

# **DURBAN CHESS CLUB**

## **MINUTES OF THE 126<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

28th November 2019

**Venue:** Saint Cyprians Church Hall, Umbilo Road, Durban.

### **Opening**

The AGM of DURBAN CHESS CLUB was called to order at 19:20 on 28th November 2019.

### **1a. Present**

Desmond Rooplal; Nadean Gopaulsingh, Riccardo Benedetti, Keith Rust, Hemant Nowbath, Jason Subke, Cyril Danisa, Siphon Mtoboyi, John Khan, Cedric Nzama, Rajan Soojay, Jorah Soojay, Nitesh Seebran, Devon Govender, Leon Scharnick, Suleman Kharwa, Danielle Peter, Henry Oliver, Daaruk Kumarasamy, Muthu Kumarasamy, Shivar Gopaulsingh. [Per the attendance register]

### **1b. Apologies**

Chad Millard, Charlotte Millard.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

### **2. Approval of Minutes of the previous AGM**

Riccardo Benedetti noted the numerous and significant spelling mistakes, and some dating errors, in the minutes as submitted prior to the AGM by the outgoing secretary.

With these corrections, the minutes were adopted. Proposed by: Riccardo and Seconded by Hemant.

### **3. Matters Arising**

Desmond highlighted the behind the scenes work by the Committee, and requested assistance from club members and parents to arrive early on club nights to assist in setting up the playing hall. The committee is often busy dealing with other matters e.g. Treasurer collecting fees and Captain of Play dealing with changes in pairings.

### **4. Report of the Committee Members**

#### **4a. President's report**

Desmond Rooplal tabled his President's report.

DCC continues to meet at St. Cyprian's Church Hall, where members benefit from the good lighting and quieter playing environment. DCC currently pays R210 per night for use of the church hall and also contributes R100 per night to Tommy, the car guard. Members were encouraged to give Tommy a tip.

The attendance at the club for the Moss Kolnik and Club Champs was between 40 and 50 players, and between 30 and 40 players in the Rapid Swiss, John Blackburn Memorial and Third Swiss. DCC also took part in the eThekweni Team League in 2019, where Chad Millard did an excellent job in managing the teams.

Congratulations were given to Daaruk Kumarasamy who won the SA under 8 Championship, whilst Riccardo Benedetti and Desmond Rooplal wrote and passed the arbiter's exam with over 80% to become Regional Arbiters. Ryan Kippen passed as Tournament Supervisor.

There were no changes to the equipment held by the club.

The club thanked Keith Rust for maintaining the DCC website, along with other chess news in Durban. All members were encouraged to make use of the site – [www.durbanchessclub.co.za](http://www.durbanchessclub.co.za)

Thanks were also given to Riccardo Benedetti for all the hard work behind the scenes in producing a comprehensive set of financial records. Desmond further thanked the other outgoing committee for their hard work; Keith and Nadean with their assistance with financial matters and Nadean Gopaulsingh for being the club's Captain of Play.

A final thanks was given to members, and parents, of Durban Chess Club for their ongoing support and attendance, and Tommy for keeping our cars safe.

#### **4b. Treasurer's report**

Financials were tabled and approved as proposed by Desmond and seconded by Nadean.

Summary highlights of the 2019 financials:

- Membership income continues to grow, especially versus 2017.
- Net income of R6,018 was achieved. The Club should not be too complacent as a decline in membership could result in a loss making position.
- DCC maintains a healthy Balance Sheet with R91,864 in cash resources.
- Sundry Creditors includes R10,500 as a provision for CSA fees. Chess SA (CSA) fees collected on behalf of DCC members will be held by DCC until a decision is reached on the future of CSA. Should CSA fees be paid in 2020, DCC will use the amounts collected during 2019 for those members that paid in 2019.

- Keith Rust gave a detailed background on the two factions fighting for control of Chess in South Africa. In summary, FIDE is currently recognizing Joe Mahomole as the president of CSA, whilst Hendrik Du Toit controls the bank account and website. Various legal challenges have resulted in Hendrik being recognized by the courts as the legitimate president of CSA.  
In terms of ratings, there have been long periods with no ratings being published. In terms of FIDE, Gunther van den Bergh was the ratings officer until a complaint by Joe resulted in Gunther being replaced with Tebogo Malatji (of the Joe faction). DCC will remain neutral whilst the unfortunate divide and infighting within Chess in South Africa continues. Until there is clarity on the legitimacy of CSA, DCC will not pay over CSA fees.
- An updated member list was presented.

#### **4c. Captain of Play's report**

Nadean opened by thanking the Treasurer for capably taking over treasurer duties from him.

Thanks were given to Keith Rust for all his behind the scenes work with pairings, and updating results on the website.

2019 was a good year, with members behaving themselves well and in accordance to the standards and rules one would expect from a Chess Club of DCC's standing.

A request was made to assist the Captain of Play by arriving early to assist in setting up the playing area.

One negative during 2019 was the high number of postponed games in the Club Championships, which resulted in many games being carried forward, making pairings for postponed rounds challenging and even requiring additional arrangements to finish some games. Members were requested to only take postponements if absolutely necessary. The Club is considering new rules in 2020 to limit the number of postponements.

Nadean concluded by tabling a summary of all the results (points and ranking) achieved by all members in 2020. This useful 1 page overview was prepared by Riccardo Benedetti.

## 5. Prize Giving

Desmond and Nadean handed out the 2019 prizes to all the winners.

Congratulations to all the winners:

Moss Kolnik 1 <sup>st</sup>	John Subke
Moss Kolnik 2nd	Desmond Rooplal
Winter Rapid 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jason Subke
Winter Rapid 2nd	Cyril Danisa and Henry Oliver
John Blackburn 1 <sup>st</sup>	John Subke
John Blackburn 2nd	Cyril Danisa
Third Swiss 1 <sup>st</sup>	Henry Oliver
Third Swiss 2nd	Jorah Soojay
DCC Championship 'A' 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jason Subke
DCC Championship 'A' 2nd	Cyril Danisa
DCC Championship 'B' 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jorah Soojay
DCC Championship 'B' 2nd	Riccardo Benedetti and Senzo Msimango
DCC Championship 'C' 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sipho Mtoboyi
DCC Championship 'C' 2nd	Devon Govender
TOTAL PRIZE FUND	R4030

In 2019, DCC introduced a new prize to reward the member that achieves the biggest upset in any of the Club's classical games. The prize is to be named the 'Solly Kharwa Magic Upset Prize' and is kindly sponsored by the Kharwa family. The prize is determined by the rating difference between players in an upset game and votes by the DCC Executive Committee.

The inaugural 2019 Solly Kharwa Magic Upset Prize was awarded to Daaruk Kumarasamy for his upset win against Bongani Mgaga in the John Blackburn Swiss.

## **6. Election of Committee Members for 2020**

Hemant Nowbath presided over the election of the new committee and gave thanks to the outgoing Committee for their service.

The new duly elected Committee (through nominations, proposals and seconding) was unanimously approved as:

- President: Desmond Rooplal
- Treasurer: Santosh Pillai (parent of 2 junior members)
- Secretary: Riccardo Benedetti
- Captain of Play: Nadean Gopaulsingh
- Additional member to assist COP: Jason Subke (assist with ushering players into the hall and taking of seats / assist with setup)

Committee members and other club members are encouraged to assist by arriving early on Thursday evenings to assist in setting up the club.

## **7. Membership Fees 2020**

Desmond Rooplal's proposal that DCC maintain the annual membership fees at R400 was unanimously approved. The club continues to support members with minimal increases over the past 5 to 6 years.

Members are encouraged to pay on time in 2020. There were numerous late payers in 2019, which created significant administration work for the club Treasurer.

In 2020, members will be required to pay by the third round of their first tournament of the year; failing which they will be removed from the draw for round 4.

## **8. Calendar 2020**

The proposed 2020 calendar was circulated and approved. The club will open on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 with round 1 of the Moss Kolnik swiss.

## **9. General**

9a. Suleman proposed that members look to introduce and raise donations and sponsorship to the club. Keith Rust gave an overview of what type of funding is currently available through national and provincial structures.

9b. Riccardo proposed that a sub-committee is formed to look at opportunities for the club to run social / transformational projects such as assisting under-resourced schools with much needed chess equipment and perhaps some coaching. Keith gave an overview of some of the activities of the KZN association.

9c. Devon suggested running a chess workshop at Suncoast Casino for the chess playing staff. This could have a positive spin-off of increasing club membership.

9d. Clocks: DCC to consider buying additional clocks.

9e. Leon proposed that there are members that would love to proudly wear a DCC branded club shirt. Desmond agreed to look into obtaining a quote based on specific sizes from member orders (pre-order).

9f. Social: Riccardo suggested the club consider new activities to add to the attraction of the club e.g. ladder games which introduce a competitive year-long competition, allowing members to challenge other members that they might not ordinarily play against. Devon suggested that online tournaments be organized, such as on Lichess. A few members suggested that they would appreciate the opportunity for some coaching and training. Henry volunteered to run a few training sessions in 2020.

It was generally agreed that members that have an interest in any of the above initiatives should volunteer themselves onto working sub-committees.

## **10. Closure**

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 20h45 by Desmond Rooplal. The next general meeting will be at 19h00 on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020.



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Riccardo Benedetti

Durban Chess Club Secretary

Date: 12 December 2019