



Minutes of the 107th Board Meeting of the English Chess
Federation

11:30-17:30 – Tuesday 30th August 2016

British Film Institute, London

Present Constituent ECF Board

Chief Executive, Mike Truran	MT
Director of Finance, David Eustace	DE
Director of Home Chess, Alex Holowczak	AH
Director of International Chess, Malcolm Pein (via Skype)	MP
Director of Junior Chess and Education, Traci Whitfield	TW
Director designate of Women's Chess, Sarah Longson	SL
Director of Membership, David Thomas	DT
Non-executive Director, Julian Clissold	JC
Non-executive Director, Julie Denning	JD

Invited: Observers and Guests

Company Secretary, John Philpott (via Skype)	JP
Office Manager and Minutes Secretary, Gary Willson	GW

Apologies:

President, Dominic Lawson	DL
Chairman, Governance Committee, Robert Stern	RS
Chairman, Finance Committee, Tim Herring	TH

Housekeeping

1. Appointment of Chairman

It was agreed nem con for JC to chair the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted.

3. Motion to approve the agenda

The agenda was approved, though item order was adjusted to allow MP to be available for items 12, 14 & 17.

4. Minutes of Board meeting 106 held on Wednesday 4 May 2016

The minutes as published were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. A number of action were agreed as cleared or superseded from previous meetings. Those that remain outstanding are 100/5,100/6, 100/11, 103/1, 103/13, 103/14. 103/11 (concerning the revamped website). The site is ready to convert, but concern was expressed that full consideration had not been given to the purpose of the website. Action point cleared.

AP 107/1: MT and DE to discuss the purpose of the website, and liaise with the Board and the Webmaster.

106/1: Melville Rodrigues is looking to include some smaller local law firms to assist. Cleared.

106/2 & 3 cleared.

106/4: update required.

106/5: cleared.

106/6: ongoing.

106/7-12 cleared.

106/13 update required.

106/14-19 cleared.

5. Reports on meetings held at Hamilton House, July 2016

The situation concerning the library was clarified. It was agreed to explore moving the stock from the current storage facility nearer to Hastings, to enable the completion of the stock list, and a future recommendation to Council to be made.

AP 107/2 GW to give JD the measurements of the potential temporary accommodation at the Watch Oak.

AP 107/3 George Jelliss to include in the register the origin of the books by collection.

AP 107/4 GW to contact local players to assist with the registration process.

6. To note E-mail votes, if any, taken since the last Board meeting
The email vote taken concerning Leonard Barden was formally agreed,

7. Applications for membership (JP)

The Stockport Rapidplay League and 2020 Chess were admitted to membership.

Substantive business

8. Home Chess Report

(a) British Championship Report from Kevin Staveley

The report was noted. It is anticipated the finances will be in line with that agreed by Council

AP 107/5 JP/AH to include finances within the BCC report.

(b) County Championship Report from Andrew Zigmond

The report was agreed.

(c) Arbiter Regulations Consultation Results

The proposed regulations had been subject to wide consultation, and are proposed to come into force from 1st September 2016. Discussion centred on the requirement to have an appeal panel within each league, with at least one Level 2 or above qualified arbiter. It was agreed 5 to 1 not to make this a mandatory requirement. When registering an event, leagues would be asked whether they had such an arbiter. Alternatively, the ECF could provide an arbiter, when needed, free of charge, but in any event the league would not be excluded from grading.

The report was approved as a whole nem con, subject to any issues being overridden in Baku.

9. Five Year Financial Plan (DE)

The documents previously circulated were discussed. The changes as voted on by Council were now included in the long term plan. It was emphasised this is a plan i.e. a view of how things might look with anticipated income, spending and reserves. There will be an extra cost, around £10K per year, for bookkeeping services.

It is proposed to move a significant amount of the reserves into the Chess Trust (to obtain tax incentives). The reserves target is reset to £100K. We anticipate spending £400K in the next 5 years on development activity, which will need to be covered by a combination of drawing from the reserves and membership increases.

The plan will need to link to the strategy.

- Council will be asked to approve the budget.
- Council to advise trustees of the plan's approval, so they will be aware we will be drawing down.
- Ask PIF trustees to transfer funds to the Chess Trust.

Council will need to give a steer on membership increases to help cover the planned overspend.

It was agreed to recommend to Council to have a fee increase in 2017 and 2019 of £1 for Bronze members with proportionate increases for the others. Concerning sponsorship/grants, it was agreed that these should be dealt with on a case by case basis and not included in forecast income. Generally, sponsorship is to support specific activity.

The paper was agreed nem con.

A paper from Angus French on a proposed Copper membership category was discussed. It was agreed that whilst an attractive proposition, there would be significant consequences for game fees.

AP 107/6 DT to write a paper to Council on alternatives to game fee.

10. Redacted

11. Redacted

12. Governance Report on Governance Review Progress (JD)

The paper was discussed. Work is progressing well on the Governance Review, and should be completed in time for Council.

- An annual calendar of reports and activities has been started, but needs further development.
- Rules for the removal of the FIDE Delegate to be drafted.
- Representation of elite players yet to be addressed
- Consideration will need to be given to OMOV, the development of a rules handbook, and the arbiter rules.

AP 107/10 MT/MP/TW to meet to discuss the representation of elite players on Council.

13. Redacted

14. Preparation for AGM (JP)

A Key date is Wed 7th Sept, which is the deadline for motions from requisitionists, nominations for the elections and election addresses.

JD nominated JC to stand as non-Executive Chair of the Board. The position of Director of Women's Chess is dependent on Council approval of the special resolution to change the Articles: the Board nominated SL for the position.

It was agreed to recommend to Council that JC should chair the meeting

AP 107/13 JP, JC and MT draw up Council agenda.

AP 107/14 JP to contact PE concerning his papers that were not discussed due to lack of time at Finance Council.

AP 107/15 MT to contact RS concerning open voting.

15. Board Report to Council (MT)

Awaiting report from RS (12 Sept). The final report will need to be checked, to be published no later than 21st Sept.

16. The Save the UKCC Petition

The situation concerning the well publicised bankruptcy of Mike Basman was discussed. The ECF had provided a written contribution to the article in the Telegraph. It was agreed that the UKCC has made a significant contribution to junior chess, as a vibrant event in the annual chess calendar, and to miss a year would be a significant loss, whoever takes the event forward.

17. Item 44 of the FIDE General Assembly Agenda)

The Russian Federation have proposed to change the World Championships cycle, effectively to allow any player to challenge the champion if they have adequate financial backing, with 50% of the money to go to FIDE. MP was fully endorsed to vote and speak against this item.

There are also proposals for a rapid and blitz World Championship. It was agreed this would be a natural development, provided the money is available.

Any other Business.

– Expenses: mileage allowance for employees, directors and volunteers to be set at 30p a mile. Agreed nem con.

– Women's Chess

Sarah was welcomed to the meeting. She outlined her view of Women's Chess: to avoid women only events with the exception of championship events; to provide development opportunities such as training days; to encourage our young, strong juniors to continue in adulthood, by working closely with the new manager of girl's chess.

It was agreed that a 1 or 3 year plan would be needed with an appropriate budget allocation. The Board agreed this is one of the most exciting developments in English Chess for some years.

AP 107/16 Board members to develop director specific action plans aligned to the strategy, in time for the first board meeting after Council.

AP 107/17 Chair and Company Secretary to consider the appointments framework, and to circulate to members immediately after the AGM.