



**Minutes of the 154th Board Meeting of the English Chess Federation
Friday 2 June 2023 at 2.30 p.m. by Zoom**

Directors:

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

Apologies, Minutes and Conflicts

1. Apologies for absence

As noted above.

2. Minutes of 153rd Board Meeting

(SVW)

The minutes were approved without amendment.

3. Conflicts declaration

(SVW)

No conflicts had been identified.



Directors Reports

4. Finance (AA)

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. AA also reported a successful project to recover outstanding game fee/pay to play fee amounts owed to the ECF.

It was noted that a request had been made at Finance Council for additional information to be provided to the Finance Committee in relation to Olympiad Team costs. AA and MP agreed to collate this detail to be provided to the Chair of the Finance Committee.

5. Home Chess (NT)

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the English Championships had been run successfully with positive comments from participants. The Board noted the work of Nigel Towers and his team and recorded a vote of thanks for their efforts.

6. Events (SB)

There was nothing raised under this heading.

7. Membership (RW)

RW had circulated his report and there were no issues raised.

8. Women's Chess (AM)

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and there were no issues raised.

9. Junior Chess (AH)

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and there were no issues raised.

10. International (MP)

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and there were no issues raised.

Special Business

11. External Relations (DL/MP)

DL and MP reported on initiatives regarding the profile of chess in England and building support for chess.

The Board welcomed the initiative and looked forward to further developments.

12. Membership Options (MT/RW)

Further work was required in order to be able to submit a more detailed proposal on membership options for consideration by Council at the AGM in October, and a face-to-face/hybrid Board meeting would be arranged as soon as that work was substantially complete to discuss the subject further. It was hoped that the Board as a whole would be able to lend its support to a proposal to Council, but it was accepted that such a consensus might not be achievable.

13. Requesting Trust Funding (SVW)

SVW had written a paper outlining the approach to seeking grants from chess charitable trusts, including the John Robinson Youth Trust and the Chess Trust.

The contents of the paper were noted. It was agreed that SVW would prepare a further paper relating to the benefits for members (and others) of providing gifts to the various trusts.

The Board supported MT's suggestion that the two trusts, together with CSC, be invited to submit biannual update reports for inclusion in *ChessMoves*.

14. Board Standing Orders (SVW)

It was explained that the Board is obliged to review the Standing Orders applicable to its operation at least every three years.

As it had been three years since the last review, SVW presented some proposed amendments. These were not intended to make substantial changes but more to ensure that they reflected current best practice.

The changes were reviewed and adopted nem com.

15. Financial Bye Laws (SVW)

A further change to the Financial Bye Laws was proposed by SVW. This was to clarify the operation of the Bye Laws to ensure that any budget evaluation operated on a net rather than gross expense basis.

This would reflect more accurately the economic impact on the ECF.

It was agreed that the amendments be proposed for consideration by Council at the October AGM.

16. Finance Council (MT)

MT noted that David Eustace, Chair of Council, had written a helpful report of the April Council meeting which had been published on the ECF website and

would also be published in *ChessMoves*.

Any Other Business

There being no further business SVW declared the meeting closed at 3.05 p.m. and confirmed that he would email members with the date of the next meeting.