

## 2015 ECF AGM - Bronze Member Responses

| Resp. | CE | ----- NED ----- |    |    |    | -- HD -- |    | -- ID -- |   | CD | OMOV | DM | Comment   |
|-------|----|-----------------|----|----|----|----------|----|----------|---|----|------|----|---|
|       | JC | JD              | CF | JR | AH | JF       | DO | MP       |   |    |      |    |   |
| SL    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |   |    |      | Y  | "I wanted to... indicate my confidence that you will continue to represent my best interests in your position"  |
| BC    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |   |    |      |    | "I would be opposed to ECF members having to pay even more each year due to lack of sponsorship, or lack of ability to obtain sponsorship"  |
| JW    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |   |    |      |    | "Why, when I paid £9 to the ECF quite some time ago to be sent newsletters by post, with one apparently then just due out, I have received nothing". AF response: contact the ECF Office.   |
| PL    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |   |    | Y    |    | "One member , one vote... I agree"  |
| JS    |    | Y               |    |    | Y  | Y        |    |          |   |    |      | Y  | "If you are neutral on any of the following, then I would prefer you to vote as follows:<br>11.4 for Jack Rudd and Julian Clissold<br>11.5.1 for Alex Holowczak<br>11.7.3 [Chris Majer for Chairman of the Governance Committee] - in favour"   |
| PC    |    |                 |    |    |    | Y        |    |          |   |    | N    |    | "- I would oppose any rise in membership fees and any attempt to have the grassroots players' membership fees to fund ECF participation in individual/team event for either the top players or junior players<br>- I would encourage any initiative (and expenditure) from the ECF to get chess recognized as sport in the UK<br>- I would encourage any initiative to simplify the rating/grading system, up to terminating the ECF national grading and have more and more events FIDE rated" |
| RH    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          | Y |    |      |    | "I would urge you please to support the candidacy of Malcolm Pein"  |
| JP    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |   |    |      |    | "The ECF need to fundamentally appreciate that it's the grass roots players that they represent, not GM's and IM's. And if you're going to continually ask the grass roots to fund these players then somewhere down the line you're going to be facing a backlash."  |
| JB    |    |                 |    |    |    | Y        |    |          |   |    |      | Y  | "# I like the idea of monthly grading lists and so would vote for Alex Holowczak<br># I have met and like Malcolm Pein and so would vote for him as both Fide Delegate (which seems to be a no-contest at the moment) and Director of International Chess. It also seems logical for these two posts to go together."   |

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| AH    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |   | Y  |      | "I would prefer one-person one vote".  |         |
| BW    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    | Y        |   |    |      | "Probably support Malcolm Pein - although I am not sure how the present incumbent has 'failed'"  |         |
| ML    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    | Y        | Y |    |      | "I believe that Malcolm Pein is the right person for the position for which he is standing. I further agree with you that bringing in sponsorship should not depend on holding a particular office, but it should be a seamless continuation of effort."   |         |
| PP    |    | Y               | Y  |    |    | Y        |    | Y        |   | Y  |      | "I would be tempted to vote for none of the above the way Phil suspended Alex and Bob does not impress me either. I agree with you on the voting system"   |         |
| PH    |    |                 |    |    |    |          | Y  |          | Y |    |      | "Holowczak's annual report reads like a litany of failure. Foley's election address contains several positive ideas, & overall suggests a more proactive, mature approach than Holowczak appears to have adopted"<br>"If Pein could raise £xm a few years ago, the balance of probabilities is that he will be able to repeat that achievement"  |         |
| TB    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          | Y |    | Y    | "For the International chess Director I would strongly support Malcolm Pein"   |         |
| MF    |    |                 |    |    |    | Y        |    |          |   |    |      | "Please vote for Alex as home director. He has been very diligent and helpful to me on many matters"   |         |
| RW    |    | Y               |    |    |    |          | Y  |          | Y | Y  |      | "Personally I have no interest in funding international teams (I know others do have a different opinion) and don't believe it was adequately explained why £100k of reserves were required than £89k. I would be very disappointed if the membership fee was to be raised again. As a result of the last increase I reduced my membership from gold to bronze."   |         |
| JF    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |   | Y  |      | "The chairman's report does make disappointing reading - a divided, disgruntled board needs to be addressed - without a 'unified' board the aims of ECF cannot be achieved... Regarding fees, I do not believe that ordinary members should continually be asked to meet the costs of international work. At the current pace of increase it will rapidly become too expensive to play league chess in England (as an approx calculation we have 10 games in the league this year, that's £1.50/match to ECF, plus cost of club membership (venue hire mainly), plus transport to games - its not a difficult calculation, especially for retired members or those on low incomes)." |         |

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| JF    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |  |    |      | Y  | "I don't know the candidates for these posts and leave it to you to vote as you see fit to ensure the ECF has an effective management team... The majority of bronze members simply want to play a bit of league chess once or twice a week and don't have much interest in all the various ECF activities." |
| BJ    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |  |    |      | Y  | "I trust to your judgement".   |
| DM    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |  |    |      |    | "I would need to better understand how any of the [AGM's agenda] affect[s] grass roots chess before giving an opinion".  |
| RM    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |  |    |      | Y  | "As I don't have the experience to make an informed choice on these issues I,Il leave it to your judgement".   |
| JB    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |  |    |      | Y  | "I am happy to regard you as my representative on the ECF Board, and in that capacity for you to exercise your best judgement as to how you should vote on the various issues".  |
| TJ    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |  |    |      | Y  | "I grant you my proxy to vote on my behalf as you see fit".  |
| JC    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |  |    |      |    | "Having read the report of the chair of the Finance Committee, I feel strongly ... that the committee members need to sort their act out, rather than penalise ordinary chess members by increasing subscriptions again"   |
| IE*   |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |  |    |      |    | "I am disenchanted with the ECF, nearly as much as with FIFA. Why do these bodies waste so much money and always seem to wallow in their own importance."  |
| SM    |    | Y               |    |    | Y  | Y        |    |          |  |    |      | Y  | "The more-visible people seem always to have been prone to some form of turmoil. Against this background, I have been impressed by the good work done by those less visible, such as Roger Edwards (the former grader) in the past, and John Philpott in present times"                                      |
| DC    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |  |    |      |    | "elite chess has many options to secure funding already and should not go looking for club players to subsidise them further "   |
| K H-S |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |  |    |      | Y  | "I am a very new member of the ECF so I have no knowledge of Federation politics. I am happy to give my support to whatever decisions you see fit to make on behalf of this ignorant Bronze Member!"   |

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| SH    |    |                 |    |    |    |          |    |          |   |    |      | Y  | "I must confess to having only a small understanding of the decisions to be made, I do not feel qualified to make any suggestions or advise, therefore I am happy to defer to yourself on how you proceed"   |
| AF    | X  | Y               | Y  |    |    | ?        | ?  | ?        | ? | ?  | Y    |    | Bronze Members Rep. In my view, Directors should: a) be reasonably competent; b) listen; c) communicate; d) behave and act straightforwardly. Using this as a benchmark, my personal preferences are: 1. against the re-election of Phil Ehr; 2. for the election of Julian Clissold and Julie Denning as NEDs; 3. for neither (abstain) Alex Holowczak or John Foley as Home Director; 4. for neither (abstain) David Openshaw or Malcolm Pein as International Director; 5. to abstain on the re-election of Bob Kane. |

Totals 7 10 31

Comment: It would be useful to know the attrition rate for Bronze members and for the other categories of member.

Update: See Dave Thomas' Membership Analysis paper for the 2016 Finance Council meeting. Comparing membership numbers for end Aug 2014 with those for end Aug 2015: 78% Bronze members renewed vs. 86-88% for Silver/Gold/Platinum.