

**Minutes of the 87th meeting of the ECF Board
20.00-22.00, Thursday, 12 June 2014
On Skype**



Present: Phil Ehr (PE)
David Eustace (DE)
Alex Holowczak (AH)
Dave Thomas (DT)
Loz Cooper (LC)
Julian Clissold (JC)
Bob Kane (BC)
Angus French (AF)
David Openshaw (DO) (Left early)

In attendance: John Philpott (JAP)
Rob Thompson (RT)

Apologies: None

1) Next meetings

PE proposed the 14th July; this was provisionally agreed and is to be confirmed by email.

Action: PE

2) Publication of minutes

PE accepted that the publication of minutes remained a problem. DE and PE went through the status of the previous minutes, and the only minutes that are causing problems are the minutes from 07.03.2014. AF is working on those minutes, and DE will help where required.

DE suggested that the shorter minutes should be done by PE, and with everything published ASAP, at least by the end of June. For meetings that RT is unavailable for, a Board member or attendee should be responsible for them to take some of the burden from RT. DE and JAP volunteered, and PE accepted that. AF proposed publishing a snapshot within a week, to address concerns about the minutes.

Actions to be taken: Previous minutes to be published ASAP,
AF to work on minutes from 07.03.2014
PE to work on minutes from 19.05.2014 and 28.5.2014
08.02.2014 has been sent to PE for publishing
April Council minutes to be published as a draft
15.05.2014 done by RT, to be circulated for a vote for approval and publishing as draft.

3) Directors' reports

DE reported on Chess Centre Ltd, but in general the reports were considered self-explanatory.

BK is in discussions with the source of the money for the Chess Centre, and so wanted access to accounts promptly. DT believed that a lot of the money came from selling BCM. DE will go to relevant people to establish the available funding position.

DT needs to talk to PaySubsOnline regarding getting a "tick box" for receiving material from the ECF. All other topics he wanted to discuss are elsewhere in the agenda.

AH, DT confirmed that there is not an intention to provide a 13½ -month membership year for people who were not members but wanted to play in the British Championships. The discretion to do this exists, but is not exercised. Memberships are to be checked on entry, to avoid problems with non-members turning up at the championships, especially for junior competitions.

LC confirmed that there are no problems with the U18/U13 county championships.

BK reported the position regarding the chess library.

AH reported that Keith Arkell is playing games at the British Championships early, so that the clash with the European Senior Team Championships doesn't cause too many problems. There have been problems with the calendar, with congresses making errors filling in the information. The instructions to congresses will be improved to help this. In relation to the new 2014 Laws of Chess, AH reported that there is a document and a news item sent to the webmaster to be published. There was a meeting in Athens that may result in changes, so the document may need to be updated. AH has written a document showing what tolerances on the Laws will be allowed for grading. The Help File on the grading website states that to be graded the games must adhere to the laws of chess, but that is not always accurate (e.g. adjudications). This is only for games that are not FIDE rated. BK believes that this would be a good topic for a moderated forum, but due to the lack of time AH has to publish with little public comment. The entries to the British Championships are currently in line with both budgetary expectations and previous normal Championships, though lower than for the Centenary event in 2013. BK asked whether live game broadcasting was in hand, AH confirmed that it was.

DO reported that the teams for Tromso were as strong as could be expected, and there is to be a training event with Stuart Conquest at the RAC for the women's team. With Sadler in the Netherlands and Short in Greece, a comparable meeting for the men's team was unlikely. The Olympiad teams are provisionally within budget. Grantham Sharks, e2e4 and White Rose are playing in the European Club Championship. Stewart Reuben has raised money for the Seniors Team Championships. PE has called FIDE regarding the Olympiad arbiters, following up on Andrew Paulson's efforts to increase English arbiters resulting from problems at Istanbul.

PE reported regarding terms of reference for the governance review. Garry Kasparov requests that if the ECF decides to formally support his candidacy for FIDE president, it's made public for electoral

reasons. The office review continues, with two potential sites considered and more detail forthcoming. PE notes that for next year there should be discussion for the Player of the Year so that the problems rose this year wouldn't occur.

Decisions & Actions: DE to provide BK with the latest Chess Centre accounts.

DE is to talk to David Anderton, Gerry Walsh.

AH to work on the literature for congresses to put information on the calendar

DO, BK to discuss possible commercial applications for the teams.

PE is to draft terms of reference for governance revi

4) Decision as to whether HLM or HLVP is the appropriate award for Andrew Farthing.

Andrew Farthing hasn't ever received recognition for his previous work for the ECF, and since he is now wishing to step down as editor of ChessMoves it is a good opportunity to recognise his services. The process is that the Board puts a motion to Council. An HLVP is also a life member. JP advised towards HLVP.

Board Vote for HLVP: Approved unanimously

5) Discussion on items for an email to the membership

DT recalled that at a previous meeting that emails to members should be sent approximately every 2 months. AH wanted to add an item to that email should contain something soliciting entries to the British Championships. According to David Anderton, only information relating to membership benefits can be sent in these emails. Since ChessMoves is a benefit of membership, this item is appropriate. From next membership year, the email list will be more organised, so this won't be an issue.

Actions: DT to write the email to be sent to members.

6) Questions re Kasparov

AF had concerns regarding Kasparov: firstly, the contract with Leong, which is currently being looked at by the FIDE ethics commission; secondly, issues with transparency from Kasparov, despite this being Kasparov's campaign. Leong being on Kasparov's ticket is concerning, especially as he was the Chief Arbiter at the Dresden Olympiad at which the 'zero tolerance' rule was introduced, as well as his other ideas.

As PE pointed out, the rest of the Board is ready to make a decision and has already debated this issue, with the exception of BK as the other new director. BK thinks that both Kasparov and Kirsan are bad candidates, but that Kasparov deserves his chance as there is a chance he can attract sponsors. AF said that Kasparov has lost major sponsors in the past (IBM and Intel), but DO said that Kirsan hasn't even had sponsors to lose.

Actions: AF to put his concerns in writing and send them to the Board.

- 7) Decision to instruct FIDE Delegate to vote for Kasparov in the FIDE election, and for the Chief Executive to make a statement to that effect.

After much discussion it was agreed that the Board would instruct the FIDE Delegate to cast the ECF vote for Kasparov. It was also agreed that the Chief Executive is to produce a suitable statement to that effect with a brief comment of robust support for his candidacy. BK suggested that the emphasis should be the ECF's support for Kasparov and mild support for Danailov.

Board Decision: In favour AH, BK, LC, DO, PE, DE, JC, DT; abstain AF

- 8) Decision to instruct the FIDE Delegate to vote for Danailov in the ECU election.

After much discussion it was agreed that the Board would instruct the FIDE Delegate to cast the ECF vote for Danailov:

Board Decision: In favour AH, DE, DT, DO, JC, LC; against AF; abstain PE.

- 9) Discussion on the role and qualities of the position of President

DE had sent a note around asking for comment, and received responses by email. The question was whether the President should be ambassadorial, and whether he or she should be involved in strategy. After much comment on whether the president should be "ambassadorial" or involved in strategy DE agreed to produce a second version of the paper taking into account comments at the meeting and those he has received by email. This needed which has to be done quickly as the search for a suitable candidate for 2014/15 would start soon. Action: DE

PE advised that the position needed to be reached by early August, as the responsibilities of the Director positions to be elected had to be published at the same time as the election notice.