



**Minutes of the 165<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of the English Chess Federation  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 19.30 by Zoom**

**Directors**

President, Dominic Lawson	APOL	DL
Chief Executive, Mike Truran		MT
Director of Finance, Alex Longson		AL
Director of Women's Chess, Aga Milewska	APOL	AM
Director of Junior Chess, Alex Holowczak	APOL	AH
Director of International Chess and External Relations, Malcolm Pein		MP
Director of Home Chess, Nigel Towers	APOL	NT
Director of Membership, Rob Willmoth	APOL	RW
Chair, Stephen Woodhouse		SVW
Non-Executive Director, Sarah Longson		SL
Non-Executive Director, Stephen Greep	APOL	SG
Non-Executive Director, Danny Rosenbaum	APOL	DR

**Invited: Observers and Guests**

Chair, Finance Committee, Nick Faulks	NF
Chair, Governance Committee, Robert Stern	RS

**Apologies, Minutes and Conflicts**

1. Apologies for absence

As noted above.

2. **Minutes of 164<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting** (SVW)

The minutes were approved.

3. **Conflicts declaration** (SVW)

No new conflicts were identified.

4. **Director Attendance**

It was noted that there was a low attendance and that this followed a similarly low attendance in October. It was agreed that there should be a focus on improving attendance at Board meetings with this being core to the role of being a Director.

**5. Board Structure: Events Director (MT)**

MT reported that NT had held a number of 'expression of interest' discussions with potential candidates for the new Events Director position which are expected to continue into the New Year. NT also planned to talk to candidates about the remaining areas of the current Home Director role/ responsibilities once there is agreement on the new structure.

NT also expects agreement to be reached on the appointment of an Events Manager/ Organiser role for the Cambridge International is reviewing options for organisation and management of the 2025 portfolio of events including the English and British Championships.

**6. Board Restructuring: Reorganisation (MT)**

The working party discussed in the previous board meeting had met and MT presented a paper outlining a potential restructuring written in the light of that meeting.

It was agreed that an additional board meeting be held after Christmas focussed entirely on a review of the proposed structure.

**7. Financial Reforecasting (AL)**

AL confirmed that his review of the financial forecasts as against the 2024/25 budget was continuing. He expected to hold further discussions with budget holding directors and report further at the next scheduled Board meeting in February.

**8. IT Future-Proofing (MT)**

MT reported that work was continuing with the planned IT future proofing reported at the October board meeting. NT would continue leading this work and provide further reports to the Board as appropriate.

**9. International (MP)**

MP reported on three matters relating to the International Directorate:

- (1) The London Chess Classic had been run successfully at the Emirates Stadium.
- (2) It had been announced that chess will be featured in the E Sports World Cup 2025, due to be held in Riyadh from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025. MP believed that this would provide a significant boost to chess globally, broadening its appeal particularly amongst younger players.
- (3) Following further discussions about international team selection, the Board agreed to publish a statement supporting the independence and primacy of the decisions of the International Selection Committee.

**10. Social Media (SVW)**

DR had prepared an insightful paper on the use of social media. It was agreed that DR should be asked to develop proposals with a view to the ECF making more effective use of social media channels.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next scheduled board meeting would be scheduled for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, but with an earlier meeting referred to earlier concerning the Board restructuring.

**12. Any Other Business**

There being no further business, SVW closed the meeting at 8.15 p.m.