

2016 ECF AGM - Bronze Member Responses

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Resp.	JD	JF	PH	SW	Fee increases?	Support IC expend?	Let the BMDR decide?	Sample comments
PC					N			membership fees: keep them as low as possible, ideally a reduction; certainly against any increase. strategy paper: very disappointed by the very small weight of direct members at the council, with OMOV proposals not being considered; if direct members only role in the ECF is to pay membership fees then we should be called "customers" rather than "members", that would be more honest
DG								[Gold member.] On the NED you are bang on. It would be stupid for Council not to reappoint a Julie Denning who has done her job in style. Stephen Woodhouse is the pick of the rest and, while a bit grey, will provide strong support to the Board on finance and strategic matters. And there's nothing wrong with being grey...
GM					N?	N		in my view international chess should be funded from sponsorship because that's often what sponsors want....and membership fees should be spent on the infrastructure and members....if I cant see any benefit for my money then I will stop paying
AM					N			There needs to be regular communications from the ecf to members even if its only a weekly puzzle with prize its all about keeping people interested in whats going on
AP	Y			Y	Y			I would support your recommended vote for Julie Denning and Stephen Woodhouse, and for Malcolm Pein. And the suggested small increase in membership fees sounds appropriate.
DM							Y	I will leave it in your capable hands to represent us.
JH							Y	I would like you to vote in line with your feelings as all that you have outlined seems very sensible.
MD	Y			Y	Y	N		I think sponsorship has become a vital part of fundraising, and more effort needs to be made by ECF to raise significant sums as a matter of priority; Please vote for Julie D and Stephen W; Do the terms of the trusts allow withdrawals of capital? When trust funds start to spend their capital their income usually falls as well which in turn can lead to a quickening downward spiral; I wouldn't object to paying £1-00 more next year (that's nothing to most people) for UK matters, but not to fund international chess

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SM					Y		Y	[Silver member.] I don't know any of the officers who are standing for election and therefore would be more than happy for you to judge the best candidates... I would have no objection to a modest fee increase - chess is cheap in relation to other sports and as long as the money is spent wisely and not squandered I see no reason not to increase fees... There is too much turbulence in chess politics and generally speaking I would support anyone who is sensible and not likely to walk away as soon as they disagree with something.
DH						N		International expenditure: it seems to me that "leaps and bounds" increases such as are envisaged would be a burden to sustain, and I would urge more modest expansion in this field.
NW				Y				In terms of seeking sponsorship of all levels of BCF chess , could members consider approaching their personal contacts in commerce/retail/manufacturing/finance/education for sponsorship. Also, could the chess online website owners be approached by the BCF?
RH	Y			Y				I am happy to go along with your recommendations re Denning and Woodhouse, and am also happy to support the proposed increase in subscriptions, purely on the basis of fears as to what would happen if they were not increased.
PB							Y	Please vote as you see fit
PM						N		I realise that fees must gradually go up over time, but in an age when total membership is in decline and many people's income has not significantly increased for some years, it is short term folly to try to milk the club players to support the elite. Most club players I know weren't even aware that the Olympiad was on. Why should they pay for it?
KH							Y	Please accept my agreement with your opinions and vote accordingly

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SW								My primary concern is the health of grassroots chess. I have come back into it via Internet Chess after a break of 27 years and the majority of people I now play across the board are retired, on the Internet it is a little better with an average age in the 50s. I think we need to somehow advertise, perhaps with other international chess bodies, on sites such as gameknot or chess.com to try and draw people to moving real pieces across a board. I am really unsure as to what really needs to be done, but something does or local clubs will start dying out in a decade or 2
CH					N?			I am registering with the WCU this year – the reason being is that Bronze membership doesn't give me the right to play in 4NCL matches, so it is cheaper for me to register with the WCU rather than upgrade by ECF subscription.
PL					Y	Y		Having gone through the pain of establishing a compulsory membership scheme I think most can see the benefits. Going forward (small) regular increases seem reasonable to me and I would vote accordingly. Yes we all want to see more English/british players doing well internationally particularly at olympiads so I would support efforts to bring that about. Success breeds;it is easier to get sponsorship when the sponsor can expect his name in lights more often. So efforts to get international team success is paramount to me. Look at the Fischer effect on chess playing. I know a lot of this is simplistic but from a distance this is how I see it.
HB	Y			Y		Y?		With regard to expenditure, I am of course happy to contribute towards supporting players on the international chess scene, but it is vital that we also nurture new blood and continue to draw into the game people of all ages. Many of the chess clubs in our area have an aging membership, and if we fail in this, then the Federation will eventually find that they have no-one to pay them their Bronze membership fees!
KS						Y		Personally I am happy to see the increased expenditure on international chess.
JL					N		Y	I am thus more than happy for you to vote etc exactly as you consider best for ECF. My personal interest would be to keep the fees as low as possible since the gain, to me, is very limited.

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GD								Unfortunately OTB chess seems to be in gradual decline and the ECF needs to do something to promote it to encourage more participation. What that should be I do not know but probably requires expenditure!
RH							Y	You are far better informed on these issues than I am and I would therefore prefer to place my vote in your hands and for you to use my vote as you see fit.
GM					Y			I have no objection to the increase in fees.
RW	Y			Y	N	N		<p>Voting for NED's: I have to rely on the statements and your advice on this one. I believe the best statement is the one by Stephen Woodhouse. Julie Denning's statement was very brief but she is apparently doing a good job, so those are my preferences.</p> <p>Bookkeeper: £25k pa equivalent for a bookkeeper is possibly slightly high, but agree we need the post.</p> <p>Work to re-establish England as a significant force in international chess - as a club player I have no interest in paying anything to achieve this.</p> <p>Five year plan: 2016/17 will almost certainly be my last year of ECF membership and so my views should probably be disregarded, but for what it's worth I totally disagree with average club players funding international and junior chess.</p>
GB					Y	N		<p>The cost of membership increase is acceptable provided strict control of operating costs is monitored.</p> <p>To ask bronze members to support/pay for the significant increase in costs to pay for English International Chess Competitions is not the way forward!</p>
DW					N	N		<p>I am not happy about amateur players subscriptions being increased to fund what is in effect, the professional game i.e those playing for money.</p> <p>I can easily afford the increase but it is the principle of how the money is being used that I am concerned with.</p> <p>Grass roots is now the problem and I would like my money to be used for any scheme which gets youngsters and ... middle aged players to become involved.</p>
JB					N			Against increased fee.

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GD					N			I agree with you that there should be reductions to the proposed expenditure to keep fees down over the coming years.
DC	Y			Y				Thanks for the report. I generally agree with you. My vote for Non-Executive Director positions would be Julie Denning and Stephen Woodhouse.
PB					N?	N		I strongly agree with your suggestion that the planned rises in expenditure for coming years are too high, whether they're funded from increased membership fees or reserves. There's no real difference, since the reserves 'belong' to the members anyway. I especially agree that the vast increases in international expenditure are way too high. It also seems completely wrong to step away from seeking sponsorship for these. If there are going to be such increases in expenditure to support international events, surely they should be funded on a voluntary basis (by requests to those willing to pay for them) than the very undemocratic method proposed by the current council - of imposing these higher costs on all members.
NM						N	Y	Your notes indicate that direct membership is being used to finance England Chess at international events. I'm really sorry, but I can't see why I should pay for this. So I would be against this option.
DS	Y			Y	Y?	N		I think the proposed increases in subs is reasonable but I think the 5 year expenditure plans are just way OTT.
AF	Y			Y	N	N		BMDR.
34	8	0	0	9	Y: 7 N: 11	Y: 3 N: 11	8	