

**ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION** **C 17.16**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 13 OCTOBER 2012**  
**PROPOSAL BY THE BOARD TO CHANGE THE ECF'S FINANCIAL YEAR END FROM 30**  
**APRIL TO 31 AUGUST**

The Finance Director prepared a paper for the April 2012 Finance Council Meeting recommending that the ECF's financial year, which currently runs from 1 May to 30 April be changed so that it ran from 1 September to 31 August, which would match the new standard membership year and enable Board better to match proposed annual expenditure with projected income. It was envisaged that the change would be achieved by extending the financial year that commenced on 1 May 2012 so that it concludes on 31 August 2013. This paper can be accessed at [http://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/C16\\_19-Changing-the-ECFs-accounting-year.doc](http://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/C16_19-Changing-the-ECFs-accounting-year.doc).

The paper did not make a formal proposal, as it was seeking to advise Council of the implications of changing the year end and to prompt discussion. However, it indicated that the Board would bring a formal proposal to the AGM unless serious objections were raised.

In common with the other consultations presented in April, a proper discussion on the day was not possible as a result of the time taken in dealing with other business. The paper was republished on the ECF website to provide an opportunity for comments to be made. Only one respondent commented on this paper: this response was broadly supportive but offered some detailed suggestions regarding the sequence of actions and the timing and location of Council meetings.

The Board is grateful to this commentator for his contribution, and considers that further thought needs to be given to the timing of future Council meeting. Proposals in respect of this will be brought to the Extraordinary General Meeting planned for January or February to consider the amendments to the Articles and Byelaws. For the present, Council is being asked to approve the principle of changing the financial year by preparing accounts for a 16 month period ending on 31 August 2013, and to authorise the Company Secretary to file a formal notification of this at Companies House after the 2011/12 accounts have been filed to effect the change.

This proposal can be carried by a simple majority, as the Articles of Association do not (unlike the BCF Constitution) include an explicit reference to the dates of the financial year. There is a reference in Article 18(1) to the budget being presented to the Finance Council "for the year commencing 1 May next". However, that is best addressed in the context of the reconsideration of the appropriate date of the Finance Council meeting at the Extraordinary General Meeting.

John Philpott, Company Secretary and Chairman of the Governance Committee on behalf of the Board.

18 September 2012