

REPORT OF THE ECF CCPR REPRESENTATIVE

Introduction

I should like to apologise to members of Council for the lateness of this Report.

I was appointed in November 2007, and reappointed in November 2008 and November 2009, as the ECF Representative to the CCPR (Central Council of Physical Representation).

This involves the following principal duties:

1. Attending the CCPR AGM in July. This year's AGM was the first to be chaired by the new CCPR President, HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, following the retirement of his father, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in 2009, after 58 years' service. The ongoing royal connection has enabled the CCPR to continue to hold its AGM in the splendid location of St. James's Palace.
2. Attending the meetings (on Tuesday mornings in January, May and September) of the CCPR's Games and Sports Division, the largest of the six divisions. This consists largely of members of medium sized sports and is also attended by representatives of the English Bridge Union, the English Draughts Association and the British Go Association.
3. Attending informal meetings, on the Tuesday afternoons following the CCPR Divisional Meetings, of the embryonic Mind Sports Council, comprising representatives of the English Chess Federation, the English Bridge Union, the English Draughts Association, the British Go Association and the Mind Sports Olympiad.
4. Monitoring the programme of CCPR workshops (sometimes free, but usually costing £25-£35), drawing their existence to the attention of relevant Directors and Officers, and attending occasionally myself where appropriate.

The CCPR also holds an Annual Conference, but the ECF does not attend this as the cost of doing so is in excess of £200.

5. Seeking to absorb a large amount of material emanating from the CCPR and seeking further advice where necessary on matters potentially affecting the ECF.

In the remainder of this Report I cover the important matters which have arisen during the past year under each of the first four headings above.

1. CCPR AGM

The AGM approved a resolution to change the name of the organisation to the “Sport and Recreation Alliance”. The change is expected to take effect before the end of 2010.

2. CCPR Divisional Meetings

The delay in producing this Report has enabled me to comment on the September 2010 Meeting, which was much the most important. It was dominated by the effect on sport of the ongoing public expenditure cuts. The probable loss of the ECF’s DCMS grant had been announced the day before the meeting, thus enabling me to report on the likely change of status of chess from a “funded” to a “non-funded” sport. Although we were the only organisation known to be faced with a 100% cut, others were expecting very substantial reductions. The CCPR is anticipating a cut of at least 25% in its own budget.

A representative of Sport England made it clear that there is little or no prospect for some time of Sport England adding to the list of 46 sports which it currently funds. Hence, even if the recognition of chess and other mind sports were to occur, it would be most unlikely to result in any immediate funding from this source.

The possibility of making progress on the implementation of the Charities Act 2006 seems to be more promising. This would have fiscal benefits for the ECF. The CCPR agreed to raise the issue with its parliamentary contacts.

3. Mind Sports Council

The cohesiveness and usefulness of the Council has been hampered by an unexpected disagreement with the English Bridge Union regarding its structure. I hope that this can be resolved during the next few months.

4. CCPR Workshops

I attended only one workshop, in February 2010. It was a useful one, on the provisions of the Companies Act 2006. My attendance gave rise to some benefits for my county, Surrey.

The point of most relevance for the ECF was the potential for making greater use of electronic communications, thus reducing or eliminating expensive Council mailings. I reported on this to John Philpott, Chairman of the Governance Committee, who was already pursuing the matter independently. Members of Council will be aware that considerable progress has subsequently been made in this area.

David Sedgwick
ECF CCPR Representative
14th October 2010