

**Minutes of the 88th meeting of the ECF board
13:30 to 17:39 Tuesday 15 July 2014**



**The Clare Charity Centre, Wycombe Road, Saunderton,
Buckinghamshire, HM14 4HU**

Present: Phil Ehr (PE) (in the Chair)
Julian Clissold (JC)
David Eustace (DE)
Bob Kane (BK)
Angus French (AF)
Dave Thomas (DT)
Loz Cooper (LC) – by Skype
David Openshaw (DO) – by Skype
Alex Holowczak (AH) – by Skype

In attendance: John Philpott (JAP)
Rob Thompson (RT)

Apologies: Chris Majer

Prior to the meeting the Board was conducted on a tour of the facilities at the Clare Centre by its Director, David Lawrence.

- 1) The agenda was approved
- 2) Discussion of the form of the minutes: The board agreed that the minutes needed to be more focussed. To this end, RT is to consult with DE to produce more tightly focussed minutes.

Action: RT

- 3) Approval of Previous Minutes

AF is still working on minutes from 7.3.2014. AF to give a summary to DE by 9.7.2014, draft to be produced by 25.7.2014

Action: AF

Minutes approved from 12.4.2014 and 19.5.2014

JC is to talk to Mike Gunn, CM and to come back to the Board regarding the complaints procedure. JP, PE, DE to amend the minutes accordingly.

Action: JC

Minutes from 12.6.2014 are to have a draft produced by 18.7.2014, approved by 25.7.2014.

Action: PE/RT

- 4) There were no e-mail votes to note since the last board meeting

5) Appointments made since the last meeting.

Charles and Christine Golding appointed as English Youth. Grand Prix Controllers
Phil Makepeace appointed as Social Media Manager, JP to change listing from officer to manager on the website.

Bill Phillips and Kay Joslin appointed as ECF Forum moderators.

6) There are no additional areas to review with respect to the ECF handbook.

7) Future Meetings

By 11.8.2014, directorships and job descriptions need to be produced for publication with the Council Meeting election notice. Action: All

BK is to provide JP with Commercial Director Job description. Action: BK

DT to produce a draft for Membership Director at the BCC .Action: DT

All other Board members to produce a draft by 23.7.2014 Action: All

JC and AF to confer over NED Action: JC/ AF.

DT to ensure that *Chess Moves* goes out by 11.8.2014 with notice of directorship elections
Action: DT

Regarding the governance review, Chris Fegan (CF) and the Governance Committee want to produce a paper for the AGM on OMOV. PE is to talk to CF, CM and suggest that they provide input to the review rather than producing a separate paper. Action: PE

Agenda for AGM to be published no later than 17.9.2014 Action: JAP

Future Board meeting – 9.9.2014, this will most likely be at the Exmouth Arms, Euston.
Council Meeting – 11.10.2014 – Ibis Hotel, Birmingham.

PE is to produce strategic plan by 9.9.2014 Action: PE

AF is to email a Board policy on register of interests. Action: AF

8) Chess News

Yes2Chess had an international final

Yorkshire won the Open section County Championships

England senior chess teams are competing in Vilnius.

LC emailed a document of junior chess news (separate)

9) Routine Business Reports

Stewart Reuben is proceeding with awards.

By March 2015 the National Chess Library will have to be moved. The library is currently inaccessible.

AH and Kevin Staveley have arranged PE to hold “question and answer” sessions as part of the programme at the British Championships. DT, DE, LC will also be there.

PE to do an interview with BCM

Action: PE

Volunteers needed for National Schools championships.

David Sedgwick is working with Nigel Freeman on recommendations for FIDE commissions. Ignatius Leong has asked PE if he would be willing to take a role in a FIDE commission if Kasparov won the FIDE election.

JAP presented an update on the financial forecast (document separate). Currently the position is better than budget on membership, congress game fee, and junior game fee. The situation is unclear for leagues. DE is to produce a template for the office review in August. The Board sees no significant problems with the financial state as of this moment. The FIDE delegate currently pays his own expenses, but this could cause problems in the future.

Action: DE

The ECF is currently about 2 months overdue on sending out membership renewal reminders. BK with DT's agreement wants to utilise a mailing list that can be used for advertising. DDT and BK are to work together to make use of the database of members commercially. Suggested as an opt-in. AF, DT, BK are to discuss this separately. DT aims to allow members to renew from the week beginning 20.7.2014. Members are to be mailed who haven't provided a valid email address, JAP to include nominations for direct member representatives. DT to adjust previous junior memberships that have since become 18, as well as free junior memberships. PE to add to agenda for next meeting a proposal for a 14 month membership from July each year, as well as other changes for the 2015/2016 year.

DO reported on the women's Olympiad team training session on the weekend of 11.7.2014. There are some issues with the organisers at Tromso, but DO believes that they shouldn't cause too many problems. Lara Barnes and Sean Hewitt are arbiters at the Olympiad.

Three English teams have entered that European Club Cup

BK reported on the work of Phil Makepeace on social media. A mailing list of local press contacts is being established, YouTube links added to the ECF website, as well as the ECF Forum introduced. AF not happy regarding the topic coverage and wanted a paper presented on this. At the strategy meeting that led to the construction of the ECF forum it was decided that there was no obligation to engage. A further resolution is to be discussed via email, at the request of DO.

BK has approached various sponsors regarding sponsorship but has yet to receive replies. The Board indicated that it was comfortable for discussions to be with the Times

Action: BK

AH, DT, BK have worked on moving the grading database.

Action: AH/DT/BK

AF to confirm the best way to store documents online.

Action: AF

JAP reports that the ECF webmaster believes that he has isolated the problem on the website.

The office review needs to make progress because the current staff are uncertain over their futures. DE, JAP to produce a set of figures by 9.9.2014 for a draft decision to be made at that Board meeting. There is a staffing issue for the second week of the British Championship, to be resolved via email. Action: DE/ JAP

10) Commercial Contracts

[Redacted]

11) Membership applications by Bexhill Chess and Castle Chess

Both Bexhill Chess and Castle Chess applications were approved.

12) Appointment of John Shaw and Sue Hale as ECF arbiters

John Shaw and Sue Hale were appointed as ECF arbiters.

13) Management of Board announcements

The Chief Executive published an announcement in support for Kasparov and Danailov agreed at the last Board meeting. The statement was seen as too strongly worded, and more specifically far too strongly negative against Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. PE has apologised for referencing the gassing of children, but regarded the reference to chemical weapons as appropriate.

It was agreed that the current announcement by the Chief Executive would be withdrawn and PE would produce a shorter, more focussed announcement removing any politically difficult points. PE proposed an amendment to publish another press release but leave the original one online, but failed to find a second.

DE wanted a better way of managing announcements and suggested a process of oversight to produce more balanced announcements in the future. It was agreed that writers of documents should consult the Commercial Director as the person responsible for the publicity of the ECF as a whole, as well as the relevant executive directors, including the Chief Executive.

Action: PE/BK

PE is to email colleagues in other national federations regarding FIDE academies to try to get support for both this motion and for Kasparov. The Board requested that they be kept informed on this matter.

Action: PE

The meeting closed at 17.39.