

E.C.F. COUNCIL MEETING October 2014

MEMBERSHIP PAPER

Review

The Federation has now completed the second full year of its new Membership Scheme. At the end of August, when memberships for 2013-14 expire, there were 9883 names on the list. The comparable figure for 2012-13 was 9835; the change is small but is in the right direction! For the new season, at the time of writing the membership list stands at 4620 members; of these 3444 have renewed their membership for 2014-15, the balance being three year or life memberships carried forward.

The renewals process for the 2014-15 season has not gone as smoothly as hoped. In part this is due to lack of proper documentation of the process; I was unaware of the need to perform significant tasks which had not been my responsibility last year, and of the lead times the service provider needed to carry some of them out. A further factor was that I was on holiday at a critical stage of the process; there were personal constraints which made this unavoidable on this occasion, but it is a situation which I intend to ensure does not recur. There is, however, one aspect of the current regulations which I regard as unworkable, and a proposal on this point appears later in this paper.

Game Fee

There are proposals put to this meeting by Affiliated Organisations regarding the replacement of residual game fee. The general opinion of the Board is that a ultimately pure membership is the way to go and that the present mix is only a medium term expedient. There are certain specific problems to be overcome, but the main differences of opinion seem to be over the actual timing; as Director I am probably in favour of moving more slowly than many people would like. However, I welcome the discussion of the point, as that is the only way we will reach a consensus on the solution to the problems.

2015-16 Renewals

Major technical issues with the membership administration system arise because of the need, during the period from July to the end of August, to offer memberships both for the season in progress and the new season. This arises because Council have been given an undertaking that players may join at any time prior to Aug 31st and escape payment of League Game Fee for the season ending at that date. The number of categories this requires us to offer on-line from the date at which we start offering forward memberships until 31st August is unwieldy, even after current 3-year memberships have been withdrawn from sale. Administrative problems were caused by a significant number of individuals joining for the wrong year.

The Board therefore asks **Council to note that:**

From 1st July the Federation will sell memberships running until 31st August the following year, backdated to date of joining for the purposes of playing in current events.

It is intentional that this refers only to taking out annual membership and makes no reference to upgrades of existing memberships; these will continue to be available until 31st August but are never backdated.

Council is also asked to **note that:**

This proposal will require players who wish to join in arrears for the avoidance of League Game Fee to do so by 30th June.

The Board's opinion is that players will know long in advance of this whether they have played sufficient games for this to be the economically correct decision.