2013 ANNUAL TCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AUGUST 31, 2013 1:05 PM

TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY

Officers present: President Malcolm Estrada, Scholastic Coordinator Harry Sabine, Secretary Chris Prosser (with scholastic tournament downstairs), Treasurer Angela McElrath-Prosser (with Open tournament, in same room), Vice President Paul Semmes.

The minutes from the 2012 Annual TCA Membership Meeting were approved with minor revisions. (Moved: R Presswood, Second: A. Kleiman)

**Officer Reports**:

Secretary: (Working with scholastic tournament; President presents report.) Malcolm stated that a website glitch with online registration for TN Open has been resolved.

Treasurer: (Working with Open tournament; President presents report.) Treasurer’s report distributed. Malcolm noted that the summary for the current fiscal year (Sept 1, 2012 – Aug 31, 2013) currently shows an overall deficit of $4,198.40 but this is misleading since the TN Open straddles the fiscal years and the credits for memberships collected have not been reflected yet. This will be clarified soon. He noted that for FY 2012 the TCA finished the year with a surplus of $1,298. The Treasurer’s report includes detailed information from the different TCA tournaments.

Scholastic Coordinator: Harry stated that we have had another good year for scholastic chess. The USCF now has three tournaments for State scholastic champions: the Denker tournament for state high school champions; the Barber tournament for state K-8 champions; and the new USCF Girls Invitational for the state girl champions. The USCF has a new policy that if all three state representatives play in their respective national tournament of champions, then those three representatives also receive free entry to the US Open. Tennessee’s high school champion is the winner of the high school section of the State Individual Finals; the K-8 champion as the top K-8 finisher in the Junior High section of State Individual Finals; and this year the girls champion was determined at the TN Girls Championship in Memphis. Flyers are now available for the State Scholastic Individual and Team tournaments.

Harry thanked the Regional Coordinators for their hard work: Mike Hodge (Region 1); Michael Ake (Region 2); Chris Prosser (Region 3); and Brian Vogt (Region 4). Harry thanked Tennessee Tech University for their continued support providing the site for the Finals and scholarships to the winners.

In response to a question, Harry stated that he is an at-large delegate to the USCF and Tennessee is entitled to two state delegates. Chris Prosser and Angela McElrath-Prosser intended to attend as the two state delegates this year but were unable due to the school calendar. Mr. Sloan (AL) was appointed to serve as a Tennessee delegate.

Harry noted that the USCF has adopted a FIDE rule, effective January 1, that if a player’s cell phone sounds, the player forfeits the game. He advised that players should turn off their cell phones (not just set to vibrate mode) during games.

Vice President: Paul stated that we’ve had another successful year. The President remains in good health and fit for duty.

Newsletter Editor – Not present

Tournament Coordinator – Not present

Internet Coordinator – Not present

Elections:

* East TN Director – Victor Suich nominated, seconded by Harry and unanimously elected
* Newsletter Editor – Tiffany Elliott nominated, seconded by Harry and unanimously elected
* West TN Director – Jeff Bullington and Alan Kleiman were both nominated. Mr. Bullington was not present. Mr. Kleiman spoke briefly and described his interests. Mr. Kleiman was elected by secret ballot (ballots tabulated by VP Semmes).

President’s report:

Malcolm offered congratulations to Alan Kleiman and Tiffany Elliott for their election to the TCA Board, and stated that we look forward to working together. The TCA Board will meet by October, and allocate funds for the newsletter so we can move forward with the online push-page plan. Malcolm expressed thanks to Marla Stafford for her service as West TN Director. He also noted that Roy Manners has retired, resigned from position on Board, and thanked Roy for his service and many ideas. Larry Grohn has resigned as Tournament Coordinator and Malcolm expressed his thanks to Larry for his service.

He noted that the next tournament coordinator will help the tournament organizers keep on schedule with planning and timelines for the TCA tournaments.

“State of the Union” – The TCA is in pretty good shape. Finances have improved, but challenges remain, including finances, setting priorities and improving communication. We are making progress on some significant goals: 1) Improving the website – Major overhaul, thanks to Karoly Mirnics. He maintains the website; Malcolm encourages members to send interesting chess news (e.g. links to NY Times articles) to Karoly. 2) Newsletter and push-page – Making progress, looking forward to working with Tiffany. 3) Continuing to seek a corporate sponsor for the TN Open, ~$3,000 - $5,000. Applications with VW have not been successful yet, although their response has been encouraging. Plan to seek other possible sponsors, encourages members to think of possible sponsors in their areas. Scholastic chess is healthy.

Malcolm reminisced fondly about Peter Lahde’s 1997 book and noted that the TN Open and the TCA have a long history and strong traditions.

No questions were asked about the President’s report.

(Please go to the TCA Web Site - About TCA - TCA Activity Reports for more full rendition of Malcolm’s remarks.)

Mr. Jerry Spinrad expressed concern that the board order of players in the scholastic team championship tournament (state finals) is not required to be in order of playing strength. The current rule on the Team tournament flyer states: “*8. Board order. Players may play in any board order regardless of rating, with the order determined by the coach when registering. Board order cannot be changed after registration ends. The team must play in the same board order each round. A team with only 3 players must forfeit Board 4 each round. If a board is to forfeit any round, all remaining players must close ranks to Board 1 for that round.”* Also “*3. Teams. A team consists of 4 players from the same school. Up to 2 alternates are allowed for a maximum of 6 players per team.”* Mr. Spinrad noted that some coaches intentionally declare a weaker player above a stronger player so that Team A avoids playing its strongest 4 players in order against Team B’s strongest 4 players. He suggested the rule should be changed to prevent clearly weaker players from being placed above clearly stronger players, while preserving a reasonable level of coach’s discretion in fairly determining playing strength. Harry Sabine noted that a proposal with the same intent had been presented to the Scholastic Coordinators but not accepted. Others in the audience agreed with the sentiment that intentionally placing weaker players above stronger was not good sportsmanship and that intentionally arranging a pairing between an unnecessarily weak player against a much stronger player is not fair to either player. After considerable discussion, Malcolm suggested that Mr. Jerry Spinrad and Mr. Todd Andrews work with Chris Prosser to develop a proposal for the Scholastic Coordinators to address the issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Paul Semmes, Vice President*