



Minutes of the 84th Meeting of the English Chess Federation Board
on
Sunday, 11th May 2014
at
Teleconference by Skype

The Board meeting opened at approximately 8:00 pm.

Present:

Phil Ehr	Chief Executive	Chair
David Eustace	Director of Finance	
David Thomas	Director of Membership	
Alex Holowczak	Director of Home Chess	
David Openshaw	Director of International Chess	
Lawrence Cooper	Director of Junior Chess and Education	
Julian Clissold	Non-executive Director	

In Attendance:

Chris Majer**	Chairman of the Governance Committee
John Philpott	Company Secretary
Robert Thompson	Minutes Secretary

1. This meeting convened at approximately 8:00 pm.
2. The Board appointed Robert Thompson as Minutes Secretary, *nem con*.
3. The Board discussed and took action on a member's complaint. [Detail redacted]
4. AH nominated Arbiter Level 2 appointments for Nigel Hepworth & Ihor Lewyk (PE was away due to Skype problems). The matter went to a vote swiftly, and the applications were approved *nem con*.
5. PE nominated Awards Committee members, Stan Goodall, Roger Edwards and William Metcalfe. All three were accepted *nem con*.
6. PE moved to change the name of the Strategic Planning Officer post to Strategic Advisor and nominate Chris Fegan to fill it. DE raised concerns regarding the change of title, and had a problem with this as it could leave CF able to not do any work and be able to wash his hands

on the matter. AH gave a character defence of CF having known him outside of this context, but declared a conflict of interest as they work together. PE also thought that this wouldn't be an issue. JC asked about the term of appointment, the answer being until October. This allayed DE's concerns somewhat, but not entirely. DO shared DE's concerns, reasoning that the Board needs someone to do the work as opposed to merely offering advice. DT said that as PE was the predominantly the director responsible for the Strategic Plan, then the nomination should be appointed. LC agreed with DT, as did AH. JC also agreed, giving the information that as CF has worked with Chess in Schools and Communities he is suitable. The Board appointed Chris Fegan as Strategic Advisor *nem con*.

7. PE nominated Bob Kane for Commercial Director, but did not ask for a vote until after the Board meet BK on May 19th. AH asked for a CV, which PE would distribute.
8. PE reviewed candidates for a notional future post of Commercial Development Officer, Bob Kane and Ulrike Vogel. These would be volunteers supporting the Commercial Director. PE reported that BK would be happy to work with UV, and UV already helping BK plan commercial projects in the event BK was appointed. Nomination to be considered at the next meeting. LC asked for a CV, which PE would distribute.
9. Search and candidates for President. The Board previously had a list of desirable qualities for a president, on which little progress had been made. The Board agreed that rather than appointing a president now, they should instead propose someone to Council. JC suggested giving responsibility to a specific person. DE volunteered to produce a second list of the role requirements of a President based on his initial draft and the feedback received from other Board members.
10. Search and candidates for NED: Jack Rudd, Angus French and Sean Hewitt. Advice from the Governance Chairman was to make an appointment ASAP as missing a non-executive director for any extended period was inappropriate. PE recommended the process of assessing the applicants in turn and voting separately on each one. PE had searched for other candidates with corporate or non-profit governance experience, but was unsuccessful. A lengthy discussion ensued about the situation and the merits of each applicant [Detail redacted]. DT requested that SH's application be voted first. The votes were:
Sean Hewitt: Three in favour; four against; no abstentions.
Angus French: Seven abstentions; no votes for or against.
Jack Rudd: One in favour; four against; two abstentions.
Accordingly, the Non-executive Director post remained vacant.
11. The Board discussed the International Rating Officer function. The Board affirmed that the IRO function resides in the office and the IRO was Andrew Walker; and that Sean Hewitt would continue to assist as required. Recognising that the International Director does not intend to fulfil Board level oversight, a shift in oversight to the Chief Executive was considered. DT asked whether SH has been given authority to sign for any title applications as a Federation official. PE answered that AW would sign the certificates, and ask for advice when necessary. DO made clear that he was content to defer authority to Sean Hewitt, who understands the complexities of the IRO function.
12. Mail shot policy, quarterly. DT said that a problem was that the membership database was sometimes used for non-renewal mail shots. Two mail shots had been sent recently without director approval. DT requested oversight to make sure that there weren't too many mail shots sent out, and also that people who wished to opt out of everything apart from membership renewals were able to do so. PE said that mail shots should not be sent more

frequently that quarterly. As an addendum to this topic, DT reports that Andrew Farthing is resigning as editor of Chess Moves. PE has sent an email to that AF for thanks, but at this point there is no replacement editor. AH suggested that mail shots should be sent out bi-monthly with Chess Moves, and this was accepted as a sensible idea.

13. FIDE Election, instruct ECF vote for Kasparov. It was clear that the election was between Kirsan Ilyumzhinov and Garry Kasparov. PE reported that Kirsan Ilyumzhinov intended to visit London on the last weekend in May. DE felt that it would be impolite to meet Ilyumzhinov having already instructed Nigel Short to vote for Kasparov. DT said that as long as Ilyumzhinov knew that the ECF would be voting for Kasparov, there is no problem with meeting Ilyumzhinov. AH agreed with DE. LC agreed with DT. AH asked for the wording of the previous motion passed. PE read the previous Board motion, and stated there would be no contradiction between instructing the FIDE delegate and waiting until after the meeting with Ilyumzhinov to make any further announcement. The Board declined to instruct the FIDE delegate. *[Note: Ilyumzhinov's campaign team indicated a change of plans. He did not visit in late May.]*
14. The British Championships 2015 venue proposal was discussed. [Detail redacted]
15. BICC meeting. AH gave a report on the morning session of the BICC meeting. JC, DO, LC left during this item. PE reported from the afternoon session. The reports were accepted.
16. The next gathering of directors was reviewed to be a non-business strategy meeting arranged for 11:00 am on 19th May in London.
17. The meeting closed at approximately 10 pm.

Signed as an accurate record: Phil Ehr

Approved: 15 July 2014