

**Minutes of the 151st Board Meeting of the English Chess Federation
Wednesday 7 December 2022 by Zoom
7pm – 8.30pm**

Directors:

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

Invited: Observers and Guests

Chairman, Governance Committee, Robert Stern		RS
Chairman, Finance Committee, Nick Faulks	APOL	NF

Apologies, Minutes and Conflicts

1. Apologies for absence
As noted above.
2. Minutes of 150th Board Meeting and Outstanding Actions (SVW)
Agreed.
3. Conflicts declaration (SVW)
No conflicts had been identified.

Directors Reports

4. Finance (AA)
The Board discussed the finance report. AA confirmed that he could supply breakdowns for individual events as requested. It was also agreed that consolidated forecasts would be circulated in future and that 'other income' would be reallocated to individual directorates both on the year to date and forecast reports.
AA noted that budget overruns would be discussed at the finance meeting in April. The overall financial position of ECF was satisfactory and membership income was strong.



AA also noted that, as had previously been discussed by the Board, the British Championships would make a loss and that this should be taken account of in the budget.

**Action: AA to send a consolidated ECF forecast to MT
AA to reallocate other income to individual directorates**

5. Home Chess (NT)
- NT reported that the UK Blitz had been a success. It was noted that the English champion qualified for a place at the FIDE World Blitz championships, although this was so soon after the UK Blitz that attendance might be impractical. It was agreed that it would be useful to explore holding an English Blitz somewhat earlier in the year in 2023 to facilitate entries to the FIDE championships. This would need to fit around the existing calendar of the English Womens/Seniors at the end of May, the British Championships at the end of July, and the UK Blitz which began in September. He suggested an event planning session be held before the end of the year. The venue for the British Championships for 2023 had been narrowed down to either Llandudno or DMU Leicester. Hull and Liverpool were both keen to host the event in 2024 and could both offer support from the respective local councils.

Action: NT to arrange an event planning session.

6. Events (SB)
- SB informed the Board that preparations were going well for the Cambridge International event to be held in March. There were already 5 GMs from England attending and invitations were being extended to several GMs from overseas to generate norms. Michael Adams had already confirmed his attendance. Capacity was 120 places.

7. Membership (RW)
- RW said that membership numbers were looking excellent for the current year and should exceed those for the previous year. Numbers were increasing by about 100 per week and were up about 20% on the previous year. AA confirmed that membership income was also very healthy. The Board noted that weekend congresses were seeing a high level of take up and that this might be a good time to remind lapsed members to renew. MT was still waiting for more feedback on the membership paper he had circulated. He saw a drawn out process for any changes which would start with proposals being offered to the Council in April 2023. Feedback would then be used to refine those proposals which would then be passed back to Council in October, with the aim to reach agreement the following April. He indicated that a more structured debate would be useful at the February Board meeting.

The Board felt that the increase in membership numbers reflected that what the ECF offered was believed to be of value.

It was noted that free student membership would be launched shortly.

Action: Board members to provide input to MT on his membership report.

8. Women's Chess

There was no report as Aga was unable to attend the meeting.

9. Junior Chess

(AH)

AH reported that English juniors had secured a further medal at the junior commonwealth events. There had been 24 youth events in the past year.

A survey had been sent to top juniors to find what extra help they needed, and MP had written to JRYT asking for help in line with these requests.

There would some meetings held regarding the accelerator programme and there were likely to be some changes in membership of the programme.

10. International

MP noted that Shreyas Royal was now an IM and had achieved his first GM norm. He said there had been some very impressive performances from a range of juniors at the recent event in Antalya and stressed the importance of their having support from ECF to maximise their successes. There had also been success for seniors, including John Nunn winning the World Over 65 tournament.

He reported that he aimed to systematise seeking norms.

Finally, he noted that the Hastings event had one of the strongest fields it had seen for several years.

Committee Updates

11. Governance

(RS)

RS noted that the Governance Committee was intending to see changes to the governance of both it and the Finance Committee at the next Council Meeting.

It was inappropriate that the Board authorised filling casual vacancies as the committees did not report to the Board.

Further, the Governance Committee did not feel it was appropriate that the President was an ex-officio member of either committee.

12. Finance

(NF) #

There was no comments from the Finance Committee in the absence of NF.

AA and MT agreed they should meet with NF in order to discuss the work undertaken by the committee.

Action: AA and MT to meet with NF

Special Business

13. Amendments to Regulation 2 (SVW)
These were agreed and the new Regulation can now be seen on the website.
14. Ratification of SG As SRG Representative (SVW)
15. Safeguarding (SVW)
Samantha Ali had resigned as Safeguarding officer. There was an advert on the website, and this would also be in the next edition of ChessMoves.
16. Feasibility of Bid for World Senior Team Championships 2023 (MP)
MP was investigating this, but the short timescale meant it was unlikely to be possible.
17. British Rapid Play – MT noted that he was in discussions for the ECF to provide support for the British Rapid Play to be held in March 2023.

Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.