



Minutes of the 123rd Board Meeting of the English Chess Federation

Thursday 20th September 2018, at 11.30
Ibis Hotel, Ladywell Walk, Birmingham B5 4ST

Present:

President, Dominic Lawson (by 'phone for item 6)	DL
Chief Executive, Mike Truran	MT
Director of International Chess, Malcolm Pein	MP
Director of Finance, David Eustace	DE
Director of Membership, Dave Thomas	DT
Director of Women's Chess, Chris Fegan	CF
Non-executive Chairman, Julian Clissold	JC
Non-executive Director, Julie Denning	JD
Non-Executive Director, Stephen Woodhouse	SW
Chairman, Governance Committee, Robert Stern	RS
Manager, British Chess Championships, Kevin Staveley (for item 8)	KS

Apologies:

Director of Home Chess, Alex Holowczak	AH
Director of Junior Chess, Traci Whitfield	TW
Chairman, Finance Committee, Tim Herring	TH

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted.

2. Appointment of Chair

The Non-Executive Chairman was present. As Gary Willson (GW) was unavailable, it was agreed that JD would take the Minutes.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

4. Minutes of 122nd Board Meeting

The Minutes had previously been agreed by email and published.

5. Matters arising from Minutes

a. Action Point Update

116/02 On-going. Support for Commonwealth Chess Association should also be considered.

117/07 On-going. Lead is DT, not AH/DT. Paper to be available for next meeting.

118/10 On-going.

119/03 Cleared.

121/06 MoU completed. Cleared.

122/01 Cleared.

122/02 Paper provided for Board 123. Cleared

122/03 Membership list now available via website. Cleared.

122/04 Cleared

122/05 Paper provided for Board 123. Cleared.

122/06 On-going. Awaiting remaining job descriptions.

122/07 On-going.

122/08 On-going

122/09 On-going

122/10 Trust Deed circulated. Cleared.

122/11 Additional funding for DoCW for current financial year agreed. Cleared.

122/12 On-going

122/13 On-going

122/14 Total figures only to be presented unless alternative booking arrangements made. Cleared.

6. Makropoulos FIDE Presidential ticket presentation (MP)

MP gave a presentation on the FIDE Presidential election ticket headed by Georgios Makropoulos, on which he features as prospective Deputy President. The presentation addressed:

- The objectives of the Makropoulos team
- The role of MP in the team
- The background to the referral of rival Presidential candidate Arkady Dvorkovich to the FIDE Ethics Commission

MP then left the room to enable a discussion amongst other Board members. The outcome was a clear majority view that the ECF should support the Makropoulos ticket in the forthcoming election.

Action 123/01. MP (as FIDE Delegate) instructed to cast the ECF vote for the Makropoulos ticket in the first and any subsequent votes in the 2018 FIDE Presidential election.

7. Election rota for Director of Women's Chess (RS)

It was agreed that the election for Director of Women's Chess at this year's AGM should be for a term of 3 years and be included in the election rota accordingly.

Action 123/02. (RS) Regulation No. 2 to be updated to include DoWC.

8. British Chess Championships Review. (KS)

KS presented a paper prepared by himself and AH on the recent BCC in Hull. The event had been very successful. Key points in the paper included:

- Recent changes to the qualification rules were having the intended effect of enhancing the average standard of entrant in both the Championship and the Major Open.
- Recommendations concerning the selection and organisation of venues
- Recommendations concerning the appointment and roles of arbiters
- The need to increase the remuneration of arbiters to bring this into line with other events

- The need for a list of “strategic people” who could be called upon if problems arose.
- The benefit of a well organised social programme, which had been particularly good at Hull.
- The need to anticipate likely changes to FIDE anti-cheating rules being in effect for the 2019 BCC.
- The local authority estimated that the value of the Championships to the local community to have been £1.25m.

The Board accepted the paper and the points made in it. MP noted that data from Hull on the value to the local economy could be very useful when approaching local authorities for support for future events, such as covering the cost of the venue.

Action 123/03. KS/AH to provide details of Hull’s estimated financial benefit to the local economy.

The Board expressed its thanks to the organising team of the 2018 BCC and, in particular, to Stephen Greep, President of Hull and District Chess Association for encouraging local support and organising the social programme.

Action 123/04. **Redacted.**

9. Unbudgeted Expenditure (DE/MT).

A paper prepared by DE and MT highlighted challenges facing the ECF and the budgetary implications of meeting them. These could involve increases to membership fees, applications to the Chess Trust / PIF and reducing the reserves. The Board accepted the proposals in the paper.

Action 123/05. MT/DE to update paper on unbudgeted expenditure to be put to Council at the 2018 AGM for agreement in principle to the changes to the budget and means of financing the changes.

10. Transfer of PIF No.1 to The Chess Trust (DE)

The Board agreed the wording of a proposal to be put to the 2018 BCF Council AGM giving the Board authority to transfer the value of the PIF No. 1 to The Chess Trust.

11. Game Fee and other debts (DE).

The Board agreed to the principle of exclusion of events from ECF grading and FIDE rating where Game Fee dues or other debts remain outstanding after due notification.

Action 123/06. DE to draft detailed proposal to exclude results from ECF grading or FIDE rating where payments are overdue.

12. Role of a Development Officer (MP).

The principle of employing a Development Officer in accordance with proposals in MP's paper will be put to Council. The Board will consider further if Council give approval.

Action 123/07. JC to include Development Officer proposal on agenda for Board meeting following 2018 AGM if Council approves the principle.

13. AGM Preparation.

The Board agreed the latest texts of the Strategy paper and the Board Report to Council, subject to changing references in the former from "three year planning cycle" to "five year planning cycle".

Action 123/08 MT to amend Strategy paper to refer to planning cycle being 5 years rather than 3.

14. Monthly Grading (DT)

A paper on moving to monthly grading lists was noted. Details of cost implications are awaited.

Action 123/09 DT to progress proposals to move to monthly grading lists, including costs.

15. Membership analysis (DT)

DT presented an analysis of membership statistics for August 2018. Particular points of note were:

- Adult numbers were staying fairly stable
- Efforts to increase Junior members were being effective.

The Board wished to see such analyses more regularly than once a year.

Action 123/10 DT to initiate production of membership analyses on a quarterly basis.

SW requested that the income attributable to each membership category be included in the analysis.

Action 123/11 DT to include income attributable to each membership category in the analysis.

16. Review of committees (SW)

SW presented a summary of all the committees currently in existence, with comments on their functions and proposed actions. The following points were agreed:

- Selection of the primary England teams for international senior events should be integrated with the selection of other international teams.
- The County Championships Draw Committee could be abolished with responsibilities transferred to the County Match Controller.
- The Library Committee was no longer a committee as it had only one member. The Committee could be abolished provided there was provision for on-going responsibility to oversee the library.

Action 123/12 MP to liaise with Stewart Reuben over integrating selection of all international teams.

Action 123/13 SW to incorporate agreed changes to committees and progress their implementation.

17. John Philpott Trophy (DE)

The Board had previously agreed to mark the expected retirement of John Philpott from active involvement with the ECF with a presentation to reflect his enormous contributions to chess at local, regional and national levels. His untimely death precluded this. The Board agreed to the purchase of a silver plated trophy to commemorate John Philpott at a cost of approximately £1,500 plus engraving. No final decision was taken on the event for which it should be presented.

Action 123/14 DE to proceed with the proposed purchase and engraving of a John Philpott Trophy.

Action 123/15 AH/(Incoming DoHC) Determine an appropriate event for which the John Philpott should be awarded.

18. AOB

18.1. CF noted that the increased funding for women's chess was already paying off with increased entries for both the BCC and the English Women's Championship.

18.2. MP reported that preparations for the Olympiad were going well.