

The Annual General Meeting of the Council was held at the Euston Square Hotel, 152 -156 North Gower Street, London NW1 2LU on Saturday 12th October 2013 starting at 12.30 pm.

1 Attendees

- 1.1 Attention was drawn to the printed lists of Apologies for Absence, Members voting by Proxy and Members casting postal votes.

The following list of attendees gives names only. The full Attendance document recording the capacities, in which people attended, together with apologies for absence, is held in the ECF Office with the official copy of these Minutes.

M Amin (MA)	D Anderton (DA)	WG Armstrong (WGA)	N Belinfante (NB)
D Clayton (DC)	N Cooper (NC)	JL Denning (JLD)	NW Dennis (NWD)
B Edgell (BE)	RJ Edwards (RJE)	PC Ehr (PE)	A Farthing (AF)
C Fegan (CF)	S Freeman (SF)	AJ French (AJF)	B Gaze (BG)
D Gilbert (DG)	SN Gilmore (SNG)	J Griffiths (JG)	M Gunn (MG)
RJ Haddrell (RJH)	M Harding (MH)	R Hardy (RH)	S Hewitt (SH)
AR Holowczak (ARH)	AT Leadbetter (ATL)	CE Majer (CMj)	A McFarlane (AMcF)
W Metcalfe (WM)	DK Openshaw (DKO)	JA Philpott (JAP)	S Reuben (SR)
RJ Richmond (RJR)	J Rudd (JR)	DR Sedgwick (DRS)	PG Sherlock (PGS)
B Smith (BS)	D Smith (DS)	M Truran (MT)	JR Wickham (JRW)

Chairman: M Gunn – Non-Executive Chairman

In attendance:

D Eustace (DE)	Minutes
A Walker (AW)	ECF Office
Andrew Paulson (AP)	Candidate
Julian Clissold (JC)	Candidate
Angela Eyton	
Malcolm Pein	
Greg St Onge	

2 Notices

- i. Location of printed lists of Apologies for absence, Members voting by individual Proxy and Members voting by Proxy

The Chairman advised where the appropriate lists were posted on the wall for inspection by attendees.

- ii. Announcement of others in attendance with the permission of the Chairman

Candidates and guests are listed above.

- iii. Appointment of Tellers

Mike Truran and Chris Majer were appointed. MT would delegate his role to Andrew Leadbetter when ATL arrived.

iv. Voting Register

The Company Secretary advised that there were 312 votes in total.

v. Management of Proceedings

The Chairman advised that the following procedures would be followed:

- 5 minutes for candidates to speak and answer questions
- 10 minutes for motions
- 2 minutes for points to be made
- 1 minute for replies

3 Approval of the Minutes of the Finance Council held on 13th April 2013.

The minutes of the Finance Council meeting of 13th April 2013 were agreed nem con.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

i. County Championship Rules

After much discussion an amendment was proposed:

- The Open should have the number of players reduced from 20 to 16, and the Under 120 from 16 to 12 players

Vote: In favour 21, Against 2 – motion passed

- The substantive proposals. Vote: In favour 11, Against 11+ Chairman's vote

Card Vote: In favour 88, against 89. Motion lost.

The current rules remain.

ii. Proposal by Southern Counties Chess Union

AM proposed that the wording of the motion should be altered as follows:

“Indicating” replaced by “definitive of “which was agreed.

Vote: In favour 13, against 16. Motion lost.

iii. Charitable Status

MG explained that the Board was still committed to achieving charitable status; the Finance Director had been otherwise engaged. The Board had decided to employ someone to undertake the relevant paperwork as a paid position. This was an issue for the new Board to take forward.

DS commented that this paralleled events in the Bridge community who were going for Split membership and separating junior activities etc.

iv. Other

DS requested an update on the Cheshire and North Wales situation. MG advised that there will be a meeting of the British Isles co-ordinating Committee soon. Discussions had already been held with Cheshire.

AF proposed the following motion seconded by MA:

Resolution 1

“The Board to be instructed to produce a strategic plan and an annual business plan and maintain that plan.”

Vote: In favour many, Against 4 – Motion passed

- v. Under item 15 Amendment to the Game Fee Bye Laws RJH requested an update on the new registration scheme. JAP apologised on the slow progress, but the work would be completed by Xmas.

5 Receipt and Approval of the Reports and Accounts

1) President's Report

The President's Report was approved.

2) Non-Executive Chairman's report

A number of comments were made on the charitable status and trading content of the report. The report was approved without prejudice to the comments on charitable status and trading.

3) Director of Finance's Report

JAP reported that there had not been time to prepare accounts for the 16 months to 31st August 2013. He provided a verbal update. To date there were no big differences against the budget figures. There were 3 areas to report:

- The British Championships which had been given £7,500 from a donation to pay for the hire of the Riviera Centre. However, without using this donation and with income from Think Drink and others, the Congress will breakeven and the ECF will be £7,500 better off
- For the new Membership scheme the forecast figures have at least been achieved
- For Game Fee. In the past this had very much been done on an honesty-box approach. Now the process was being improved as fees were being invoiced; this was not as robust as is needed, but the process is considerably improving.

Overall it is predicted that the surplus will not be less than £5,000.

The Meeting requested by acclamation that JAP be thanked for his services and efforts.

4) Director of Home Chess

AH presented his report and answered questions re:

- Following the resignation of Lara Barnes, there is a proposed successor. The meeting wished Lara a successful recovery.
- Candidates are being found for the positions of National Club and National Counties Controllers

- There is an issue in moving the new design of the online grading database from its own website and embedding it in the main ECF website as this caused a significant deterioration in its appearance in certain circumstances. There followed a discussion on the technical issues relating to the move of the grading database from its own dedicated site to the main website. The Director of Home Chess stated that it is hoped to resolve these technical problems so that the grading data base can be held on the main website.
- Efforts are being made by AMcF to hold the English Seniors Championship subject to satisfactory negotiations with a hotel.

The report of the Director of Home Chess was adopted nem con.

5) Director of Junior Chess and Education

BE proposed thanks to PE for his work.

The report of the Director of Junior Chess & Education was adopted nem con.

6) Director of International Chess

DO presented his report and explained the difficulties he had had in establishing a Women's team for the European Team event because of the lack of funding and availability of players.

- Much discussion followed on the problems in funding the Women's Team. DO advised that considerable effort had been made to obtain further donations, but ultimately the allowed funds were £3-£4k short. JAP pointed out that Council had removed the £5k contingency fund in setting this year's budget and the extent to which the Board could have overspent on the International budget was restricted by Council Bye-laws.
- SR questioned why the ECF proxy at the FIDE Convention had been given to Estonia. Neither the Board nor DO was aware of this action.

The report of the Director of International Chess was adopted nem con.

7) Director of Membership & Marketing

DT represented his report and provided to additional items of information:

- There had been a problem on the online membership payment system which had affected about 300 people. He believed that this had now been satisfactorily corrected.
- Integration of the membership and grading databases was in progress with a possible completion in mid- November.

DT answered questions re:

- Membership numbers renewed were 5870 compared to 4418 at the same time last year
- Out of 9500 members 796 had taken out 3 year membership terms

The report of the Director of Membership & Marketing was adopted nem con.

8) Non-Executive Directors

The report of the Non-Executive Directors was adopted nem con.

9) FIDE Delegate

The report of the FIDE Delegate was adopted nem con. Vote: In favour 16; Against 4

10) Chairman of the Governance Committee

The report of the Chairman of the Governance Committee was adopted nem con.

CMj advised that it was intended to invite David Sedgwick to join the Governance Committee.

11) Chairman of the Finance Committee

The report of the Chairman of the Finance Committee was adopted nem con.

12) Sport & Recreation Alliance Representative

MP requested the meeting to thank David Sedgwick for his role in helping Chess in Schools & Communities.

The report of the Sport & Recreation Alliance Representative was adopted nem con.

6 Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Officers

This was agreed nem con.

7 Changes to Regulation No2 The Directors and Officers Responsibilities

Resolution 2

DG proposed that the requirement to produce a Strategic Plan and Annual Business Plans should not be removed from Directors' responsibilities. This was agreed by the meeting.

The other recommended changes were approved nem con.

8 Amendment to the Articles of Association

The amendment to remove the post of Non-Executive Chairman and provide an additional Executive Director post to create the post of Commercial Director was approved.

Vote: In favour Many; against 1

9 Elections and Appointments

The votes recorded and the candidates elected:

	For	Against	Neither	Elected
President:				Andrew Paulson
Roger Edwards	106			
Andrew Paulson	168			
Neither Candidate			1	
Chief Executive:				Phil Ehr
Phil Ehr	257			

Andrew Moore 18

Finance Director:

David Eustace

David Eustace 275

Non-Executive Directors:

Sean Hewitt, Julian Clissold

Julian Clissold 145

Angus French 133

Sean Hewitt 150

Jack Rudd 111

Home Chess Director:

Alex Holowczak

Alex Holowczak 265 7

Junior & Education Director:

Lawrence Cooper

Lawrence Cooper 273 2

International Director:

David Openshaw

David Openshaw 263 10

Membership Director:

David Thomas

David Thomas 272

FIDE Delegate:

Nigel Short

Nigel Short 197 37

Chair of Finance Committee:

Mike Truran

Mike Truran 273 2

Members of Finance Committee:

Ray Clark, Ian Reynolds

Ray Clark 250

Ian Reynolds 241

Chair of Governance Committee:

Chris Majer

Chris Majer 265 8

Members of Governance Committee:

**Mike Gunn, Richard Haddrell,
Andrew Leadbetter**

Mike Gunn 263

Richard Haddrell 252 1

Andrew Leadbetter 251 2

10 ECF Awards for 2013

Player of the Year Award will be to Michael Adams.

11 Papers from the Governance Committee

i. Complaints Procedure

The Board had resolved to withdraw the Complaints Procedure and to redraft new proposals

ii. Membership Requirements for Competitions

The proposed changes were approved nem con.

12 Proposal to Amend the Definition of “the requisitionists” in Article 1.1.

This item was withdrawn.

13 Proposal by Sean Hewitt to allow Directors to be directly elected by Individual Members.

MA proposed the following amendment:

Resolution 3

“The Board should investigate the appropriate balance of voting and decision making powers between direct members and affiliated organisations and report back accordingly to Council with 24 months”

Agreed: Nem con.

14 Proposal on Cheating by the SCCU

Resolution 4

Council had noted the increasing problem of players cheating using electronic devices and instructs the Board to establish procedures for the imposition of sanctions in proven cases.

Agreed: Nem con.

15. SCCU Proposal on ECF Membership

Resolution 5

Proposal: “that the Board’s decision 17.3.2013 requiring ECF membership of all players in events organised and graded by the ECF be RESCINDED in respect of schools team competitions”.

Vote: In favour Many; against 6

Card Vote: In favour: 143; Against 97

The motion was approved.

16. Manager of Senior Chess

Resolution 6

Proposal by SR and JR to introduce a Manager of Senior Chess was approved nem con.

It was agreed nem con that which directorate the post reports to is left to the Board.

17. Sussex County Chess Archives

The issue of the location of the Sussex County Chess Archives which had been entrusted to the ECF was raised. SH agreed to follow up this issue.

Action: SH

18. Date and Location of the General Meetings in 2014

The following were agreed:

- 12 April 2014 in London
- 11 October 2014 in Birmingham

Mike Gunn.....

Chairman of the meeting

Date.....