

**ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION
FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING 13th April 2013**

C18

A meeting of the Council was held at the Ibis Hotel, Ladywell Walk, Birmingham B5 4ST on Saturday 13th April 2013 starting at 13.30.

1 Attendees

- 1.1 Attention was drawn to the printed lists of Apologies for Absence, Members voting by Proxy and Members casting postal votes.

The following list of attendees gives names only. The full Attendance document recording the capacities, in which people attended, together with apologies for absence, is held in the ECF Office with the official copy of these Minutes.

M Amin (MA)	WG Armstrong (WGA)	N Belinfante (NB)	G Christie (GC)
JL Denning (JLD)	NW Dennis (NWD)	B Edgell (BE)	RJ Edwards (RJE)
PC Ehr (PE)	KL Escott (KLE)	AJ French (AJF)	B Gaze (BG)
SN Gilmore (SNG)	RJ Haddrell (RJH)	M Harding (MH)	R Hardy (RH)
S Hewitt (SH)	AR Holowczak (ARH)	AT Leadbetter (ATL)	CE Majer (CMj)
C Mattos (CM)	DK Openshaw (DKO)	JA Philpott (JAP)	C Priest (CP)
S Reuben (SR)	RJ Richmond (RJR)	PA Ridley (PAR)	DR Sedgwick (DRS)
PG Sherlock (PGS)	D Welch (DW)		

Chairman: RJ Edwards (RJE) – President

In attendance:

Minutes: D Eustace (DE)

Office Manager: T Turner (TT)

2 Notices

- i. Location of printed lists of Apologies for absence, Members voting by individual Proxy and Members voting by Proxy

The Chairman advised where the appropriate lists were posted on the wall for inspection by attendees.

- ii. Announcement of others in attendance with the permission of the Chairman

None.

Appointment of Tellers

Andrew Leadbetter and Chris Majer were appointed

- iii. Voting Register

The Company Secretary advised that the following should be added to the voting register: Briant Poulter Chess League, Bury St Edmunds Congress and Hampstead International. These were agreed.

Further questions were asked:

By David Sedgwick that Barnstaple should be included in the register

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By Neville Belinfante on what was the correct date for voting rights given the game fee registration system.

By David Welch on if the voting card does not agree with what the delegate thought they should have

Action: JAP agreed to investigate the above points

3 Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council held on 13th October 2013.

- i. Change: For item 14 Report of the Delegate to FIDE. The wording should be changed to reflect wording suggested by A. French in recent correspondence. **Vote:** In favour many - Against

It now reads:

“There was discussion on the issues concerning the court case against FIDE and, in particular, of the knowledge of the Board before decisions were made. APF confirmed that the Board had signed a Power of Attorney and the matter was left to the lawyers.”

- ii. Publication of Board Minutes

MG had commented that the responsibility for minutes not appearing regularly was his. It was agreed that past minutes would be published in full and minutes of future meeting would be published except for any necessary redactions.

- iii. A number of wording corrections by RJH were to be agreed after the meeting.

The minutes were accepted nem con subject to the changes in 3 above being incorporated

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes and not otherwise on the agenda.

- i. Charitable Status

CM updated the meeting on progress with the Charitable Status initiative. The Charity Commission had been consulted in January and February. The papers previously presented had been reviewed and it was considered that further investigation needed to be made into funding arrangements, the tax position and the activities which could be included.

- ii. Investigation into the Activities of CJM at Istanbul

The Board had been requested to investigate the activities of the past President CJM while at Istanbul representing the ECF. IT was reported that CJM was not prepared to repay any of his expenses reimbursed by the ECF. The Board intended to now close the matter.

- iii. Update on the Racial Discrimination Issue

PE updated the meeting on the events in Austria last year. There had been no further movement in this issue. The other party had threatened legal action in the Small Claims Court, but nothing had been received so far. PE had written to the Austrian Chess Federation to advise that they had the right not invite individuals who had caused problems.

- iv. Composition of the Board

DW raised the issue of the composition of the Board; he was concerned about the continuing vacancies. CMj advised that these had been added to the agenda under AOB.

5 ECF Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2012.

CM reported that after much intense work by JAP the accounts had been finalised and a commentary had been posted on the website.

The accounts were agreed and the meeting commended CM and JAP for their hard work in getting the accounts correct. **Agreed:** nem con

6 Review of the Membership Scheme and recommended changes

SH reported on the progress of the new membership scheme and requested that Council consider some recommended changes and empower the Board to implement these for 2013/2014:

i. G4.7

Proposal: “The Board shall have power to waive or reduce the membership requirements or payment of game fee in respect of specified categories of chess competition and / or specified categories of person and if it does so shall so advise the designated officer who shall maintain a list of such waivers on the ECF website”

Agreed: In favour many; against 2

Council then considered each of the following waivers:

i. Corporate VP’s

Proposal: “Corporate VPs’ waivers and benefits are continued until their membership expires”

Agreed: Nem Con

ii. Cheshire & North Wales

Proposal: “Members of the Welsh Chess Union who play for Clubs located in Wales and who play in cross border leagues will be exempt from Game Fee until 31/08/2014. The Board are mandated to open negotiations with the WCU over the future of the counties of Denbigh and Flint to deliver a final proposal in 12 months time.”

Agreed: Nem Con

iii. Braille Chess Association and the English Deaf Chess Association

Proposal: “Game Fee is waived in events organised solely for the benefit of their own members by the Braille Chess Association and the English Deaf Chess Association”

Agreed: Nem Con

iv. Closed Congresses

Proposal: “Events for individuals where players from only one county or league may play are treated as a league requiring only Bronze membership.”

Agreed: In favour many; against 1

v. Congress fillers

Proposal: “Membership requirements and Game Fee payments are waived in respect of players playing as filler in a congress.”

Agreed: In favour many; against 1

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vi. 4NCL Wild Cards

Proposal: “The requirement for ENG players to be Gold members is waived in respect of playing as a Wild Card”

Agreed: In favour many; against 3

vii. Other FIDE rated Leagues

Proposal: “The requirement for ENG players to be Gold members is waived in respect of players playing one game.”

Agreed: In favour many; against 1

Other items:

Other issues with regards to membership:

- Requirements with regard to Speed Play and Rapid Play
- Requirements FIDE rate Junior only events
- Date requirements for September / October congresses
- Date requirements for late July / August congresses – are two memberships required
- No mechanism for juniors to upgrade from Bronze to Silver membership
- Board to consider requirements for cross-year events

Action: It was agreed that SH would publish what would happen in each of the above cases

Action: All to contact SH re any potential waivers

7 Report of the Chairman of the Finance Committee

The report of the Chairman of the Finance Committee was accepted. **Agreed:** Nem Con

8 Annual Business Plan 2013/2014

It was reported that the Strategic Planning Officer had resigned and therefore there was no plan to present. The Board had agreed to re-allocate responsibilities in order to produce a plan.

Action: Re-allocate responsibilities to produce a business plan

9 Policy on International Teams

DO presented to Council the following policy proposal from the Board so that they could consider and express its support.

Proposal: “Council believes that the Federation should aim to have the strongest possible England teams competing in the European Team Championships (Open and Women’s), the Olympiads (Open and Women’s) and the World Youth under 16 Chess Olympiad (Open and, when established, Girls). We believe this is in the long term interest of English Chess.”

Agreed: In favour many; against 1

10 Report of the Finance Director and Budget 2013/2014

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CM explained the 2013/2014 budget papers:

- i. Year end change. The year ended had been changed to 31st August and the papers gave a forecast to April and to August.
- ii. Amendment agreed by the Board. The Board had agreed at an earlier meeting to remove the contingency sum of £5000 from the budget as not required.
- iii. Membership & Marketing. Membership numbers are at 9296. JAP confirmed that the forecasts for membership numbers were compiled on a conservative basis.
- iv. Home Services. The figures were self-explanatory; copies of the Grading lists were now down to 10/20 copies and not worth printing

MA proposed that “there should be a twice yearly PDF version of the Grading List published on the website”
Agreed: Nem Con

Action: M&M Director to arrange for twice yearly production of a PDF version of the Grading List on the website.
Action: M&M Director

- v. Junior & Education. This is a nil budget position where costs will be matched by fees from parents. The figures include John Robinson Trust donations.
- vi. International. In 2013/2014 there will be two events within a single year, the European Team and the Olympiad, therefore expenditure will be higher to cover the two events rather than the normal one per year and there is an intention to send stronger teams. Additional is required for team preparation events, travel and accommodation. It is intended that the budgeted figure will be complemented by donations from sponsors etc.

MA suggested that “for 2014/2015 there will be no international events that the Board should slash the international budget to create a big surplus.”
- vii. British Championships. The 2013 event had been budgeted to break-even after allocating £7,500, received as a bequest, in order to cover the venue costs. The 2014 event is also budgeted to break-even; the venue has not yet been decided, and the figures can be reconsidered at the AGM in the context of the actual location.
- viii. Administration. There is the advantage of large cash reserves at the beginning of the year and this will be invested more wisely. There is no proposal to change the current numbers of staff. There has been a change in the ownership of the Office property and there are some outstanding back service charges.

It was agreed by the Meeting to extend the finish time to 18.30.

Agreed: In favour many, against 1

11 Adoption of the 2013/2014 Budget

The Finance Director’s Report on the 2013/2014 budget was noted.

Proposal: Adoption of the budget for:

- a. The four month period from 1 May 2013 to 31 August 2013.
- b. The twelve month period from 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014.

Agreed: Nem Con

12 Direct Members' Subscriptions

Proposal: "That subscriptions for the period 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014 will be unchanged at the following levels:

Platinum: £60, Gold: £28 (Junior £22), Silver: £19 (Junior £13), Bronze: £13 (Junior £9)"

Agreed: Nem Con

An amendment for the following levels was proposed:

Platinum: £63, Gold: £30, Silver: £20, Bronze: £14.

Not passed: many against

13 Minimum Membership Fees for Member Organisations

Proposal: "That the minimum Membership Fee for Member Organisations remains at £58"

Agreed: Nem Con

14 Determination of Game Fee

Proposal: "The Board proposes that Game Fee is unchanged at the established rates of:

- a. £2 standardplay / £1 rapidplay for events not falling under (b) or (c)
- b. *Difference between Bronze and Silver membership*, £6 adult / £4 junior, pay to play fee for congresses other than FIDE-rated standardplay events not falling under (c)
- c. 50p / standardplay / 25p rapidplay for exclusively junior events

An amendment was agreed (In favour 15, against 1) to add the words in Italics above.

Agreed: In favour many, against 2.

15 Amendment to the Game Fee Bye Laws

Proposal: The Board proposes to substitute the following text for the existing paragraph 4.3.

"Each organisation paying a Membership Fee or submitting games for ECF grading or FIDE rating shall register any graded/rated events which it proposes to organise. Registration will be effected by submitting such details to the designated officer by such date as the Board may from time to time prescribe. Events that are not registered within the deadline set will only be graded and / or rated with the permission of the Board".

Vote by show of hands: In favour 17, against 8.

Card Vote: in favour 130, against 48, abstention 4.

Agreed

16. Code of Conduct for ECF Officials and Complaints Procedure

CMj reported that the Board had decided that the Code of Conduct was unworkable and had referred the matter to the Chairman of the Governance Committee. He advised that he will progress this and bring a revised proposal to Council in October.

He will also discuss with MG the procedure by which members will be able to register a complaint.

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Action: CMj to bring revised proposal on Code of Conduct and Complaints Procedure to Council in October.

17. County Championship Rule Change

It was decided to delay a decision on this matter until the next meeting. This should be included higher up the agenda.

Action: JAP: Place County Championship Rule Change item on the agenda for the next meeting and give it more priority.

18. Venue and Date for the AGM

The meeting is scheduled to be held in London on 12th October 2013.

19. Any Other Business as advised to the Chairman before the start of the meeting.

None had been received.

The meeting closed at 18.30.

RJ Edwards.....

President and Chairman of the meeting

Date.....