

**Report of the Non-Executive Directors  
English Chess Federation AGM 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 This report is written by Stephen Woodhouse as Chair of the Board for and on behalf of the NEDs being, in addition to myself, Stephen Greep, Kata Toma and Sarah Longson.
- 1.2 Further, Kata is not standing for re-election. The other NEDs would like to join with me in thanking Kata for her contribution to the Board during her tenure, particularly given the challenges of combining being on the Board with a professional career outside chess, playing chess internationally and coaching and other commitments.

**2. Board Performance**

- 2.1 The ECF has continued to perform strongly with particular focus on the Government funding offering the ability to invest in our international teams and build a history of further international success.
- 2.2 The receipt of this funding has created its own challenges to meet the requirements for the funding being provided adding to the pressures on individual board members. This in turn creates challenges with maintaining and developing the high standard of management performance we aspire to.

**3. Succession**

- 3.1 Mike Truran has announced his intention to stand down as CEO in October 2025. There are potentially four other directors who may not continue in post after that date.
- 3.2 MT will have been in post for almost a decade by the time of the 2025 AGM. That, combined the other potential directorship changes, will present a challenge for the continuity of board performance and the stability of the ECF.
- 3.3 Accordingly, the Board is proposing to review its composition and structure and present proposals for managing the resulting changes for consideration at the Finance Council meeting in April 2025.

**4. Format of Meetings**

Meetings have continued to be held on Zoom on a cycle of approximately one meeting every six weeks. It has not proved practicable to organise a physical meeting due to the demands on the time of Board members.

**5. Committees**

- 5.1 Following the comments in the NED report for 2023, it is noted that:
- (a) The interaction between the Finance Committee and the Board has improved and now appears to be working effectively.
  - (b) The Governance Committee has published minutes of its meetings on the ECF website, improving transparency and communication.
  - (c) The Finance Committee has identified a new candidate who, if elected, will contribute to a more diverse body.
- 5.2 Equally, there has been no change in the composition of the Governance Committee with all members being male and all bar one being aged over 50. This is recognised in the report from the Chair of Governance with an intention to continue to seek greater diversity.
- 5.3 It is also noted that the Finance Committee has chosen not to publish the minutes of its meetings.

**Stephen V Woodhouse**  
**English Chess Federation**  
**29<sup>th</sup> September 2024**