

MINUTES OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6th NOVEMBER, 2024

Present: Mike Gunn, Michael Farthing, Mark Murrell, David Eustace, Peter Hornby, Robert Stern (chair) and Stephen Woodhouse in attendance for the first item

1. The meeting discussed various issues relating to the role of each of the Chair of Council and of the Non-executive Chair of the Board, in particular the extent to which the inter-relationship could be improved in practice. It was agreed that further thought was required and the issues would be re-visited at the next meeting.
2. Following on from the discussion at the August meeting, it was agreed that proposals would be put to Finance Council in April that the posts of Chair of Council and of FIDE Delegate be changed to posts of a three year term, rather than being subject to annual re-election. Council would have a right to remove an incumbent at any time during the three years..
3. There was a general discussion in relation to the 2024 AGM and elections. It was agreed in relation to election nominations (the extent to which they are set out in the AGM agenda) that it was worth seeing for another year how the recent changes work out before considering making any further change. It was agreed that the Procedural Bye-laws should be amended in April to reflect the fact that Council meetings would ordinarily not have tellers; and that article 28 of the articles of association would also be amended in this regard and also to make it clear that elections must be undertaken by poll vote and not by a show of hands.
4. There was a discussion about succession planning in the ECF generally and the extent to which younger people, particularly those at and recently leaving university, could be more involved. It was agreed that Peter Hornsby should be put in touch with Stephen Woodhouse to progress this.
5. It was agreed that the next meeting would be in the first few weeks of January.