

**Minutes of the 134th Board Meeting of the English Chess Federation
27th November, 2019
11.30a.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Jurys Inn, 245 Broad St, Birmingham B1 2HQ**

Members:

President, Dominic Lawson	Apologies	DL
Chief Executive, Mike Truran		MT
Director of Finance, David Eustace		DE
Director of Junior Chess, Alex Holowczak		AH
Director of International Chess, Malcolm Pein		MP
Director of Home Chess, Adrian Elwin		AE
Director of Membership, David Thomas		DT
Non-executive Chairman, Julian Clissold		JC
Non-executive Director, Julie Denning		JD
Non-Executive Director, Stephen Woodhouse		SW
Director of Women's Chess, Chris Fegan		CF

Invited: Observers and Guests

Chairman, Finance Committee, Nick Faulks	Apologies	NF
Chairman, Governance Committee, Robert Stern		RS
Meetings Secretary, Nigel Towers		NT

1. **Apologies for Absence** - Absences were noted as above.

2. **Appointments**

JC was appointed as Chair. SW advised that he might need to leave early at which point he wished MT to act as alternate.

3. **Approvals**

The agenda was agreed and the minutes of the 133rd Board meeting were approved.

4. **Process for Appointment of Chair of Council**

RS confirmed that as advised at the November AGM, there will be an extra-constitutional email vote of Council for the appointment of Council Chair, with the Board making an appointment in accordance with the result of such vote. Procedurally, the election will be carried out, mutatis



mutandis, as if it were an election carried out at an AGM in accordance with the Procedural Bye Laws. The following points were discussed and agreed in relation to the election process:

- The election will be carried out as for other ECF elections but with an email vote
- The secretary to the board will be responsible for overseeing the election process and declaring the outcome
- Nominations will be requested on the ECF site by end of November/ early December, with a closing date of 17th January. Nominations will need to be supported by an appropriate number of requisitionists as for adding items to a Council Agenda.
- Intended dates for nominations and voting are then as follows:
- Nominations will be published on the ECF site by 24th January 2020.
- Email votes will be accepted up to 14th February 2020.
- The board will make an appointment at the board meeting on 18th February 2020 based on the results of the ballot.

5. **Item 5 Redacted**

6. **Annual Review of Officer Appointments (RS)**

The Officer Appointments Spreadsheet was reviewed with updates and actions agreed as follows:

- Finance Council - Nick Faulks replaces Tim Herring as chair
- Platinum Member Reps - John Wickham takes on the vacant Platinum Member position
- Gold Member Reps - Rob Willmoth and Lorin d'Costa take on the two Gold Member positions
- Bronze Member Reps – Charles Higgle takes on one of the Bronze Member Positions
- Data Controller – SW to look at what posts are required in relation to data management and whether Gary Willson should stand down from this post.
- ICT Manager – Action agreed for DT to consider the requirement for an ICT manager
- Arbiters Manager – AE advised that Tom Thorpe has stood down and he (AE) was seeking a replacement for Tom
- Finance/ TaxConsultant – Noted that Chris Mattos has resigned from this post
- Chess Academy Head – To be confirmed by AH
- Social Media Manager to be added - NT
- Senior Selection Committee to be confirmed – MP
- Awards Committee Chair – This position now needs to be filled

Remainder of this item redacted.



7. ECF and Bridge Overseas (CF)

This item was deferred to a later meeting due to time constraints. CF indicated that he had raised this matter due to concerns that he had heard from Senior team players.

8. Matters Arising and review of Action Point Spreadsheet (JC/ NT)

This item was deferred to a later meeting due to time constraints.

9. Junior Selection Policy including Bursary Fund (AH)

AH has provided a junior selection policy report in advance of the meeting. He noted that the ECF would make a decision on whether or not to send children to the World Schools when the date and venue is announced. The ECF is also recommending that children interested in a “Schools” level event might instead attend the European Schools Championship.

MP raised concerns over the quality of hotels in some of the venues particularly Rumania and recommended that the ECF should continue to review the suitability of venues and vote with our feet when making decisions on whether to attend events.

The Junior Selection Policy was agreed nem con.

AH presented his plans for establishing a committee comprising MT, DE and John Higgs to disburse Bursary funds and this was approved nem con.

MP advised that he had considered the Academy report and believed that this year's Junior Academy had gone very well.

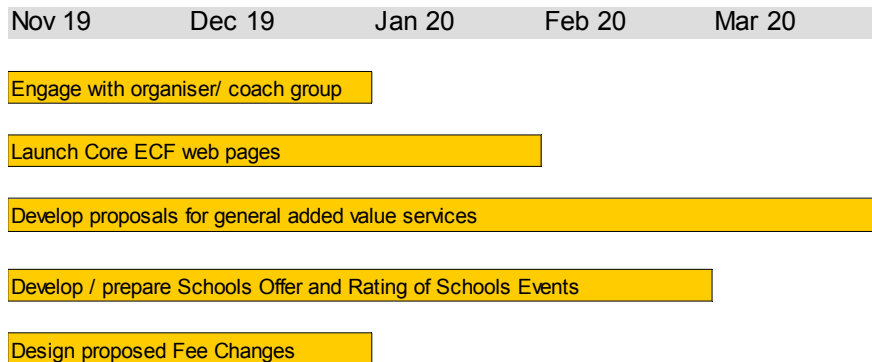
AH presented his proposal to reinstate a Qualified Coach Scheme. This was agreed with changes to replace the rating band levels with publication of coach's ratings, and further amendments to be agreed following review with RW. JC also asked that points should be awarded for teaching qualifications and experience.

10. Junior Organiser Engagement Plan (NT)

NT presented an implementation plan to increase the level of engagement with junior organisers which he had prepared jointly with RW and had agreed with MT and AH. This was a follow on action from RW's presentation at board meeting number 132.

Key activities in the plan and timescales are shown below:





The plan was agreed subject to further work on the game fee cost model and agreement on a pilot group for an initial rollout.

11. Directors' Reports

The chair was taken by JD in the absence of JC.

i. Director of Home Chess

AE reported that the UK Open Blitz Championships had been held earlier in November with Justin Tan and Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant winning the two events. There was general agreement that the Qualifiers and Final had been very successful.

AE advised that Tom Thorpe had resigned as manager of arbiters and the new manager would be confirmed at the next board meeting. He also noted that he was currently looking for a venue for the County Championships.

ii. Director of Membership

DT explained that since the last board he had met with Brian Valentine and representatives from the WECU who had put forward a programmer to help develop the monthly grading system jointly with the ECF. There had been limited progress in progressing use of the open source system and a decision had been taken to develop the new system from scratch. The



objective is to get a first iteration of the system based on the underlying database in 5-10 days at an initial cost of £10k. MT expressed concern over delays to the project and asked that DE and NT should become involved from a financial and implementation perspective and that a costed implementation proposal should be brought back to the board for consideration as a matter of urgency.

iii. Director of Women's Chess

CF provided details of the upcoming Chess and Female Empowerment Conference at the London Chess Classic. This was a major conference being run jointly with the ECF, FIDE, and CSC. Keynote speakers include Judit Polgar, Jovanka Houska and many others. The event has been publicised on Women's Hour, Radio 5 live and the BBC. CF explained that he intends to table the ECF Women's Chess Consultation document for discussion at the conference. An updated version of the document will then be tabled for approval at a subsequent board meeting.

iv. Finance Director

DE stated that he intended to distribute the accounts for 2018/2019 and YTD for 2019/2020 to board members for comments including null responses if appropriate. DE pointed out that he is planning to retire from ECF duties in October 2020. DT also made the point that he too was standing down in October 2020. The board noted that the two directors were planning to stand down next year and that successors would need to be identified.

v. Director of Junior Chess

AH had submitted a detailed report in advance of the meeting which was noted. CF asked about the new Academy operator contractor and AH indicated that the ECF would be going to tender for next years contract to be awarded in April 2020.

vi. International Director

There was no report from International as Malcolm had left at this point in the meeting.

Remainder of this item redacted.



12. AOB

- Records of Disabled Chess Players – MP had requested that the new joiners form should contain an optional field for members to provide a record of disabilities.
- Awards – A proposal had been made that a new awards category should be created to recognise exceptional lifetime services to English Chess and it was agreed that this would be brought back for consideration at the next board meeting.

The date and time of next Board Meeting was noted as 11-30 on Friday 13th December 2019 in London.

There being no other business the board meeting closed at 17-01.

