

The ECF received notice that the National Chess Library must move from its current locations by March 2015; however, the hosts are kindly retaining the collections to allow this Finance Council meeting to decide the National Chess Library's next chapter. Neither the Board nor the Library Committee was successful in their searches for a new location free of charge.

The National Chess Library was established under the care of the British Chess Federation, and is now in the ECF's care. A description and photographs are located at this link: <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/national-chess-library/> Please read that description. The National Chess Library is an important part of English chess heritage, providing value for historical research and a sense of chess life prior to the digital age that future generations are likely to appreciate. The collections contain a substantial number of duplicate books that we estimate are worth £2,000 to £3,000 in the current market should no-cost expertise be applied to the necessary tasks. The ECF regularly receives inquiries from people wishing to donate collections. Yet, visits to the National Chess Library have fallen to fewer than ten visits per year. The collections also contain archival material too voluminous for storage in the present ECF office.

Financial costs of all viable options are significant. Currently, the ECF does not incur costs for hosting or maintaining the National Chess Library. Funds in Chess Centre, Ltd. were provided for the purpose of maintaining the National Chess Library, but they are not sufficient to meet the one-off moving costs, let alone the recurring costs. The Permanent Invested Fund trustees may be persuaded to assist with one-off costs of relocating the National Chess Library, but the PIF is not in a position to meet recurring costs. Details of these costs are found in the Budget spreadsheets. Updated costs will be discussed at the Finance Council, and posted on the ECF Forum.

The Board offers two options to relocate the National Chess Library, Plan A and Plan B. Descriptions of these options are based on current information. The Board recommends Plan B based on lack of funding for higher priorities.

Plan A -- Relocate to the Office in Battle. Re-negotiate the lease to move the office from the ground floor to the first floor in its current building. Strengthen the building's beams to handle the load of the library. Purchase and install shelving. Move the library. Recruit volunteers or a paid librarian to maintain the library, selling duplicates per a detailed policy to be determined. Establish a registered charity to raise funds to maintain the National Chess Library, co-opting some ECF directors as trustees.

Plan B -- Relocate to Commercial Storage. Move the collections into storage rooms large enough to allow access and sorting of the collections from boxes. Recruit volunteers or a paid librarian to maintain the library, selling duplicates per a detailed policy to be determined. Continue to search for a permanent location free of charge. In due course, decide whether to disestablish the

National Chess Library by donating selected volumes to the British Library, to establish a registered charity for the National Chess Library, or some other long-term solution.

The discussion topic on the National Chess Library can be found on the ECF Forum at

<http://www.englishchess.org.uk/Forum/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=191&p=1551#p1551>