



Minutes of the 85th Meeting of the English Chess Federation Board
on
Monday, 19th May 2014
at
Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, London

The Board meeting opened at approximately 4:30 pm following the close of a strategy meeting.

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:

Bob Kane	Nominee as Commercial Director
Chris Fegan	Strategy Advisor

1. In its previous meeting, the Board considered three applications to fill the vacant Non-executive Director post. Immediately after the previous Board meeting, the Company Secretary received a notice for the Directors to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of Council from Sean Hewitt, the representative member for the Leicestershire & Rutland Chess Association, the Coventry & District Chess League, the South East Lancashire League, the Stockport and District Chess League, the Atkins Memorial Congress and the e2e4 Congresses. The formal notice (received 11 May 2014 23:25 by email) called for an EGM for the sole purpose of Council considering the following motion: "Council hereby instructs the board to appoint Sean Hewitt to the vacant post of Non-Executive Director". Upon reflection, the Board met on this occasion with greater determination to fill the vacant post.
2. The Board discussed the need to revisit the NED vacancy. Phil Ehr stated that convening an EGM to fill the vacant NED post was not in the best interest of the Federation. David Openshaw stated that there was no reason for the Board to revisit the NED vacancy unless the Board was prepared to appoint Sean Hewitt, reasoning that Sean Hewitt's resignation was part of the process of moving on from Andrew Paulson's presidency. Lawrence Cooper stated that the Board should examine the underlying reasons for Sean Hewitt's resignation,

specifically the wording used in the ECU General Assembly paper the Chief Executive wrote for Council (C20.17); wording to which Lawrence Cooper still objected. Phil Ehr agreed to offer the Board amended language to that paper that preserved accountability related to the Board's agreement with Andrew Paulson. David Eustace, David Thomas and Julian Clissold stated their opinion that the Board should not re-appoint someone after they resign; reasoning that election by Council is the appropriate method for a director to rejoin the Board after resignation. All directors recognised Sean Hewitt's right to unilaterally call for an EGM due to his multiple roles in Council and his determination to do so.

3. On advice of the Company Secretary and Governance Committee Chairman, the Board decided to conduct a 'first-past-the-post' vote among the three applicants: Jack Rudd, Angus French and Sean Hewitt. Each director stated reasons for his preference. The subsequent vote was Jack Rudd nil; Angus French four; Sean Hewitt three. Angus French was appointed to fill the vacant Non-executive Director post.
4. Alex Holowczak informed the Board of a contract issue related to the 2015 British Chess Championships. The Board agreed that action was urgent. Julian Clissold moved that the Board designate the Chief Executive, the Finance Director and the Home Director to decide the matter. The Board agreed *nem con*.
5. The meeting closed at approximately 5:30 pm.

Signed as an accurate record: Phil Ehr

Approved: 15 July 2014