

**Minutes of the 111<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of the English Chess Federation  
11.30 to 17.30 Tuesday 14th March 2017  
IBIS Hotel, 21 Ladywell Walk, Birmingham, B5 4ST**

**Present:**

Chief Executive, Mike Truran	MT
Director of Finance, David Eustace	DE
Director of Home Chess, Alex Holowczak	AH
Director of International Chess, Malcolm Pein	MP
Director of Junior Chess and Education, Traci Whitfield	TW
Director of Membership, David Thomas	DT
Non-executive Chairman, Julian Clissold	JC
Non-executive Director, Julie Denning	JD
Non-Executive Director, Stephen Woodhouse	SW
Chairman, Governance Committee, Robert Stern	RS
Junior Directorate Finance Manager, Christelle Hafstad	CH
Office Manager and Minutes Secretary, Gary Willson	GW
Chair of council, Mike Gunn	MG

1. Apologies for absence

President, Dominic Lawson	DL
Director of Women's Chess, Sarah Longson	SL
Chairman, Finance Committee, Tim Herring	TH

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 110th Board Meeting of the ECF 17th February 2017

Amendment to AP 110/12: TW to continue to review ...

The board re-affirmed the decision to redact section 15 in its entirety.

4. Consideration of E-mail votes taken since the last Board meeting

No email votes have been taken since the last meeting.

#### 5. Appointments

Angus French has been appointed as the Voting Register Officer.

Lewis Martin has taken over from Jack Rudd as the Manager of Disabled Chess.

#### 6. Office relocation

The situation concerning a possible office relocation was discussed. As well as creating extra space for existing staff, the larger space in the Watch Oak would provide adequate room to enable the library stock to be sorted and put on display.

Because the matter of the library had previously been to Council, it was not a straight forward operational matter within the remit of the board alone. RS advised however that whilst the original decision was made by council, this is arguably a different decision because of the desire to increase office space (the library being a favourable consequence).

The Board agreed that DE should have the freedom to negotiate with the landlord to move the office: the total rent will be in the region of £15K; the contract ideally to include a break clause every 3 years. The final decision can then be put to Council in detail.

#### 7. Update on action points

Action points were cleared or subsumed within the agenda save for:

AP 110/10 On-going

AP 110/11 It was agreed this should be part of normal business. Cleared.

AP 110/12 This review is ongoing.

AP 110/13 Ongoing. It was agreed we would consider whether or not to publish KPIs when the document is produced.

#### 8. Finance Council Preparation

- Council Agenda draft (MG)
- Report of the Board to April Council 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 (MT)
- Financial proposals to April Council meeting (DE)
- Council membership proposals (RS)
- Membership game Fee Proposals (DT)

It was agreed the BCF would commence at 12:30 following a 10:30 board meeting. This would give a potential latest finish of 18:00.

The potential order of issues was discussed. It was agreed that fee levels should be

discussed before the budget. It was agreed that voting reform should be voted on in stages, as per advice from RS.

Concerning potential game fee changes, it was confirmed there was no intention to make changes to junior only events. It was agreed that if possible we could consider the abolition of junior game fee, if the model can be fiscally neutral.

AP 111/01 All Board members to give comments on voting reform paper to RS by no later than 21<sup>st</sup> March.

AP 111/02 MG to produce a draft council agenda and pass to JC and MT for information.

AP 111/03 TW, JC and DT to consider proposals for the abolition of junior game fee.

DE gave the board an overview of activity since JP died. We have moved over to an electronic accounting system for the current year onwards, and importing old data to enable the completion of accounts for last year. It is possible that because of the significant amount of work to be done, a full set of accounts will not be ready in time for Council.

The shortfall in proposed spending was discussed at directorate level, as reflected in the paper. It was agreed that if this overall gap of around £15K could not be obtained through further sponsorship, it would be taken from reserves for a couple of years.

AP 111/04 All directors to review budget figures, to revert to DE before the weekend.

AP 111/05 DE to give to GW paper on director's responsibilities, to put on website.

## 9. Reports from Directors

With a lack of FIDE rated congresses, the 4NCL has agreed to underwrite an English Championship. In light of the time available and the 4NCL's offer to take any cost risks, the Board agreed (AH, DT and MT did not vote) to allow the 4NCL to run the tournament this year, but invitations to tender would be sought for following years. Analysis of the results from the first year of the junior academy look promising, with an average increase in students grade in excess of 20 points. TW would like to increase the pool of organisers and hopes to run a training event alongside the September academy weekend. Blitz chess tournaments seem to be increasingly popular, and may account at least in part for an increase in girl and secondary activity.

MP reported that he continues to work with existing sponsors on renewing agreements for next year. We need to significantly increase activity to support our new sponsor for the British.

10.Redacted

Redacted

AP 111/06 Redacted

AP 111/07 Redacted

AP 111/08 Redacted

11.AOB as reported to the chair before the meeting.

MP noted that JD and MG were playing in the Seniors tournament to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> year of the SCCU. The board wished them well.

DT informed the board that we may have a trial version of league management software available for next season.

The meeting closed at 16:40.