

Minutes for the Directors Meeting of the CSCA on Saturday, September 15, 2007 at the Case Memorial Library, 176 Tyler City Road, Orange, CT

I. Call to order at 10:19am (Library opens at 10am)

II. Notice of Meeting (Mr. Celone).

In attendance:

Rick Bauer
Cameron Bishop
Jim Celone
Chris Ferraro
Bob Milardo
Ellis Pinckney
Richard Chang
Tom Hartmayer (late)

Absent:

Harris Appelman
Paul Luysterborghs
~~John Nitz~~ NOT Board member
David Aldi
Rick McAvay

III. Minutes of 10-22-05 Annual Meeting (Mr. Bishop)

Motion to accept the minutes (Mr. Chang, second Mr. Ferraro)

Motion carries, minutes are accepted

IV. Reports

1. Treasurer's Report for period supplementary to date (Mr. Milardo).

We have \$5285 in the bank, up from 3858 a year ago.

2. Website Report (Mr. Bauer & Mr. Celone).

Talk to Mike Hotaling about changing the background color ease use on the Tournaments Page and redirecting the old CSCA website to the present one.

3. Tournament Reports (Mr. Celone)

The 2007 CT State Championships, held at Yale, ran successfully. Although director Mr. Celone ended up with a loss, he considers the tournament a success and will be placing a bid to run the 2008 CT State Championships at the same venue. The winner of the tournament was Sergey Kudrin (who was also the 2006 CT Champion.)

The event was a success on a number of levels:

1. It was the first time New Haven inner city scholastic chess players were able to compete in a state championship, and they were competitive, with two Middle School teams taking 3rd and 4th place. Not a bad showing for a first time state championship.

2. Relocating to New Haven meant not having to travel to Greenwich, and more players from across the state and region (we had players from NY, MA, RI, NH) participated than ever before. Previously, lower Fairfield County teams were disproportionately represented.
3. We had 300 chessplayers and a crowd of over 600 (players + parents), who also enjoyed patronizing Broadway merchants and touring the Yale and New Haven.
4. Media coverage was great. We had Channel 8 Action News, New Haven Register, Yale Bulletin & Calender, and a nice piece in Yale Alumni Magazine.
5. All participants received a commemorative Yale chess set, T-shirt, program, and chess medal. It was the first time this was done at a state championship. The kids and parents were thrilled.
6. All parents were grateful they could finally watch the competition from the observation deck above and not be "locked out" of a hotel ballroom. It lowered the anxiety level, making everything run more smoothly.
7. Many Yale alumni chess players came in from around the country to participate.
8. Goodwill Industries and Easter Seals have indicated they would be interested in sponsorship slots for next year. The visibility of this event is also prompting them to support chess programs for New Haven inner city youth.

Mr. Celone makes note that he was unable to hold the membership meeting for 2007 during the tournament so that new Directors could be elected. Mr. Milardo notes that holding the CSCA vote during a tournament is too restrictive. Mr. Bauer suggests having the vote by e-mail since holding the vote at the tournament rushes the event (and the vote), while holding it away from a tournament will limit the number of participating voters.

Proposal by Robert Koslowski (in absentia) to run the CT 2007 Blitz Championship on December 8th (a Saturday). Normally the tournament would be held on a Tuesday (because of the club's lease for the site) but Saturday would make it more available to the chess body outside of the NBCC. Mr. Celone suggests adding a team element to the tournament so that 4-man teams can compete for a team trophy. Motion for Robert Koslowski and the New Britain Chess Club (NBCC) to hold the 2007 CT Blitz championships, Sat Dec 8. Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Hartmayer's UConn Grand Prix tournament had 13 players in the Open section and 11 players in the Scholastic section. He will be holding another UConn tournament with the same format on September 30th. The UConn School of Engineering \$14,000 scholarship tournament will be held at the end of October (there is a half page add in the September 2007 Chess Life).

Mr. Celone notes that the Greater New Haven 2007 Fall and 2008 Winter Open Tournaments will be held again. \$1000 Prize Fund. Well attended every year (120+).

4. Administrator Reports: Scholastic Chess (McAvay), Women's Chess (Smith), Ombudsman (Bauer), Scholastic Grants (Aldi), Membership Secretary (Mansfield).

Scholastic Chess: Nothing to report.

Women's Chess: Nothing to report. There was discussion that the position may not be needed and would be reviewed during the Bylaws changes.

Ombudsman: Mr. Jackson was considering suing the CSCA, but this was averted. He was banned as a tournament director and a player. He objected to having his player status revoked and blamed Mr. Celone and the Board of Directors initially. He eventually turned his attention to confronting the USCF directly. Recently he was reinstated as a member by the USCF according to Bill Goichberg. His USCF TD status is still revoked.

Scholastic Grants: Nothing to report, none granted.

Membership Secretary: Nothing to report. There was discussion that the position may not be needed and would be reviewed during the Bylaws.

V. New Business

1. Elections for vacant Board seats

Voting for vacant seats on the board:

Proposing Tom Hartmayer and Richard Chang for Managing Directors though 2010.

Vote passes unanimously for both Mr. Hartmayer and Mr. Chang.

VI. Unfinished Business

1. 2005 Scholastic Championships payment

No new payments since 2006. Mr. Celone will contact Mr. Zadorozny about collecting further payments on the debt. Mr. Zadorozny still owes approximately \$1500.

2. 2006 Scholastic Championships payment

The debt is unlikely to be paid due to Mr. Jackson's status.

3. By-Laws Changes

The suggestion to remove a few positions to streamline the CSCA is discussed. Mr. Celone suggests having only 3 Financial Trustees and 6 Managing Directors. Mr. Milardo suggests removing Financial Trustees and have just the Board of Directors, which would remain at 10 people.

The proposed amendments are as follows:

3. DIRECTORS. The Board of Directors shall be composed of ten Directors who shall vote on CSCA matters. In order to be nominated, the nominee must indicate his willingness to serve in writing or in person. All Directors shall serve five years or until successors are duly elected. Vacancies shall be filled for their remaining terms at the election.

4. OFFICERS. The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Tournament Coordinator, shall be elected by the Directors at the Board of Directors Annual Meeting for a term of one year or until their successors are elected. A nominee must signify his willingness to serve, either in writing or in person, before he is voted on for office.

5. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

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TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR. The tournament Coordinator shall organize, or appoint organizers for all CSCA tournaments. Such organization includes selecting assistants, playing conditions and rules.

9. QUORUM. A quorum for a Director's Meeting shall be five Directors. A quorum for any special membership meeting shall be ten percent of the CSCA members over age 17.

11. AMENDMENTS. These Bylaws may be repealed or amended at any meeting of this association by a two thirds vote of the Board of Directors, voting in person or by absentee ballot, and ratified by a two thirds vote of the CSCA members over age 17 present at the following annual membership meeting.

Motion to propose the amendments to the Bylaws. (Mr. Ferraro, second Mr. Hartmayer) Motion passes unanimously. (By 11:59 AM.)