

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION 13TH OCTOBER 2018.

Present: There were 47 attendees in total as follows:

Mike Gunn (*Chair, Surrey Border League, and Surrey Congress*), Mike Truran (*Chief Executive, 4NCL, Kidlington Congress, Witney Rapidplay, Witney Weekend Congress, and Oxfordshire*), Nigel Towers (*Warwickshire Chess Association and Acting Secretary*), Julian Clissold (*Non-Executive Chairman and Manchester Chess Federation*), Tim Herring (*Finance Committee Chairman*), Robert Stern (*Governance Chairman*), Alex Holowczak (*Home Chess Director and British Universities Chess Association*), Chris Fegan (*Women's Chess Director, CSC and North Essex*), Malcolm Pein (*International Chess Director and FIDE Delegate*), David Eustace (*Finance Director*), David Thomas (*Membership Director*), Julie Denning (*Non-Executive Director, Sussex, Mid-Sussex League and Crowborough Congress*), Stephen Woodhouse (*Non-Executive Director*).

IM Andrew Martin, Adrian Elwin (*Home Chess Candidate and Platinum Members' Representative*), Tim Wall (*Home Chess Candidate, Northumbria Junior Chess Association and Durham*).

Francis Bowers (*Platinum Members' Representative and Lincolnshire*), Ben Edgell (*Gold Members' Representative, Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Bristol and District League and Torbay League*), Roger Emerson (*Gold Members' Representative*), Michael Farthing (*Silver Members' Representative and Lancaster and Morecambe League*), Angus French (*Bronze Members' Representative and Croydon and District League*), John Reyes (*Silver Members' Representative, South East Lancashire League, Stockport Chess League and Stockport Rapidplay League*).

David Clayton (*Leyland Rapidplay*), William Metcalf (*Cleveland*), Chris Cook (*Hertfordshire*), Hok Chiu (*Coventry and District and Leamington League*), Paul Cooksey (*Berkshire*), Nigel Dennis (*Berkshire, Chiltern League, Thames Valley League, Berks and Bucks Congress, British Chess Problem Society EPSCA and NYCA*), Gareth Ellis (*Bronze, Northern Counties Chess Union, Lancashire, Warrington and District Chess League*), Nick Faulks (*Bronowski Trophy*) Scott Freeman (*Coulsdon Chess Fellowship*), David Gilbert (*Kent and London Public Service Chess League*), Simon Gilmore (*Derbyshire*), Roger Hardy (*West of England Chess Union*), Nigel Hosken (*Gloucestershire and North Gloucestershire Chess League*), Peter Hughes (*Birmingham & District League*), Peter Lawrence (*Surrey*), Alan Leary (*Herefordshire*), Andrew Ledbetter (*MCCU*), Steve Mann (*Yorkshire and Doncaster Congress*), Mark Murrell (*Southern Counties Chess Union and Essex*), Alex McFarlane (*Northumberland and Scarborough Congress*), Robert Richmond (*Nottinghamshire*), David Sedgwick (*Hastings*), Paul Sharratt (*Worcester and District League and Dudley & District League*), Brian Valentine (*Bedfordshire*), John Wickham (*East Anglian Chess Union, Norfolk and Bury St Edmunds Congress and Vice President*).

The meeting started at 13-30 on 13th October at the Ibis Hotel, Ladywell Walk, Birmingham.

1 Apologies- Tim Wall had sent his apologies to indicate that he would be arriving late due to a car breakdown.

2 Appointment of Chairman – Mike Gunn was confirmed as the meeting chair. Nigel Towers took on the role of acting secretary as Gary Wilson was unable to attend due to illness.

3 Observation of a minute's silence to remember colleagues who have died since the last meeting. The recent passing of colleagues was recognised as follows:

- John Toothill – Correspondence IM and ECF Seniors Champion;
- Peggy Clarke – Joint Women’s Champion in 1966;
- David Milton – Former Secretary of Yorkshire CA.

4 Notices

- Location of printed lists of apologies for absence – There were no apologies apart from Tim Wall's as above;
- Members voting by individual proxy and members voting by proxy to the Chairman. - Noted and available;
- Announcement of others in attendance with the permission of the Chairman – It was noted that IM Andrew Martin was in attendance;
- Appointment of Tellers – David Gilbert and Paul Sharratt were duly appointed as tellers. Michael Farthing was in attendance as Voting Registration Officer;
- Voting Register – The voting register was noted and available to the Voting Registration Officer and tellers.

5 Approval/ Correction of the Minutes of the Finance Meeting of the Council meeting held on 28 April 2018.

The following amendments were requested:

Page 2 – 'agreed' should have a lower case rather than capital A.

Page 3 – relevant wording should read 'a lot more than the championship'.

Section 6(c) – This section should read 'Angus French asked that a breakdown of the 2018 Olympiad actuals be provided' - rather than the International Budget.

The requested amendments were agreed and the minutes were accepted as an accurate record *nem con* subject to the above changes being made. There was a request from the floor for the minutes to be made available more promptly. The request was noted and the Chairman apologised for the delay in producing the minutes.

6 Matters Arising from these Minutes and not otherwise on the Agenda

David Sedgwick (*Hastings*) acknowledged that the Board was continuing to support the County Championships. It was also noted that Casual Chess had not reverted with any further proposals for financial support following the Finance Council Meeting.

Hok Chiu (*Coventry and District and Leamington*) asked whether there could be a debate over merging Silver and Bronze membership at some stage. The chairman noted the request and indicated that Hok should table this for a future meeting.

7 Receipt and Approval of Reports

(a) The Board of Directors’ report (Mike Turan)

Mike reminded Council that this was now presented as a single report covering the whole year as per the governance review, rather than as individual board members’ reports. The report highlighted the ECF's key achievements during the course of the year and referenced the Strategy Statement which set out Board’s view of the ECF's future direction.

John Reyes (*Silver Members’ Representative, South East*)

Lancashire League, Stockport Chess League and Stockport Rapidplay League) asked whether the objectives in the report were achievable and it was agreed that this would be considered as part of the discussion on the ECF strategy statement.

David Gilbert (*Kent and London Public Service Chess League*) asked whether the report could be linked to the priorities in the Strategy Statement for future years and Mike agreed to do this, asking David to remind him nearer the time.

David Sedgwick asked why arbiters had been charged £125 for the ECF jackets which were worn by players and arbiters at the recent Olympiad. Malcolm Pein explained that it had been a new FIDE requirement for players to wear country specific jackets. The cost of the players' jackets had been covered by crowd funding organised by Isabel Keene and Jovanka Houska, but there were no funds to cover arbiters' jackets, which were optional under the new FIDE rules. David accepted the clarification.

The Board of Directors' report was accepted nem con.

(b) The Chairman of the Governance Committee's report (Robert Stern)

The Governance Committee report was accepted nem con.

(c) The Chairman of the Finance Committee's report (Tim Herring)

Tim highlighted priority areas within his report as follows:

- Financial planning and management;
- Budgeting;
- Process stabilisation and improvement;
- Auditing.

Key risks included the impact of a potential decline in membership levels.

The audited 2016/2017 accounts were filed in a timely fashion by July 2018 and the Committee recognised the continuing good work of David Eustace as Finance Director.

Roger Emerson (*Gold Members*) noted that the Finance Committee report had been provided late and not sufficiently in advance of the meeting. This point was accepted, as was an offer from Angus French to support the Chairman in providing administrative help in advance of future meetings.

Angus French (*Bronze Members' Representative and Croydon and District League*) asked whether the Finance Committee had carried out proper scrutiny of the budgets including the potential for a downturn in membership numbers if fees were increased, and asked whether any overspend since April had been properly scrutinised by the Committee.

Tim said that the budgets had indeed been scrutinised by the Committee, which had taken an active role in reviewing the budgeting process. David Eustace noted that any overspends had been properly recorded and accounted for.

The Finance Committee report was agreed by a large majority, with three Council Members against.

8 Awards – This item was brought forward along with subsequent items to allow time for Tim Wall to arrive before the Election and Appointments item was considered.

Dave Thomas notified the meeting that the Board had nominated Stephen Greep of Hull & District CA be given the President's Award for Services to Chess in recognition of his work at the British Championships.

9 Special Motion to Change Articles – Robert Stern proposed the following resolution to amend the Articles:

- Replace “Full Members” with “persons” in the definition of Requisitionists in article 1.1;
- Insert at the end of article 37 the following sentence: “In calculating periods of time specified in this article 37, no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day (as defined in the Act).”

Robert explained that the first change was to clarify that Direct Members' Representatives do indeed fall within the definition of Requisitionists, and the second change was to bring forward the deadline for submission of proxies to allow extra time for the office to process the necessary proxy arrangements.

Amendment (a) was agreed nem con.

Amendment (b) was agreed with only one dissenting vote.

The changes to the Articles were duly approved as there was a majority of more than 75% for both amendments as required by company law.

10 Strategy (Mike Truran) - To receive and approve the Board's Strategy Statement

Mike offered the Strategy Statement for comment and approval, noting that the document was consistent with last year's strategy and formed a continuation of the Board's roadmap for English chess development.

Angus French said that he felt the Strategy Statement did not provide an analysis of where the ECF currently is and where it wants to go, and questioned how the meeting could be confident that the direction is right. Mike indicated that he felt the Strategy Statement did indeed set out a clear direction and that action was very important to avoid a decline in membership and chess activity given the current membership demographics.

John Reyes questioned why the ECF felt it appropriate to maintain reserves of £100k and whether reserves could be reduced to fund ECF activities. David Eustace explained that a £100k reserve was equivalent to about 6 months' turnover for the ECF, which was a low level of reserves in comparison with many organisations including FIDE, which held a year's expenditure in reserve. He also indicated that reserves were important as (a) a backstop and (b) a source of short-term funding for innovation in support of the strategy.

David Gilbert said that he would like to see agreed KPIs so that Council could monitor the results of the strategy and related activities. Mike Truran agreed that it would be helpful to specify KPIs for the strategy and these would be added.

Nick Faulks (*Bronowski*) asked how Council could agree the strategy before discussing the budget and fee amendments.

Mike Gunn said that the agenda items had been presented in a logical order and as chair he would be seeking approval of the strategy to confirm the ECF direction before discussing budgets and membership fees.

Michael Farthing (*Silver Members' Representative and Lancaster and Morecambe League*) said that he was not comfortable with the membership fee being debated and agreed at Council Meeting in advance of the Finance meeting in April, when it was appropriate for a decision to be taken and when more information would be available.

Mike Truran explained that the Board was looking for agreement of the strategy, budget and fee levels as a package, with an indication from Council members that they would be minded to approve the fee changes at the Finance meeting in April 2019. Robert clarified that while it was for the Finance Council to make decisions on the membership fee it was proper for another meeting to express a view which could then be taken into account.

Nick Faulks expressed concern that the Strategy Statement had only been made available two weeks ago and he felt there had been insufficient time for a proper consultation with his members.

Mike Truran recognised the concern but highlighted the need for change and taking action given the concern over the membership demographics and the low level of take-up for women's chess. He explained that the ECF was not a poor federation given trust fund assets, reserves and income level, but a significant proportion of trust fund assets were hypothecated to junior chess in particular and so there was a need for a debate on how funds should be raised for non-junior activities and at what level.

Ben Edgell (*Gold Members' Representative, Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Bristol and District League and Torbay League*) said that he was not against the ECF spending more, but felt that some areas of spend needed further consideration.

Hok Chiu expressed a concern over the membership fee increases presenting a barrier for students and poorer chess players and noted that there was competition from various internet resources where it was possible to play without being charged.

Malcolm Pein pointed out that chess.com fees were higher than ECF membership fee for registered members, and Julian Clissold expressed the view that a key response in this area should be a vibrant programme of activities to target younger players as part of the ECF's development strategy.

A vote was taken to accept the Strategy Statement, with a large majority in favour of the strategy and five Council members voting against.

11 Elections and Appointments

Election Addresses and Questions

Tim Wall joined the meeting at this point, which enabled discussion of the elections and appointments agenda item.

(a) President Dominic Lawson standing for re-election:

Malcolm pointed out that Dominic had been a very active and successful President including discussions with the Minister of Culture, Media and Sport on various matters.

(b) Chief Executive Mike Truran standing for re-election:

Mike did not make a statement and there were no questions for him.

(c) Director of Junior Chess Alex Holowczak nominated by Traci Whitfield:

Alex was standing down as Director of Home Chess and had been nominated as Director of Junior chess by Traci Whitfield, who was standing down from her position as Director of Junior Chess.

Alex did not make a statement to Council.

Ben Edgell asked for Alex's thoughts on getting more volunteers involved in organising chess activities and increasing BAME participation levels in chess.

Alex said that this was an area he would look at, recognising that in his experience BAME participation varied by region and noting the high level of junior players of Asian heritage in the Birmingham and Midlands area.

John Reyes asked if Alex would build on Traci Whitfield's good work with junior chess and the Academy and Alex said that he would indeed do this and would also look to improve ECF links with the various junior organisations including J4NCL, UKCC, CSC, EPSCA, and NYCA.

David Gilbert asked how Alex would promote support for less affluent families wishing to participate in the Academy including the potential for using some of the hypothecated funds held within the trusts for the advancement of junior chess.

David Eustace pointed out that the Chess Trust and John Robinson Youth Trust already support Academy participation and junior chess including the Accelerator Program.

Paul Cooksey (Berkshire) asked whether Alex would be looking for an increase in the budget to support junior membership and participation.

Alex said that he was not yet sure what budget he would be asking for if elected, but would certainly be looking for support from the trust funds for junior activities as part of his development plan.

(d) Director of Women's Chess Chris Fegan standing for re-election:

Chris referred Council members to his election statement and noted that his main KPI was to increase participation in women's chess and that participation in the English Women's Championships had in fact tripled in 2018 compared with the previous year, including more juniors under 18 participating in the championship than the full number of attendees in the previous year.

Ben Edgell asked about specific plans to increase BAME participation in women's chess.

Chris explained that there was £5k in the budget increase proposal to increase participation levels across the board and that it was important to make venues for chess events more attractive and convenient to all. He felt that more one-day and afternoon events would be important in increasing participation.

David Sedgwick asked whether Chris intended to serve the full three years if a female candidate could be found to take on the role.

Chris said that there was no doubt that this role should in principle be carried out by a woman. He said that he could not comment on the appointment process as that was for others, but the ECF had so far struggled to find a woman candidate with the appropriate skill sets and the time and willingness to do the job despite advertising and concentrated efforts.

Chris explained that he would be happy to review the situation if this changed and a suitably qualified female candidate was identified who was willing to take on the role.

Michael Farthing asked whether there could be more spending on women's chess targeted at the non-elite level.

Chris replied that the money spent during the current year on the English Women's Championships had attracted more lower rated players and he would look to continue this.

John Reyes pointed out that there had been 30 women playing at the English Women's championship and asked how Chris would look to increase participation to the 60 to 100 level.

Chris Cook (*Hertfordshire*) asked whether the ECF could look at centres of excellence as with North London Collegiate

School to target an increase in female chess players.

Chris Fegan said he would look at this and that it would be key to have all parts of the chess playing community pulling together to promote a resurgence in women's chess.

(e) Director of Home Chess – contested election:

There were two candidates for this position:

- Adrian Elwin nominated by Julian Clissold, David Eustace, Francis Bowers, Stewart Reuben, Norfolk County Chess Association, Leyland Chess League and Bury Area Chess League;
- Tim Wall nominated by Malcolm Pein.

Adrian presented to Council first and referring to his election address he stressed key points as follows:

He has been a chess player for 40 years and is involved in organising and arbiting at the British Chess Championships. He is also Bedfordshire chairman and chief arbiter at EACU.

He saw key areas of focus as follows:

- Arbiters – Adrian would look to promote level 2 arbiter development and an arbiters

- database. He also felt that British Championships arbiters norms needed to be reviewed;
- County Championships – Adrian would look to build on Alex's work in this area in consultation with county representatives;
 - Vacancies – He felt there were a number of vacant posts which needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency – eg the Manager for Disabled Chess vacancy;
 - Internet – He would look to appoint an Internet Manager and felt that the ECF website should be developed to provide more resources and information for event organisers.

David Gilbert (asked a question about ECF grading vs FIDE rating for relevant British Chess Championship events. Adrian said that he would review whether it might be more appropriate to introduce dual ECF grading/FIDE rating thresholds in certain cases.

Julie Denning asked whether Adrian had consulted with Platinum members in advance of the meeting in his role as Platinum members representative as she had not heard from him. Adrian recognised that he had not consulted widely and explained that he had felt that this had not been appropriate for this meeting since he was standing for a contested election. If elected, he would stand down as a Members' Representative as he saw there would be a conflict.

Tim Wall presented next and said that he felt one of the biggest challenges for the Home Chess Director role was retaining junior players as they moved into adulthood, citing his own family's experience in this area. He felt that there was a need to make chess clubs 'cool' and more attractive to young people and saw social chess as key to the future of English chess. He referred to the English chess explosion in the 1970s following the Fischer-Spassky match and said that his challenge would be to recreate this using the London World Championship as a starting point.

His priority areas would be:

- Pursuing new forms of chess playing - eg online events - which he felt could become just as important as current formats;
- Building on the publicity and momentum generated from the London World Championship;
- Developing a fan culture and English player/ team following along the lines of football and other sports.

John Reyes asked how Tim would go about getting more sponsorship into chess.

Tim and Malcolm answered that this could be done by identifying potential sponsors and asking for help. Prospective sponsors were generally receptive to the idea of supporting chess and often just needed to be approached for support.

Mark Murrell (*Southern Counties Chess Union and Essex*) asked whether Tim would look to support clubs with their premises and to give some examples of innovative ideas to develop club and social chess.

Tim said he would be looking to support clubs in various ways and gave examples of potential activities including sponsored simul, coaching events and raffles. He would also look to restart the National Clubs Championship as an online event with club members taking part at their respective clubs via the internet. He also felt that chess clubs could look to work with libraries and/or schools to support coaching and playing in a safe and friendly environment.

(f) Chairman of Council Mike Gunn:

Mike indicated that he would be standing for re-election as chair. There were no questions for Mike.

(g) FIDE Delegate Malcolm Pein:

Malcolm indicated that he would be standing for re-election as FIDE delegate.

Malcolm reported that the financial health of FIDE was now much improved, but that there was some discomfort within FIDE over the level of fees being charged.

Malcolm also gave details of the recent FIDE campaign where he had stood for the Deputy President position on Georgios Makropoulos' ticket as President. The opposing candidates for president were the Russian Arkady Dvorkovich standing on a ticket with Bachar Kouatly, and GM Nigel Short standing on a ticket with Lukasz Marek Turlej.

Francis Bowers (*Platinum Members' Representative and Lincolnshire*) asked how the ECF Board would look to mend fences with Nigel given they had not supported his candidacy.

John Reyes asked how Malcolm would look to promote the upcoming London World Championships.

Malcolm explained that he felt the new FIDE Board would be competent and he had been in touch with the winning candidate to discuss working together and how FIDE could support the London World Championship which had the potential for reinvigorating English chess.

(h) Chairman of Governance Committee Robert Stern standing for re-election:

Robert indicated that he was seeking re-election.

David Sedgwick said that with respect to this year's Junior Director election process he would like to see a procedural change in future to check whether directors were standing down before announcing nominations. Robert agreed that in future incumbent directors would be asked whether they were standing for re-election before nominations were sought and announced.

(i) Member of Finance Committee Ian Reynolds standing for re-election:

Ian had no election address and was not present.

(j) Auditor:

The reappointment of Goatcher Chandler Audit Ltd was proposed to Council.

Roger Emerson asked how long Goatcher Chandler had been auditors and whether it might be advisable to rotate the audit. David Eustace advised that Goatcher Chandler had been auditors to the ECF for about ten years. There was no requirement to rotate the audit to another firm and no immediate plans to do this, but he would be happy to look at this in due course.

A card vote was taken for all of the above elections.

The meeting broke at this point (around 15:45) for refreshments and to allow time for the BCF Council meeting to be held and for votes to be counted during the break.

The meeting reconvened at 16:35.

Results of the elections were announced when these were available from the tellers.

All incumbent officers standing for their existing posts were re-elected including: President (Dominic Lawson); Chief Executive (Mike Truran); Director of Women's Chess (Chris Fegan); Chairman of Council (Mike Gunn); FIDE Representative (Malcolm Pein); Chairman of the Governance Committee (Robert Stern); and member of the Finance Committee (Ian Reynolds).

Alex Holowczak was elected as Director of Junior Chess, replacing Traci Whitfield who is standing down from this post. Adrian Elwin was elected as Director of Home Chess in a contested election between Adrian and Tim Wall. Adrian will replace Alex who is standing down as Director of Home Chess. Tim congratulated Adrian on his appointment.

It was agreed to retain Goatcher Chandler as the ECF's Auditors.

The votes cast in the voting papers were as follows:

Post	For	Against
President (Dominic Lawson)	277	2 (NTC)
Chief Executive (Mike Truran)	286	0 (NTC)
Director of Junior Chess (Alex Holowczak)	281	6 (NTC)
Director of Women's Chess (Chris Fegan)	279	1 (NTC)
Director of Home Chess		
Adrian Elwin	146	
Tim Wall	134	
None of the Above	5	
Chairman of Council (Mike Gunn)	272	5 (NTC)
FIDE Representative (Malcolm Pein)	240	7 (NTC)
Chairman of Governance Committee (Robert Stern)	276	1 (NTC)
Member of the Finance Committee (Ian Reynolds)	261	1 (NTC)
Goatcher Chandler Auditors	267	1 (NTC)

12 To Approve the Dates of the Finance Council and AGM: 27 April 2019 in Birmingham and 12 October 2019 in London, respectively.

The dates were noted and approved.

13 Finance/ Budget Changes (David Eustace)

To approve an increase in the 2018/2019 budget

David had prepared a paper entitled Challenges for English Chess with proposed budget changes. He covered key points from the paper as follows.

There were various focus areas for the financial plan and budget including:

- Demographics – David noted that 54% of ECF members were over 55 and 42% over 60 and that the ECF's ageing demographic needed to be taken into account within the planning and budgeting process;
- Women's chess – The ECF needed to continue to encourage more participation from women;
- Role models – The ECF needed to make sure that we can field teams for international teams as role models for the game in the UK;
- Admin – There were 2.5 FTEs in the office which was felt to be understaffed and potentially underpaid for the workload involved, particularly since the Office had been taking on more tasks previously fulfilled by volunteers;
- Development Manager – There was a need for a Development Manager to be funded with support from the Trust Fund to grow participation in chess and to develop the ECF membership.

The budget included spending of an extra £44.5k per year, with areas of increased spending as follows:

- £5k for the development manager role to support growth in participation and the membership base;
- £10k for women's chess (including £5k for tournament chess and £5k for social support of clubs and other organisations);
- £17.5k for international including funding for teams;
- £12k for office and admin costs.

This increase was to be funded based on £26k per year from ECF membership fees and £18.5k per year from Chess trusts.

It was noted that the Chess Trust trustees were willing to spend a limited amount of capital as well as income in certain circumstances.

The membership fee increase was due to start in 2019/2020 with half the rate increase coming into effect then, and the remainder applied in the following year.

The budgeting spreadsheet provided further details of the proposed budget changes.

Questions and Answers

Paul Cooksey asked David whether the proposal was out of line with the strategy, which stated that membership income would be used for operational expenses and capital/ trust income for growth.

David replied that the documents were not inconsistent and that funding of growth initiatives from membership fees would be a short/medium term measure to support a step change in English chess participation.

14 Membership Rates (David Eustace) - To consider proposals for revised membership fees for 2019/20 and onwards.

David asked for questions on the revised membership fees.

John Reyes asked why there was such a big membership fee increase particularly for Silver Members and whether this might affect membership levels. It was noted that Bronze membership would change from £16 to £20 and Silver from £23 to £27 over two years.

There was some discussion of the level of increase and David Gilbert noted that an increase amounting to around 4p per week did not seem excessive.

Paul Sharratt (*Worcester and District League and Dudley & District League*) asked if the women's chess aspirations could be crystallised into actual plans.

Chris Fegan replied that he had a number of plans including:

- £10k spend to support women's tournaments;
- £5k to support local club initiatives to develop women's chess;
- Support for chess in libraries in consultation with local authorities.

Paul Sharratt said that he felt the Development Manager paper had been provided very late and lacked a job description. He also questioned whether a £5k salary would attract the right candidate.

Chris Cook questioned how the Development Manager would be funded as a role going forward.

John Wickham said that the main concern was the size of increase, particularly for Bronze members, and asked whether the increase could be reduced or profiled differently across the membership levels. He also noted that the pay to play fee was going up from £7.50 to £10 over two years and asked whether the increases might discourage new entrants to chess.

15 Discussions relating to the Composite Finance Motion

Mike Gunn tabled a composite finance motion including:

1. Changes to the ECF budget
2. Changes to the membership fees
3. Request for a payment from the Chess Trust/ PIF

Various Council members asked for a vote on an amendment to remove item 2 (membership fee increase) from the motion on the basis that the membership fee discussion should be moved to the April Finance Meeting when a decision could be taken, with immediate spend coming from reserves.

A vote followed on this amendment with those in favour of removal of item (ii) being 19 and those against 24. A card vote was requested, with the results being 123 votes for removal and 165 votes against. It was therefore agreed that the original three part composite motion should be voted on as tabled by Mike.

16. Finance Report/ Chess Trust

While Council was waiting for the decision on the composite motion to be voted on, David gave a detailed explanation of the various trust arrangements including the John Robinson Chess Trust, PIF-1, and PIF-2, as covered in the Finance Report.

The Chess Trust had been set up in 2015 as a charitable trust with a maximum of 12 trustees with assets based on a bequest from Richard Haddrell. The trust has had three meetings this year to date with a fourth scheduled for November. The trust has a wide range of chess-related charitable activities which it was allowed to support and two hypothecated funds – a junior fund and a British Chess Championships fund.

The Chess Trust has set aside in the order of £40k per year to support the Accelerator programme for juniors and PIF-2 is expected to provide £5k per year to support the British Chess Championships.

David said that Stephen Greep was proposed as an ECF-nominated trustee to the Chess Trust; Mike Truran noted that this would give a 3:3 ratio of ECF- appointed trustees and independent trustees.

Stephen Greep's appointment was agreed nem con by Council.

17 Vote on the Composite Finance Motion

Given the result of the vote as detailed in item 15, Mike Gunn indicated that the original motion would therefore be voted on without amendment, as follows:

1. Revise the ECF budget to include the items from the Challenges for the ECF paper with an additional £26.5k of expenditure added to the current expenditure from 2018/19.
2. Make changes to membership fees as follows:

Membership Level	2019/20	2020/21
Platinum	£75	£80
Gold	£39	£41
Silver	£27	£30
Bronze	£18	£20
Junior	£6	£6

3. Make a request to the Chess Trust/PIF to fund the balance of the proposal by £18.5k per annum.

Angus French expressed concern over the size of international chess expenditure and the extent to which this was being funded by members rather than through sponsorship and other sources.

David Gilbert asked what clubs got back from international chess. David Thomas said that international chess generated publicity which was likely to increase participation at all levels.

Angus French asked for consideration to be given to capping ECF expenditure on international chess at £30k per annum. Mike Gunn said that this should be deferred for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

A vote was taken on the motion by show of hands with 23 for and 13 against. Five Council members requested a card vote, which was duly carried out.

The result of the card vote was:

- For the motion: 160
- Against: 103
- Abstentions: 1

The motion was therefore carried, noting that approval for the membership fee increase was indicative only, and was subject to a final decision at the Finance Meeting in April.

18 Yearbook - To note the decision to replace the old-style printed yearbook with a combination of an online resource and a newer, slimmer, full-colour yearbook to consist of the 'articles and events' section (middle third) of the old version.

Mike Truran presented the yearbook proposal, summarising the changes as being that the yearbook would focus on news and events and the website would focus on general information such as contact details for clubs, leagues and associations.

David Sedgwick objected to the proposal on the basis that information which had previously been available in yearbook archives might be lost as this was unlikely to be retained permanently in website archives. David also asked that that the Board look more closely at volunteers to move some of the workload from the office to volunteer positions.

Mike Truran replied that David's concern was a very valid one, and that care would be taken to ensure that archiving on the website would be robust and for the long term.

The proposal to note the yearbook change was noted by a large majority, with six Council members indicating their disagreement by not noting the proposal.

19 Any Other Business

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 18-10.