

### **Report from the Chairman of the Governance Committee**

The Governance Committee has had a quiet year, due no doubt at least in part to the Board operating in a more cohesive manner, but has nonetheless continued the practice of meeting every two months in order to deal with matters effectively and promptly.

In addition to dealing with the usual flow of ad hoc requests for guidance and advice, the Governance Committee has in the course of the last year developed and refined a series of constitutional changes which have been adopted by, as appropriate, the Board or by Council including:

- A substantial re-writing of the Complaints Procedure (Regulation No. 5) which was designed to clarify the practical operation of the Regulation and to seek to ensure that the grievance could be settled without undergoing the formal procedures
- A range of changes to the provisions relating to Direct Members' Representatives, including as to their duties, vacancies arising mid-term and eligibility.
- Further amendments to the articles of association relating to the voting register and to proxies.

As indicated above, the Board has been a more peaceful body. However, it has arguably not met sufficiently often but it is pleasing to note that this is now being addressed by the adoption of a new timetable of meetings, including a significant number of evening meetings which should facilitate the participation of the younger non-retired Board members.

The Governance Committee is continuing to give thought to its membership and, in particular, having a further member, from outside the world of chess and is seeking to identify an appropriate candidate.

The Pearce Report recommends that the annual report of each Standing Committee sets out specific recommendations for Council to endorse and for Council, or the Board, as appropriate, to implement, with agreed time limits for implementation. The Governance Committee has no items for specific recommendation this year.

Robert Stern – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022