to purchase a new Laptop as presented in the proposal.

Passed: 5 – 0 – 0

C. Change of Phone Service and Message Capabilities - Mark Kaprielian

The proposal as posted on the web site prior to the meeting was discussed.

Motion_2004-12-003

Kaprielian, Krycka 2nd

To accept the proposal for the new phone service and capabilities as presented in the proposal. The phone number will stay the same.

Passed: 5 – 0 – 0

D. Tournament Life Announcement – Harvey Reed

Harvey discussed the merits of placing an advertisement in the Tournament Life Announcements (TLA) section of Chess Life magazine. Kaprielian noted that it is a bad investment of money.

Motion_2004-12-004

Reed, Bottini 2nd

To purchase a one year Club Announcement at a cost of \$180 per annum in Chess Life Magazine.

Failed: 2 – 2 – 1

E. Appointment of an Investment Committee

Discussion was held regarding the need for an investment committee to make recommendations to the board as to how the club's savings could return some growth in a relatively safe manner.

Motion_2004-12-005

Bottini, Krycka 2nd

Move to establish an investment committee that is charged with recommending investment options for the Club's reserve cash. The committee will be chaired by John Chamberlain with additional members recommended to be John Bottini and Jim Todhunter. This committee is charged with producing a recommendation and will dissolve by March 31, 2005.

Passed: 5 – 0 – 0

F. Charitable Donations capability establishment.

Discussion was held regarding the desirability of accepting charitable donations. Some of the reasons cited were that there may be opportunities from both corporate and private sources to make a contribution to the club. One of the objectives of such a fund might be to purchase a building for the permanent residence of the club.

Deferred.

G. Review of the Club and Class Championship rules – Jim Krycka

Jim discussed some fine-tuning of rules, and seeks the council of the Board. Since Jim is the Program Director, no motions are required, but he wants a record of the Boards preferences. The topics are:

2. Membership requirement – We will call people on the Qualification List whose membership is lapsed to remind them to renew, effective December 31, 2004
3. Requiring a member to be in good standing – We have no explicit definition of good standing but do have rules for various infractions that we care about. We recommend no further action.

4. Volume of play requirement – We have a requirement for playing in four (4) tournaments. Do we need to also add a requirement for a minimum number of rounds? We are concerned with people playing well in one or two tournaments, then just playing one round in the remaining tournaments. Proposing a definition of a “qualifying tournament” as being one where the player plays in at least two rounds.
5. Tie break rules – These rules apply to the qualification rankings. No suggested changes.
6. Byes – Proposal that we only offer zero (0) point byes, with the opponent getting a full point (1).
7. Seeding – We discussed initial seeding, as well as problems when “reseeded” needs to accommodate a change in the roster due to substitutions. Random drawings are preferred.
8. Declaring intent to play – We discussed making the invitations, and responses controlled by dates. This is required to settle the Club Ch roster first, before we do the Class Ch roster. The issue is that it is possible to qualify for both, and in fact we do have several people in this position. Additionally we need to accommodate people changing their “intent” prior to round 1 due to ability to play (personal reasons, “in good standing”, etc).
9. Requiring game scores – We discussed making players turn in score sheets. At this point, no further action.

H. **Proposal for Monthly Program Policy & Procedure motions – Jim Krycka**

It is proposed to modify the rules for avoiding of pairing of family members from the current rule only allowing the avoiding for the lowest section to only restricting it for the Open section. It should be noted that Championship qualification points may need to be adjusted to accommodate this rule change in a fair manner for all.

One club TD commented via email discussion, as paraphrased by Mark Kaprielian:

“As a TD without a family member who plays at the club, the current rule is perfectly fine. Even with the families of 4, the odds are pretty small of this being an issue and since money is involved (and a relatively significant amount) we open ourselves up to lots of questions should two family members be tied near the top and this causes odd pairings. I really don't want to add another thing to check every night after doing the pairings. That is just a recipe for screwing them up.”

Further discussion was held.

Motion_2004-02-006
Kaprielian, Bottini 2nd
To change the family restriction request policies from only the lowest section allowed to only the Open section restricted.
Passed: 5 – 0 – 0

I. **Proposal for Chess School – Harvey Reed**

Deferred

J. **Adjournment**

Motion_2004-02-007
Reed, Kaprielian 2nd
To Adjourn. 11:30pm
Passed: 5-0-0