

**Agenda for the ECF Annual General Meeting of 14 October 2023
commencing at 1.30pm**

To be held at 1, Spinningfields Square, Manchester, M3 3AP.

There will also be video conference access for representatives via Zoom.

1 Appointment of Chair

If the Chair of Council is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting, then Council shall elect one of its members to chair the meeting.

2 Observation of a minute's silence

For colleagues who have died since the last meeting.

3 Notices

(a) Representatives are directed to the Council Database for the information usually on display at meetings, namely:

Details of voting entitlements.

Apologies for absence,

Members voting by individual proxy,

Members voting by proxy to the Chair of the Meeting.

(b) Announcement of others in attendance with the permission of the Chair.

(c) Appointment of tellers. As voting is now conducted electronically and the results are automatically counted, Council is invited to forego the appointment of tellers.

4 Minutes of the Last Meeting on 22 April 2023

Approval and if necessary, amendment of the minutes.

[C39.4]

Council resolves that the Chair of the meeting shall sign the minutes of the Finance Council Meeting on 22 April 2023 as being an accurate record.
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5 Matters Arising from these Minutes and not otherwise on the agenda.

6 To receive and approve the following reports:

- (a) The Board of Directors' Report [C39.6a]
- (b) Report from the Non-Executive Directors [C39.6b]
- (c) The Strategy Statement and Business Plan [C39.6c]
- (d) The Report of the Governance Committee [C39.6d]
- (e) The Report of the Finance Committee [C39.6e]

7 Elections**Note:**

Please note that for the position of Director of Finance the current postholder has indicated that he does not wish to continue in this role and no nominations for this post have been received. If this post remains vacant the Board is required to resolve the situation.

(a) Chair of Council:

David Eustace, currently in post and agrees to continue [C39.7a]

(b) Director of Home Chess:

Tim Wall, nominated by: Northern Counties Chess Union [C39.7b(1)]

Nigel Towers, currently in post and agrees to continue;
nominated by: Non-Executive Director Stephen Greep [C39.7b(2)]

(c) Director of Membership:

Rob Willmoth, currently in post and agrees to continue [C39.7c]

(d) Non-Executive Director:

Sarah Longson, nominated by the Chief Executive [C39.8d(1)]

Katarzyna Toma, nominated by Director of Women's Chess [C39.8d(2)]

(e) FIDE Representative

Malcolm Pein, currently in post and agrees to continue, nominated
by Director of Events [C39.8e]

(f) Members of the Finance Committee

Ray Clark, currently in post and nominated by Chair of
the Finance Committee [C39.8f(1)]

David Eustace, currently in post and nominated by Director of Events [C39.8f(2)]

(g) Members of Governance Committee

Michael Farthing, nominated by the Chair of Governance [C39.8g(1)]

Peter Hornsby, nominated by the Chair of Governance [C39.8g(2)]

David Eustace, nominated by the Chair of Governance [C39.8g(3)]

8 Appointment of Auditor

The reappointment of Watson Associates is proposed.

9 Membership Options

There are two items on the agenda for changes to the current membership scheme, one from the Board and one from the NCCU. To ensure a fair and proper discussion on the issues covered by the two proposals, these will be considered together. The detailed voting arrangements are contained in the attached paper, “Proposed Changes to Membership Scheme and Voting Arrangements”; this paper is an integral part of the agenda. The paper provides the details of how the voting will take place. In more simple terms the voting will be:

1. First stage: Vote between Board Option 1 and Board Option 2
2. Second stage: Vote between Option selected in First stage and the NCCU proposal
3. Third stage: Vote between Option selected in Second stage (Board Option or NCCU proposal) versus No Change to the current arrangements
4. Fourth stage: If the Third stage results in Board Option 1 or Board Option 2 being agreed there will be a vote to change the arrangements for Direct Members’ Representation as detailed in the paper referred to above.

[C39.9(1)]

(A) Board proposal for Membership Scheme

The paper explaining the Board’s proposals is included in the Council papers.

[C39.9(2)]

If Board Option 1 is chosen in the second stage, then the following is the resolution to be proposed in the third stage:

“THAT option 1 as further described in the paper entitled “Membership Options Paper” shall be adopted and that with effect from a date to be determined by the Board (and subject to the Board so determining) the Direct Members Bye Laws be amended by:

- (a) deleting the defined terms “Silver Concessionary Members” and “Silver Members”;
- (b) amending the definition of “Bronze Concessionary Members” by adding after the words “renewal thereof” the words “and who were Bronze Concessionary Members at the time of Finance Council in 2024 (or such other date as the Board may determine) and whose membership of this category does not subsequently lapse or be replaced by a different level or category of membership”;
- (c) amending the definition of “Bronze Members” by deleting the existing definition and replacing it with “means Bronze Members who were bronze members at the time of Finance Council in 2024 (or such other date as the Board may determine) and whose bronze membership does not subsequently lapse or be replaced by a different level or category of membership”;
- (d) deleting “, Silver” in the wording above the table in paragraph 3 and the column headed “Silver” in the table in paragraph 3”.

If Board Option 2 is chosen in the second stage, then the following is the resolution to be proposed at the third stage:

“THAT option 2 as further described in the paper entitled “Membership Options Paper” shall be adopted and that with effect from a date to be determined by the Board (and subject to the Board so determining) the Direct Members Bye Laws be amended by:

- (a) deleting the defined terms “Silver Concessionary Members” and “Silver Members”;
- (b) deleting “Silver” in the wording above the table in paragraph 3 and the column headed “Silver” in the table in paragraph 3”.

(B) NCCU proposal for changes to Membership Scheme:

"That the ECF resolves to abolish the Gold, Silver and Bronze membership categories and replace them with a single membership category, based on a recommended membership fee of £25 a year from September 2024. This membership category will allow ECF Members to take part in all rated club, league, tournament and congress events with free ECF and FIDE rating.

That Junior and Student Members and Supporters continue to enjoy reduced membership fees, with a recommended level of £10 per year from September 2024 and a continued commitment to free membership in their first year for Junior Members (players under the age of 18) and Students under the age of 21.

That Platinum Members be recategorized as ECF Patrons, with the same membership rights as other ECF Members, but with the addition of a free print copy of the ECF Yearbook each year. The recommended rate for Patrons from September 2024 will be £75 per year.

These proposals are introduced with the aim of reducing administrative and financial barriers to congress and tournament play, and particularly FIDE rated events, while establishing the principle of equality for all ECF members and keeping membership affordable for all.

That a proposal based on this resolution is put forward by the Board for approval by the Finance Council in April 2024."

[C39.9(3)]

10 ECF Awards

Council is invited to note the awards for 2023 as set out in the website presentation by Stephen Greep. The full details of the awards can be found at:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/ECF-Awards-2023.pdf>

11 Regulation Changes

Council is requested to note:

- (a) a revised version of Regulation No. 5 (ECF Complaints Procedure) and,
- (b) the adoption of Regulation No. 7 (ECF Complaints against Direct Members and Supporters Procedure).

12 Time and Place of Future Meetings

To approve the dates of the Finance Council and AGM in 2024:

Council resolves that in 2024 its Finance Meeting shall be held by Zoom on 27 April 2024 and its Annual General Meeting shall be held in London, with access also by Zoom, on 26 October 2024.

13 Grass Roots Development

Paper from the Board on future developments.

[C39.10].

14 Any Other Business

To consider any other business, notice of which has been given to the Chair of the Meeting and which is of a minor nature only. Matters of substance may not be raised under this heading except in terms of information or a preliminary notification of important business for a future meeting.

Note:

Council representatives are entitled to appoint a proxy. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. Notification of proxies must be received by the end of Wednesday 11th October using the form of words in the Articles of Association (and notified separately to members in the letter accompanying the agenda).