

# Presidents Report 2018 Annual Meeting

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## I. Purpose

This report provides an overview of the status of the club and its activities for the preceding year. The President of the club, Matt Phelps, will present and discuss this report with the membership at the Annual meeting of the club to be held on Tuesday, January 16th, 2018. A summary is presented first with more discussion and details provided in the sections that follow.

## II. Summary

The club continues to be in good shape. Still not the shape we would like it to be in, but able to continue on in the fashion we've become accustomed to under the conditions of our current site.

Overall monthly attendance has remained roughly the same as last year, in the mid-70s. We are still below our preferred average of 80+ per month. The downward trend of U1400 section that was an issue in 2016 has reversed. There is a more balanced distribution between sections now.

The Group Class program has restarted, after a coordination volunteer was found, Bob Treiber. John Chamberlain and NM Rob King gave lessons this year. We also began recording Rob's lessons, and have posted them on YouTube to good reviews. We hope to expand this program with more instructors, and by purchasing some more permanent equipment for recording the sessions.

I continue to ask the membership to please consider the time pressure the staff is under and listen to our prompting at the end of the evening. To please help by picking things up, putting away club sets and help us get things done quickly, calmly and very importantly for all of us, pleasantly.

There are many opportunities for people to assist in both very small and great ways. I encourage you to consider if you can provide time to assist the club either while at the club or away from the club. Once again our TD pool is a bit thin. Please contact one of the existing TDs if you are interested in becoming an official USCF TD. Remember, TDs get free entry to all MCC events!

## III. Club relocation status

There were a few "nibbles" in the Club's efforts to locate permanent space, however none of those came close to fruition this year.

Our needs are very challenging. Parking for 100+ cars, occupancy for 125+ people, and off-hours access to the building (not to mention financial restraints) are just a few of the difficult aspects of running a large chess club that make leasing space difficult. The market for office space in the MetroWest area appears to be heating up which has led to a general increase in leasing rates. I expect this trend to continue, making finding any appropriate space even more difficult.

We are committed to relocating but we will remain where we are until a suitable location is found.

We did not make any progress looking for an alternate Tuesday night rental place (as opposed to a permanent lease space). We will revisit this option in 2018.

#### **IV. The past year**

The past year has been very stable for the club. We continue to operate under the restriction of the Town of Natick, and must all be out of the Community Center by 10:00 PM. This of course limits us to GAME/60 for our monthly tournaments.

##### **Attendance**

Attendance throughout the year was similar to last year, in the mid 70s. There were some months in the 80s, and some in the 60s, but overall attendance remains good. We have a little room to grow, but getting too many more players could be a problem also. This current average allows us to not lose money each month, and even save a little.

##### **Time Impact – Start, End, Skittles and Exit impact**

All negative issues mentioned in previous annual President's Reports still apply. Foremost of these is the time pressures on the TD staff, and the reduced time for going over games, which hurts the best social part of the club.

##### **DGT boards /Game Archive / Live Broadcast**

The program continues to be on hold.

#### **V. Observations**

##### **From last year**

Little has changed from the operations standpoint of the club since last year. We continue to pull in several new players (both new to the club, and new to rated chess) per year.

I feel we've been doing a good job getting rounds to start on time. Thankfully, we still haven't had the situation of a game still going on when it was time to leave the building.

##### **New Observations**

U1400 Section is healthy again. After articles in the Newsletter, and mentions in last year's report, attendance in the U1400 section is healthy again.

Signs are encouraging regarding the restart of the pre-round lessons.

#### **VI. New Projects**

##### **YouTube "Broadcasts" of Club Lessons**

Thanks to Mark Kaprielian, and Rob King the Club has begun recording the weekly pre-round lessons, and these have been posted on YouTube to very favorable reviews. We will be taking steps to streamline this process in the coming year, including purchasing cameras and a dedicated computer. This will generate good publicity for the Club.

##### **Online Registration / Accounting / Credit Card Payments**

The process of researching both online registration systems, and accounting systems has been sporadic over the past year. Part of this search is to find a system we can use to accept credit card payments on site as well as for online pre-registration.

There are, of course, many pre-existing products and services out there to consider. This work is ongoing, and any features the members would like to see would be nice to know.

## **VII. The Future**

### **Relocation**

We continue to look for a full-time permanent space we can lease, but hopes are dimming this can be accomplished.

### **Group Class**

The Group Class program has a bright future if we can keep the momentum that started in the final quarter of 2017. The recording and posting online of the lessons can improve the stature of the Club. We will purchase appropriate equipment, and establish documented procedures, so these recordings can continue when personnel involved changes.

### **Forming a 501c(3) Charitable Foundation**

In the previous year, we planned to form a 501c(3) charitable foundation as a separate corporation from that of the club. We expect this to happen shortly. This will allow us to accept tax deductible donations and perhaps initiate several fundraising efforts. The goal remains leasing permanent space for the club and expanding our offerings.