

**Bradford DCA Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting held 5th March 2015 at the Central Division Club, Clayton Lane**

**Present:** L Crawford, D Barlow, A Bak, K Marsh, A Walker, I Jewsbury, W Williams

**Apologies:** C Wood, J Holliday

**1 Previous month’s meeting minutes**

The previous minutes were agreed by all.

**2 Matters Arising**

Ilkley C have agreed to replay the match against Bradford Destroyers.

The hepolite match between Keighley A and Legion has been abandoned. Legion have defaulted the match as they were unable to get a team together. Therefore, Keighley A will face South Bradford A.

**3 Secretary’s report**

South Bradford B were unable to raise a team to play Ilkley C in the league. Due to Ilkley C’s replay against Bradford Destroyers, they were unable to set up a further match against South Bradford B and so a defaulted result of 6-0 has been taken.

The hepolite semi-final draw has been made and posted.

**4 Competition controller’s report**

It was reported that the fourth round of the individual tournament was hindered by a home football match. Some players were late to their matches and some failed to arrive at all. It was noted that football fixtures need to be looked into, and potentially the individual tournament would need to be moved if there was a clash.

**5 Website editor’s report**

K Marsh noted that the website is up to date.

**6. Treasurer’s report**

D Barlow has sent out all the invoices. It was noted that certain clubs have very high bills due to league one players not being ECF members.

**7 Complaint – Legion of the Damned fielding players in incorrect board order**

A Walker as captain of Undercliffe C has lodged a complaint regarding the match played on the 24th February between Legion of the damned and Undercliffe C to A Bak. The complaint centred on Legion’s choice of board order. Specifically, one player (G Sutcliffe grade 118) was playing on board 2, whilst another player (N Singh grade 145) was playing on board 5.

At the meeting, A Walker (AW) pointed out that rule 9 states that teams must be fielded according to current playing strength. AW raised the issue before the match, but Legion chose to keep their board order. K Marsh (KM) noted that N Singh (NS) was ungraded at the beginning of the season and that the manner of choosing a team based on playing strength depends on interpretation of the rules.

A Bak (AB) noted that according to chessnuts, NS would still be recorded as ungraded. He would require 10 games to obtain an official grade. D Barlow (DB) pointed out that the rules mentions strength, not specifically grade. Grades can fluctuate significantly, especially after the first few results. However, grades are the only measure available to us.

I Jewsbury (IJ) noted that G Sutcliffe (GS) had only played one game this season and as such, should have been on the bottom board. KM noted that he used the lists provided at the start of the season to pick his teams. L Crawford (LC) suggested that the weighting is an important part of measuring someone’s playing strength and needs to be used in conjunction with grade.

KM appreciated that AW may be unhappy at the team selection but he had followed a plan that all teams were picked using the list produced at the beginning of the season. AW felt that GS should not be playing on board 2 if NS is playing on board 5.

DB queried at what point a reasonable grade should be established. W Williams (WW) suggested that the rules could be updated to recognise live grades. AB turned to the Yorkshire league’s rules where they use live grades but have movement of approximately 20 points.

AW, IJ and KM left the the meeting at this point so that the the neutral points could make a decision.

DB queried again at what point you would recognise a player’s strength. AB repeated that you have to play 10 games to get a grade on chessnuts. DB suggested that if a player plays 10 games, they should be moved to their correct position.

After discussion, AB decided that on balance, the result should stand. It is difficult to suggest that NS is definitely a 140 grade at this point, and that GS is too weak to play on board 2. It was noted that KM hasn’t acted against the spirit of the game.

All parties returned to the meeting.

AB explained the above to AW. It was decided that GS’s grade was similar to those around him, and had not played enough games to justify dropping down the order. There was not enough confidence in NS’s grade due to the lack of games played at that point. It was noted that the rules need to be clearer, and that once 10 games had been played, KM should seriously consider moving NS up the playing order.

AW noted that rule 9 is therefore not very valuable, and that for the record they disagree with the ruling. AB pointed out that the rule should be discussed at the AGM. DB also noted that the rule had been set up before live grades were available.

**8. A.O.B.**

a. Books for chesstival – it was suggested that they could be used as prizes.

**9. Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place at the Central WMC at 8:00pm on 2 April 2015