

Report of the Non-Executive Director, Julian Clissold.

Report of: October 2014

Major objectives

The ECF Board has successfully undertaken and delivered its most important targets:

- The British Championship
- International open and women's Olympiad squads
- Junior participation in International Championships
- Membership scheme
- County Championships
- Financial security and budget planning

This is a testimony to the work of the Board's major Directorships. It should also be the acid test for the assessment of the work of the board in 2013-2014.

It has also successfully run:

- English Girls' Individual Championships
- English Seniors Championship
- Under 11 and Under 19 National Schools Championships
- Under 11 and Under 19 National Schools Girls' Championships

The Board has engaged in collaborative discussions with CSC and UKCC; neither of these has yet to lead to collaborative action but they have improved the relationship between the ECF and our partner organisations.

Board Membership

In the last year the ECF President has resigned after discussions with the Chief Executive. The Board has also had a resignation from an NED.

Three new people have joined the Board, a replacement NED and two new posts, one as a Commercial Manager and one as a Strategy Advisor. The Board has already benefitted from their contributions which have brought a new perspective to discussions.

It remains the case that the Board creates additional workload for itself because of the failure of the Board to act as a single, collaborative unit. This sometimes leads to heated email threads. Adherence to the new Code of Conduct prepared by the Governance Committee will be a helpful contribution to this situation. This should continue to be an objective for the new Board.

Policy developments

The Board has approved a Safeguarding Policy and is in the process of presenting policies to Council in relation to Code of Conduct and Complaints Procedure.

The Board has considered the advice of the Junior Directorate in regard to the selection policy for the ECF England Squad and attendance at regional and international junior chess events. These will be considered more fully after the October elections.

Discussions over the last year show that the ECF continues to have policy gaps in relation to a number of areas; in particular in relation to discrimination and external relations, including commissioning of third party control of events. There is also a need to build on the Chief Executive's strategy document in order to develop coherent short and medium term planning frameworks.

External Relations

The ECF's dealings with FIDE continue to provide the Board with a series of problems about how to respond. The Board elected to support the unsuccessful candidate for the post of President of FIDE. Considerable time has been spent on this matter and this has been a distraction for the Board. The new Board should consider how to handle its relationship with FIDE and the ECU over the next few years.

There continues to be huge scope for collaboration between the ECF and other bodies responsible for the organisation of chess (CSC, EPSCA, UKSCC, 4NCL amongst others). The Board might consider a strategy for pursuing such collaboration.

Problem areas

A number of mundane but important areas continue to hamper and distract the Board. In particular over the last year Board Minutes and Board Meetings continue to generate more heat than light. The Board has collectively found an acceptable modus operandi but needs to consolidate these practices.