



**Minutes of the 150th Board Meeting of the English Chess Federation
Friday 23rd September 2022
11.00 a.m. to 1.00p.m.**

Directors:

President, Dominic Lawson	APOL	DL
Chief Executive, Mike Truran		MT
Director of Finance, Adam Ashton	(V)	AA
Director of Women's Chess, Aga Milewska		AM
Director of Junior Chess, Alex Holowczak	(V)	AH
Director of International Chess, Malcolm Pein		MP
Director of Home Chess, Nigel Towers	APOL	NT
Director of Membership, Rob Willmoth	(V)	RW
Director of Events Shohreh Bayat	APOL	SB
Non-executive Chairman, Julian Clissold		JC
Non-executive Director, Natasha Regan	(V)	NR
Non-executive Director, Stephen Woodhouse	(V)	SW

Invited: Observers and Guests

Chairman, Governance Committee, Robert Stern		RS
Chairman, Finance Committee, Nick Faulks		NF
Chairman of Council Michael Farthing	(V)	MF

(V) Zoom.

1. Apologies for absence
As noted above.
2. Minutes of 149th Board Meeting and Outstanding Actions (JC)
Agreed.
3. Noting of Email Resolutions Approving: (JC)
 - 3.1. Updating the Bids Regulations
 - 3.2. Adopting the Junior Pathway Proposal
4. Finance and Membership Reports (AA & RW)
 - AA said that the three reports that he had presented (overall, British Chess Championships and Olympiad) were still provisional, and that there remained some adjustments to be made before the year end accounts could be finalised. In reply to a question from MP AA confirmed that the current bank balance stood at around £200k.
 - AA said that the British Chess Championships had made a loss. It was agreed that the budgeting process for future years should be reviewed to recognise that the British Chess Championships were the premier event organised by the ECF and should be costed on the basis of the event that we would like to run.
 - AA noted that planned IT expenditure had not yet been incurred. MT suggested that there might be some benefit in the ECF and the 4NCL collaborating over IT solutions as both organisations suffered from key person dependencies that needed to be addressed.



5. ECF AGM arrangements

MF briefed the Board on AGM preparations and confirmed that he was happy with both venue and voting register arrangements.

6. Membership Fees during Covid

It was agreed that organisations that had not played sufficient games to have their membership fees waived because of Covid should have those fees waived for the year ended June 2022. AA agreed to notify the Office.

7. ECF Strategy Statement and Business Plan

MT noted that these had been circulated and agreed by email, and that they had been sent to MF for the AGM.. The Board confirmed their approval of both documents.

8. Director of Home Chess Report

The Board noted the report.

9. All-Play-All Event FIDE Fees

It was agreed that the current informal arrangement waiving FIDE fees for non-ENG players in all-play-all events should be formalised.

10. Membership Applications

Membership applications from the three organisations below were all accepted:

10.1 Ilkley Chess Centre

10.2 Watford Junior Chess

10.3 EJCOA

11. ECF Junior Membership Fees for FIDE Rated Events

The Board discussed arrangements for ECF membership fees for juniors. Concern had been expressed by RW that the requirement for Gold membership discouraged some of our strongest juniors from competing in FIDE events and that this distorted their FIDE ratings, resulting in them being excluded from invitations to play in FIDE events, restricting their scope for obtaining norms, and developing their international chess careers.

It was recognised that this was a problem resulting from the overall structure of the ECF membership scheme, which disincentives adult members as well as juniors from playing in congresses (if Bronze members) and FIDE rated congresses (if Silver members).

It was also recognised that although there was an immediate issue to be addressed for juniors it would not be right to make a formal change to existing membership scheme arrangements, and that the more fundamental issue to be addressed was whether the membership scheme itself was designed in such a way as to encourage local league players to play in congresses, and to encourage players in ECF rated congresses to play in FIDE rated congresses..

Commented [SW1]: May I check who is going to write to the organisations to notify them of this?

Commented [MT2R1]: Done.

Accordingly, two resolutions were passed (the first unanimously, and the second through a majority decision):

- (i) MT should lead a review of the structure and operation of the ECF membership scheme. It is likely that this would result in a consultation process, with any substantive changes needing to be discussed with and approved by Council.
- (ii) The Board would consider applications from organisers of junior FIDE rated events requesting Junior Silver rather than Junior Gold membership as the requirement for their events.

12. AOB

NCSS : JC reported on his attendance at the AGM of the NCCS (National Council for Competitive School Sports)

Next meeting date to be advised after elections for a new Chair.