**Minutes of the BCF Council Meeting**

Held on 22nd April 2017

Birmingham

(Attendance List to follow)

1. **Appointment of Chairman.** The elected Chairman of Council, Mike Gunn, chaired the meeting. Having established that the meeting was quorate, he declared it open at 12:35.

2. **Notices.** The Chairman noted that details of the Voting Register, proxies and apologies for absence were posted in the meeting room. Andrew Leadbetter and Nigel Hosken were appointed as Tellers.

3. **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th October 2016.** No amendments to the Minutes that had been circulated were raised.

**Motion: “That the Chairman of the meeting shall sign the Minutes as being an accurate record”**

**Approved on a hand vote. Nem con.**

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting.** Nil.

5. **John Robinson Youth Trust (JRYT).**

**Motion: “That the British Chess Federation Council recommends to the Trustees of the John Robinson Youth Trust that:**

1. **The Trustees give due consideration to requests for funding for junior chess made by the English Chess Federation; and**
2. **When determining whether such requests should be accepted, they are prepared to make payments by way of grant out of the capital of the Trust Fund and do not limit the acceptance of such requests to such amounts as can be funded out of the oncome received by the Trust Fund.”**

Stephen Woodhouse (Non-Executive Director) presented this motion on behalf of the Board. He noted that the bequest from John Robinson had been placed in a charitable trust fund in order to mitigate potential inheritance tax charges and the original papers setting up the Trust Fund included guidance that funding requests should be limited to the income received. However, there was no such constraint in John Robinson’s will and it was open to Council to amend that guidance if it saw fit. Passing of the motion would not relieve the Trustees of their duty to consider any funding request on its merits, but would relieve them of any constraint on considering the release of capital.

Opposition to the motion was expressed principally by David Welch, speaking as the representative of the Merseyside County Association (and not in his position as a Trustee of the John Robinson Youth Trust, in which capacity he had no vote in Council). He noted that John Robinson had stipulated that £10,000 a year should be provided for funding the British Chess Championships and that between the Trustees of the JRYT and of the balance of the John Robinson bequest (known now as PIF2), they had achieved this and wished to continue to do so for as long as possible. He also supported the activities of the Junior Directorate, but wished to retain capital funds from which the Junior Academy could be assisted for many years to come. He noted that the Chess Trust was receiving a substantial sum from Richard Haddrell’s estate and he felt the JRYT was being unduly targeted by the ECF who had other such funds they could resort to.

**On a hand vote, 12 in favour, 8 opposed.**

**Motion passed.**

6. **Any Other Business.** Andrew Leadbetter (MCCU, Staffordshire County Association) expressed concern at the BCF Council meeting having been convened 30 minutes ahead of the ECF Council meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 13:04.