



Minutes of the 121st Board Meeting of the English Chess Federation

Friday 15th June 2018, at 11.30
IBIS Hotel, Ladywell Walk, Birmingham

Present:

Chief Executive, Mike Truran	MT
Director of Home Chess, Alex Holowczak	AH
Director of International Chess, Malcolm Pein	MP
Director of Junior Chess, Traci Whitfield	TW
Non-executive Chairman, Julian Clissold	JC
Non-executive Director, Julie Denning	JD
Non-Executive Director, Stephen Woodhouse	SW
Chairman, Governance Committee, Robert Stern	RS
Office Manager and Minutes Secretary, Gary Willson	GW
Mark Rivlin (for item 10)	MR

Apologies:

Chairman, Finance Committee, Tim Herring	TH
President, Dominic Lawson	DL
Director of Finance, David Eustace	DE
Director of Membership, David Thomas	DT

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved following an adjustment to the running order.

3. Minutes of 120th Board Meeting

The minutes as previously circulated were agreed. It was not believed to be necessary to redact the references to the FIDE president.

4. Matters arising from Minutes

a. Action Point Update

113/13 & 113/15: we will collapse these in to proposals for Development Officer.

115/09 Cleared, will be included in Hull follow-up.

115/15 Will speak to KS to consider for Hull. Cleared.

117/07 On-going, a paper will be out in due course.

118/10 Meeting is due to be held in early September, JC will re-issue paper.

119/03 On-going

119/06 A sample is about to be published on the website, inviting feedback.

Cleared.

119/08 Cleared.

5. Matters arising from Council Meeting

Contrary to the statement given to Council, it is not possible to remove the £1 reduction for MOs because they had not been informed by 1st March. The Director of Memberships and the office are aware and will take forward with the new membership system.

Following Council's rejection of all the significant proposals to revamp the County Championships, the Board agreed that no further changes would be proposed, and the tournament will continue in its existing format for the foreseeable future.

RS informed the Board that he will be updating the rules to ensure the deadline for receipt of proxy votes will allow the office 2 whole days to prepare for a Council meeting.

6. FIDE elections update (MP).

The FIDE Delegate updated the Board on the current situation of the FIDE Presidential Election, due to take place on 3rd October.

MP left the room whilst the Board discussed Nigel's request for the ECF to support his nomination for FIDE President. The Board decided (4 in favour, 2 against) to support Nigel's nomination, but to remain open-minded as to the destination of any eventual vote.

AP 121/01 SW/RS to produce a form of words for DL concerning the nomination for the FIDE Presidency

7. Financial Report (DE/JC)

MT reported that the delay in the filing of the accounts is down to the auditors, who have agreed to cover the cost of any resulting penalties. Management reports will be out to Directors within the next week.

8. Role of Director of Women's Chess (SW)

SW informed the Board that one candidate, Chris Fegan, was best qualified for the position. This was based on a review of the applications and supporting documents from all candidates. Of the three candidates, two were shortlisted. SW met both candidates (with Robert Stern having also met CF) and concluded that CF would be best suited given his extensive experience of chess management, playing and administration and the ideas for developing women's chess discussed with SW and RS. The Board confirmed the panel's view that CF should be appointed to the position (knowing that he wishes to perform the role for no more than 18 months), and the second candidate should be approached to discuss her taking up the position of Manager of Girl's Chess to gain experience, at the same time as supporting CF and TW.

LUNCH

9. ECF Logo (MT/MR)

MR gave a further presentation to the Board in which 2 logos were discussed. By acclamation, the first logo was thought more appropriate. MR agreed to commence the roll out of the new logo, in time for the BCC, and to produce a page of logos for different uses (website, shirts, etc)

AP 121/02 GW to speak to AW concerning figures from "Send In Blue" for the newsletter.

10. GDPR update (DT)

The published club guidance received positive feedback. The privacy statement has been revised, but will be the subject of continual review.

AP 121/03 SW to draft a top down document for legitimate interest assessment, and to circulate to operational directors.

AP 121/04 SW to speak to GW concerning the role of Data Controller

11. Company Secretary update (JC)

Following the last Board meeting, it has been decided to retain the services of Bruce Wallace as our Company Secretary, for the foreseeable future.

12. Director's reports including feedback on action plans (All)

HOME: The Board confirmed AH can act as he sees fit in the issuing of wildcards for the BCC, but may choose to consult the Board if he believes it to be necessary.

It is proving difficult to have live boards at the County Championship finals on the 7th July due to lack of staff. It would be necessary to source them (and the staff to operate them) from abroad. It was agreed that this would not be feasible.

AP 121/05 GW to speak to insurers concerning the County Championship trophy

The Manager for Disabled Chess has resigned. It was agreed the post would be left vacant. A safeguarding policy for vulnerable adults is needed.

A feedback form has been created, to enable players to comment on the quality of the arbiting at the BCC. It was suggested feedback could be given anonymously, with simple relevant indicators (gender, playing strength etc). There is a shortfall in the number of entries for the BCC, down 25% at the same time last year.

JUNIOR: A complaint has been resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant. The international competitions are well under way with a large group planned for the EYCC in Riga in August. The next Academy event is in September, and we would like to get the prospectus out for next year. Andy Horton and Joe McPhillips have achieved their second IM norms. MT will be meeting with Sarah L during the BCC to discuss how the ECF's free first year junior membership offer can be rolled out across the UKCC.

INTERNATIONAL: teams for the Olympiad are coming together. Lorin D'Costa has agreed to manage the Women's team, John Nunn the Open team.

13. New membership system update (DT)

GW provided the Board with an update on the new membership system. Plans are not going as smoothly as we would like, and Paysubsonline have refused to give us a month's extension to our licence. The Board agreed not to extend the licence for one year, and to put in place the proposed interim arrangements suggested: to accept renewals and new memberships via an on-line form until 30th June, with the office staff updating a master spreadsheet.

14. A.O.B (As advised to Chair ahead of the meeting).

a. Academy Homework Website (TW)

The Board confirmed that it had no issue with the advertising on the website proposed for Academy homework. It was a site well used in the chess world.

b. Awards Committee Report (MT)

The Board accepted the report of the Award's Committee and asked GW to arrange for it to be posted on the ECF website.

c. Update on ECF/4NCL National Equipment Repository (AH)

We need to finalise the wording of the MOUs that we will be asking people to sign when they hold equipment on the ECF's and 4NCL's behalf.

AP 121/06 AH to send the wording of the MOU for the bank to SW to finalise form of words with JC, to become a template for future agreements.

d. DCMS

Whilst there is general agreement that chess is unlikely to be recognised as a sport, DL has put a request in for the grant to be reinstated. It was noted that should such a request ever be successful, the money should be used on extra activities, and not core spend.