

ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Euston Square Hotel, 152 – 156 Gower Street, London NW1 2LU on Saturday 17th October 2015, starting at 1.30 pm

Present:

Neville Belinfante (NB), Julian Clissold (JC), Neill Cooper (NC), Andrew Davies (AD), Julie Denning (JD), Nigel Dennis (ND), Ben Edgell (BE), Phil Ehr (PE), Gareth Ellis (GE), David Eustace (DE), Michael Flatt (MF), John Foley (JF), Angus French (AF), David Gilbert (DG), Simon Gilmore (SG), Howard Grist (HG), Mike Gunn (MG), Richard Haddrell (RJH), Sean Hewitt (SH), Alex Holowczak (AH), Ian Hunnabale (IH), Rupert Jones (RJ), Bob Kane (BK), Christopher Kreuzer (CK), Peter Lawrence (PL), Andrew Leadbetter (AL), Chris Majer (CM), David Openshaw (DO), Alex McFarlane (AM), Marcus Misson (MM), Malcolm Pein (MP), John Philpott (JP), Stewart Reuben (SR), John Reyes (JR), Robert Richmond (RR), David Robertson (DR), Paul Sharratt (PSt), Peter Sherlock (PSk), David Smith (DS), David Thomas (DT), Brian Valentine (BV), Traci Whitfield (TW) and John Wickham (JW).

In attendance:

Mohammed Amin (MA), David Anderton (DA), Christine Carcas (CC), Roger Emerson (RE), Nick Faulks (NF), Chris Fegan (CF), Mark Jordan (MJ), Andrew Martin (AM), Gareth Pearce (GP), Ian Reynolds (IR), Melville Rodrigues (MR), Andrew Walker (AW), Gary Willson - minutes (GW) and Suzzane Wood (SW).

1. Appointment of Chairman

Council appointed JC to chair the meeting.

2. Location of Attendance, Apologies and Proxy Lists and announcement of those in attendance with the permission of the Chairman

Council was informed that all appropriate documentation was held by the Company Secretary. A register had been collected, and apologies noted.

3. To note the Voting Register and any amendments thereto

Council was informed of the Board Decision earlier that day to accept Bradford & District Chess Association, the Bury & Rochdale League and the Exeter & District League as members of Council.

4. Appointment of Tellers

AL and JW were appointed as tellers.

5. To approve the Minutes of the Finance Council Meeting of 18 April 2015

The published minutes of the Finance Council meeting, as amended, were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

6. Matters arising from these minutes

6.1 Yearbook

Following on from the Finance Council decision to consider whether or not to continue with publication of the Yearbook, it was agreed to wait until after publication of the 2016 edition.

6.2 Game Fee

It was agreed to deal with this outstanding item within the Director of Membership's report.

7. Update on items discussed at the Board meeting held earlier

Council was informed that the minutes of Board meeting 97 had been agreed and published

Council was informed that the Board had approved a draft of a revised Child Protection Policy. Next step was to have input from an outside expert body to ensure an outside view, to ensure we are in a much better position.

Council was informed that Melville Rodrigues had been appointed as legal advisor.

Council was informed that the Board had agreed an appointments framework, to streamline the appointment of volunteers with operational directorates.

Council was informed of a £1200 settlement that had been made to a coach following a change of circumstances causing a potential loss of income.

The Board had become aware that a Chess Academy, the "Enhanced Institute of Chess Excellence", is allegedly soliciting players to play in the World Youth and Cadets Chess Championship.

PE attended the Sport & Recreation Alliance's "Sport Minds" conference, and asked Council to consider joining the Mental Health Charter.

8. To receive and approve the Reports:

8.1 The President

The President's written report was noted and accepted.

8.2 The Chief Executive

PE apologised for length and lateness of his report. He stated that it was candid and as pragmatic as he could be. He asked Council to be positive and talk chess up, rather than accept the negative views of a few individuals.

JD commented about the so called "no confidence" vote that both parties agreed to withdraw.

JC stated there were different views on this, but the words "no confidence" were absent from the motion, however it was thought that if the motion had been carried PE would be forced to resign.

JD said she recognised it was set aside, but would it be fair to refer to it as failed?

PE accepted that this could be a fair inference.

DO said it was accepted that the wording was changed during the meeting, as he did not wish the motion to be one of no confidence.

AM stated that Council was being asked to appoint a new Board, and they were doing so without all of the facts.

PE stated that tensions should not normally be in print. The Board chose to publish the minutes of the July meeting, and he wanted to help show Council that in his view the Board had been broken, without apportioning blame.

AM said his report does not state the Board is functioning now.

PE stated taken as a whole the Board had performed well, taking into account the progress that had been made in decision making.

SH commented on the disquiet that Council expressed last year, and this report notes more disagreement. It seems that PE is at the centre of the disquiet.

PE stated that comments were made last year when he was not present, and he dealt with these when he returned. NOTE: at the 2014 AGM, there was an extended period of questioning of PE as part of the election process, and PE elected to leave the room for a short period Council to discuss relevant matters in his absence.

It was essentially the same Board (with the addition of TW and RK), and this report represents the entire year. PE asked Council to give the Board some level of functionality.

AF asked about the suspension of Alex Holowczak and the advice PE took. He also asked why the Appeal was heard after the suspension had taken place.

JC stated it was a difficult decision with a number of officers involved. The delay in hearing the appeal was almost entirely procedural.

PE stated the he did not wish to detract from what had already been written. He took advice from a number of people, including the Chair of the Governance Committee, a non-Executive Director; the Strategic Advisor to the Board with whom he consulted extensively on strategic matters; he also consulted his daughter who said "Dad, did he deserve it?"; he also took advice from the Legal Advisor.

JC said the Appeal took the view that the procedures were at fault.

AF asked if he followed the advice he received.

PE stated that he took the advice, but it was his decision.

SG asked if the advice was consistent. PE replied it was not.

MP stated that he would like to move to discuss more pressing matters.

DE asked PE about the issues and the detail that was not in the report, such as the library, the office relocation. There was a will to change things without any detail or facts. You undertook to do this work, but nothing appeared.

PE stated he was an advocate of the chess library, and Council decided its future.

DE asked about the Clare Centre.

RK responded that they had visited the site but the benefits were marginal and not without risk. PE should have written a report.

NB stated that PE's report gave the impression that volunteers were not welcome. PE replied that all volunteers are welcome within the ECF, they are our lifeblood.

JC guillotined the discussion on time. A vote was taken to note and accept the report:

FOR: 13 AGAINST: 7

8.3 Director of Finance

The 2013/2014 accounts had been submitted. The accounts for 2014/15 are still in a draft status. The forecast will be better than anticipated, a full report will be given to Finance Council in April.

The International budget is likely to be £5K short mainly due to overambitious fundraising expectations. Would Council be willing to endorse the extra spend? Council decided to try to field the best team available, and DE would like an indication if this is to continue.

The EBU lost its court case, our request to participate was refused. We only incurred £2.5K legal fees which the Board believed was acceptable given the potential gains.

SG stated that Council had not agreed to field the strongest team, the International Director had sought to get Council to agree, but the decision was budgetary based.

DE replied that it does have a cost. SG stated the two things are separate (the best team and the allocation of budget). DE stated that if this is so, then he would ask this Council to agree.

JC ruled that this was a new motion.

JR commented that Finance Council had increased membership fees, are you going to increase fees again? DE stated no, he was asking Council if they are happy to spend more.

BE asked if the EBU are going to appeal the decision, and we might therefore incur more costs? DE replied that he would leave that to John Foley (JF) to report. He added that this is a fall-back position, and we are considering the different options, such as using the reserves to meet the shortfall.

BE asked if we don't agree to the £5K overspend, what are we likely to expect?

DO stated that the team is chosen, and we have the strongest team available. We need to close the gap for the future so the International Director can select a team with confidence.

AL stated that Council did what it was asked last April and passed the motion, it is now up to the Board to deliver.

Council accepted the report.

8.4.1 Director of Home Chess

AH stated he had nothing to add to his written report.

JR noted AH's electoral address from last year, and his commitment to the National Club competition and increasing the number of arbiters, both of which had occurred. David Gilbert (DG) commented that the

British Championships, County Championships and National Clubs competition had been a great success. Council overwhelmingly accepted the report.

8.4.2 Director of Junior Chess & Education

TW stated her report had been published. In addition, she had spent a lot of time rewriting the Child Protection Policy.

JC welcomed the hard work the TW was doing within the directorate.

BE asked how the Academy was progressing. TW replied that short-listing was taking place and we are on schedule to launch on 1st January.

NB asked what issues parents raise with her at the many national events she attends, and if we are doing a girls championship this year.

TW replied the main issues for parents are the cost of events, the selection process, and funding coaches. She also said that we hoped to have a girl's championship in the Midlands before Christmas.

Concerning the Child Protection Policy, JD asked if guidance was going to be issued to clubs. TW replied it would, but clubs would need to appoint Child Protection and Safeguarding Officers. We hoped to be able to set up training at a reduced cost.

BE asked if we had had any discussions with the UKCA, or the Academy in Durham.

TW replied we have been working with the UKCA so that 5 players could go to the WYCC, as well as on an appropriate Code of Conduct, finance and so on. We are looking to work with the second academy in future.

Council overwhelmingly accepted the report.

8.4.3 Director of International Chess

DO stated that his report had been published and invited questions.

MP asked what the consequences would be if we did not fund the teams properly; he could not envisage sending a weakened team.

DO replied that if we do not send the strongest team available, the funding we do get would dramatically reduce. We are now close to being fully funded.

MP asked if this was contrary to DE's previous comments. DO replied that having a weakened team does not reduce our cost. The only way would be to not send a team.

SR noted that we endeavour to send our best team, and it can be hard to find players when funding is insufficient.

DA stated that when faced with this dilemma, we could send a strong junior team.

AF asked if he had approached MP for funding. DO stated that he had, through PE, but was advised he could not help.

PE stated this was not how he saw it. He was asked to try to find funds from friends and associates. DO reiterated that you had asked MP and he had said no.

Council voted overwhelmingly to accept the report.

8.4.4 Director of Membership

Membership renewals were going well. However, there seemed to be a 180 shortfall on this time last year.

NB asked if we are going to gradually phase out game fee. Bucks has a number of players who only have 1 or 2 games a year,

DT replied that Bucks is a good example why we can't remove game fee.

JR asked if the 180 shortfall is due to increased membership fees, DT replied that this is a possibility but he not done the full analysis.

MP advised to drill down to identify who had not renewed as it may educate some of our future strategy. DT replied that he would report more fully to Finance Council as in previous years.

The report was overwhelmingly accepted.

8.4.5 Commercial Director

RK stated that Council had received his report and invited questions.

NB commented that he believed the nature of the debates on the ECF Forum was significantly worse than the "EC Forum". He asked which was the most toxic, and what if anything could be done. He believed that the ECF was not properly publicising itself.

NB thanked BK for his efforts in securing the Tradewise sponsorship, but asked why, if AH had produced a set of rules some time ago, was it not on the website?

BK replied that he had recently appointed Mark Jordan as Publicity Officer. BK agreed that the Forum had not worked well, in particular it was a mistake to use the same format. We have plans to change the software to make it more user-friendly.

BK informed Council that the Tradewise agreement was complex. It did require some small rule changes which were within the remit of the Home Director. There had been some discussion, but no movement since July.

AH stated that his team had drawn up the rules in July, and passed them back to BK where he and JF were to take them forward. AH found out only a couple of weeks ago that nothing had been progressed, and that it had sat with JF.

PE added that Council should be concerned. He also welcomed Mark Jordan to his new post. He also noted the Board is to review the format of the forum.

Council voted overwhelmingly to accept the report.

8.4.5a Communications Strategy

BK informed Council the strategy had been produced at their request. It is for Council to note.

DG asked how well we communicated with non-chess players?

BK replied this was a big issue, and he was not sure what we can really do in the ECF. JC noted the question should be addressed.

8.4.6 Non-Executive Directors

JF presented the report, and updated Council on the Judicial Review by the EBU. Initially the ECF chose not to take part because of the significant financial risk, but agreed after an undertaking by the EBU to pay any costs order should they lose. Our only cost was therefore to instruct a solicitor which was £2.5K, a sum the Board felt was worthwhile. The judge refused to accept our witness statement, but it was noted that Sport England's advocates were very aggressive.

DA added that this has been an historical challenge (to get chess recognised as a sport), and this was another step along that path. He congratulated JF and the Board for spending the money wisely. He believes that we need to lobby politically if we are to be successful.

JC spoke about the Strategy document and noted the Board had not achieved its aims. They had developed a template, but there was some way to go.

NB asked how the paper was related to the Finance Council. JD noted the lack of details, and DG wanted some metrics added so that progress could be measured. CK asked if the Board was trying to achieve too much, JC replied the Board may have done and would take the comments into account.

The report was accepted by Council.

8.5.1 Report of the FIDE Delegate

MP pointed members towards his report, specifically concerning FIDE ratings and the on-line arena. He gave warm thanks to AH for his help in the FIDE Conference in Dubai.

CK asked if it was possible to send more delegates. MP replied yes, but there is a financial cost.

Council voted overwhelmingly to accept the report.

8.5.2 Chairman of the Governance Committee

CM referred Council members to his report and invited questions.

NB asked what advice he had given PE concerning the suspension of AH. CM replied it was an election issue.

BE asked where the Federation is with the complaints procedure, CM replied it was back with the Governance Committee for re-working. AL asked about the appeals procedure, CM replied it would be considered with the other issues.

Council voted overwhelmingly in favour of the report with 2 votes against.

8.5.2a Register of Interests

CM informed Council that DR had done the majority of the work on this, most people had made a declaration (where invited to).

DR stated he was surprised it did not exist before, it is a very important document. It is not complete as they were still exploring the general level of transparency.

NB asked why it had only appeared yesterday.

JC informed Council that while we were only able to publish late in the day, the document had been carefully completed by the Board.

The document was duly noted by Council.

8.5.3 Chair of the Finance Committee

There were no comments for the paper from the Committee Chair. The report was overwhelmingly accepted by Council.

8.5.4 Representative on the Sport and Recreation Alliance

MG stated the meetings were useful to share issues with other sports. PE and BK have also attended. The ECF has signed up to the voluntary code of good governance. DCMS has begun a consultation on a "New Strategy For Sport" and we are having input into a coordinated response with Bridge & Go.

There were no questions and the report was overwhelmingly accepted.

9 Vote of Thanks

The Chairman invited Council to pass a vote of thanks for the hard work of all outgoing officers. Council expressed their thanks to outgoing Officers.

10 Elections and Appointments

SR asked CM whether he thought the Board could continue with its current members. CM stated that in his view the Board was broken, and a change of personnel was needed. He believed it was a failure of leadership. JC stated that we should have this discussion at the appropriate point in the debate, so that PE could respond.

10.1 President (Dominic Lawson, uncontested)

BE praised Dominic Lawson (DL) for his work, in particular helping to secure the Tradewise agreement.

10.2 Chief Executive (PE uncontested)

PE stated that he wanted matters to be cleared up and he believed he could lead the Board. We need to be clearer on matters that count, including Women's and junior Chess.

BE asked if DO is re-elected, is he confident he could make things work? PE said it would be very difficult and it would be better with another person. He believed things needed time to heal, but things were better now than in September.

SR asked what PE thought of 3 year fixed tenures. PE felt that personnel definitely need to be rotated, but some people with key skills need to remain in post. He thought that he ought to continue as there was still work to be done.

MF asked what he thought of the re-introduction of a non-executive chairman, PE replied it was an excellent move.

AM pointed out that PE had had a very public disagreement with 2 different directors and what had been before these events? PE asked which directors he was referring to, SM stated that the issues were in all the reports. AM restated the question.

PE replied that BK was different when he joined the Board, and he had undertaken 1 to 1 counselling with him to help ease working relationships, just as he did for all new directors. Partly issues were down to an understanding of etiquette but the problem was fundamentally structural. PE said that he talked to people when there was a problem. For example, he and DO had agreed to talk outside the meeting.

SH asked PE how many existing Board members will support him? PE said he did not know but was sure their minds were changing throughout the meeting.

10.3 Director of Finance (DE uncontested)

DE stated that his aims were similar to those of last year. He gave warm thanks to the support and hard work of JP and Chris Mattos. There were no questions.

10.4 Two Non-Executive Directors (JC, JD and Jack Rudd (JR))

JC stated that he would continue to work with his colleagues, and will add extra effort to ensure better collaboration within the Board.

JD referred Council to her election address. NB asked her to tell Council of her experience of Congress and Junior Chess. JD stated that her own club has a vibrant and successful Junior Club. She only attended occasional Congresses.

DE stated that he had nominated JD on several grounds: how well she chaired the last AGM and produced an excellent set of minutes; she is a retired professional engineer; experienced in public presentations; independent minded.

JR was not present, but NB commented as his proxy holder. He has worked hard for a number of years on the Board and as disabilities officer. Whilst his presentational skills can let him down, his skills lie elsewhere.

10.5 Other Executive Directors

10.5.1 Home Director (JF and AH)

JF stated that he was chair of Kingston Chess Club and has been an NED. He wants to modernise chess in England, and believes consulting members is very important. Membership is falling and we need to look at why. The British Championship is a flag-ship event and we need to work hard to get sponsorship. We need to modernise heritage events and to improve results collection by modernising. Europe is significantly more advanced than us.

SR asked what way as an NED has JF sought to help the Home Director? JF replied that you can only help those who want help.

JR asked how he would revamp the British Championship? JF commented on the London Chess Classic as an example where you don't need to take 2 weeks holiday.

NB asked, given the extent of the Home directorship, what he would off-load to streamline? JF replied that we need to have tournament controllers, arbiters, grading centrally controlled like it used to be. It is not intended to be sprawling.

AH stated that in his second year he had started to modernise (for example pairing systems), and that next year all tournaments would be paired on computer. He had taken his managers and people with him gradually. He agreed with a lot of JF's aims. Of course the British would welcome sponsorship, but he has to work within budget. AH proposes to investigate League Management Software and report to Council.

NB stated that he asked the captain of the Bucks team what could be done to improve the National Club Championship, he replied to hold it locally. We need to look at ways of making the competition more accessible. AH replied that we did not want a 4NCL 2.0.

RJH said that AH wanted to move over to a FIDE Elo system. AH replied no, that he wanted to move to an ELO system. He would investigate costs and report back.

CK asked if working with his people ever conflicted with his Board commitments, AH replied no, he liked to think he was prepared to be quite radical and that others put on the brakes.

10.5.2 Junior Director

TW stated that she worked within a very busy directorate with a great team of volunteers. She is proud to have started the Academy. She is looking 5-10 years into the future, at the long term prospects, of helping our juniors become better players (be that club, county, congress or titled international players).

10.5.3 International Director (DO and MP)

DO was pleased with the progress they had made on the Board, citing the 7 day rule and the Strategy document. He was pleased to see that MP had committed to raising money for the International teams and not want to rely on reserves to fund them.

DO believes that if you want PE to be Chief Executive then you need people to be independent of him, believing his report has overemphasised the differences within the Board.

RJ asked if he and PE were re-elected, could they work together? DO replied yes, we have worked together previously. However, the discord highlighted by PE indicates that a change of Chief Executive is required.

AM stated that DO is anti the Chief Executive, but what if Council does not agree to the extra money? DO replied it would be a failure that he did not foresee happening.

MP stated that he had been a player for over 40 years and competed in all levels of competitions. He has extensive contacts in other countries and understands FIDE. The issue of funding is bigger than the £5K shortfall. We are in danger of becoming a second class nation, with Michael and Nigel defying conventional wisdom. We need to nurture the potential stars of the future. MP stated he was not asking Council for more money. He has raised over £6M for chess though raising for teams is not easy. If he does not succeed he will resign. Whilst the disharmony is quite evident, he is happy to work with anyone on the Board.

David Sedgwick (DS) asked if MP would play a full part on the Board. MP replied absolutely, especially as he would have more time in future.

RJ asked why he is standing for election when he could help DO in post given his experience in the chess world. MP replied that he wanted to give it a go, and he believed that if he goes to sponsors he would need to manage the relationship which he could only do if he was the budget holder.

DA asked if there would be a conflict with his commercial interests? MP did not believe so as the potential conflict is clear and would be registered in the interests register and he would of course recuse himself wherever necessary, for example in the bids for the British Championship. Additionally he felt ID and FIDE Delegate were the areas least likely for any conflict to arise. MP also said he takes a far less active part in Chess & Bridge at present due to his commitments for CSC. DA asked if Chess Magazine wanted to criticise the ECF, how would he handle it? MP replied that he only did the editorial on the magazine and would not exert influence over the other contents should a contributor want to criticise the ECF, he might even do so himself. He would not have applied had he felt there would be a problem.

10.5.4 Director of Memberships (DT standing unopposed)

DT stated that as he was the only candidate standing, he had not produced an address. There were no questions.

10.5.5 Commercial Director (BK standing unopposed)

BK explained he had introduced the member mailing system, negotiated additional member benefits, played an active part in the Tradewise agreement. He said he made a complaint against a director because it was personal as AH had read out an email to a room of people. He believed it was damaging to him, even if it was in the heat of the moment, and asked how anyone would be expected to feel.

AM stated that he can accept the heat of the moment, but BK appealed. BK replied he appealed on the grounds of procedure as the sentence had not been served properly.

AM asked if BK was happy with his own postings on the forum, and the handling of complaints made. BK said he was not, and that moderation could be improved.

10.6 FIDE Delegate (MP standing unopposed)

MP stated he had spoken already. AF asked if MP was still a director of the Kasparov Chess Foundation. MP stated that he was, and the ECF's pro-Kasparov position notwithstanding, not including it in the register was an oversight which he would remedy forthwith.

10.7.1 Chair of the Finance Committee (MT, standing unopposed).

Mike was not present.

10.7.2 Members of the Finance Committee (Ray Clark and IR, standing unopposed).

There were no questions.

10.7.3 Chair of the Governance Committee (CM standing unopposed)

CM stated that this afternoon he had advised Council not to re-elect PE. JC stated he was ruling this out of order. CM continued that if you re-elect PE, then don't elect him.

AL asked what he expected to happen if both were elected? CM stated that he believed the Board would have to find another Governance Chair.

BE stated that this would have been useful to have known this before so members could consult proxies. JC stated that you must vote as you see fit.

Council agreed to a procedural motion to extend the meeting to 6.30 p.m.

JR stated that PE has said he can work with CM, why not the other way around? CM said his position was different as he advised Council not to elect PE.

JR asked if CM was not elected, would the Committee resign? MG stated he would not. DR stated that he was shocked by what had just occurred. He is on record as supporting PE, he would need to reflect. There is a clear difference of opinion, but he would have expected the whole committee to arrive at a conclusion and not the chair alone. He stated that he would need to reflect further before he decided. AL said he would abstain. RJH said he would stay on.

JD suggested we delay the vote. JC stated we would have the vote and see if the situation arose. JC thanked the Governance Committee for their hard work throughout the year.

Council members completed their voting slips and handed these to the tellers for counting.

10.8 Appointment of Auditor

Goatcher Chandler Audit Ltd reappointed as the ECF's auditor.

11 Report of the Independent Governance and Constitutional Review Commission

GP introduced SW and RE. He outlined the original terms of reference. He said they had consulted more widely than required. The priority is to sort out the governance of the Board and its relationship with Council. Some members feel strongly about one member one vote, but it is a small number of people. There is no consensus on how this should be done, but it is a subsidiary matter.

PE restated the importance of the review. He and CM believe the report should be implemented in full.

CM thanked the commission for all their hard work, and stated Council must implement the report.

11.1 Questions to GP

DG stated the report was superb and should be adopted in full.

SG asked GP, given what he had seen today, if it were the 1st year of a 3 year cycle, what would he do?

GP responded that neither the report nor he would comment on individuals. Council have powers to remove officers who are not performing satisfactorily.

DT suggested we elect 1/3 of the Board every 3 years.

MG endorsed the report and believes Council should get behind it. The Board need to be seen to be working together, and Council holds them to account for achieving their objectives. We should not pry into individual disagreements but focus on the bigger issues.

GP was asked if the commission would help to implement the report? He replied that there had been no proposal to accept it. The SRA had offered £5K worth of legal help, but the commission essentially saw their task as complete.

DA believed it was a very good report, and that in his view the FIDE delegate should be appointed by Council and not the Board. MP agreed.

DR thanked the commission, and stated that we were lucky to have received such a comprehensive report. He drew attention to 4 points: 1 end the annual cycle of elections, thereby de-politicising the whole process; 2 proper lines of accountability; 3 training for Board members would be easier if a cycle; 4 (and the most important in his view) 1 report only, to be submitted by the Board collectively. This would ensure the Board spoke as one voice and not many. DR had just one criticism: it was 15 years overdue. He hopes the issues for the Board are accepted en-bloc, and the others over time.

11.2 Implementation

CM stated that if you choose 11.2.1, you knock back one man one vote. If you choose 11.2.2, you keep it higher up the schedule.

AF spoke against 11.2.1 as most people aren't here and have nominated proxies.

MF asked if we could receive the report, accept it, implement it. SG said it was a lot of material to digest in such a short time. JR agreed and suggested an EGM to allow time for consultation.

JC noted many delegates were impressed with the report but needed time to decide on an appropriate course of action. He suggested the new Board could consider the report.

DE urged the new Board to identify issues which can be implemented swiftly, and refer the others back to Council with a proposed plan of action.

JD noted that Council is not voting to accept the report.

JC agreed, and suggested that whilst Council is strongly in favour of the report, and asked Council to vote on accepting the report so that the Commission has formally fulfilled its role.

A large show of hands for, 3 against.

Concerning the way forward, JD proposed that the motion put to Council be amended by inserting "not later than the 2016 AGM" between "Council" and "for reform" and by changing "ideas" to "recommendations". Council accepted these proposed changes and voted overwhelmingly in favour of the amended motion with only 2 votes against.

12 Awards

SR referred Council to his paper. There were no questions. He stated there were some suggestions of a new award, "DVD of the Year", but this would require a new committee. PE asked if this had been brought to the Board, SR stated it had not.

13 Proposal by SCCU et al, concerning the ECF Insurance Policy.

PL commented that this motion had been overtaken by events. Under the previous policy, formal training was required in order to fulfil the requirements of the insurance. He noted the revisions to the terms of the new policy. He also commented on the apparent onerous terms of the new policy on the requirement for clubs to maintain records for 30 years.

CM objected to the motion, on the grounds it had been superseded. PL withdrew the motion.

14 Proposal by SCCU concerning entry fees for the County Championship.

Due to lack of time, it was agreed to discuss this item in April.

15 The date and locations of Council meetings in 2016

The meeting was advised that the Board has decided upon 16th April 2016 (London) and 15th October (Birmingham).

16 Any other business

JC gave a vote of thanks to DA at his last meeting, and for the office staff (CC, AW and GW) for assisting with the running of the meeting.

17. Election results

The Election Results were announced by the tellers at the close of the meeting. Following subsequent concerns expressed by one of the tellers about the lack of time available for the count, the voting cards were recounted the following day by the Company Secretary, and the outcome of the election for International Director was overturned. The definitive voting figures were as follows:

- President: Dominic Lawson - 293 in favour, 16 abstentions
- Chief Executive: Phil Ehr - 121 in favour, 173 not this candidate, 15 abstentions
- Finance Director: David Eustace - 285 in favour, 17 not this candidate, 7 abstentions

- Two Non-Executive Directors: 280 Julian Clissold, 292 Julie Denning, 23 Jack Rudd, 1 none of these candidates, 21 abstentions
- Director of Home Chess: 49 John Foley, 247 Alex Holowczak, 3 neither of these candidates, 10 abstentions
- Director of International Chess: 142 David Openshaw, 164 Malcolm Pein, 3 abstentions
- Director of Junior Chess & Education: 295 Traci Whitfield, 14 abstentions
- Director of Membership: 296 David Thomas, 1 Not this candidate. 12 abstentions
- Commercial Director: 68 Bob Kane, 214 not this candidate, 27 abstentions
- FIDE Delegate: 271 Malcolm Pein, 22 not this candidate, 16 abstentions
- Chairman of the Finance Committee: 290 Mike Truran, 2 not this candidate, 17 abstentions
- Member of the Finance Committee: 301 Ray Clark, 8 abstentions
- Member of the Finance Committee: 301 Ian Reynolds, 8 abstentions
- Chairman of the Governance Committee: 221 Chris Majer, 63 not this candidate, 25 abstentions
- Member of the Governance Committee: 295 Mike Gunn, 1 not this candidate, 13 abstentions
- Member of the Governance Committee: 243 Richard Haddrell, 33 not this candidate, 33 abstentions
- Member of the Governance Committee: 261 Andrew Leadbetter, 11 not this candidate, 37 abstentions
- Member of the Governance Committee: 260 David Robertson, 36 not this candidate, 13 abstentions

The meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.