

English Chess Federation

2016/17 Budget
and onwards



Course of Presentations

- Finance
 - Supported by
- International
- Junior
- Home
- Publicity
- Summary



Options

- ❑ Board recommends maintaining reserves at £100k
- ❑ Invest future surpluses into greater chess activity
- ❑ Board offers two options:
 - Option A - increasing investment in activities
 - Option B – maintaining no increases in fees

Concentrate on Option A

Option A

- Additional investments in:
 - ❖ International
 - ❖ Junior
 - ❖ League Management Grading
 - ❖ British Chess Championships
 - ❖ Publicity
- Removal of sponsorship/donations
- Maintain reserves at £100k
- Maintain a breakeven position over next 3 years

Net Expenditure – key items

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
	£k	£k	£k	£k
Home	9.0	10.9	10.9	10.9
I/national	40.5	50.6	65.6	70.6
Junior	7.7	12.5	18.0	19.6
Publicity	1.6	11.5	11.5	11.5



Fee changes

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
	£	£	£	£
Platinum	60	64	69	70
Gold	32	34	37	38
Silver	22	23	26	27
Bronze	15	16	19	20
Game Fee	2.5	3	3.5	4



Other Sources of Funds

Permanent Invested Fund

Latest Valuation £321,000 approx.

Produces £5,000 for the British Chess Championship event

John Robinson Youth Trust

Latest Valuation £597,000 approx

Gives £7,000 pa to support coaching etc at the British Chess Championships

Support the Junior section of the ECF by £12,100

In total £12,000 pa to the British Chess Championships

International

International Directorate

Budget, Plans & Objectives





ECF Strategy for International Chess

Notes to Accounts

The £15,000 movement from the previous year is accounted for by a planned drop in sponsorship income of £7,500 and an increase in expenditure of the same amount.

Income predicted of £7,500 from 'cap in hand' proved unrealistic last year. I will aim for commercial sponsorship before going cap in hand. The £0 income number is highly conservative. We have always raised some funds in the past.

The increased expenditure will be on the following:



ECF Strategy for International Chess

COMPETITIVENESS

Aim: Improve preparation, logistics and training

Goal: 1) Improve on previous event
2) Justify seeding

I want to give our teams, both Open and Women, the best possible chance of success in international competition.

The performance standard must be, at the very least, to achieve our seeding (Open = 12th, Women = 26th). And, at the very most, to contend for a qualification spot for the World Teams/a podium finish.

With these objectives in mind, I am proposing a small upgrade to our team training with a little more outside help and training sessions.



ECF Strategy for International Chess

REPRESENTATIVES AT ALL EVENTS

Goal: 1) Ensuring we are represented at all
important international events

At the very least, a nation the size of England ought to be able to send a representative to each of the major team and individual events and, if possible, more than one.

This should be considered a minimum objective for a properly functioning federation.



ECF Strategy for International Chess

ELITE TRAINING > 2700+

Goal: A second English player consistently over 2700

Consider the contrasting fortunes of England and France over the last decade, which has seen the French advance to sixth in the world rankings.

- France has 34 players over 2500 Elo compared to England's 13 players (2 of whom are barely active).
- France has 9 players rated over 2600 Elo compared to our 6. The French have achieved this by supporting their best prospects. Whilst we don't have their resources, what resources we have should be directed towards our best prospects for 2700 rated players. When players like Nigel Short eventually decide to stop playing full-time, we will have new selection options for future England teams.
- Additionally, I want to support a small number of our best prospects over the age of 18, particularly anyone considering playing chess full-time.



ECF Strategy for International Chess

Country rank by average rating of top 10 players

	Country	Average	GMs	IMs	
1	Russia	2741		233	525
2	China	2712		39	30
3	USA	2689		89	137
4	Ukraine	2687		87	198
5	India	2669		41	88
6	France	2656		49	106
7	Armenia	2652		37	28
8	Poland	2642		40	104
9	Hungary	2641		53	117
10	Azerbaijan 2641		24	22	
11	Israel	2638		41	53
12	England	2635		35	59



ECF Strategy for International Chess

France (Active players)

#	Name	Rating	B-Year
1	Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime	2788	1990
2	Bacrot, Etienne	2698	1983
3	Fressinet, Laurent	2692	1981
4	Tkachiev, Vladislav	2660	1973
5	Edouard, Romain	2632	1990
6	Bauer, Christian	2631	1977
7	Gharamian, Tigran	2627	1984
8	Feller, Sebastien	2623	1991
9	Maze, Sebastien	2617	1984
10	Istratescu, Andrei	2596	1973
11	Hamdouchi, Hicham	2585	1972
12	Cornette, Matthieu	2581	1985
13	Lagarde, Maxime	2580	1994
14	Gozzoli, Yannick	2571	1983
15	Dorfman, Iossif	2561	1952
16	Degraeve, Jean-Marc	2561	1971
17	Le Roux, Jean-Pierre	2557	1982
18	Fontaine, Robert	2555	1980
19	Demuth, Adrien	2550	1991
20	Shchekachev, Andrei	2544	1972
21	Hauchard, Arnaud	2542	1971
22	Sokolov, Andrei	2531	1963
22	Nataf, Igor-Alexandre	2531	1978
24	Libiszewski, Fabien	2520	1984
25	Renet, Olivier	2517	1964

England (Active players)

#	Name	Rating	B-Year
1	Adams, Michael	2728	1971
2	Howell, David W L	2678	1990
3	Short, Nigel D	2671	1965
4	Sadler, Matthew D	2670	1974
5	McShane, Luke J	2669	1984
6	Jones, Gawain C B	2650	1987
7	Nunn, John D M	2597	1955
8	Hawkins, Jonathan	2584	1983
9	Pert, Nicholas	2572	1981
10	Parker, Jonathan F	2530	1976
11	Speelman, Jon S	2518	1956
12	Haslinger, Stewart G	2516	1981
13	Conquest, Stuart C	2510	1967
14	Gordon, Stephen J	2496	1986
15	Gormally, Daniel W	2490	1976
16	Hebden, Mark L	2489	1958
17	Adair, James R	2474	1992
18	Zhou, Yang-Fan	2465	1994
19	Emms, John M	2463	1967
20	Fernandez, Daniel	2462	1995
21	Ghasi, Ameet K	2459	1987
22	Trent, Lawrence	2457	1986
23	Williams, Simon K	2452	1979
24	Flear, Glenn C	2452	1959
25	Hunt, Harriet V	2449	1978



ECF Strategy for International Chess

Country rank by average rating of top 10 female players

		Average		GMs	IMs
1	Russia	2495		233	525
2	China	2492		39	30
3	Georgia	2428		27	38
4	Ukraine	2414		87	198
5	India	2405		41	88
6	Poland	2367		40	104
7	Germany	2351		89	251
8	Hungary	2340		53	117
9	USA	2326		89	137
10	France	2325		49	106
26	England	2210	35	59	266



ECF Strategy for International Chess

TOURNAMENTS

One of the areas where we have consistently underperformed in the last 20 years is in the organisation of international tournaments.

Of course, being an island doesn't help, but a glance at the French tournament calendar for the month of April shows Open tournaments in Lille, Metz, Malakoff, Hereye, Lyon. These are not one-offs, for example, the tournament in Lille is the 7th edition, and the tournament in Metz, the 34th.

It's unrealistic to expect that we can transform itself to that extent, however, at the very least, I think we should try to create some sort of circuit in England over the Summer. I know that my generation's skills were honed by events like the Lloyds Bank Masters and Benedectine Internationals.



ECF Strategy for International Chess

SENIORS

Goal: Ensuring representation and offering some training to club players attending

The Federation's membership is getting increasingly older and I have allocated more money for the provision of Seniors teams in representative events.

I also want to make available pre-tournament training to any Senior that wishes to play in a representative tournament of abroad.

As of 2016
64%
of all ECF
graded
players are
Aged over 50.

That's 10,100 "Seniors" out of the
15,088 players shown as active on the
grading list.

Junior

Objectives:

Maintain current activities which are funded mostly by parents:

- Chess in schools, (especially secondary)
- Inter- county tournaments
- English Youth Grand Prix
- Junior Directorate Bursary Fund
- ECF Accredited Coaches
- Girls Chess
- International events (minimum 8 per year)
- Safeguarding initiatives to support junior chess
- ECF Chess Academy

Chess Academy – Benefits

- **Aims to:**

- Provide a recognised development pathway for juniors
- Build the future of chess: Players on the academy's International Programme are asked to commit to continue playing chess until 18 yrs old
- Encourage the development of talented and motivated players - to achieve a grading of 180+
- Enable players with the capability of reaching a grade of 220+ to develop their ability and achieve title norms and ratings through individualised programmes.
- To increase significantly the number and level of titled players in England
- Enable seamless transition from junior to adult in terms of achieving GM status and potentially “super” GM status.
- To develop a national coaches qualification framework to support chess nationally

Budget Changes-Review

- Interest in programmes greater than expected (more juniors willing to commit to 3 years study)
- The academy development timescale has been reduced due to the ECF governance review.
- Student/Coach ratio reduced – increased coaching costs but better return
- The budget forecast takes no account of potential scholarships, sponsorship or donations.
- The potential for matched funding for the individual elite programmes is not included.
- The potential for significant fee increases for the International and Academy Plus programmes is not included.

Previously Planned Development of Academy -10 year plan

- Staged building of numbers
- More time for seeking sponsorship and staged fee increases

	Yr 1 (Aug16)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
International Programme	15-30	30-60	60-90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Second Level Programme						10	10	10-20	10-20	20
Elite Tier		*	*	3	5	5	10	10	20	20

Currently Planned Development of Academy

6 year plan

	Yr 1 (to Aug16)	2	3	4	5	6
International Programme	30	60	90	90	90	90
Academy Plus Programme	10	10	10	10	10	20
Elite Tier	3	10	20	20	20	20

Risks of adopting Option B

- The academy objectives may not be fully achieved and clear path from regional to elite may not be established. (Pyramid development)
- The academy will probably need to scale back and not provide students all of the support and training required to achieve highest potential.
- The Academy development will be delayed and risks losing key talent. (likely to impact adult chess as well as junior chess)
- The window of opportunity for development of talented players as juniors is usually less than 10 years.

League Management Software



The Big Picture

- “Investigate enhancing the ECF grading system, increasing the frequency of publication and incorporating the most recent results” – Strategy Statement, approved by the 2015 Finance Council
- My election address asked for permission to investigate moving towards a monthly rating list, and said that a sort of League Management System operated by the ECF was required in order for that to happen

Questions Arising

- 1) Why do we want to increase the frequency of publication of grading lists?
- 2) Why do leagues want League Management Software?



Publishing Grades More Frequently

Case Study – Wales

1 rating list per year until 2007

Introduced live rating in 2008 in Gwent, and other zones wanted it

“Numbers have increased (...) There has been an increase in rated tournaments” – Robert Taylor, WCU Rating Officer

“Increase in rated [junior] tournaments due to requests from parents” – Robert Taylor, WCU Rating Officer

Benefits of a LMS to Leagues

Generates publicity for the league:

People outside of chess see on the web that something is going on, that there is a league. They may want to get involved.

Saves administrative work:

The results officers and graders jobs are significantly automated.

Improves accuracy:

If someone submits a match result that is wrong, usually someone else sees it and it gets fixed promptly. At the moment, mistakes can only be discovered once results have been submitted six months later.

More Benefits of the LMS

Provides a commercial opportunity:

Hosting league results provides a commercial opportunity for a sponsor. (Monthly grading provides a similar opportunity – hits to the website will increase, making it more commercially attractive.)

Provide statistics on a cross-league basis:

Helps leagues to identify players who may play in other local leagues, e.g. providing estimated grades to people who have played in other competitions but not yet in this competition.

Why do Leagues want a LMS?

Case Study – Somerset County League

Gerry Jepps – Somerset Grader/Webmaster

“As a grader I wanted a system that reduced the number of hours spent inputting results. I was also aware that our League Secretaries were spending unnecessary hours collating results and preparing league tables etc. which could all be done automatically. As a ‘web-master’ I wanted to present Somerset League results in a professional way that would be attractive to actual and potential players browsing the site.”

Why does the ECF want a LMS?

Identifying players earlier and more easily:

Players can be identified from their earliest games, rather than when grading results get sent to the ECF.

Registration of events:

Assists various registration functions for the ECF, which will assist with automated capture of results from all leagues.

Communication tool:

Makes it easy for the ECF to communicate with many leagues simultaneously.

Other FAQs

- No decisions have been made on monthly grading
- Merits of Elo v ECF v some other system still being investigated
- Merits of a LMS as a standalone entity are being presented
- Leagues using independent software will get benefits too
- Consultation with leagues will start pending budget approval
- Minimal ongoing costs

Publicity Strategy, Events, and Funding



Publicity Strategy, Events, Funding

- To increase the awareness of the public, funders and policy makers of both the ECF and over-the-board competitive chess in general at a national level
- To project a positive image of both the ECF and over-the-board chess through positive engagement and communication with communities, regionally and nationally

Chess Master @ the Local

- 10 sessions across England starring a titled player (local if possible) taking place in pubs, social clubs, small shopping malls in collaboration with local management/brewery etc
- Sessions will be held in spaces with full public access rather than a side room and will be very informal. Flexible format negotiated with business partner:
 - ❖ simul with casual tournament
 - ❖ Time-handicapped/odds games with master
 - ❖ Involvement with local chess club



Special Local Chess Events by Clubs/Associations

Two options:

- Events coinciding with a proposed National Chess Day on 10 September
- Events organised at any time, engaging the public, on the initiative of a local club or chess organisation



Road Shows

- A display at chess events (LCC, Hastings, etc, British)

Net Presence and the YouTube Channel

Video is the most effective way of engaging people and generating hits on the internet. The ECF YouTube channel is underused and we have very little original material.

PROJECT

Commission a vide professional to:

- Capture and edit footage of an ordinary chess event
- Film high quality footage of a game in progress
- Series of interviews with players, organisers, possibly sponsors

Incidental Costs

Funds set aside to cover

- the travel and subsistence of the Publicity Manager / other volunteers when engaging in publicity work
- Any other expenses relating to Publicity which might arise throughout the year

Summary

OPTION B

- No increases in membership and game fees
- Maintains reserves at £100k / breakeven position

BUT

- Removes additional funds for publicity
- Year Book discontinued
- Additional £5k for BCC
- League Management Grading removed
- International tournaments and matches removed
- Cuts to funding of Academy and Elite Tier

Reminder of Options

Options available to Council

- Agree A
 - Agree proposed membership and game fees
 - Or agree to a call on Permanent Invested Fund to cover any shortfall during the year 2016/17 – approx £12k
- Agree B
- Accept either A or B with recommendations for changes
- Reject A and B – request Board to provide an acceptable budget (with some direction)

Questions

Any thing from the audience?

