**Accelerator Programme: Summary**

* Grandmaster Peter Wells was engaged by the Chess Trust as Manager of the Accelerator Programme as at 1 March 2018, and a formal consultancy agreement has been put in place.
* The Chess Trust has approved a first-year budget of £40,000. Projected spend for the first year is on track to come in at or just below this number.
* A Selection Committee has been put in place with Peter in the chair. The other members of the Committee are Sarah Longson, Traci Whitfield, Malcolm Pein and David Howell. The Committee’s principal task is to select juniors for the Accelerator Programme. So far eight of the envisaged twelve participants have been selected, five boys and three girls. There is recognition now among a significant group of strong young players that being on the Accelerator Programme has a beneficial status to which they can aspire.
* Peter’s support for the participants includes:
* Establishing what help the participants are receiving and what they require;
* Working with parents;
* Advising on what tournaments to attend;
* Working with the ECF Academy as appropriate to identify potential new candidates for the Programme;
* Developing and monitoring key performance indicators for the participants;
* Representing the Programme and mentoring/coaching participants at national and international events where they are playing;
* Holding discussions with the participants on a regular basis to assist them and monitor their progress.
* Maintaining close contact with the participants’ own coaches where applicable;
* Preparing juniors for specific games and tournaments as required.
* Participants have attended/will be attending the following international events so far:
* European Youth Championships (Riga);
* World Youth Championships (Halkidiki);
* World Cadets Championships (Santiago de Compostela).

These trips are organised in close liaison with the Junior Directorate in order to optimise organisational efficiencies between the two groups.

* Plans for the coming months include the following:
* Developing ways of working more closely with the Academy on a range of topics;
* Working towards creating a set of key performance indicators that can be used to monitor the success both of individual participants and of the Programme itself;
* Preparation for and attendance at the World Cadets Championships and World Youth Championships;
* Researching the progress of players identified as ‘candidates’ for the programme with a view to making additional selections.
* Reviewing options for the organisation and administration of international trips in conjunction with the Junior Director;
* Organising collaborative events such as coaching weekends which all the participants can attend, in the hope of developing a stronger group spirit amongst those on the programme.
* In the trustees’ view the Accelerator Programme is off to an excellent start under Peter’s guidance and holds out much promise for the future. The trustees will be regularly reviewing progress and results.