



**Minutes of the 78th meeting of the English Chess Federation Board
held on Friday 22 November 2013, at 1030 hours
held at 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1 2EL**

Present

Andrew Paulson (AP): President
Phil Ehr (PE): Chief Executive
David Eustace (DE): Director of Finance
Alex Holowczak (AH): Director of Home Chess
David Openshaw (DO): Director of International Chess
Lawrence Cooper (LC): Director of Junior Chess and Education
David Thomas (DT): Director of Membership
Julian Clissold (JC): Non Executive Director

In attendance

John Philpott (JP): Company Secretary
Sabrina Chevannes (SC), partly attended
Stewart Reuben (SR), partly attended
Mike Gunn (MG), partly attended
Sainbayar Tserendorj (ST), partly attended
Anu Tserendorj (AT), partly attended

Apologies

Sean Hewitt (SH): Non Executive Director
Nigel Short (NS): FIDE Delegate
Chris Majer (CM): Chairman, Governance Committee
Mike Truran (MT): Chairman, Finance Committee

Housekeeping

1. The Present Meeting

- The Board agreed that AP should chair this meeting.
- Noting that a dedicated minutes secretary was preferred, the Board agreed for PE to record the minutes.
- The Board approved the agenda.
- The Board approved the minutes for the 77th Board meeting (1 November 2013), for both the unredacted and published versions.
- The Board agreed that SC, SR, MG, ST and AT should attend the meeting for specific discussions or presentations.
- The Board acknowledged the ECF Handbook and did not identify portions needing amendment other than those previously identified.
- DE presented new procedures for claiming expenses. The Board agreed and directors were encouraged to share guidelines within their respective directorates.
- AP led a discussion on confidentiality, collective responsibility and accountability of Board proceedings, which led to the Board reaffirming these basic principles.
- Noting the extensive work on strategic initiatives, the next Board reaffirmed the next meeting for Monday, 16 December in London; and the subsequent meetings of Sunday, 26 January at Yateley Manor and February in the Midlands.

News and Routine Reports

6. News. Directors highlighted significant information. Congratulations:

- The Board agreed to correct the minutes of the 77th meeting to reflect David Eggleston surpassing the 2400 rating and IM eligibility
- Sabrina Chevannes, Yang-Fan Zhou and Alex Holowczak for appearing on BT Sports Panel television show
- England's Open and Women's teams who played in the European Team Championships. The Open team expressed slight disappointment with their results. The Women's team fought back from early disappointments to finish well. The players appreciated Peter Wells' service as the Open's captain.

7. Routine Business Reports

(a) International Chess. Expenditure for the European Team Championships was £34K, which included £19K from ECF funds and £11.5K from donations. NS played on the team and attended most of the European Chess Union assembly, but did not claim expenses. DO and AP attended but did not claim expenses. DO discussed options to help the teams improve.

(b) President. Travelled to Warsaw to support the England teams and attended the European Chess Union (ECU) assembly. He reported on the debate and the awarding of the European Youth Championships 2015. AP was generally disappointed in the quality of ECU proceedings, particularly the practice of proxy voting. He suggested that the ECF FIDE Delegate could better fulfil his job description if he engaged more with the ECF Board. AP was asked to stand for election as ECU Deputy President on a ticket with the ECU presidential challenger, Zurab Asmaiparashvili. AP stated that he was considering

the offer and would consult and seek the Board's permission before formally accepting the nomination. AP reported his opinion that the FIDE presidential election contest was appearing to be liable to corruption with each candidate declaring campaign funds in the range of ten million US dollars, whilst FIDE's annual revenue was in the region of three million US dollars.

(c) Finance. DE, aided by JP, provided the status of Management Financials and reported a surplus in the current budget.

The Board accepted each of the routine business reports.

New Business

8. Thanks to Departing Officers

(a) AP proposed that the Board record its thanks to departing officers for their individual contributions to the work of the ECF:

- Jovanka Houska: Manager of Women's Chess
- David Levens: Manager of Coaches

78.01	AP	<p>Thank Outgoing Officers</p> <p>Express thanks on behalf of the Federation to Jovanka Houska and David Levens</p>	
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[SC arrived]

9. Women's Committee

Sabrina Chevannes, Manager of Women's Chess and Manager of Girls' Chess, joined the meeting to discuss the Women's Committee she was asked to assemble and lead. Board members were unanimous in their desire to empower and support development of women's chess with aid of this Committee. DO expressed concern about finding money to properly develop a women's team. He reviewed budgetary limits and recalled an estimate for £200,000 per year over many years to develop and train the Open team and Women's team to 2700 rating. SC offered ideas to encourage more female arbiters, energise training for girls and young women in a Girls' Squad, and an ambition for the women's team to begin training as a team in preparation for the Olympiad. She also shared her intention to recruit Women's Committee members, convene a meeting of the Women's Committee, and potentially meet with Susan Polgar as she travelled back to the USA from the World Championship Match in Chennai. The Board thanked SC for taking on this

large and crucial project and committed to supporting her with attention and funding for meetings. The Board asked SC for a list of potential committee members and a report of how to proceed and what support was needed. AP and PE stated they would be involved to the extent the Women's Committee thought useful. LC agreed (and AH would be asked) to support SC throughout this project, particularly to ensure active Board support.

[SC departed; DT arrived]

10. Posts, Nominations and Appointments

The Board appointed the following nominations:

- Home Directorate: The Armed Forces and Veterans Liaison post was realigned to the Home Directorate. John Higgs was confirmed in post.
- Finance Directorate: Chris Mattos as Finance and Tax Consultant
- Junior Directorate: Kurt Moreby as Junior Directorate Business Consultant
- Chief Executive:
 - Charity and Recognition Committee: David Eustace (Chair), David Anderton, Andrew Farthing, William Watson, Melville Rodriguez, Richard Fries.
 - Awards Committee Chair: Stewart Reuben

11. Financial Motions

- The Board approved motions by DE to:
 - authorise the Financial Director and Chief Executive to employ a full time office worker should the need arise
 - agree a new Bank Mandate covering signatories on the bank accounts

[SR, MG, ST and AT arrived]

12. UKSCC/UKCA Proposal

- Sainbayar Tserendorj (ST) and Anu Tserendorj (AT) arrived to present a proposal for closer association with the ECF. Board members asked questions and thanked ST and AT.

[ST and AT departed]

- The Board debated the merits of the proposal. Points in favour included a more unified provision of junior chess, greater ECF access into schools and casual players and a significant expansion of ECF reach that would increase the chances of getting a sponsor and increase the revenue we could ask for such a sponsorship. JC advocated the point that any agreement should serve as a template for similar agreements with other national junior association. Points against

the proposal were discussed. The Board concluded by agreeing for LC and DT to negotiate further, with AP and PE involved and the whole Board kept informed.

Strategic Issues

Status of the following reports were reviewed. Significant points noted.

13. Communications Strategy

PE reported agreement of Jack Rudd to moderate a future consultation area on the ECF website. PE reported the website ready for operation.

14. Commercial Director

AP reported that a suitable candidate had expressed interest. AP would follow up. The Board discussed governance issues associated with remuneration for this post. No conclusion was reached.

15. Chess as a Sport. Mike Gunn visited the Board to review status of this project.

16. Charitable Status. DE reported that the Charity and Recognition Committee was on track to report in January.

Board Action Review

The schedule appended to the minutes was not reviewed. Board members are to progress items.

Matters Arising

17. Awards

SR reported status of the President's Award nomination. The Board discussed the establishment of an Awards Dinner associated with the British Championship or separately as a means to 'catch up' with overdue recognition and to 'put the fun back into chess.'

The Chairman closed the meeting at 1800 hours.

Signed as an accurate record:

Date: