

Surrey Chess



ECF Finance Council Meeting 24 April 2021

Dear SCCA Participants,

Herewith a brief report on the above meeting and how Surrey voted on each key item on your behalf.

Please refer to the meeting agenda and supporting documents on the ECF website [Council Papers – English Chess Federation](#). Key issues:

Item 7 – Fees.

The proposal to not increase Fees was agreed nem.com. **Surrey supported the proposal.**

Item 8 - Budget.

The Finance Director confirmed that, if ECF membership revenue undershoots the Budget projection, then the “big ticket” expenditure items would need to be re-looked at. Those include planned International events. That point was acknowledged by the International Director. Both stated the view that it would not come to that and that potential sponsorship and/or a potential loan from the PIF (permanent invested fund) could maintain ECF cashflow. It was noted that any requested loan by ECF from PIF would require BCF Council (PIF custodians) approval.

A motion by Croydon and District Chess League to approve the budget with the exception of the PIF loan was defeated by about 20 votes to 3 on a hand vote (there was some ambiguity in the hand vote counts due to technical issues at this meeting but no doubt about the overall result of this vote). **Surrey supported the Croydon & DCL proposed amendment.** It seemed unnecessary to make the liability commitment prior to October 2021, at which time better information on membership income would have been available to support the decision.

The Budget was then agreed nem.com on a hand vote. **Surrey supported the Budget.** Worth noting that, without Budget approval, ECF would not have had the authority to pay its employees.

Item 9 – Authority of (Budget) variation.

The Finance Director, when questioned, replied that the motion wording meant that this authority would last until the next general meeting, the October AGM. The proposal was passed with 20 for and 1 against on a hand vote. **Surrey supported the motion.** This was based on it being time limited and in recognition of the significant uncertainties that the ECF Board will face in the next 6 months.

Item 10 – Voting Register

Special resolution to grandfather voting rights from 2019 so that parties unable to host OTB competitions due to COVID are not disadvantaged was passed on a hand vote of 20 for and 3 against. **Surrey supported the special resolution.**

Item 11 – Directors’ Terms

All three special resolutions to limit an ECF Directors’ term in one post to either 1, 2 or 3 terms or longer, were defeated by 31-137, 44-111 and 66-96 on card votes respectively.

Surrey voted against all of the special resolutions. We prefer the existing electoral process to be the unfettered determinant of ECF Board composition.

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Item 12 – Voting Allocations of Council Members

This special resolution introduced new voting right allocations to organisations who provide online ECF rated games as well as introducing a Blitz category for both OTB and online voting right allocations. The vote was 125 For and 35 Against on a card vote which, at 78% For, means the 75% special resolution pass-mark was achieved. **Surrey voted in favour of the special resolution.** We felt it was equitable.

Item 14 – County Championship Team Rating Limits.

Prior to the meeting Surrey and Middx had agreed and tabled an amendment to the ECF Director of Home Chess (DoHC) proposal, wherein team rating limits would be set at Open/U2100/U1900/U1700/U1500 vs the DoHC proposal of Open/U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400. Both counties wanted to create a better opportunity to field the lowest team and also to protect players graded between 2000-2100 from being unable to get into strong Open teams AND the first, grade limited, team. Alignment had been attempted with SCCU but that, regrettably, was not possible due to two other SCCU counties blocking it. SCCU tabled a competing amendment of Open/U2050/U1850/U1650/U1450 which we regard as better than the DoHC position but inferior to our proposal (U1450 is equivalent to the old U100 category which, in recent years, has been a significant challenge to field a team in).

The meeting was very short of time at this stage and so the matter was not resolved. It was agreed by 8 – 1 on a hand vote that the ECF Board will further consult the counties and unions to resolve the issues in a timely manner.

Anyone wishing to remind themselves of Surrey's "going-in" position can find it here: [ECF Finance Council Meeting 24April2021-SCCA consultation-1.pdf](#)

Paul Shepherd – SCCA ECF Council representative

25 April 2021