

Surrey Chess



Consultation Survey of Surrey Chess Participants

Dear Surrey Chess Participants,

Following on from last year's helpful consultation results on the matter of the ECF Fees and Budget the SCCA Board would like to put some further questions to you on various topics please. They include:

- Monthly Grading
- FIDE rating
- Surrey Chess Congress
- SCCA Individual Competitions
- ECF International Budget

At the end of this letter is a link to a very short survey in order to make it easy for you to respond. Here is some background information:

1. Monthly Grading.

ECF have announced their intention to move to monthly ECF gradings (<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/monthly-grading-proposal/>). If SCCA had to provide monthly grading submissions (instead of two per annum as currently) we would need to have a change of systems and processes. This would be to avoid a substantially increased administrative burden on our grading officer caused by the 6-fold increase in submissions frequency. Possible solutions may be to ask ECF to provide a new IT interface to link the SCCA league management system (LMS) directly with their grading system and also to ask Surrey clubs to enter their internal tournament results directly into an ECF provided LMS rather than sending them via the SCCA. We currently await the formal ECF consultation on implementation details before we can firm these up.

The ECF Membership Director said at the Oct 2019 ECF AGM that no organisation will be compelled to provide monthly submissions but that he expected that organisations will be subject to the demands of their participants. An ECF monthly grading system would still produce monthly grades even if some results are reported on a twice-yearly basis as today, but they would not reflect all the latest results in the months between the two submissions.

Q. Do you want SCCA to make monthly ECF grading submissions?

2. FIDE rating for County Matches.

Currently, FIDE rating applies only to the Open team matches in the ECF National Stages of the County Championships. FIDE has recently been consulting on what minimum time limit standards should apply to chess games for them to qualify for FIDE rating. This could result in more competitions being potentially eligible for FIDE rating.

Currently, ECF Bronze membership allows players to compete in non-FIDE rated county matches. FIDE rated events require ECF Gold Membership. The current ECF adult rates of membership are:

- Bronze - £18 per annum
- Gold - £39 per annum

Q. Do you want FIDE rating for your county match games?

Surrey Chess



3. Surrey Chess Congress.

SCCA Board thought that the 2018 Surrey Congress was a success. That Congress had 95 entries and good feedback from a participants' survey after the event. Hence, we were really surprised and disappointed when the 2019 Congress had just 35 entrants with only 4 days to go. We were looking at a very large financial loss, which would have been borne by SCCA Members, and had no choice but to cancel the event. We would like to understand if there is sufficient demand to justify further attempts to run the Congress in future and if there are things that could be done differently which would attract more entrants.

Q. What would you change about the Surrey Chess Congress that would make it more likely that you, and other players you know, enter in the future?

4. SCCA Individual Competitions

SCCA runs individual competitions split into sections of different playing strengths through each summer. Over recent years entries have been between about 35 to 50 players. That's a relatively small fraction (ca. 15%) of total Surrey chess participants. It would be good to attract more entries.

Q. What would you change about the Surrey Individual Competitions that would make it more likely that you, and other players you know, enter in the future?

5. ECF International Budget.

Following up from our survey of Surrey participants last year we have established that ECF office salaries needed to be adjusted upwards and that there is now a firm ECF target for additional female members. Those two elements pretty much underpin the Fees increase approved by Council in April 2019.

In April 2020 the second tranche of Fees increase will be proposed. Assuming that the ECF proposals remain unchanged the expected membership rates will be as follows:

Membership Fees £ per annum	2019/20	2020/21
Platinum	75.00	80.00
Gold	39.00	41.00
Silver	27.00	30.00
Bronze	18.00	20.00
Junior	6.00	6.00

The principal driver for the further Fees increase is the increase to the International Budget from ca. £30k/a to £46k/a. This appears to be driven primarily by the assumption that zero sponsorship income would be received in future. The SCCA Board opposed the International budget increase and described why in a [letter](#) to the ECF President. Subsequently, at the Council meeting in April 2019, the ECF International Director stated that he would be prepared to work with a limited budget but at the new, higher, level proposed by the ECF Board, including inflation increases in future. He stated that, without the increase, the best English teams could not be sent to all International events and further cited the International KPIs [report](#).

Surrey Chess



As the SCCA Board's previous survey question asked if Surrey participants supported an International Budget "without limit" and we now have a statement indicating that there will be a limit, it seems appropriate that we ask the question about the International Budget again, but in a more direct manner.

Q. Do you support the increase to the ECF Members' contribution to the International Budget from ca. £30k/a to £46k/a?

The SCCA Board would really appreciate it if you could give these matters some thought and respond as an individual. Please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P7DL7R9> and complete the survey by 29 February 2020 at the latest.

Many thanks for your time.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Shepherd (signature on file)

SCCA President (on behalf of the SCCA Board)