

Minutes of the 104th Board Meeting of the English Chess Federation, held via Skype, on Thursday 31st March 2016 at 9.30am

Present (all via Skype): David Eustace (Director of Finance) (DE)
David Thomas (Director of Membership) (DT)
Malcolm Pein (Director of International Chess, FIDE Delegate) (MP)
Julie Denning (Non-Executive Director) (JD)
Alex Holowczak (Director Home Chess) (AH)
Julian Clissold (Non-Executive Director) (JC) from 12:00
Mike Truran (Chief Executive) (MT)

In attendance: John Philpott (Company Secretary) (JP)
Gary Willson (Office Manager, minutes) (GW)
Robert Stern (Chair, Governance Committee) (RS)
Tim Herring (Chair, Finance Committee) (TH)

1 Appointment of Chair

JC was appointed chair.

2 Finance Papers for Council (DE)

Following revisions to some of the figures based mainly on desired activity within the Junior and International directorates, it was proposed that the Board presents Finance Council with two options for their consideration and agreement: one with enhanced activity with associated spend, and the second without activity and a flat spend. The papers containing the two budget proposals were discussed.

TW explained that she wanted to concentrate extra effort on launching the elite academy. The Academy weekends are currently over subscribed, and the figures include an increase in income from potential expansion. However, we need to support our more able juniors to kick on and obtain titles (and potentially become the star players of the future). The figures include an amount from the JRT that cannot be guaranteed. It was agreed that TW should expand the narrative with the figures presented to Council, to provide an explanation of the increased figures.

AP 104/1: TW to email DT concerning a donation button for juniors on Paysubs.

MP explained that his income does not include an income from sponsorship, as in previous budgets. MP would like to ensure we take a team to every seniors event. We would like to support training ahead of important tournaments, and extend training and support (with the aid of the selection committee) to those strong young players who have prospects of obtaining a GM title. In addition, MP included in the admin figures extra for the increased role of the Manager of Publicity.

Concerning the Home budget, AH referred to his written notes on the plan, in particular the increased spend on the British Championship. It was thought that increased spend on Chess

in Prisons, whilst very worthwhile, was a decision for the future.

The Board discussed where the extra funding could come from: in the absence of outside sponsorship, the most likely areas would be increased membership fees (as profiled within the budget) or from the PIF. It was agreed that Council would be given the opportunity to decide (although it was noted that it would be for the PIF trustees to agree to the release of any funds). It was noted that the spending plan was over 3 years, but Council would decide on membership levels on an annual basis. The Board agreed not to commit to spending based on future fund-raising.

The Board agreed to present alternative budgets to Finance Council, one explaining the desired increase in activity, the second a break-even budget with the activity removed. The Board agreed (with one abstention) to recommend the former to Council.

3 Council Papers

The papers would be amended by the relevant directors no later than Monday in conjunction with JP, and issued to Council members early next week. It was also agreed to post the papers on the website, and to draft an all member email encouraging members to read the papers and express their opinions via their Council representative(s).

AP 104/2: GW to draft an all member email and send to JD/MT to be issued shortly after the papers are published.

AP 104/3: GW to clarify disabled access at the Council venue.

The meeting closed at 11.31