

**ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION  
FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING 16 APRIL 2016**

**C 24**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Council will be held in the Canterbury Suite at the Thistle Euston Hotel, Cardington Street, Euston NW1 2LP on Saturday 16 April 2016 starting at 1.30 p.m.

The Procedural Bye Laws prescribe that the Chairman of the meeting shall seek to end the meeting by 6:00 p.m. but it may be extended to 6:30 p.m. if Members wish.

This meeting is convened by John Philpott, Company Secretary. This Agenda is issued from the English Chess Federation Office (The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 0YD) on Wednesday 23 March 2016.

Members considering the appointment of a proxy or voting by directed proxy to the Chairman of the Meeting are directed to the relevant enclosure and should note that deadlines apply to the receipt of written proxies of all kinds.

Any organisation wishing to change its Representative Member should note that they must do so before 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday 13 April 2016.

**In order to expedite the business of the meeting, Members are invited to contact the ECF Office beforehand should they have any questions of detail on the papers for the meeting, particularly the Budget Spreadsheet.**

**Enclosures:**

- (i) The Agenda
- (ii) Attendance reply slip
- (iii) Governance paper containing the text of the special resolutions to amend the Articles of Association
- (iv) Mark up of the Articles of Association

***The full set of paperwork is published on the ECF website at <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/about/ecf-council-and-board/>***

***Should you require to be mailed a paper copy of the documentation please contact the ECF Office.***

Agenda items have been annotated as follows

- \* Paper available for download on 23 March 2016
- # Paper to follow

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Appointment of Chairman**

In the absence of the President the Board recommends **that Council appoints Julie Denning, one of the Non-Executive Directors, to chair the meeting.**

### **2. Notices**

2.1 Location of printed lists of Apologies for Absence, Members voting by individual Proxy and Members voting by Proxy to the Chairman of the Meeting.

2.2 Announcement of others in attendance with the permission of the Chairman

2.3 Appointment of Tellers

2.4 Voting Register \*

Council is invited to note the Voting Register and any amendments thereto.

### **3. Approval and, if necessary, correction of minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council held on 17 October 2015 \***

Council is invited to consider and, if thought fit, resolve: ***"That the Chairman of the meeting shall sign the minutes as being an accurate record."***

### **4. Matters Arising from these Minutes and not otherwise on the agenda**

### **5. Approval of the ECF accounts \***

**David Eustace**

Council is invited to approve the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2015

### **6. Report of Finance Director and Budget 2016/2017 #**

**David Eustace**

Council is invited to note the report.

### **7. Direct Members' Subscriptions #**

Council is invited to consider and set the levels of subscriptions for the period 1 September 2016 to August 2017. The current rates are:

***Platinum: £60***

***Gold: £32 (Junior £26)***

***Silver: £22 (Junior £16)***

***Bronze: £15 (Junior £11)***

### **8. Minimum Membership Fees for Member Organisations**

Council is invited to consider and set the minimum membership fee for Member Organisations for 2016/17. The fee is currently £60.

**9. Pay to Play fees in FIDE-rated events \***

Council is invited to consider and, if thought fit, approve the following proposal by the Director of Membership, Chief Executive and International Director:

**“Game Fee equal to the difference between Silver and Gold membership rates be levied on each England-registered player in an event submitted for FIDE rating through the Federation who is not a Gold or Platinum member of the Federation, and that for members holding Silver membership this payment shall be treated as an upgrade of such membership to Gold.”**

**10. Determination of Game Fee**

Council is invited to consider and set the Game Fee rates to take effect from 1 September 2016.

**(a) The current Game Fee rate for League, County and Club games is £2.50 for standardplay and £1.25 for rapidplay**

**(b) The current Game Fee for exclusively junior events is at 60p for standardplay and 30p for rapidplay**

The pay to play fee for non-FIDE-rated Congresses that are not exclusively junior will remain as the difference between silver and bronze adult and junior memberships as determined under item 7.

If the proposal in item 9 is approved, the Pay to Play Fee for FIDE-rated standardplay congresses will be the difference between gold and silver memberships as determined under item 7.

Unless there is overwhelming support for a specific proposal on a show of hands, a card vote will be held to fix the Game Fee rates on the basis of the median of the votes cast.

**11. Adoption of Budget for 2016/17**

**David Eustace**

Council is invited to consider and, if thought fit, **adopt the budget for the financial year from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017.**

**12. British Go Association #**

Council is invited to note the paper and advise the Board as to whether it considers that the project should be pursued.

**13. Amendments to the Articles and Bye-Laws to implement the recommendations of the Independent Constitutional and Governance Review Commission \***

Council is invited to consider and, if thought fit, approve the following resolutions in respect of the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Constitutional and Governance Review Commission, as set out in detail in the attached paper. The resolutions indicated as special resolutions require 75% of the votes cast to be in favour to be passed.

(A) A special resolution to amend the Articles of Association to re-introduce the post of Non-Executive Chairman of the Board.

(B) A special resolution to amend the Articles of Association to introduce the post of Chairman of Council.

- (C) An ordinary resolution to amend Bye-Law No. 3, consequent upon the adoption of Resolution (B), to reflect the role of Chairman of Council.
- (D) A special resolution to amend the Articles of Association to introduce three year terms for Directors and the Chairmen and Members of Standing Committees.
- (E) A special resolution to amend the Articles of Association to provide for the FIDE Delegate to be appointed by the Board rather than Council.
- (F) An ordinary resolution to amend Bye-Law No.3, consequent upon the adoption of Resolution (F).
- (G) A special resolution to amend the Articles of Association to enable an individual Director to be removed or suspended from Office by unanimous decision of the other members of the Board.
- (H) A special resolution to adopt all the proposed changes to the Articles of Association not covered by the previous resolutions.
- (I) An ordinary resolution to amend Bye-Law No.4

#### **14. Amendments to Regulation No. 2 \***

Council is invited to note the amendments to Regulation No. 2, the Directors and Officers Responsibilities Regulations, which the Board intends to make, subject to the passing of the resolutions in item 13.

#### **15. County Championship rule changes \***

Council is invited to consider and if thought fit approve the proposals by the Director of Home Chess set out in the attached paper.

- (A) From 2016/17 onwards, the Final Stage of the Open and Minor sections of the County Championship will be FIDE-rated.**
- (B) From 2016/17 onwards, the default dates for the quarter-finals and/or semi-finals be split over two weekends to allow Counties to field more teams in the Final Stage where multiple teams qualify for them.**

#### **16. Transparent Council votes and proxy preference \***

**Council is invited to consider and if thought fit approve the following resolutions proposed by the Past Chief Executive, the Hampstead Congress, the Chess Arbiters' Association, the Scarborough Congress, Coulsdon Chess Fellowship and Robert Thompson (Gold Members' representative).**

- 1. that all card votes at Council (e.g., for elections and motions) shall be published along with the minutes, commencing with the October 2016 AGM; and**
- 2. that published information shall identify the individual who cast the vote, his or her organisation, and any proxy votes; and**
- 3. in the event any Council member desires his or her vote to remain unpublished, that this option be exercised in advance of each meeting and disclosed in the voting register and the minutes; and**
- 4. that Council designates the Chairman as its preferred recipient of undirected proxies.**

## **17. Investigate PQASSO Quality Mark \***

Council is invited to consider and if thought fit approve the following resolutions proposed by the Past Chief Executive, the Northern Counties Chess Union and the West of England Chess Union

- 1. Council directs the Governance Committee to:**
  - a) examine PQASSO as a potential quality standard for the Federation; and**
  - b) survey other quality standards that may be available; and**
  - c) report findings to the October 2016 AGM; and**
  - d) in the event the Governance Committee finds that PQASSO is the appropriate quality standard for the Federation:**
    - (i) immediately communicate findings to the Board; and**
    - (ii) recommend who should be responsible for the Federation's self-assessments.**
  
- 2. In the event the Governance Committee finds PQASSO to be appropriate, Council directs the Board to:**
  - a) join the National Council for Voluntary Organisations; and**
  - b) purchase the PQASSO Workpack; and**
  - c) include in the 2017/18 budget the cost of PQASSO's optional external assessment; and**
  - d) publish the Federation's self-assessment for each Level 1 indicator in all twelve PQASSO quality areas; and**
  - e) develop a plan to satisfy all PQASSO Level 1 indicators by self-assessment; and**
  - f) upon satisfying all PQASSO Level 1 indicators by self-assessment, recommend to Council whether to proceed with the external assessment required to achieve the PQASSO Quality Mark.**

## **18. Any Other Business of which notice has been given to the Chairman of the Meeting or Company Secretary before the start and which is of a minor nature only.**

Matters of substance may not be raised under this heading, except in terms of information or a preliminary notification of important business for a future Meeting.

## **British Chess Federation Extraordinary Council Meeting**

An Extraordinary Council Meeting of the British Chess Federation will take place during the afternoon adjournment of the English Chess Federation Finance Council Meeting. The agenda for the BCF meeting is being sent to the members of the BCF Council (effectively the ECF Officers, Constituent Units and County Associations), and only these members are entitled to vote at this meeting. However, all members of the ECF Council who are not also members of the BCF Council are welcome to be in attendance. Papers for the BCF Council meeting can also be downloaded from the website at the same URL.