

Report of the Non-Executive Directors
English Chess Federation AGM 14th October 2023

1. Background

- 1.1 This report is written by Stephen Woodhouse as Chair of the Board for and on behalf of all the NEDs being, in addition to myself, Stephen Greep and Natasha Regan.
- 1.2 In addition, Natasha is not standing for re-election. Stephen and I would like to thank her for her contribution over the last three years (on top of her playing, commentary and writing commitments) and look forward to working with the new NED once she is elected.

2. Overall Performance

- 2.1 As referred to in the Board papers, the ECF has performed strongly showing growing membership and continuing financial recovery from the impact of the pandemic.
- 2.2 This is reflected in substantial contributions from a number of directors far in above what can reasonably be expected. It is to be hoped that this continues and develops.
- 2.3 There has also generally been a good balance between robust and challenging discussions with maintaining board cohesion and co-operation.

3. Format of Meetings

- 3.1 The format and frequency of meetings proves challenging. We are moving to a rolling schedule with meetings planned a year in advance, timed with a view to maximising attendance with a diverse group of directors, some with paid employment outside chess, others with other chess commitments and others who are retired from other employment.
- 3.2 Meetings are held on Zoom with consideration being given to developing a plan to hold a number of physical meetings. We have also tried to run hybrid meetings but they failed due to there being insufficient directors attending in person.

4. Succession

- 4.1 Succession is a perennial challenge throughout the ECF, but particularly at Board level. This is demonstrated by the vacancy for Finance Director and the profile of future issues evident from a projection of likely retirements over time.
- 4.2 We plan to address this with the CEO and Governance Committee.

5. Committees

- 5.1 The Governance Committee and Finance Committee have important roles to monitor and support the Board. The role of the FC will be particularly important in the coming year with the impending vacancy for the Finance Director position and the need to manage and account for Government funds.
- 5.2 The interaction between the Board and the Finance Committee is not optimal. We intend to consider approaches to improve this.

Stephen V Woodhouse

Chair of the Board

For and on behalf of the English Chess Federation

21st September 2023