

British Universities' Chess Association

March 1, 2011

Constitution

Name

1. The Association shall be called the 'British Universities' Chess Association'.

Objects

2. The objects of the Association shall be to run chess championships amongst its members which are of benefit or interest to members of the Association, to publish information to the Association's activities, and to generally encourage the study and playing of chess and the organisation of chess clubs at Higher Education Institutes.

Membership

3. Membership of the Association shall be open to any student-involved chess club at a Higher Education Institute within the geographical remit of the following constituents of the British Isles Co-Ordinating Committee:-
 - (a) Chess Scotland
 - (b) English Chess Federation
 - (c) Guernsey Chess Federation
 - (d) Irish Chess Union
 - (e) Isle of Man Chess Association
 - (f) Jersey Chess Federation
 - (g) Ulster Chess Union
 - (h) Welsh Chess Union

4. An application by any club for membership of the Association, made in writing to the President shall be considered as soon as possible after its receipt by the President, which shall have the absolute discretion to grant or refuse it.
5. The Association's events shall only be open to Higher Education Institutes who become Members of the Association.

Property of the Association

6. All trophies awarded in the Association's competitions are deemed to be property of the Association. Any property 'damaged' by an affiliated member or society of the Association shall be fined as considered appropriate by the President.

Officers

7. Officers will be elected at an Annual General Meeting. The elected Officers of the Association shall be:-
 - (a) a President, who shall be responsible for:-
 - i. Leading the organisation of the Association's events;
 - ii. Submitting results of the Association's events for grading;
 - iii. Chairing the Annual General Meeting in the absence of any other willing chairpersons;
 - iv. Creating Officer positions that are deemed appropriate;
 - v. Maintaining the website with materials which may be of interest to the Association's Members.
 - (b) a Secretary, who shall be responsible for:-
 - i. Distributing information about the Association's events to its Members;
 - ii. Setting the agenda for the Annual General Meeting;
 - iii. Taking minutes of the Annual General Meeting.
 - (c) a Treasurer, who shall be responsible for:-
 - i. Presenting the Association's Accounts at the Annual General Meeting.
 - (d) an ECF Delegate, who shall be responsible for:-
 - i. Representing the Association at the English Chess Federation's Council Meetings.
 - (e) a Publicity Officer, who shall be responsible for:-
 - i. Reporting on the competitions of the Association;

- ii. Liaising with Universities in an attempt to increase the membership of the Association;
 - iii. Dealing with any media enquiries.
- (f) an International Manager, who shall be responsible for:-
- i. Acting as Head of Delegation for FISU-organised international chess tournaments;
 - ii. Selecting the team of students to be represent the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in FISU-organised international chess tournaments.
- (g) a 4NCL Squad Captain, who shall be responsible for:-
- i. Selecting a team of students to represent the British Universities' Chess Association in the 4NCL.
8. A person may be a candidate for, and be elected to, more than one Officer position.
9. The President shall have the power to create new Officers between Annual General Meetings should they be required. The new Officers shall not be entitled to vote at the subsequent Annual General Meeting.
10. An Officer may resign his post inbetween Annual General Meetings by notifying the President in writing. In this case, the President shall have the power to appoint a replacement. The replacement shall not be entitled to vote at the subsequent Annual General Meeting, and the Officer resigning his post shall not be entitled to vote in his capacity as an Officer.

Honorary Life Vice-Presidents

11. The Association may have as many Honorary Life Vice-Presidents as it deems fit. These must be approved by a majority of those present and entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting.

Annual General Meeting

12. An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held to coincide with a competition of the Association, with the purpose of electing the Officers for the following year, effecting changes in the constitution as hereinafter provided, and generally transacting such other business as the President shall deem proper to be transacted at an Annual General Meeting.

13. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum of members is present. Save as herein otherwise provided, six members entitled to vote present in person, shall be a quorum. Should a meeting not reach a quorum, the President shall have the discretion to conduct the business of the Meeting as he wishes.
14. All Members of the Association shall be entitled to send one delegate to attend and speak on behalf of their institution at the Annual General Meeting. All Officers and Honorary Life Vice-Presidents are entitled to attend an Annual General Meeting. No other persons may attend the Annual General Meeting without the prior consent of the President.

Nominations

15. Incumbent Officers need not be nominated to stand for election to a position.
16. A new Honorary Life Vice-President, or a candidate for an Officer position standing for election at an Annual General Meeting must be nominated. Self-nomination is not allowed. Instead, nominations must be made by either:-
 - (a) an Officer of the Association, or;
 - (b) a Member of the Association.
17. An Officer or Member may not nominate more than one candidate in an Officer election.

Voting Procedure

18. Voting shall be by show of hands, where each Member and Officer shall have one vote.
19. Anyone in attendance of the Annual General Meeting shall have the right to force a full vote. During a full vote, each Member shall have the higher of one vote, or one vote per team they have entered into the Association's team competition. Teams invited to enter without paying the entry fee shall not count towards a Member's votes.
20. Each Officer shall have one vote per position occupied. An Officer's votes are additional to any votes he may have as a Member.
21. No proxy votes are permitted.
22. A majority vote of people present and entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting is required for a proposal to succeed.

Amendments to the Constitution

23. No changes shall be made to this Constitution unless at least three-quarters of people present and entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting is in favour of an alteration or an addition. Any Member of Officer may propose a constitutional amendment, but not within a week of the Annual General Meeting.

Definitions

1. Damage – This could include, but is not restricted to:-
 - (a) Failure to return the trophy to the Association at the request of either an Officer or the Management Committee;
 - (b) Engraving the trophy;
 - (c) Loss of the trophy.
2. Quality – This means:-
 - (a) Engraving trophies;
 - (b) Ensuring trophies are ready to be presented at the relevant competitions of the Association;
 - (c) Awarding as much money as affordable as prize money for the competitions of the Association.

Interpretation

The President's interpretation of these definitions shall be considered final.

Approval

This Constitution was agreed to at the 2nd Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 27th February, 2011.

Bye-Laws

Membership Fees

1. Each Member shall complete a Membership form for each year between the completion of the annual Team Championship and midnight of December 31st in each year. This form shall include the name of the President, information about its club meeting times, and the signature (printed or otherwise) of a suitable signatory of the Students' Union or Students' Guild. This person may be, for example, a Student Activities Officer, or the President. A team who pays their

Membership Fee late shall incur a surcharge. The price of both the Membership Fee and Late Fee Surcharge shall be set at the Annual General Meeting.

4NCL Squad Composition

2. The Officer elected as 4NCL Squad Captain shall select the squad representing the British Universities' Chess Association in the Four Nations Chess League. The squad shall be composed of students who attend an institution which is a Member of the Association. The 4NCL Squad Captain is entitled to add other players to the squad as he sees fit, on condition that such members are only selected so as to avoid financial sanctions by the Four Nations Chess League, such as defaulting boards or a failure to send a team to one of the weekends.