The BDCA committee meeting minutes Thursday 2nd July.

Meeting via Web-Ex

Present: Lee Crawford, Andy Wainwright, Adrian Arthur, Matt Webb, Wil Quick, John Holliday, David Barlow, Keith Marsh.

Apologies: Andy Bak

**Bradford Chess Centre**

This venture is still progressing. A crowd funding appeal has gone out, and Andy and Matt are looking for grants from Bradford Council and other bodies. They have identified potential venues and hope a tenancy can be signed soon.

Work being done on branding and the logo and domain registration. Part of the publicity will be a blog on the development.

It is antipated that once work starts it will take around 8 weeks to get it ready for play.

Andy and Matt had approached BDCA for funding. David in his role as secretary had outlined why he felt this could not be supported. Andy acknowledged this and withdrew the request.

Planned format will be weekly club night, league night, juniors night as well as monthly mini-congresses, rapids and junior events. Hope to have GM simul.

We wish them luck with this. The link to the Just Giving Page is here. https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bradford-chess-centre?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=ExactTarget&utm\_campaign=20200619\_&fbclid=IwAR2RKpU7rTlZ1Bn3-XdGutH16q95HN7vaxM0\_vhLsUv4bRl8pRLAMG6LUBA

**AGM**

After the online AGM process, the committee noted Nigel Redmond's comments on the non awarding of the Hepolite, Clough and Individuals, plus Andy Bak's  response from the committee, and Nigel's acknowledgement of this.

All responses to the Committee nominations were positive, so the following have been agreed.

Matt Webb becomes president.

Adrain Arthur remains chair

John Holliday remains vice chair

Wil Quick remains secretary

David Barlow remains treasurer

Andy Bak remains league controller

Karim Khan remains competition controller

Lee Crawford takes over from Paul Clarke as grading officer, and remains web officer

Andrew Wainwright takes over from Wil Quick as press officer and Karim Khan as trophy secretary.

We thank Paul Clarke for his 8 years as grading officer and welcome Matt and Andrew to the committee.

**Next season:**

The committee hope that we will be able to play over the board chess in some form for the 2020/21 season. There is an uncertainty over venue availability, and how government guidelines will develop. The committee recognised that in terms of Coronavirus, chess is relatively high risk, and social distancing can be difficult. Our current plan is *subject to guidance from the government and ECF*we aim to commence OTB chess in October. We anticipate that some of the competitions which bring together large numbers of players in a single venue, e.g. the Boyd, Individual Lightening, etc will not go ahead next season. It is also possible that if there is a resurgence in Coronavirus play may need to be suspended or abandoned.

There is a possibility that venues may not be available, or there may be a limit on numbers on a room of a certain size.

Before we commence BDCA and clubs will need to risk assess and come up with a risk mitigation plan. Issues to consider include hand sanitiser being made available, no shaking hands before or after the game, cleaning sets, and absolute clarity that anyone who is symptomatic should not be playing. As symptoms can come on quickly, we may need to review our defaulted games policy for next season.

The committee will update clubs on a monthly basis.

**Format for next season**

It is likely that a number of players may be unwilling to return to OTB chess until the current outbreak has well and truly passed or a vaccine is available. It is possible that a number of venues may not be available. This would mean that the current format for the league is unsustainable. We welcome thoughts from the membership of BDCA as to how we can sensibly move forward. Ideas mooted so far include: reducing the number of boards per match, and having games played as individuals, but points going towards a team or club score. These are just ideas, and nothing has been agreed.

We ask clubs to contact their venues to check the likely availability next season.

**Unpaid ECF Fees going to clubs**

There are still a number of players within BDCA who are not ECF members. BDCA will be billed for those who have played more than 4 games this season within BDCA and will pass this on to clubs. David will contact clubs about this. David will check the list is upto date and highlight which players are not members and have played more than 4 games.

**Grading issues**

Lee to get log in from Paul, and inform ECF that he has taken over as grading officer. Wil to forward the highlighted issues to Lee and Lee will forward these to ECF.

BCC to have its own LMS.

**Sam Scurfield legacy**

We have not received Sam’s legacy. We would like to use it to support junior chess in the district. We will consult with his family before any final decision is made.

Wil Quick