

## **SUMMARY OF SCCA COMMITTEE DISCUSSION (April-May 2021)**

This summary has been prepared by John McAllister (SCCA Secretary) on 12 May 2021. Since the last committee meeting held on 24 February 2020 the SCCA Committee has been unable to meet in person and has decided to arrive at a consensus to progress SCCA matters via email. The outgoing President, Leon Burnett, outlined six areas of concern, with a seventh item added later.

### **1. Membership of the SCCA Committee after June 2021**

While no AGM was possible to appoint officers for 2020, the existing committee continued to act in their posts on the assumption that they would have been approved had the AGM gone ahead. The following officers have confirmed their willingness to serve a further term of office from the start of July 2021. The committee proposes that the following officers be elected:

President: Stephen Lewis  
Vice-President: [vacant]  
Secretary: John McAllister  
Treasurer: David Green  
Competitions Secretary: Sam Gaffney  
County Team Captains: Steve Ruthen and Bob Jones  
Suffolk Junior Chess representative: [vacant]  
Internet Officer: Steve Lovell  
Rapid Play Organiser: Rob Sanders

Stephen Lewis, the current Vice-President, will replace Leon Burnett, whose term of office ends in June 2021, as President. Tim Kent has stepped down as a member of the SCCA Committee, although he is willing to carry on organising events for Suffolk Juniors. Bob Jones has agreed to act as the communication channel between the activities of Suffolk Junior Chess and the SCCA Committee.

### **2. Treasurer's request for directions about updating the SCCA accounts**

The new treasurer requested that the SCCA accounts should allow for on-line transactions. After reviewing how other similar organisations allow for this, the consensus was to propose an amendment to the constitution for approval at the AGM. David Green has drafted the following:

#### **Proposed changes to SCCA banking**

The purpose of this change is to enable the use of internet banking and electronic money transfers.

Currently the SCCA finances rely on paper-based transactions such as cheques and paying in slips and have no online access. There is a current account that requires two signatures on each cheque and a deposit account that holds about 70% of the SCCA's cash and requires just one signature to make a withdrawal.

It is proposed that the current account be moved to a provider that will give free internet banking and allow postal deposits of received cheques. This removes the requirement for two signatures as a necessity for BACS payments and precludes the stamping of deposit slips which has been custom and practice.

It is proposed that the Deposit Account be unchanged except that two signatures should be needed in future to make any withdrawal.

The recommendation, which comes from the SCCA Treasurer, is that the SCCA uses Santander Bank.

This proposal requires a change to section 8.3 of the constitution, as follows:

### **8.3 Bank account (current clause)**

A Current Account will be maintained by the Treasurer to receive income and make payments on behalf of the SCCA. All withdrawals will require two signatories drawn from the President, Secretary and Treasurer. A Deposit account may also be held to hold extra funds. Withdrawals from this account will be paid into the current account and only one signatory is required for this purpose.

### **8.3 Bank account (replacement clause)**

A Current Account with online facilities will be maintained by the Treasurer to receive income and make payments on behalf of the SCCA.

The Treasurer and the President and/or the Secretary will hold the access codes and passwords for the on-line current account with the Treasurer authorised to make BACS payments that do not require a signature.

A Deposit Account may also be held for extra funds. Withdrawals from this account will be paid into the current account and two signatories drawn from the President, Treasurer and Secretary are required for this purpose.

## **3. Timetable for lifting of the Coronavirus lockdown**

After much discussion, and clearly with many unknowns, the committee felt that the current national roadmap for lifting Covid restrictions, along with the successful vaccination program, gave it sufficient confidence that the 2021/22 chess season could go ahead. Sam Gaffney was requested to notify all clubs of this, and to obtain details of what competitions each club was prepared to enter, and what impact any social distancing regulations (if they applied) would have on their decision.

## **4. Implications of move to ECF league management system**

Sam Gaffney has progressed the transition successfully, however Dave Wild pointed out that there are still areas of concern.

1. Club Competitions - clubs will need to enter internal club results on the LMS themselves.
2. Submission of games for rating – the implications of the LMS option to automatically submit games for grading at the end of each month.
3. August and January Ratings - January rating may no longer be visible.
4. Dates of matches - Rule 3.1 should be deleted.
5. LMS Reports – the necessity for these to be checked.

## **5. County Teams**

This item was included to discuss what actions (if any) need to be taken regarding County chess following lockdown. It would appear none.

David Green observed that the SCCA should have some say in what teams are entered.

## **6. New emergency clause in the Constitution**

The committee proposes that the following new clause be added to the constitution and submitted to the AGM for approval, thus enabling it to act constitutionally during such events as have occurred this past year.

### **New Clause to the Constitution:**

#### **12. Suspension to the Constitution or Competition Rules**

In the event of an emergency the committee has the power to suspend normal SCCA protocols.

## **7. Grade to Ratings changes**

Changes to the wording in the SCCA Competition Rules and Constitution will need to be made to cater for the ECF move from grades to ratings. Dave Wild has identified the areas of concern.

It was noted that although grade-limited competitions are mentioned in the Competition Rules, the grade limits for these competitions are not. It is recommended that rating limits of 1775 and 1625 replace the grading limits of 145 and 125, respectively. (Note: the common conversion formula used is to multiply the former ECF Grade by 7.5 and then to add 700 to arrive at the ECF Rating. This would result in figures of 1787.5 and 1637.5, respectively.)