

Board Meeting - Morgantown Chess Club

Home of Jens Madsen

January 7, 2006

1. Meeting was called to order at 2:25pm. In attendance were Martin Harper, Jens Madsen, Jason Young, and Shih-Houng Young. No absentees.
2. The Club President (Jens Madsen) reported that club has been growing beyond initial expectations. Attendance has increased steadily with 12-16 players on the most recent club nights. There are currently twelve paying members, which include four juniors. It does not seem unreasonable to aim for a membership of twenty in the months to come.
3. The club remains closed on the last Thursday of each calendar month. Martin Harper brought up the importance of avoiding the situation where members overlook this fact and turn up to find empty rooms. Jens is currently sending out reminders on club events to our mailing list (typically Wednesday or early Thursday). He will make sure to also do this on the weeks where the club does not meet. This happens every week. All paying members plus a few other people are on the mailing list, which currently includes 18 people. In addition to the email notifications, we should make sure to announce club closings on the previous club night.
4. The Club Treasurer (Shih-Houng Young) reported that the club treasury holds \$74. This is after making a \$85 investment in a magnetic demonstration board, which we are now using for chess improvement lectures. The Scholastic Tournament on December 29 broke even if you consider that we have four unused book prizes for later use. The Club aims to make a suitable donation of around \$100 to our host, First Christian Church, around Easter time. No big investments should be made until this donation has been made.
5. The benefits of opening a bank account for the Club were discussed, and it was decided to pursue this in the months to come. The first step is to obtain an employer identification number from the IRS. Jens and Shih-Houng will work on this, and subsequently Shih-Houng, with assistance from Martin, will decide on a bank.
6. Shih-Houng has been encouraging Mike Malutich to form a WVU chess club. Such an official student organization could co-organize weekend tournaments, which would yield access to free rooms at the university. Progress has been slow and it was discussed how MCC can be supportive in this process. One of the questions has been how often to schedule meetings for a WVU chess club. We will suggest that regular meetings could initially be co-located with MCC club nights, ie. Thursdays at First Christian Church. This would not only lessen the burden of the officers of a WVU chess club, it would also help immediately reach critical mass and ensure collaboration between the two chess clubs. Jens will approach Mike Malutich to discuss this.

7. At the MCC founding meeting in November the position of Club Secretary was left vacant. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to wait for another couple of months before trying to fill this office by appointment. In any case, the office of Club Secretary is up for election at the Annual General Meeting in October.
8. Jens briefed on current and near-term activities at the Club. Two rounds are left in the Inaugural tournament, which has eight participants. The format seems to work well, but there was a widespread opinion that the time control is a little short. We will try G/75 as an alternative, because this still leaves some room for analysis and socializing at the end of the night. In parallel with the last rounds of this, a small round robin section (probably unrated) is being assembled, mostly considering of less experienced players. This January Round Robin will use G/30 time controls so that two games may be executed per night. The first chess improvement lecture was well received with about 10 people attending. These sessions will continue roughly once a month.
9. Plans for internal tournaments (Thursday evening) after the end of the Inaugural and January Round Robin tournaments were discussed. Here is a list of what is currently planned:
 - March Madness (4rds Swiss G/45, two rounds on two consecutive nights)
 - April/May (4rds Swiss G/75, played over 6-8 weeks with alternate dates like the Inaugural. Two sections)
 - September/October (Club Championship, format to-be-determined)
10. Next plans for weekend tournaments were discussed. One-day events can be held on Saturdays at our regular meeting place, but we need to identify alternative venues for two-day events. This could be at WVU (with or without intervention of WVU club) or at a local hotel.
11. It seems reasonable to run three or four weekend tournaments over the year. For now, two events have been tentatively scheduled. We will start work on confirming rooms for these soon, so that we can start to advertise these:
 - Tournament #1 (name TBD) March-4 or alternatively February-18. This will be a SS4, G/75 tournament
 - Mountaineer Open. Two-day tournament with 4 or 5 rounds. Our main event of the year. We discussed June 24-25, but want to make sure that this does not collide with WVU graduation and leaves at least one free weekend to the Charleston Open (traditionally in mid-June). Jens will contact Gary Cummings to hear if this has been scheduled. Alternatively last weekend of July or first weekend of August.
12. We will also look for a Saturday to run a Monongalia County Scholastic Chess Championship before the WV State Scholastic Championship (mid-March). Jens will seek information on when this tournament is played in 2006.

13. Martin Harper will take on the role as our main contact with local newspapers and will pursue sponsorship from local businesses either for tournaments or to buy equipment for the club.
14. Jens Madsen with help from Jason Young will establish and maintain a relationship with local scholastic chess clubs. This may include making a tour to visit these, preferably before our next scholastic tournament.
15. The Club needs one or two additional volunteers to become certified as tournament directors. Jason is well on his way, but he will probably relocate when he graduates from high school, so this is not a long-term solution. .
16. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jens Madsen,

January 13, 2006