



**The Minutes of the General Meeting of the British Chess Federation held on Saturday 22nd
April 2023 via Zoom**

Attendees:

Adam Ashton
Shohreh Bayat
Chris Cook
Paul Cooksey
Gareth Ellis

David Eustace

Peter Farr
Michael Farthing

Nick Faulks

Nikki Forster
Satish Gaekwad
David Gilbert

Alex Holowczak
Christopher Holt
Malcolm Pein

John Reyes

Pat Ridley
Robert Stern

Nigel Towers

Brian Valentine
Andy Wainwright
Tim Wall

Representing:

Director of Finance
Director of Events
Hertfordshire Chess Association
Berkshire Chess Association
Lancashire Chess Association, Merseyside Chess Association, Chester & District League, ECF Bronze Members Representative 1
Chair of Council, ECF Platinum Members Representative 1, ECF Platinum Members Representative 2 (as proxy)
Sussex County Chess Association, Mid-Sussex League
Lancaster, Morecambe & District League (as proxy), The Past Chair of the Council
Bronowski Trophy, Croydon & District Chess League, Chair of the Finance Committee,
Dorset County Chess Association, Bournemouth & District League
Southern Counties Chess Union
London Chess League, Essex Chess Association (as proxy), Kent County Chess Association, London Public Service League
British Universities Chess Association, Director of Junior Chess and Education
Lincolnshire Chess Association, Nottinghamshire Chess Association
Chess in Schools and Communities (as proxy), Director of International Chess, FIDE Delegate
Manchester Chess Federation, Midland Counties Chess Union, South East Lancashire League, Stockport & District Chess League, Stockport Rapidplay League, Torbay Chess League, Warrington & District League, Stockport Rapidplay Chess Congress (as proxy), ECF Silver Members Representative 2
Cheshire & North Wales Chess Association, Frodsham Congress
Central London League, Pimlico Summer Tournament, Chair of the Governance Committee
Oxfordshire Chess Association (as proxy), Warwickshire Chess Association, 4 Nations Chess League (as proxy), Kidlington Chess Congress (as proxy), Witney Congress (as proxy), Witney Rapidplay (as proxy), Chief Executive (as proxy), Director of Home Chess
Bedfordshire County Chess Association
Yorkshire Chess Association, Ilkley Chess Centre
Northern Counties Chess Union, Durham County Chess Association, Northumberland Chess Association, North East League, Northumbria Chess Masters, Northumbria Junior Chess Association, ECF Gold Members Representative 2

John Wickham	East Anglian Chess Union, Cambridgeshire Chess Association (as proxy), Norfolk County Chess Association, North Essex Chess League, Bury St Edmunds Congress,
Rob Willmoth	Middlesex County Chess Association, City Chess Association (as proxy), Barnet Knights, Chess Coaching Services, English Junior Coaches and Organisers Association, Director of Membership
Stephen Woodhouse	Hull & District Chess Association (as proxy), Non-Executive Chair, Non-Executive Director 2 (as proxy)

Some members of the English Chess Federation were also present by invitation:

Alan Atkinson, Neill Cooper, Roger Lancaster, Steve Mann, Stewart Reuben, John Upham, Gerry Walsh.

Dr John Higgs, Chairman of the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust, was also present by invitation.

1. Appointment of Chairman

The Chairman was present for the start of the meeting.

2. Notices

Representatives were directed to the ECF website for the formal notices.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 22 April 2022 Meeting

Council resolves that the Chair of the meeting shall sign the minutes of the last Finance Council meeting on 22 April 2022 as being an accurate record.

The meeting agreed that the Chair should sign the minutes as being an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Accounts of the BCF for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

The accounts of the BCF for the year ended 31 August 2021 were accepted. There were no votes against.

6. Accounts of the BCF for the Year Ended 31 August 2022

The accounts of the BCF for the year ended 31 August 2022 were accepted. There were no votes against.

The 2022 accounts would show assets being transferred out to the Chess Trust. The BCF would not be wound up as a precautionary measure, because there were bequests held in the name of the BCF and the small cost of keeping a dormant organisation going was felt to be prudent.

7. Accounts of the Chess Centre Ltd for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

The accounts of the Chess Centre Ltd for the year ended 31 August 2021 were accepted. There were no votes against.

8. Accounts of the Chess Centre Ltd for the Year Ended 31 August 2022

The accounts of the Chess Centre Ltd for the year ended 31 August 2022 were accepted. There were no votes against.

9. Update on the Activities of the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust

The report from the Chairman of the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust had been uploaded to the ECF website prior to the meeting.

Whilst discussing the activities of the JRYT and the possibility that the ECF might apply for a payment to go into its Bursary fund to be used to support junior players, it was agreed that the ECF would add a link to the soon to be launched JRYT website to its own website and that it would also add further sources of potential funding and support.

Action: ECF website to add link to JRYT website

Action: ECF to add further links to sources of funding and support to its website.

The British Chess Federation Council meeting minutes of the 24 June 2006 which considered the Deed of Variation state: That the Trustees be requested:

(i) To retain the capital of the Trust as a permanent endowment and not to expend more than the accumulated income on grants from the Trust.

(ii) To give three months prior written notice to the BCF Management Board of any proposed expenditure of capital

The Trust has been following the above request since 2006 as can be seen in the annual report and accounts prepared each year. It would be helpful to the Trust for this request to be rescinded.

The meeting agreed to this change with 26 in favour and none against.

10. Update on the Activities of the Chess Trust

David Eustace said that the Chess Trust had been formed ten years previously and the current Trustees were Simon Brown, Stephen Greep, Sarah Longson, Malcolm Pein, Adam Ashton, Mike Truran and himself. There was currently around £900,000 held split into three funds – the Junior fund, the General fund and the British Chess Championships fund. This year The Chess Trust was supporting the British Chess Championships with a donation of £10,000, £45,000 on its Accelerator Programme for aspiring junior players, £6,000 to the ECF Awards Committee to be spent over the next three years, £10,000 to help Ukrainian refugees and several grants to support “norm” tournaments, Women’s events and Senior Chess teams. The Trust also retained £100,000 as a financial contingency for the ECF against events such as the recent pandemic.

11. Any Other Business

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

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