

**Bradford DCA Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting held 4th February 2016 at the Central Division Club, Clayton Lane**

**Present:** C Wood, Dave Barlow, Andrew Bak, Keith Marsh, Karim Khan, Wil Lilburn-Quick, Daniel Dufton, Chris Watson, Adrian Arthur

**Apologies:** Sam Scurfield, Lee Crawford

**1. Previous month’s meeting minutes**

Approved

**2. Matters Arising**

CW agreed that while the Aire and Wharfedale league was a good idea, for the reasons outlined in the last meeting meant that the BDCA could not support this financially at this time.

Further discussions were had about breaches of the rules of chess e.g. not writing down moves, writing down your move before it is made, illegal moves. It was agreed that most of the players were experienced enough to know the FIDE rules and attempts to bring in separate rules into the Bradford league might alienate new or novice players who might unintentionally fall foul of such a rule.

**3. Secretary’s Report**

Confirmed that the final round of the Clough would once again be held with all the top matches taking place in one location as this proved to be successful last season.

**4. Competition controller’s Report**

Draws have been published for all competitions except the Barnett where there is one outstanding result.

**5. Website Editor’s Report**

Up to date and all the draws are up.

**6. Treasurer’s Report**

Nothing to report

**7. Keighley Clough Appeal**

See attached email outlining Keighley A’s appeal following their Division 2 match with Legion of the Damned on 26th January. After hearing representation from both clubs involved, members from both clubs were asked to leave in order that the remaining members could discuss the merits of Keighley’s complaint.

The committee unanimously decided that Keighley’s appeal would be rejected and the result would stand:

* The percentage scores of the players concerned were very similar despite playing on different boards consistently throughout the season
* Although Nirmal had only lost one game for the previous two seasons, he had mainly been beating players graded 110 or lower and drawing against stronger opposition.
* Using a player’s live grade for the basis of board order was rejected at the AGM, although the committee noted that live grades could be used as evidence of a player’s current playing strength.
* Legion of the Damned were not deliberately trying to break the rules and genuinely felt that their board order was indicative of their player’s strengths.

A new rule involving the production of a bi-annual grading list that all captains should follow along with a 10-point grading leeway might be proposed for the next AGM.

**8. AOB**

**a) Charles Wood stepping down as Chairman**

CW announced that due to new work commitments, he would be stepping down as Chairman at the end of the season. He had enjoyed fulfilling the role for the previous 5 seasons.

The committee thanked CW for his excellent work particularly with his work for the Chesstivals and would be seeking a new chairman.

**b) The Malt**

KK asked if the Malt were interested in joining the league next season. AB said he had not heard anything further since their withdrawal but would contact again before the AGM.

If the Malt were interested in raising a team again we would operate with an 8-7-8 structure so if the Malt dropped out once again, then we would be left with 8-7-7 rather than the undesirable 8-8-6 which has taken place this year.

**Meeting Closed**

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 3rd March 2016, Central Div WMC 8pm.



Hi Andy

As far as I am aware league matched should be played in order of playing strength. I think, and I would think that most players would agree, in that grades are the best indication of playing strength.

Last night Legions board order, with 2014/15 end of last season grade was as follows:
Bd 2 Craig Thompson 139:28
Bd 3 Fazal Rabbi 141:13
Bd 4 Nirmal Singh 144:06

The current live grades would also seem to suggest that the gap is wider:
Bd 2 Craig Thompson 139:28
Bd 3 Fazal Rabbi 145:18
Bd 4 Nirmal Singh 160:07

The difference between Board 2 and Board 4 is 21! I fail to understand how this can be in order of playing strength?

I think all these players have played enough games this year and last year to give a ***strong*** indication of what the actual grades and playing strength should be. I know Nirmal has a lower weighting but he still has played 11 games last year and 5 games this year, which gives a good indication of his playing strength. Indeed Nirmal won the individual trophy because he was not pushed up the board order last year. I am under the belief that Undercliffe C had issues with this same problem and made the exact same complaint.

I think the correct board in playing strength is:
Bd 2 Nirmal Singh 150
Bd 3 Fazal Rabbi 141
Bd 4 Craig Thompson 139

Regards

Daniel