

Founding Meeting - Morgantown Chess Club

100 Cobun Ave., Morgantown, WV-26501

November 17, 2005

1. Meeting was called to order at 8:20pm.
2. This meeting had been called to officially form Morgantown Chess Club. Only four persons were present: Martin Harper, Jens Madsen, Jason Young, and Shih-Houng Young.
3. Jens Madsen handed out copies of the draft constitution, which had been circulated to the Club's mailing list. At the initiative of Martin Harper, the following amendments to this draft were incorporated: (i) The language describing a General Meeting quorum (Article 8.4) was changed to require at least three members to be present. (ii) In the event of a tied vote at General meetings, the President and in his absence the Vice-President has the tie-breaking vote. (iii) Article 9.2 on board positions filled by appointment was changed to avoid contradictions with Article 6.7
4. The amended constitution was then approved with a unanimous vote (4-0).
5. Election of Club Board. The following Club officers were elected unanimously.
 - a. President : Jens Madsen (one year term)
 - b. Vice-president: Martin Harper (two-year term)
 - c. Treasurer: Shih-Houng Young (two-year period)
 - d. Secretary: LEFT VACANT
 - e. Member-at-large: Jason Young (one-year period)
6. The following positions will be open for election in October 2006 : President, Secretary, and Member-at-large. The Board will seek to fill the office of Secretary by appointment in the near future.
7. Next topic was determination of the annual membership fee for 2006. Jens Madsen explained the philosophy leading to the suggested \$20 fee. It is estimated that the annual expenses for MCC will be a little less than \$200. With the suggested fee, this can be covered with ten regular members (or for instance 6 regular and 8 junior members, etc.). Getting to this level of membership does not seem impossible. Other income such as tournament profits, USCF affiliate commissions, and voluntary donations or sponsorships will be used to buy basic chess equipment for the Club. The annual membership fee for regular members was set at \$20 by a 4-0 vote.
8. A general discussion of club activities followed. This touched upon tournaments, chess instruction, and team matches. It was agreed to pursue all of these activities. A mix of rated and non-rated tournaments at varying time controls should be organized. Jason Young felt that his scholastic club members would be mostly geared towards the latter, whereas several others present had a preference for longer time controls. Chess

instruction will be organized on topics chosen by those interested. Jens Madsen will take a lead on this. For now, time will be set aside for this in the club's activity calendar. Jens Madsen reported that he had been in contact with representatives from the chess clubs in Pittsburgh, Washington (PA) and Charleston to organize team matches.

9. Jason Young and Martin Harper will both start the process towards becoming certified by the USCF as Club Tournament Directors. Jason Young will design a score sheet for the Club that we can simply print as needed. Jens Madsen already started designing tournament tables and pairing cards to be used in our tournaments. The Board will look for suitable venues to hold weekend tournaments. Options mentioned were our regular meeting site, which is allegedly available Sunday afternoons, WVU, or the High Schools (one has a chess club).
10. Martin Harper put forward that the week between Christmas and New Years would be an ideal time to host a quick tournament with appeal to the scholastic players in town. He will approach our host to inquire about room availability for that week, as well as in general. Jason Young added that it would be much easier to sell the idea of a tournament than a club to the scholastic players. The preliminary plan is for an unrated quick tournament with 100% of entry fees used towards prizes. We will try running a simple concession stand to make some profit for the club. The Board will pursue this idea further in the weeks to come.
11. The Inaugural tournament has been announced starting December 1, but so far no one had signed up. Some felt that G/90 was too long a time control, and so it was decided to change the format to G/60. Jens Madsen will make a round of phone calls to find more participants. It was decided that a minimum of seven people would be required for the tournament to go ahead. With the four persons in attendance signing up that means at least three more players are needed.
12. Jens Madsen went over some ideas for club promotion. First of all flyers were passed around for posting in appropriate places (Library, Blue Moose, WVU, etc.). The flyer will also be sent to HR departments at some of the major employers in town (Mylan, hospitals). Furthermore, it was agreed to do a targeted mailing about MCC to a group of 10-20 persons with current or recently expired USCF memberships. The cost should come to \$5-10. Jens Madsen will start collecting addresses after Thanksgiving. Long term we should also develop contacts with local newspapers (Dominion Post, Morgantown Times, and Daily Athenaeum).
13. It was decided to wait until next year to open a bank account for the Club. Also, the process and purpose of applying for tax exempt status as a "non-profit :Social Club" 501(c)(7) was discussed.

14. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jens Madsen, November 18, 2005