



Minutes of the 89th meeting of the ECF board

11:18 to 17:40 Tuesday 9 September 2014

Radisson Blu Birmingham, 12 Holloway Circus, Queensway, Birmingham, B1 1BT

Present: Phil Ehr (PE) (in the chair)
Loz Cooper (LC) (Skype)
Julian Clissold (JC)
Alex Holowczak (AH) (Skype)
Nigel Short (NS) (Skype)
David Eustace (DE)
Angus French (AF)
Bob Kane (BK)
Dave Thomas (DT)

In Attendance: John Philpott (JAP)
Chris Fegan (CF)
Chris Majer (CM)
Rob Thompson (RT) (Skype)

Apologies: Nigel Short (NS)

1) **Agenda for Meeting**

The agenda was approved.

2) **Appointments**

Harry Lamb was appointed as an ECF senior arbiter, 5 in favour, 1 against, and 2 abstentions.

3) **Nomination for President**

Dominic Lawson was nominated as a candidate for President, 6 in favour, 2 abstentions. AF declined to vote, as he did not agree with the process.

Action: PE

4) **Changes to Regulations**

Regulation 2 was approved with 6 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

Action: JAP

5) **Dates of Future Meetings**

The next meetings are scheduled for 11:00 11 October, directly before the AGM, 11:00 Friday 7 November in Birmingham, morning Monday 8 December at the London Chess Classic, subject to confirmation by the new Board.

Action: PE

6) It was agreed to appoint a Diversity Officer with a responsibility for collecting data on race amongst other key information. PE volunteered to create a job description and advertise this post in advance of the next Board meeting. AH to organise arbiter training on diversity.

Action: PE

Action: AH

7) **Annual General Meeting 11th October 2014**

i. As Mike Gunn is not able to chair the meeting this year, PE proposed two potential candidates: Julie Denning and Mike Truran. It was agreed that PE would approach these.

Action: PE

ii. Requisitionists' motions:

AH's motion on adjudication. The AH motion was seen as being a divisive issue, therefore the Board agreed to make a statement that the Board had no collective position.

Action: PE

Ben Edgell is to propose a motion on residual game fee. This is a consultation paper, so DT was comfortable for it to be put to the AGM and the Board would take note of Council members' views.

Action: JAP

iii. Elections – It was decided that each candidate should have a maximum of 6 minutes to state their case, including at least 3 minutes for questions. PE is to advise the selected Chairman. The candidates are encouraged to engage with the ECF Forum, especially those in contested elections.

Action: PE

iv. Election Addresses - DT, CM will not be providing election statements.

Director reports are meant as an honest appraisal of what has been achieved over the past year. Reports should be shown to the board before publication, and they are due to JAP by 23:59 Monday 16 September.

Action: All

v. Strategic Plan

There is no strategic plan to publish. PE is to include in his report that the Board is aware of this.

Action: PE

vi. The Women's chess and Seniors' chess. These papers are not to be placed before the AGM as there has not been significant progress on these subjects.

Action: DO

vii. Awards. It was agreed to include Roger Edwards, who is a member of the Awards Committee so his award should not be included the papers. Instead, if elected, Dominic Lawson is to award RE a President's Award immediately after the AGM. This was approved unanimously.

Action: PE / JAP

viii. Previous Council Actions

The Board is to produce a paper on previous Council actions, approved nem con.

Action: PE

8) **Constitutional Review**

The Terms of Reference for the independent constitutional review were approved.

Vote: 5 in favour, 1 against, 3 abstaining.

The proposal that the ECF should sign up to the Sport and Recreation Alliance's Voluntary

Code of Good Governance was approved. CM will be the named contact as Chairman of the Governance Committee.

Vote: 6 in favour, 1 abstaining

9) **Code of Conduct**

CM proposed that the motion that candidates should sign up for the code of conduct should be delayed until April, so that candidates have a chance to understand this before standing for election. The code of conduct document is to be amended to include the changes made.

Action: CM

10) **Complaint Handling**

JC reported on the current status of handling complaints. There are three major issues with the complaints procedure as it stands: There is no-one responsible for the handling of complaints; there is no-one responsible for the logging and reporting of complaints; and the complaints procedure can only take complaints from narrow range of people.

In the interim, the NEDs will handle the complaints, and after the election in October the NEDs are to be asked who wants to undertake the role. The responsibility for logging and reporting complaints are to be the Office. Complaints are to be accepted about matters related to the ECF, rather than restricted to complaints by members. A charge of £25 is to be in place to deter frivolous complaints, refunded if the complaint is successful.

Action: PE / JC

11) **Social Media**

BK is to produce a document on social media policy. The moderation policy was adopted in principle nem con.

Action: BK

12) **Conflict of Interest**

The conflict of interest policy has not yet been formulated, so it is not to be presented to Council.

13) **Relationship between ECF and FIDE**

PE has produced a paper on the future relationship between the ECF and FIDE, and this is on the ECF Forum. The paper was approved.

Vote: 4 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

Action: PE

14) **ECF's FIDE Academy**

The ECF is to set up a training program, possibly called an Academy to fit into the FIDE Academy initiative. This is to be self-funded by the parents involved until other funding is secured. BK is to look into other sponsorship.

Action: PE / BK

15) **Relocation of Office to Saunderton**

Moving the Office to Saunderton would cost the ECF more money. PE undertook to make the case for the positives via a paper over the next fortnight. The decision is to be taken at the next Board meeting.

Action: PE

The meeting closed at 17.40.