



**The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the English Chess Federation
held on Saturday 16 October 2021 at 1.30 pm at the Hellenic Centre,
Paddington Street, London and via Zoom**

Attendees

Adam Ashton
Shohreh Bayat
Julian Clissold
Nigel Colter
Chris Cook
Paul Cooksey
Neill Cooper
Lorin D'Costa
Nigel Dennis

Gareth Ellis
Adrian Elwin
David Eustace
Peter Farr
Michael Farthing
Nick Faulks
Chris Fegan
David Gilbert
Stephen Greep
Mike Gunn
Alex Holowczak
Christopher Holt
Robin Kneebone
Alan Leary
Alex Longson
Arnold Lutton
John Lyth

Representing:

Director of Finance
Director of Events
Bolton Easter Congress, Ribble Congresses, Non-Executive Chairman
Hillingdon & District League
Hertfordshire Chess Association
Berkshire Chess Association
Briant Poulter Chess League
ECF Gold Members Representative
Chiltern Cup Counties League, Thames Valley League, Berks & Bucks
Congress, Maidenhead Juniors, British Chess Problem Society, English
Primary Schools Chess Association, National Youth Chess Association
Lancashire Chess Association, Merseyside Chess Association
ECF Platinum Members Representative
ECF Platinum Members Representative
Sussex County Chess Association, Mid-Sussex League, Crowborough
Rapidplay
Chairman
Bronowski Trophy, Croydon & District Chess League, Chairman of the
Finance Committee
North Essex Chess League, Chess in Schools and Communities, Director of
Women's Chess, The Past Chief Executive
Kent County Chess Association, London Public Service League
Hull & District Chess Association
Surrey/Hampshire Border League, The Past Chairman of Council
British Universities Chess Association, Director of Junior Chess and
Education
Lincolnshire Chess Association
Cornwall County Chess Association
Herefordshire Chess Association
Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge
London Junior Chess Championships
Lancaster Morecambe & District League

Steve Mann	Yorkshire Chess Association, Leeds Chess Association, Doncaster Chess Congress
Alex McFarlane	Northumberland Chess Association, Caplin Hastings International Congress, Scarborough Chess Congress
Aga Milewska	Richmond Junior Chess Club, ECF Bronze Members Representative
Paul Mottram	Leicestershire & Rutland Chess Association
Mark Murrell	Southern Counties Chess Union, Essex Chess Association
Malcolm Peacock	Blackpool & Fylde League, Preston Chess Congress
Malcolm Pein	Director of International Chess
Natasha Regan	Non-Executive Director
Stewart Reuben	ECF Life Members Representative
John Reyes	Manchester Chess Federation, Midland Counties Chess Union, Cheshire & North Wales Chess Association, Dorset County Chess Association, Bournemouth & District League, South East Lancashire League, Stockport & District Chess League, Stockport Rapidplay League, Torbay Chess League, Warrington & District League, Stockport Rapidplay Chess Congress, ECF Silver Members Representative
Mark Rivlin	London Chess League
Paul Sharratt	Staffordshire Chess Association, Worcestershire Chess Association, Cannock & District Chess League, Dudley & District League, North Staffordshire & District Chess Association, Wolverhampton & District Chess League, Worcester & District Chess League
Paul Shepherd	Surrey County Chess Association, Surrey Congress Ltd
Michael Siddle	Darlington & District Chess League
Chris Skulte	ECF Bronze Members Representative
Philip Staniland	North Circular League
Robert Stern	Central London League, Pimlico Summer Tournament, Chairman of the Governance Committee
Nigel Towers	Somerset Chess Association, Warwickshire Chess Association, Director of Home Chess
Mike Truran	Oxfordshire Chess Association, 4 Nations Chess League, Kidlington Chess Congress, Witney Congress, Witney Rapidplay, Chief Executive
Brian Valentine	Bedfordshire County Chess Association
Tim Walker	Nottinghamshire Chess Association
Tim Wall	Northern Counties Chess Union, Cleveland Chess Association, Cumbria Chess Association, Durham County Chess Association, Bradford and District Chess League, Bury and Rochdale League, Central Lancashire Chess League, North East League, South Tyne Chess League, Blackpool Congress, Heywood Chess Congress, Northumbria Chess Masters, Northumbria Junior Chess Association, South Lakes Congress, ECF Silver Members Representative
Gerry Walsh	ECF Life Members Representative
John Wickham	East Anglian Chess Union, Cambridgeshire Chess Association, Norfolk County Chess Association, Bury St Edmunds Congress

Rob Willmoth Middlesex County Chess Association, Wiltshire County Chess Association, City Chess Association, Barnet Knights, Chess Coaching Services, Coulsdon Chess Fellowship, Golders Green Congress, Hampstead Congress, King's Place Chess Festival, Director of Membership, ECF Gold Members Representative

Stephen Woodhouse Non-Executive Director, Trustee (for Ray Edwards)

1. Appointment of Chairman

The Chairman was present for the start of the meeting.

2. Observation of a Minutes Silence

For colleagues who have died since the past meeting.

3. Notices

Apologies for Absence:

Kevin Dalley of Derbyshire Chess Association

In Attendance with the Permission of the Chairman:

Andrew Walker	ECF office
Danny Rosenbaum	Secretary to the Board
John Swain	Observer, Considering taking a representative role in future
Satish Gaekwad	Observer, Preparing to take over an ECF Representative Role

The refusal of the Chairman to allow an established member of the chess community to attend as a press representative was queried. The chairman replied that the custom of the Council was that members of the press were not invited and that though he had no objection to this in principle, it would not be right to change this without the explicit approval of Council. The chairman offered to revisit the question in Any Other Business to consider whether formal changes should be considered.

Appointment of Tellers:

The Chairman brought forward the names of David Gilbert and Natasha Regan to be tellers and this was accepted by the meeting with no objections.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved *nem con* subject to a request from Tim Wall that his name be given in the minutes where he had made a contribution.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes and not Otherwise on the Agenda

Chris Fegan raised the fact that in Any Other Business he had called for the Board to reconsider Regulation 2 and for it to be reported back to this Council Meeting. Julian Clissold stated that this was covered in the Non-Executives Report.

6. Receiving and Approving of Reports

(a) The Board of Directors' Report:

The report was noted and approved

(b) Report from the Non Executive Directors:

Chris Fegan voiced criticism of the report, in particular its account of actions taken by the non-executives with regard to himself. There was particular criticism of the behaviour of the Non-executive Chairman of the Board with the charge that he had been seeking to remove Chris from the Board for two years. The Chairman of the Board, Julian Clissold, contested the charges and said he was prepared to publish details of the correspondence between them if Chris were agreeable.

A card vote was called for, which the Chairman directed would be held later in the meeting with other voting. When the card vote was taken the report was passed with a provisional result announced in the meeting as 260 in favour and 120 against, but because of some difficulties in the face-to-face meeting in submitting online votes a backup paper vote was available and this led to some (precautionary) duplicate voting. Revised final figures were published after the meeting with the result of 254 in favour and 82 against.

(c) Strategy Statement and Business Plan:

The plan was presented by Mike Truran, Chief Executive, and was approved on a hand vote with one vote against.

(d) Governance Report:

The report was presented by Robert Stern, Chair of Governance.

Chris Fegan, speaking on the report, invited the Chairman to leave the Chair for the item on the basis that as a member of the Governance Committee the Chairman had a conflict of interest. The Chairman said that he saw no conflict and the matter rested there.

Chris then made claims that the Governance Committee had acted improperly by putting him 'on trial'. Robert Stern asserted that the reality was very different and was happy that the correspondence of those involved could be published. In any case the committee was not responsible for discipline and had actually referred its concerns to the non-executive directors.

A card vote was called for and, as previously, was delayed until later in the meeting. The result was announced (provisionally) in the meeting as 254 in favour and 55 against and a definitive result of 251 in favour to 55 against was published after the meeting.

(e) Finance Committee:

Nick Faulks, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the report which was approved on a hand vote.

7 To receive and approve the Audited Accounts for the year 2019-2020.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

Adam Ashton commented that at present the ECF was doing better than expected. In response to a question from Malcolm Pein he said that currently we had a bank balance of about £30,000 in the bank but that this figure should not be treated as accurate as there was still significant expenditure expected.

8 Elections

At this point the deferred card votes were taken in conjunction with the election voting. Considerable difficulties were experienced in the face-to-face meeting to obtain connectivity for online voting and a backup paper method was used by many voters, some having already attempted to vote online but been cut off before receiving confirmation. It became apparent that considerable checks would be needed to coordinate the paper and online votes and to exclude (unavoidable) duplicate voting and it was announced that only some provisional results would be available.

Also at this point members were invited to vote to extend the meeting to 6.30pm and this was passed on a show of hands.

Results of Elections confirmed after the Meeting:

Uncontested Elections:

Office	Candidate	For	Not this candidate
President	Dominic Lawson	338	2
Chief Executive	Mike Truran	243	98
Director of Junior Chess	Alex Holowczak	283	61
Director of Women's Chess	Aga Milewska	323	16
Director of Events	Shohreh Bayat	343	0
Chairman of Council	Michael Farthing	312	32
FIDE Delegate	Malcolm Pein	337	6

Contested Election for Chair of the Governance Committee

Candidate	Votes
Chris Fegan	119
Robert Stern	225
None of the Above	0

9. Appointment of Auditor

The reappointment of Watson Associates was approved on a show of hands.

10-11. Resolutions from the Director of International Chess and the Director of Membership

These resolution were withdrawn by the proposers

12. Ordinary Resolution from the Directors of International Chess and Membership on Government Recognition of Chess.

Council notes the recent statement from Oliver Dowden MP regarding chess and instructs the Board to attempt to engage with government to secure recognition of the game as well as funding, with a view of developing the game in England.

Malcolm Pein spoke to the motion which was passed overwhelmingly on a show of hands.

At this point Malcolm requested that Council record their thanks and appreciation to Dominic Lawson and this too was passed overwhelmingly.

Note: difficulties with the hybrid nature of the meeting meant that total accuracy of hand votes was difficult to check, though no opposition to either of these votes was observed.

13. Awards

Stephen Greep drew attention to the information on the ECF website and the paper accompanying the agenda and invited questions and comments. There were no comments and the Awards were noted.

14 Time and Place of Future Meetings

Following usual custom dates and venues for the two regular Council meetings in 2022 were presented. Following some discussion about the likely viability of face to face meetings and also the need for a good venue for hybrid meetings it was agreed to remove the mention of Birmingham and London as venues, leaving this to be determined by the Chairman in consultation with the Board. The amended motion read:

Council resolves that in 2022 its Finance Meeting shall be held on 23 April 2022 and its Annual General Meeting shall be held on 15 October 2022 with the venue(s) to be determined by the Chair of Council, having consulted with the Board.

15 Any Other Business

The Chairman invited discussion on the question of observer attendance as raised at the beginning of the meeting.

Nick Faulks suggested that Council should be recorded (not just by Zoom, but fully) and this was supported by Chris Fegan who also suggested that it should be broadcast live. The Chairman said that if the feeling of the meeting was in support of this he would put a motion on the Agenda of the next Finance Meeting and if approved immediately instigate recording of the rest of that meeting

A straw poll was taken on this proposal, by show of hands, which suggested a strong vote in favour.

The meeting closed at 6.15pm.

DRAFT