

Minutes of the 102nd Board Meeting of the English Chess Federation  
Held at the Holiday Inn, Queensway, Birmingham on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>  
January 2016.

Present: David Eustace (Director of Finance) (DE)  
David Thomas (Director of Membership) (DT)  
Malcolm Pein (Director of International Chess, FIDE Delegate) (MP) (via Skype  
intermittently)  
Julie Denning (Non-Executive Director) (JD)  
Traci Whitfield (Director of Junior Chess & Education) (TW) (until item 17)

In attendance: John Philpott (Company Secretary) (JP) (via Skype)  
Gary Willson (Office Manager, minutes) (GW)

Meeting began at 12:10 pm.

1 Appointment of the Chair.

JD was appointed chair.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Dominic Lawson (DL), Alex Holowczak (AH), Julian Clissold (JC) and Mike Truran (MT). AH had appointed DT and DL had appointed MP as their alternates.

3 Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

4 Minutes of the 101<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes as previously circulated were agreed as an accurate of the previous meeting. It was agreed that no redactions would be made to the published version.

5 To Note Email Votes Taken Since the Last Board Meeting.

No email votes had been taken since the last meeting.

6 Applications for Membership

It was agreed that e2e4 would be readmitted onto the voting register. They were likely to be entitled to one vote in April.

7 Action Point Update

100/5 & 6: Ongoing; it is proving problematic due to the large retainer needed to hire someone who could perform the job with a large performance element to the pay. MP agreed to scope out the post and send to DE for budgetary purposes.

AP 102/1: TW to discuss with MT incorporating the Certificate of Merit within the Academy in time for the next meeting.

AP 102/2: TW to discuss with JP & Chris Majer the Intellectual Property Rights of the Certificate of Merit.

AP 102/3: GW to forward TW contact details for CM.

100/10: Cleared, included in Agenda.

100/11: Ongoing, needs to be in place by October 2016.

101/1: Cleared.

101/2: Ongoing.

101/3&4: Ongoing.

101/5: Cleared, discussion will form part of the proposal.

101/6; On-going.

101/7: Cleared: MG is happy to share responsibilities with Phil Ehr.

101/8: MG happy to continue being a member of the committee. RS has been appointed and is due to meet with RS. Other aspects remain open.

101/9: Cleared: it is agreed the next meeting is to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> March in London.

## 8 The Budget Process & Statement to Council (DE)

The paper laying out the plan for the budget process, circulated prior to the meeting, was discussed. It details the action required:

- Finance team to issue individual templates on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb
- Directors to return completed templates by 12<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Finance team will raise any questions by 19<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Directors to respond by 25<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Budgets to be posted prior to next Board meeting, at which the complete budget will be discussed and agreed.

## 9 Proposed Mind Sports Centre in London (DE)

The paper from DE previously circulated to the Board refers. The Go Association has received a donation with which they wish to set up a mind sports centre in London. They are following a phased feasibility study into the option of purchasing a property and have approached the ECF and others to see if we wish to join them. It would cost the ECF £3600 for Phase II and a further ££1200 for Phase III, to properly explore the possibilities. This money could not be recouped.

The Board agreed that this was an opportunity that should be properly explored, given the potential to effectively have a National Chess Centre. The Board agreed to inform the Go Association that we would consult Council in April

AP 102/4: DE to contact the Go Association, informing them of our decision to consult with Council.

## 10 The Future of the ECF Forum

The Board agreed that the Forum should be considered alongside the other tools within the

Communications Strategy.

AP 102/5: MT to consider the communications strategy ahead of the next meeting, especially concerning the ECF Forum.

#### 11 Governance Review Progress Report (JD)

The sub-committee meets again on 5th Feb. Work is progressing, with the intention to present a first batch of recommendations to the 2016 Finance Council.

#### 12 Governance Committee Support

Robert Stern made contact by telephone, apologising for not being able to attend the meeting. He is looking forward to attending the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.

#### 13 SRA

Phil Ehr has agreed to replace Mike Gunn as our representative at the Sport & Recreation Alliance meetings. Those members present were in favour of attending the training previously offered by the SRA, though agreed the timing would need to be fully considered.

AP 102/6: JD to discuss with MT SRA training for the Board, to feedback at the next meeting

#### 14 NATO Chess Championships

The Board agreed to the proposal to waive FIDE rating fees for non-ENG entrants in the NATO Chess Tournament we are hosting in Shrivenham later this year on the understanding that all English players will be required to be Gold Members of the Federation.

#### 15 Structure of Future Board Meetings

It was agreed that the Board needs to tighten up on procedures and submitting papers 7 days prior to the meeting where possible. Each item should clearly identify the responsible Director, but the agenda format should retain flexibility.

#### 16 Board Minutes (GW)

The paper previously circulated was discussed, aimed at publishing the minutes within 21 days of the conclusion of the meeting. It was noted that it may prove onerous, but this was unavoidable given the need to publish outside a meeting.

#### 17 Appointments

George Jelliss was appointed to the library committee.

AP 102/7: JD to contact George Jelliss concerning his appointment to the library committee.

AP 102/8: DT to contact David Anderton and other library committee members concerning on-going membership.

#### 18 AOB

- Yearbook publication is progressing and should be with members before Finance Council.

- Members need to consider their entry in the Register of Interests.

AP 102/9: All members to check their entry in the ROI and contact JP (including nil returns).

#### 19 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March, in London, venue to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 16:38.

DRAFT