

SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION

FOUNDED 1892

ECF Finance Council Meeting – Saturday 24th April 2021

**Proposed Amendment to the Motion under Agenda Item 14
(ECF County Championship Team Rating Limits)**

Submitted by the Southern Counties Chess Union

In the “New Rating Limit” Column, replace “U2000”, “U1800”, “U1600”, and “U1400” by “U2050”, “U1850”, “U1650”, and “U1450” respectively.

Rationale

With there being a degree of uncertainty about the level of interest that there will be when OTB County Chess resumes after the pandemic, we support the proposal to reduce the number of Divisions by one.

Superficially, reducing the upper rating limit for the lowest Division from 1450 to 1400 would be a realistic option, as 23% of players would still be eligible.

However, this does not take account of the fact that lower rated players tend to be less active. Prior to the pandemic, many counties were struggling to raise U100 teams and the current proposal will only exacerbate this.

On the other hand, increasing all the rating bands by 100 points would leave only 10% of players above the highest band. We feel that this is too great an overlap between the Open Division and a potential U2100 Division.

Hence we propose an increase of 50 points for all the bands as a middle way.

Moreover, this proposal has the advantage of not altering the pools of players eligible for the highest rating limited Division and for the lowest rating limited Division (on the assumption that players’ ratings have not changed). In effect, three 16 Board Divisions and one 12 Board Division will have been condensed into three 16 Board Divisions.

We commend our amendment to Council.

David Sedgwick
On behalf of the Southern Counties Chess Union
22nd April 2021