

ECF Finance Council Meeting, 27 April 2019: Proposal for a cap on the funding of International Chess from the ECF's own funds

Spending on International Chess - mainly in support of participation in team competitions but also in support of participation in individual competitions and player development - has increased significantly in recent years.

For the nine years from 2006/7 to 2014/15, contributions to international chess from the ECF's own funds were relatively steady at between £18,314 and £25,731 a year. Now, in more recent years, contributions have exceeded or are forecast to exceed £40,000 a year. While the budget for the current year is set at £51,000 with notional budgets for 2019/20 and 2020/21 of £43,000 and £51,000 respectively. The table and graph on the following page show and illustrate the figures.

Spending on team competitions appears particularly high. According to [the budget spreadsheet provided for the ECF's AGM in October 2018](#), it cost £42,599 - coming entirely from ECF funds spread over two accounting periods - to send two five-player teams to the 2017 European Team Championships. While [figures provided by Malcolm Pein](#), the Director of International Chess, show that £41,820 was spent taking two five-player teams to last year's Olympiad - with £33,420 coming from the ECF's own funds. This expenditure averages out at more than £4,000 a player. At Olympiads, basic accommodation and food is provided by the hosts. With the European Teams, accommodation and food has to be paid for. Detailed breakdowns of the expenditures aren't available but it seems likely a high proportion – perhaps half of the totals - is spent on player appearance fees.

In his [2015 election address](#) (for the post of Director of International Chess), Malcolm Pein wrote: *"There is a danger that the shortfall [in funding] will have to be met by increasing Members fees and I very much want to avoid that"*. But isn't this, in effect, what has happened? (A table of membership fee rates dating from when the membership scheme was introduced in 2012/13 is available [here](#).) This is important because we often hear from members that they see little in return for the cost of their memberships and that higher membership fees discourage participation in competitive, over-the-board, chess.

To challenge these increases and to focus attention on the matter,

We propose that the contribution to International Chess from the ECF's own funds is capped at £30,000 per annum for 2019/20 through to 2021/2022 (for three years) after which it should be subject to review.

Spending of £30,000 per annum would be in line with what was spent in the years 2006/7 to 2014/15, allowing for inflation-rate increases. This would help keep membership fees at current (2018/19) levels. If monies are left over they can be invested in grassroots chess and support for clubs.

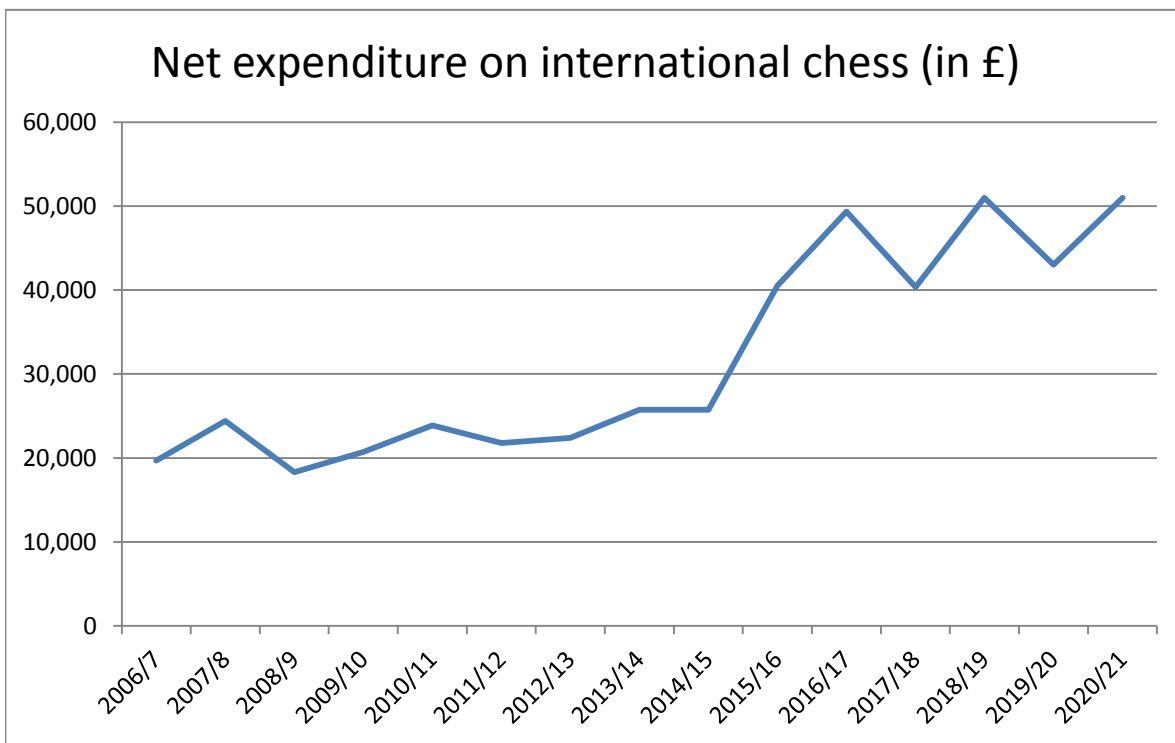
Requisitionists:

Angus French, Bronze members' representative
Gareth Ellis, Bronze members' representative
John Reyes, Silver members' representative
Michael Farthing, Silver members' representative

21 March 2019

Net expenditure on international chess

	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
	Actual ¹	Actual ¹	Actual ¹	Actual ²	Actual ³	Actual ³	Actual ⁴	Actual ⁵	Actual ⁶	F'cast ⁶	Actual ⁷	F'cast ⁸	Budget ⁸	Budget ⁸	Budget ⁸
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income	7,890	19,670	16,751	2,858	6,660	25,440	17,304	28,377	28,377	26,311	38,550	23,300	0	0	0
Expenditure	27,582	44,069	35,065	23,563	30,543	47,229	39,673	54,109	54,109	66,806	87,914	63,629	51,000	43,000	51,000
Net Expend.	19,692	24,399	18,314	20,705	23,883	21,789	22,369	25,731	25,731	40,495	49,364	40,329	51,000	43,000	51,000
Teams - inc.	877	2,569	13,393	1,296	1,206	10,500	8,019	21,330	0	5,611	26,650	1,300	0 ⁹	0	0
Teams - exp.	14,954	27,470	27,593	21,290	19,380	29,732	32,821	64,941	0	35,483	74,336	27,142	36,000 ⁹	28,000	36,000



Notes:

1. From 2010/11 budget s/sheet. [Link](#)
2. From 2012/13 budget s/sheet. [Link](#)
3. From 2013/14 budget s/sheet. [Link](#)
4. From 2014/15 budget s/sheet. 2012/13 accounting period = 16 months. [Link](#)
5. From 2015/16 budget s/sheet. 2013/14 & 2014/15 figures smoothed as Euro Teams & Olympiad both in 1st period & not in 2nd. [Link](#)
6. From revised 2016/17 budget s/sheet. 2014/15 figures smoothed with 2013/14 figures (see prev. comment). No actuals available for 2015/16. [Link](#)
7. From 2018/19 budget s/sheet approved at the 2018 Finance Council meeting. [Link](#)
8. From revised 2018/19 budget s/sheet presented to the 2018 AGM. [Link](#)
9. The Olympiad finances s/sheet provided by Malcolm Pein gives Olympiad income of £8,400 and expenditure of £41,820. [Link](#)