



C20.2.1

To: ECF Council Members, Board Members and Mike Gunn, Proposed Chair of Council Meeting 12th April 2014.
From: Julian Clissold, NED.

Firstly I must apologise to Council for being unable to attend the Council Meeting on 12th April. I am taking a group of Manchester children to play in the Irish Junior Chess championships in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway from 11th -14th April, including a match against a representative Dublin Junior team on the Monday. This has been arranged for some time and as the organiser for the initiative I find it difficult to ask parents to assume responsibility for the event. If the Council Meeting had included an Emergency Motion regarding the presidency, I had made arrangements to attend Council and fly out from Heathrow on the Saturday evening. As this matter has been resolved I have decided to travel with the party. In my absence I append a few notes on my views regarding matters before Council.

ECF Budget 2014-5

I commend to Council the work of John Philpott and David Eustace. I believe the budget has been soundly constructed, reflects the forward plans of the ECF and maintains a balance of financial common sense while meeting a substantial part of the needs of our "spending" Directors. I particularly support the decision to try and move the ECF reserves back towards £50K.

ECF Budgets 2015-17

These are indicative but I believe Council should be aware of the medium term problems in our net cash flow. I believe that the aspiration to place the ECF on a secure financial footing is essential and should be supported in principle.

Presidency

I welcome the decision of Andrew Paulson to step down from Office and the decision of the Board to offer their thanks for his service. I believe it is in the interests both of the ECF and our former President if the final acts in this matter are handled with good will.

The Future

I have been honoured to be a part of what I consider to be a very strong team on the Board. I look forward to maintaining my support for the team and working towards a future for ECF as a more significant player in the world of English Chess. I particularly support moves towards adopting a more professional and commercial approach to our work.