

President's Report 2020 Annual Meeting

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I. Purpose

This report provides an overview of the status of the club and its activities for the preceding year. The President of the club, Matt Phelps, will present and discuss this report with the membership at the Annual meeting of the club to be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. A summary is presented first with more discussion and details provided in the sections that follow.

II. Summary

The Club moved in May 2019 to St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 39 E. Central St., Natick, MA. The new site allowed us to return to our traditional time control of 40/90; SD/30; d5. We also are back to playing in one primary playing hall with 36 boards (72 players) fitting in the main hall. We have the use of up to six extra rooms for expansion and skittles areas.

It was hoped that the move to the new site would be followed with an increase in attendance, but this was not the case. Average attendance for the year was down once again to 62 players per month. It is unclear why there was no increase.

There are many opportunities for people to assist in both very small and great ways. I encourage you to consider if you can provide time to assist the club either while at the club or away from the club. Once again our TD pool is still a bit thin. Please contact one of the existing TDs if you are interested in becoming an official USCF TD. Remember, TDs get free entry to all MCC events!

III. Club relocation

The majority of efforts in 2019 were dedicated to moving the club to our new location. Months of planning, negotiations, and contract work preceded a smooth transition beginning with the May 2019 event. Several advantages to the new site are:

- The club purchased tables and a storage cabinet for the church in lieu of some rent payments.
- We are fortunate to have complete control of when we leave for the evening, so the pressure to exit at a specific time is gone.
- There is adequate space, for comfortable expansion to approximately 90 players, more if needed.
- We have use of audio/visual equipment for class instruction

So far relations with the church have been excellent. I see no reason why that won't continue.

IV. The past year

- Average attendance has dipped to 62 per month. This is the lowest since 2001.
- 176 different people have played in the past 12 months. 95 are members.
- Class instruction began again towards the end of the year. NM Farzad Abdi gave several lectures on classical games. They have been very well received.

- The DGT boards /Game Archive /Live Broadcast program continues to be on hold. (See below)

V. Observations

Little has changed from the operations standpoint of the club since last year. There have been no major changes to the registration and bookkeeping operations. We are still doing a good job getting rounds to start on time.

We continue to pull in several new players (both new to the club, and new to rated chess) per year.

The Open section continued to decline in strength and numbers. (See below)

VI. New Projects

FIDE Rated and US Chess Grand Prix

Beginning in March 2020, all MCC tournaments will be worth six (6) US Chess Grand Prix points to the winner of the Open section.

Also beginning that month, all five round tournaments (i.e. those months with five Tuesdays) will be FIDE rated in the Open section.

Both these features are expected to draw more masters to the Open section.

Group Classes

We hope to expand the group classes. Perhaps if more masters attend, we will get a larger pool of instructors.

Advertising

We have been listing our tournaments on the MACA site. Beginning with the March 2020 tournament, we will also be listing our monthly tournaments in Chess Life in the Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs). It is hoped this will bring more general attendance. We could use more help with promoting the club in person, and on social media.

VII. The Future

Forming a 501c(3) Charitable Foundation

In previous years, we had planned to form a 501c(3) charitable foundation as a separate corporation from that of the club. This will allow us to accept tax deductible donations and perhaps initiate several fundraising efforts. This project has been on hold as we moved away from finding permanent lease space. In fact a corporation was created with the state, but no further follow-up has yet to be done. We may plan on picking this up again in 2020.

DGT boards/Game Archive/Live Broadcast

Since we now have the space for storage, and we hope to have more masters attend the Open section, we plan on starting up live broadcasts of some games via DGT electronic chess boards later this year.

Online Entry, possible online Byes

Again, this project has been on hold pending resolution of the club's home. We will pick this up again soon.