



The Minutes of the Finance Council of the British Chess Federation held on Saturday 27th April 2024 via Zoom

Attendees:

Jimmy Blair
Gavin Cartwright
Chris Cook
Paul Cooksey
Gareth Ellis

David Eustace
Peter Farr
Michael Farthing
Nick Faulks

Nikki Forster

Satish Gaekwad
David Gilbert

Stephen Greep
Christopher Holt
Roger Lancaster
Christopher Lewis
Alex Longson
Steve Mann
Alex McFarlane
Aga Milewska
Meghana Mohan

Malcolm Pein

Stewart Reuben
John Reyes

Pat Ridley
Robert Stern

Nigel Towers
Mike Truran

Mike Waddington

Representing:

Cambridgeshire Chess Association
Silver Members' Representative
Hertfordshire Chess Association
Berkshire Chess Association
Lancashire Chess Association, Merseyside Chess Association,
Chester & District League, Bronze Members' Representative
Chair of Council, ECF Platinum Members Representative
Sussex County Chess Association, Mid-Sussex League
The Past Chair of the Council, Voting Register Officer
Bronowski Trophy, Croydon & District Chess League, Chair of the
Finance Committee
West of England Chess Union, 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
Non-Executive Director
Lincolnshire Chess Association, Nottinghamshire Chess Association
Watford Junior Chess
Shropshire Chess Congress
Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge, Director of Finance
Doncaster Chess Association
Caplin Hastings International Congress, Chess Arbiters Association (as
proxy)
Director of Women's Chess
Coventry and District League
Chess in Schools and Communities (as proxy), Director of International
Chess, FIDE Delegate
Life Members' Representative
Manchester Chess Federation, South East Lancashire League,
Stockport & District Chess League, Stockport Rapidplay League,
Torbay Chess League, Warrington & District League, Stockport
Rapidplay Chess Congress (as proxy), Bolton Easter Congress (as
proxy), Silver Members' Representative
Cheshire & North Wales Chess Association, Frodsham Congress
Central London League, Pimlico Summer Tournament, Chair of the
Governance Committee
Warwickshire Chess Association, Director of Home Chess
Oxfordshire Chess Association, 4 Nations Chess League, British
Rapidplay, Kidlington Chess Congress, Witney Chess Congresses,
Chief Executive, Hull & East Riding Chess Association (as proxy)
Gold Members' Representative

Tim Walker	Midlands Counties Chess Union
Tim Wall	Northern Counties Chess Union, Durham County Chess Association, Northumberland Chess Association, North East League, Northumbria Chess Masters, Northumbria Junior Chess Association, Gold Members Representative
Gerry Walsh	Braille Chess Association, Life Members' Representative
John Wickham	East Anglian Chess Union, Norfolk County Chess Association, North Essex Chess League, Bury St Edmunds Congress
Rob Willmoth	Middlesex County Chess Association, Barnet Knights, Chess Coaching Services, English Junior Coaches and Organisers Association, Director of Membership
Stephen Woodhouse	Non-Executive Chair, Non-Executive Director 2 (as proxy), Worcestershire Chess Association (as proxy), Cannock and District Chess League (as proxy), Dudley & District League (as proxy), North Staffordshire & District Chess League (as proxy), Wolverhampton & District Chess League (as proxy), Worcester & District Chess League (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.

Also present by invitation were Dr John Higgs, Chair of the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust and Simon Brown, Chair of the Chess Trust.

1. Appointment of Chair

The Chair was present for the start of the meeting.

2. Notices

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

In attendance with the permission of the Chair:

Dr John Higgs	- Chair of the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust
Simon Brown	- Chair of the Chess Trust
Clive Frostick	- President of Surrey County Chess Association
Andrew Walker	- ECF Office and hosting

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 22nd April 2023 Meeting

Council resolves that the Chair of the meeting shall sign the minutes of the last Finance Council meeting on 22nd 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. Update on the Activities of the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust (JRYCT)

John Higgs, Chair of the Trust, provided an update on the activities of the Trust during the past including:

- Establishing a website at JohnRobinsonchess.org.
- Support for individual junior players providing funds for entry fees, accommodation, travel and coaching.
- Support for Shreyas Royale in the Under 20 World Championship.
- British Universities Chess Association Team Championships.
- Hastings International Congress with bursaries for junior players.
- Mike Basman Memorial Tournament.
- “She Plays To Win” team in the World Women’s Team Championship, Albania.
- British Chess Championships 2023 with grants towards costs of the event and junior coaching.

John Higgs confirmed that the Trustees “are not restricted to only spending income”, and would consider supporting the re-establishment of ECF Junior Bursary Fund and consider innovative ideas in identifying potential junior players for the future.

Members who require further information should go to the Trust’s website or contact John Higgs directly.

6. Update on the Activities of the Chess Trust

Simon Brown, Chair of the Trust, provided an update on the activities of the Trust during the past year including:

- Its Accelerator Programme provides mentoring for the 10 to 12 junior players identified by a selection panel of qualified organisers and players for a one-year award. The award covers mentoring, some coaching, training camps and support to attend events. Players may be selected to continue the programme up to the age of 18 years if they are making substantial progress.
- Support for a wide range of activities such as IM/GM norm tournaments, women’s events, team events and community initiatives.
- Special funding to support Ukrainian refugee juniors (25) with awards to enable them to play in events.
- Provided funding for the ECF Awards scheme.
- Supported several events such as Northumbrian Masters, Vera Menchik Memorial Tournament, ECF teams in the European and World Team Championships, World Green Invitational Tournament, Southend Masters.
- Funding for the new Sheffield Community Chess Centre.

The Trust intends to spend £85k to £90k per annum on its agreed activities. It will also work closely with the ECF, particularly regarding the recent government funding to ensure that all efforts are coordinated.

7. Accounts of the BCF for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

As noted in the agenda the accounts of the BCF for the year ended 31st August 2023 were not available. The Board intends to present these at the Annual General Meeting in October 2024.

8. Accounts of the Chess Centre Ltd for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

As noted in the agenda the accounts of Chess Centre Ltd for the year ended 31st August 2023 were not available. The Board intends to present these at the Annual General Meeting in October 2024.

9. Proposed Changes to the Structure of the British Chess Federation

The Board proposed constitutional changes to the BCF following the transfer of all its assets to the Chess Trust. The detailed proposals can be found in the meeting papers on the ECF website entitled "BCF Structure".

Council resolved that the resolution below be passed. Passed nem con.

- 1.1 That the constitution of the BCF is amended to reflect the objectives given in the paper entitled "BCF Structure" and that the amended constitution is adopted as set out in the paper "British Chess Federation Constitution."
- 1.2 In order to achieve the objectives set out above and further clarifications, the new constitution:
 - (a) Deletes references to the BCF objectives which more properly sit with the ECF.
 - (b) Retains the objective of supporting the ECF.
 - (c) Retains the membership structure.
 - (d) Changes references to "Chairman" to read "Chair."
 - (e) Removes references and obligations concerning the PIF.
 - (f) Abolishes the obligation of the Management Board (which is effectively the same as the ECF Board) to meet annually and report to Council.
 - (g) Changes the provisions for general meetings so that they are only called to address specific business.

10. Any Other Business

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.