



## Minutes of the 118<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of the English Chess Federation

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018, at 11.30  
Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London, WC1H 9BD

### Members:

Chief Executive, Mike Truran	MT
Director of Finance, David Eustace	DE
Director of Home Chess, Alex Holowczak	AH
Director of International Chess, Malcolm Pein	MP
Director of Membership, David Thomas	DT
Non-executive Chairman, Julian Clissold	JC
Non-executive Director, Julie Denning	JD
Non-Executive Director, Stephen Woodhouse	SW

### Invited: Observers and Guests

Chairman, Governance Committee, Robert Stern	RS
Junior Directorate Finance Manager, Christelle Hafstad	CH
Mark Rivlin (Publicity Item 8)	MR

### 1. Apologies for absence

President, Dominic Lawson	DL
Director of Junior Chess, Traci Whitfield	TW
Chairman, Finance Committee, Tim Herring	TH
Office Manager and Minutes Secretary, Gary Willson	GW

The Board sent its best wishes to Gary Willson.

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved with additional items as advised.

### 3. Approval of the minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of the ECF 15<sup>th</sup> December 2018

The minutes as previously circulated were approved.

#### **4. Matters arising**

AP 118/01 Redacted.

The office had expressed disquiet over the decision at the previous meeting to reject the proposal to reduce the Pay to Play fee in Junior only events to £2, both on the grounds that they had been given discretion without guidance as to how it should be applied, and evidence of the loss of goodwill occasioned by the decision. The Directors of Finance and Membership proposed that the matter be reconsidered, and it was agreed that the reduction to £2 for the 2017-18 season should be made. The office would be asked to make arrangements for credit or refunds where payment had already been made.

AP 118/02 JD to contact TW concerning the signing up of juniors for free membership.

#### **5. Consideration of E-mail votes taken since the last Board meeting**

No email votes have been taken since the last meeting.

#### **6. Appointments (As advised)**

No appointments have been made since the last meeting.

#### **7. Review of Directors' action plans (all)**

It was agreed that for future meetings the Chair should prompt Directors prior to meetings to update action plans, and that the action plan spreadsheet should be available in the shared directory.

AP 118/03 GW to ensure the action plan spreadsheet is available in owncloud for Board members to update on an ongoing basis, ahead of each Board meeting.

##### **7.1. Report of the Director of Home Chess (AH)**

A suggestion of an online club championship has been made. AH will explore and prepare a paper for Board consideration.

Redacted.

##### **7.2. Report of the Director of Membership**

A meeting to consider tenders for a new membership system would be held on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

##### **7.3. Report of the Director of Junior Chess**

Academy outcomes are positive with an increased number of children participating. Overall finance reconciliation in hand, and we are progressing the use of technology

in talent spotting with grading database to feed stats on junior performance. The Chess Trust and the Academy have committed joint future collaboration.

#### 7.4. International Director's report

The London Chess Classic will happen again next year, with a new sponsor but a different format with four of the top players in the world. The LCC will try and include another elite junior event and or a masterclass as this was so well received in 2017.

MP is looking for sponsorship for another English Rapidplay and for a 9 round event in Telford. The ECF is supporting the Chillingham Masters. MP wants to support any norm event in the UK where possible.

Sponsorship for the British is confirmed. The prize fund will increase a little and there will be new additional funding for PR.

Discussions are ongoing with Tradewise about the future sponsorship of the Hastings Masters and what the ECF can do to support this. The ECF may require more input to the tournament if support is secured again.

Some analytical support for Jones proved worthwhile at Wijk aan Zee and funds permitting there will be more for Jones/Howell/McShane/Adams at representative events.

#### 7.5. Finance Directors report

Management accounts are still due.

AP 118/04 DE to bring management accounts to the next Board meeting.

### **8. ECF Logo and Branding (MR).**

Board agreed to fund £300 for the further development of possible new logos.

AP 118/05 MR to report back to the Board with a potential new ECF logo.

### **9. Report on the Role of Director of Women's Chess (JC & TW)**

Following discussion, the Board believes that having the role of a Director of Women's Chess did not necessarily address the right problems. The Board believes that massive attrition in the transition from primary to secondary and the lack of a welcoming environment for girls are the main causes for the imbalance in men and women actively playing chess. Because these might better be tackled at junior level, the Board resolved to remove the Director of Women's Chess role from the ECF website and to prepare a paper on what a new Development Director role, focussing on these and other problems in English chess, might look like.

MP took a dissenting view, that there was a role for a Director of Women's Chess, for example advising on how tournaments and clubs could be made more welcoming

for women and trying to develop links with women's organisations or dealt with women's issues. MP agreed with MT that the problem had been a lack of suitable candidates coming forward.

The proposal was carried with one abstention, one against.

#### **10. FIDE Trainer Licences (MP/DT)**

The Board agreed with the recommendation that the ECF should pay the licences of trainers providing services to the ECF (and only those trainers).

AP 118/06 GW to contact MP/DT concerning FIDE trainers, with a view to paying the licences for trainers who support ECF events, and advising others on the list that their payment is due to FIDE.

#### **11. Data Protection (GW)**

GW had provided a paper for discussion.

AP 118/07 Operational Directors to advise GW/DT of the data collected by the end of February.

AP 118/08 DT/SW to look at other organisations and how they are implementing the GDPR changes

It was agreed that once the big picture had been collated, DT, SW and GW would take forward and report back to the next Board meeting, including the advice we can give to league and congresses.

#### **12. Changes to Articles of Association (voting register mechanics) (RS)**

The Board agreed to the changes as proposed by the Chair of Governance.

#### **13. Dates of future Board meetings (JC)**

These were discussed and confirmed for 2018.

AP 118/09 JC to circulate and send to Andrew for ECF website

#### **14. Demographics (MP)**

The issues related to the trends in chess membership in the UK were discussed and noted. Problems related to the organisation of junior chess historically and a lack of central government funding.

AP 118/10 JC to develop a proposed agenda for a possible future meeting of major national junior organisations to discuss opportunities for collaboration, for discussion by the Board.

**15.AOB**

AP 118/11 GW to engage a minute taker for Finance Council

Meeting closed 16:45