

English Primary Schools' Chess Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on ZOOM

2.00p.m. Saturday 26th September 2020

Present: Emma-Jane Billington-Phillips, Maha Chandar, Julian Clissold, Ken Coates, Victor Cross, Nigel Dennis, Michael Flatt, Alex Holowczak, Edward Jones, Steve Jones, David Knight, Sarah and Alex Longson, Andrew Mitchell, Paul Mottram, Tony Niccoli, Glynis Purland, Peter Purland, Carl Tillotson, John Upham and Laurie Winston. A few others attended for a short period.

The meeting opened at 2.00p.m.

1 Chairman's Remarks

The chairman's opening remarks were circulated before the meeting and are given in Appendix A. There were no questions to the chairman.

2 Apologies for Absence

Balvinder Ahluwalia, Matthew Battersby, David Graham, Dave Hawkins, Alina Waite and Traci Whitfield

3 Minutes of AGM 28th September 2019

Ken Coates asked for clarification of item 9; new associations; Maidenhead were accepted as a new association with an area as detailed on the agenda, which included a revised area for Berkshire.

The area detailed on the agenda is given in Appendix B. Ken Coates also made the statement in the next paragraph and asked for it to be recorded.

Players from the area of Maidenhead that have already played for Berkshire are permitted to remain with Berkshire if they wish.

The minutes were approved subject to this clarification.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the AGM on 28th September 2019.

5a Report by the General Secretary

The secretary's report is given in Appendix C. The Chairman asked Barnet to explain their plan to organise the inter-association championships online, which had been circulated before the meeting. This is given in Appendix D, which also includes their proposal for running the National Schools Competition and the Rapidplay Championships online. Tony Niccoli explained Barnet's proposal. It was agreed to proceed with Barnet's proposals for the inter-association championships online. Barnet are to produce final details.

5b Report by the Treasurer

The treasurer's Report is given in Appendix E. The report is for the period up to 31st July 2020. Since then the National Schools Controller has been paid £14,000. This sum is reduced from the agreed sum of £18,000 as the competition finished without the semi-finals or finals taking place due to the coronavirus regulations. The treasurer stated that the current balance is £67,549.90.

Laurie Winston asked for the expenditure of each activity to be shown, and pointed out that a total figure for officers' expenses was given without allocation to each activity

The accounts were accepted.

5c Report by the National Schools' Championship Controller

The National Schools' Championship Controller's Report is given in Appendix F.

Glynis Purland explained the main points in the report. The chairman asked for any questions, and there were none. There were two offers to run the National Schools' Championships online in 2021, one from Barnet, which is given in Appendix D, and the other as collaboration between the ECF, UKCC and EPSCA, which is given in Appendix G.

Consideration of the Rapidplay was also taken under this item. The report by the Rapidplay Controller is given in Appendix H, and a proposal to run the Rapidplay Online as collaboration between the ECF, UKCC and EPSCA is given in Appendix I.

After a discussion there was a vote on how the National Schools' Championships online and the Rapidplay online should be organised in 2021 between the Barnet proposal and the ECF/UKCC/EPSCA proposal. After attempts to vote using the "hand up" facility on zoom, the chairman was unable to determine the result. Another attempt to vote was made using the "chat" facility. This resulted in a tied vote with seven votes for each method and four abstentions. It was decided that Barnet and ECF/UKCC/EPSCA should both produce final details of their proposals, and the Council would make a decision at a later date.

5d Report by the English Schools Team Manager

Victor Cross and Balvinder Ahluwalia had acted as co-managers. There was no written report. Qualification events had taken place, but there had been no England matches due to the coronavirus regulations.

5e Report by the Chief Arbiter

Peter Purland had not sent a written report as there had been no significant rule changes and no problems. He stressed the need to have EPSCA qualified arbiters at EPSCA events.

5f Report by the Representative to the English Chess Federation

The Representative to the English Chess Federation's report is given in Appendix J.

5g Report by the English Closed Under 11 Championship Controller

David Levens had not sent a report and had indicated that he did not wish to continue as the controller. Edward Jones said that he was willing to consider controlling this event.

5h Report by the Rapidplay Controller

The report by the Rapidplay Controller is given in Appendix H.

5i Report by the Grader

There was no written report. Michael Flatt had submitted the inter-association results for ECF grading and indicated that he is willing to continue with this for the coming season.

6 Election of Council The following were proposed, seconded and elected: -

a	President	Chris Ward
b	Chairman	Michael Flatt
c	Vice-Chairman	Tony Niccoli was proposed and will consider
d	General Secretary	Nigel Dennis
e	Treasurer	David Knight
f	National Schools' Championship Controller	<i>Vacant</i>

g	English Schools' Team Manager	Balvinder Ahluwalia
h	Chief Arbiter	Peter Purland
i	Representative to the English Chess Federation	Nigel Dennis

J Additional Members

Emma-Jane Billington-Phillips, Victor Cross, Glynis Purland, Ian Hughes, and Traci Whitfield

The immediate past chairman is Julian Clissold

Laurie Winston is to be co-opted to Council meetings as the officer in charge of the website.

7 Other Elections

Independent Examiner Louise Preston FCCA

At this point Julian Clissold handed over the chair to Michael Flatt

8 New Associations

There were no new applications for membership.

9 Affiliation and Team Entry Fees

As the finals for the inter-association championships had not been played in 2020 and it was possible that no over the board competitions would be played in 2021, it was agreed that no affiliation fees would be collected for the coming season. As the girls inter-association championships had not been played in 2020, it was agreed that the associations that had paid for this would have their entry fee carried over to the next time that the inter-association girls championships were held.

10 2020-2021 Inter-Association Championships including whether to run online

This had been taken under the report by the general secretary, item 5a

The dates had been agreed at the last AGM, though there are currently no plans to play over the board.

Under 9 Zones	13 th March 2021
Under 11 Zones	20 th March 2021
Under 11 Girls Final	27 th March 2021
Under 9 Final	24 th April 2021
Under 11 Final	8 th May 2021

11 2020-2021 National Primary Schools Championships including whether to run online

This had been taken under the report by the National Schools' Championship Controller, item 5c

Glynis Purland offered to carry out any necessary research into running the championships over the board in 2022. This was agreed.

12 2021 Rapidplay

This had been taken under the report by the National Schools' Championship Controller, item 5c

13 Website

Laurie Winston agreed to continue working on the website. The site cost £12 per month.

14 Child Protection and Data Protection

The child protection officers are: -

Lead – Julian Clissold

Safeguarding Officer – David Knight

Deputy Safeguarding Officer – Traci Whitfield

15 Purchase of Equipment

Laurie Winston has kept a record of equipment purchased.

16 Dates for 2021-2022 Inter-Association Championships

The dates were agreed as follows: -

Under 9 Zones	12 th March 2022
Under 11 Zones	19 th March 2022
Under 11 Girls Final	26 th March 2022
Under 9 Final	23 rd April 2022
Under 11 Final	7 th May 2022

17 Time, Date and Venue for Next Meeting

The next meeting was arranged for Saturday 18th September 2021 with a preference for this to be on ZOOM.

The meeting closed at 6.00p.m.

Appendix A; Agenda Item 1; Chairman's Opening Remarks

EPSCA: The next five years.

Paper to the EPSCA AGM September 2020

EPSCA has been a major player in the provision of junior chess in this country. Fifty years ago it was effectively the only significant player in that field and in the years since then it has built up a very strong portfolio of provision including the Association Championships, the National Primary Schools tournament, the Rapidplay and the Junior Squad. For many years they were the bedrock of provision for children at Primary schools.

That portfolio was maintained by a number of dedicated individuals who gave their time and effort to sustain the programme. It was also supported by a much larger group of teachers, chess players and chess coaches who organised locally and regionally to bring children to these tournaments. They were the beating heart of EPSCA and what sustained the national and regional programmes. EPSCA's continuing strength lay in its relationships with schools, with school chess clubs and with teachers in schools.

Today the picture is very different. There are far more and far more successful organisations working with Primary Schools. United Kingdom Chess Challenge (UKCC) has grown and diversified. Around the original business plan, UKCC runs national coaching, on line tournaments and ensures that all its tournaments are overseen by qualified arbiters and are graded. Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC) has moved beyond a model that works with schools during curriculum time and now runs after school chess clubs and works in libraries and prisons. The English Chess Federation (ECF) has a national tournament for schools, runs an Academy for gifted players and maintains a national England squad that play in a range of overseas tournaments. It is also running an

Under 18 programme. At the moment it is also running an alternative to the Associations Championship. Finally the Four Nations Chess League (J4NCL) has a strong Junior Section, running tournaments for over 160 teams. It employs qualified arbiters, grades games and has developed relationships with schools that enter their own teams. The Chess Trust has set up the Accelerator programme to support our top juniors

These organisations have collaborated with each other. UKCC runs the ECF Academy, CSC has entered teams in the Junior 4NCL. But most significantly, every one of these organisations responded quickly to the new situation created by the pandemic. CSC has an arrangement with Chesskid.com, and a weekly programme; UKCC has maintained its various finals on line; J4NCL has started an on line league. They now together dominate the junior chess scene.

It is sad to note that EPSCA has neither begun to collaborate with other partners, nor has it made any attempt to penetrate the on-line junior chess world. Its provision is still respected but increasingly it will fall behind our colleagues in other organisations. I would point to four areas in which EPSCA needs to raise its game and bring us into line with other junior tournaments.

1. Playing chess

Games should be graded as a matter of course.

Use ECF qualified arbiters and re-write the roles of Board Stewards.

Results to be broadcast live on the EPSCA website

Playing conditions to meet FIDE space and equipment norms.

Start to show live games on line and at venues.

Show games on EPSCA website.

2. Venues

Book venues through third parties so that EPSCA no longer risks being viewed as a Travel Agent

Use high quality venues wherever feasible; where schools are used greatly reduce the player densities.

Set up accommodation contracts via third parties for the majority of our activities.

No future toleration of a “cheap and cheerful approach.”

3. Registration

Make registration for all our events on line, including registration for Association Championships.

Payments to be made by BACS.

Entry lists to be displayed on line

Rules and regulations for events to be on line

4. The New “Normal”

It is not clear what the new normal will look like. But it will not be like chess last year and the year before. All our programmes are going to need to be able to take on new forms of organisations and meet the conditions in schools.

We may still have “bubbles” well into 2021, we may still have restrictions on social distance and on size of gatherings, and we will still have to do Risk Assessments and plans to live in the new situation.

Schools will be different and our chess clubs in schools (the beating heart of EPSCA) will have to be different. We need the conversations with schools about what these might look like.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive but to demonstrate a direction of travel. Even this list will not be accomplished in a year but should be substantially achieved within five years, and the bulk within two.

What is the alternative?

I fear that failure to establish these sorts of norms and protocols will presage a slow but steady decline in the work/influence of EPSCA. Schools will look to other organisations and find other, better services. At present, whichever event I go to I see the former stalwarts of EPSCA as they explore new venues, new organisers, new competitions. They are I fear finding better answers to their questions.

Appendix B; Agenda Item 3, Minutes of AGM 28th September 2019

Item 9; New Associations; Application for membership from Maidenhead

Berkshire Junior Chess Association Area

- West Berkshire
- Reading
- Wokingham (excluding RG9 and RG10 postcodes)
- Bracknell Forest
- Sunningdale & Cheapside and Ascot & Sunnighill wards of Windsor and Maidenhead

These areas are marked in Red (except the postcode RG6 (Earley) in Wokingham marked in magenta)

Maidenhead Junior Chess Club Area

- Windsor and Maidenhead (excluding the wards of Sunningdale & Cheapside and Ascot & Sunnighill)
- Slough
- Hillingdon
- The RG9 and RG10 postcodes in Wokingham

These areas marked in blue, except Slough, marked in purple.

EPSCA's existing rules allow a player to play for another organisation where significant ties are demonstrated. However, to avoid unnecessary disputes, MJCC confirms it will not challenge any player in the Slough area wishing to play for BJCA and BJCA confirms it will not challenge and player in the RG6 postcode wishing to play for MJCC.

The map is a separate document.

Appendix C; Agenda Item 5a; Secretary's Report

Report by the General Secretary on Inter-Association Competitions

Three under 11 zones took place on 7th March 2020, and three under 9 zones were held on 14th March 2020. The under 11 zones were held at Cheadle Hulme School organised by Manchester and won by Cheshire and North Wales, Chingford Foundation School organised by Essex and won by Kent, and Cox Green School organised by Maidenhead and won by Sussex. The under 9 zones were held at Cleveland's Prep School organised by Manchester and won by Cheshire and North Wales, Onslow St. Audrey's School organised by Hertfordshire and won jointly by Kent and Barnet, and Cantell School organised by Hampshire and won by Wey Valley.

At the time of the events, due to coronavirus spreading from abroad, Government advice was to hold these events taking precautions such as washing hands, not shaking hands and having as much space as possible between tables. Due to this some parents withdrew their children. However, 22 of the 26 teams that entered the under 11 participated, and 21 of the 24 teams that entered the under 9 participated. The girls' final was due to be held on 21st March. However, the Oxfordshire organisers indicated that due to the deteriorating coronavirus situation and the difficulty of complying with Government advice, they considered that the event should be cancelled, so the participating teams were informed on 15th March that the girls' final was cancelled. On 16th March the Government changed its advice and recommended that all events of the type that we were organising should be cancelled. On 18th March the teams that had qualified for the finals were informed that both the under 11 final and the under 9 final were cancelled.

The full results are under "2020 EPSCA" at: - <http://www.oxfordfusion.com/epsca/>

On 6th May 2017 the under 11 final was held at Waterhead Academy, Oldham. The trophy was taken to the event by the Barnet team who had been the winners in 2016. The Barnet team gave the trophy to a person who they understood to be an official who was involved in organising the event. However, at the prize giving when the trophy was due to be given to Richmond, it could not be found, and Richmond did not receive it. At last year's AGM on 28th September 2019, the trophy had still not been recovered. It was understood that the Oldham organisers had made repeated attempts to recover the trophy. An item about the missing trophy was placed on the agenda, and a photograph of the trophy was circulated. The meeting decided to purchase a new trophy, and that Tim Onions would be asked to supply it.

Shortly after the meeting Tim Onions was asked to supply a new trophy for the under 11 inter-association championship. He was willing to supply a new trophy, though pointed out that no new trophy could replace the history of the existing trophy, which was a wooden chess board presented to EPSCA by B.H. Wood at the first under 11 championship in 1967 when the winners were Liverpool. All the names of the winners from 1967 to 2016 are inscribed on metal plates along the sides of the board. He considered that he should phone Waterhead Academy to ask whether they were still in possession of the trophy. He made the phone call and they replied "Yes, we have the trophy. It's in the library and the librarian is looking after it." Tim Onions organised the collection of the trophy from Waterhead Academy, handed it to me in February 2020, and I now have it at home. Richmond and Kent were joint winners in 2018 and Kent were the winners in 2019. Neither Richmond nor Kent have received the trophy in 2017, 2018 or 2019.

Appendix D; Agenda Item 5a

Barnet Junior Chess Proposal for moving EPSCA events on-line for 2020-21 season:

Proposal overview:

Barnet Junior Chess charity propose to run all usual EPSCA activity online for the 2020-2021 season without any charge or cost to EPSCA.

The pandemic has caused great disruption for everyone in the chess community and we would like to offer our support to EPSCA at this time and give continuity to the juniors who take much pride in representing their schools and Associations.

BJC officers have many years of experience in participating in EPSCA events, have hosted many school's zones as well as Association Zones and Finals. Since March we have been working online and running daily tournaments for our students and local community.

EPSCA can choose to offer the events without any cost to the teams or use this opportunity to generate funds in excess of £12,000.

On-line safety and anti-cheating measures are priority and have been covered.

An outline of event structure is enclosed ensuring the event online is a true reflection of the spirit of the EPSCA competitions with priority given to ease of use for team managers.

Affected events:

- 1) National Schools competition: 426 teams of 6 players in 2019, 2,500+ children.
- 2) National Association Championships for 60 teams over three sections U11, Girls U11 and U9 age groups; 1000 + junior chess players.
- 3) EPSCA Rapidplay Championships with 100+ number of entrants

These events give BJC and other Associations much purpose and activity and we want to ensure continuity in growth for all junior players in England.

When Schools closed in March and the Country entered lockdown, chess moved on-line.

Some examples:

- Chess clubs moved to lichess.org or chess.com and coaches delivered chess lessons via skype and zoom.
- The 4NCL and UKCC are both running successful on-line versions of their events. 600 players in the new season of J4NCL and 1800+ players entered the online UKCC.
- Rob Willmoth ran an unofficial UK Schools event on-line and reported 60 teams @ £50 a team participating.
- Alex H is running U18 County blitz battles every two weeks with 18 teams competing, usually over 500 participants, all through the summer.

Advantages of on-line chess

- Easy to organise and administer on Lichess
- Lichess is free to use and contains no adverts
- Simple registration process for managers
- Automated pairings
- No travel time or cost
- Convenient
- May incentivise teams that cannot always play to participate

Disadvantages of on-line chess

- Perceived high levels of cheating
- It does not have the same social contact
- Must have reliable internet connection

How to mitigate the disadvantages

- Safeguarding policy
- Robust Anti-Cheating policy as per the ECF
- Appeals process with three GMs to review games
- Reserve player in each team

Outline of structure: National Schools Championships:

Three stages:

- 1) Schools Zone stage = 6 per team with top 5 scores counting.
10 teams per zone and top 5 teams in each zone qualify to the Semi finals and the others qualify to the Plate.
- 2) Semi-Finals and Plate stages
- 3) National Finals for top 8 teams in each age group.

All to run on Lichess.

Advantages:

- Easy for team managers to set up teams on Lichess.
- The pairings are automatic and there are no complications of making challenges.
- All teams participate in two stages of the competition.

Cost structure:

To be determined by the EPSCA treasurer.

For example :

£30 entry fee per team or £5 per player would generate £12,000 if 400 teams take part.
This would cover both zone and Semi Final stage.

Outline of structure: National Association Championships

To follow the structure of the over the board Championships

U9 – teams of 12 with 4 reserves

U11 – teams of 20 with 4 reserves

U11 Girls – teams of 12 with 4 reserves.

- Zone stage: To be run as battles
- Finals to be run as jamboree with set pairings published in advanced as per J4NCL.
- Teams not reaching the Finals can play in a Plate team event on the same day.

Cost Structure

To be determined by the EPSCA Treasurer

In addition to the National Association On Line Championships we would like to offer:

Monthly Team Battles:

Monthly battles to start in October and finish in June

10 teams and 90 mins per battle.

Unlimited Divisions

Unlimited number of players in a team so is a real development opportunity.

Set the number of point scorers regardless of how many in team.

Advantages:

- Easy for team managers to set up teams on Lichess.
- The pairings are automatic and there are no complications of making challenges.
- Once a team is made on Lichess, it requires one reminder to players each month.

Outline of structure : EPSCA Rapidplay Championships

This tournament can be run on-line automatically on Lichess as a 5 or 6 round swiss with set round times.

Price structure to be determined by Treasurer.

All income is profit to EPSCA with exception of trophies / medals for prizes.

If we require players to have ECF membership the event can be graded for online ratings (optional).

Administrators for BJC:

Grandmaster Jonathan Hawkins

Tony Niccoli

Angela Eyton

Supported by Hana Salussolia

Appendix E; Agenda Item 5b; Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet 2019 – 2020

1st August 2019 to 31st July 2020

Opening Balance £79,227.73 (EPSCA Lloyds Account)

Income

Affiliation Fees

2,770.00

NPSCC Deposit	8,154.84
English Under 11 Championship Entry Fees	314.00
Rapidplay Entry Fees (Excluding via Nochex)	597.00
Richmond JCC Payments (erroneous)	290.00
Repayment of Short-Term Loan by NPSCC	6,000.00

Total Income £18,125.84

Expenditure

Auditing Fee (2018 – 2019 Accounts)	100.00
Officers Expenses	1467.61
David Levens Expenses	414.30
Arbiting Expenses	90.00
AGM Room Hire (Webb Suite)	157.50
Insurance	233.00
Website Upgrading	500.00
Trophies and Medals (Inter-Association)	1056.00
Trophies and Engraving (Rapidplay)	144.75
Postage (Trophies and Medals Inter-Association)	33.10

Richmond JCC Deposits to NPSCC	290.00
NPSCC Short-Term Loan	6000.00
Items Required at U11 Northern Zonal	25.00
Printing (Inter-Association Certificates)	463.20
Website Hosting	144.00
Tournament Venue Hire	5705.65

Total Expenditure £16,824.11

Closing Balance £80,529.46 (EPSCA Lloyds Account)

TSB Business Instant Access Account £1,003.91

TSB Club, Charity and Trust Account £5,200.00

- Print Solutions Invoice 53286 paid twice. Company will be making refund directly into EPSCA Lloyds Account.

Appendix F; Agenda Item 5c Report by National Primary Schools' Championship Controller

NPSCC Report 18th August 2020

We have now completed our sixth year in Office, and I would like to start by giving our grateful thanks to those who have helped us through this year. Firstly, although I am the elected Council Member, I could not do any of this work without my partner Ian Burford. Despite working full time he has put so much time and effort into both the running of this Competition and the closing down of it this year and I would formally like to thank him. I would like to thank the treasurer David Knight. His assistance this year has been invaluable. We have worked more closely than ever with him, under very trying circumstances. Peter Purland has yet again given valuable support both as Chief Arbiter and big brother. We thank him and his team of arbiters for their invaluable work. Every arbiter involved in this Competition has demonstrated extreme professionalism, love of Chess and overwhelming care and kindness to all the children playing. I would finally like to thank all the Zone Hosts without them the first stage of this Competition would not have been able to run.

Zones

A fantastic start to the year with our highest number of teams to enter– 426.

We had 24 Zones offering to host teams in 2020. New Zones this year were Cheadle Hulme, St. Joseph's Oxford, Chislehurst Girls (Kent Zone), Orleans Park and Aldro (new to us).

Two Zones did not run this year due to lack of entries – QEGs Wakefield and Claires Court.

The Zones ran well again, our thanks to all the Zone hosts for offering not only their schools but putting so much effort into the day itself. The last Zones to run in March were hit by the start of the pandemic and we commend the Zone Hosts for the excellent running of their Zones under difficult circumstances.

Semi Finals

Following on from our Action Point last year, we contacted all Zone qualifiers to make sure they had the relevant paper work to enter the Semi Finals.

We had a record entry for Bristol of 85 teams. All entries had come in before mid March and we had started the process of confirming places on the usual basis. That is, Host schools, then first come first served basis following the Zone played in.

Many schools had expressed interest in the weekend Semi Finals at Pontins. We had worried in the past re the take up for Prestatyn, but this year it looked to be extremely popular.

I cannot give numbers for the weekend semi finals as although interest was expressed by schools entries usually come at the end of March/beginning of April and by that time the Lockdown was in place.

Lock Down

In early March it became clear to Ian and myself that the situation in the country would impact on the competition and we asked Council for advice. A decision was reached that the competition could no longer continue. Cancelling the Bristol Semi was very straight forward but there were more involved negotiations with Pontins as we had a contract with both sites. Once Pontins itself closed they agreed to refund all monies we had paid to them, which they duly did. The Final was booked through Bridge Overseas and postponed until next year.

Refunds

Ian and I kept in close contact with all schools who had entered the Semi Finals. We informed them of the unfortunate cancelling of the Semis and asked how they would like their money refunded. A time consuming job followed of paying back well over a hundred schools and individuals for both entries, day passes and apartments.

Closing of Accounts

By the beginning of June all monies had been refunded leaving £3275.77 of which £800 is earmarked for Kings House, which they may or may not claim, leaving a balance of £2475.77. We still have £109.28 petty cash.

All accounts were duly sent to David and we have received a certificate of audit.

The Future

We have already sent to Council members the results of the Questionnaire we sent out in June. Although the majority of replies hope for a competition as near normal as possible Ian and I do not feel that would be possible. On that basis we are not standing for the position of National Controllers in 2021.

Ian and I have always managed to find Zone Hosts for the first round but it has often been a struggle. Schools hopefully will be back in September but there is no guarantee that chess will be played or that they will be willing for other schools to come onto their premises. Deep cleaning has been advised in some responses and we feel that Hosts will be reluctant to take this on, especially if pieces need to be cleaned between rounds etc.

Pontins has become a bone of contention now for many parents. We have seen a drift away from booking apartments to booking Day Passes. Unfortunately, the way the competition is run at

present, both the Zones and Final run at a loss and the bulk of the profit is made at the Semi Finals, especially Pontins. We think that following the pandemic take up of places will be badly affected. At present we have not entered into a contract with Pontins for next year but have just given them provisional dates.

Ian and I do not want to see EPSCA suffering from further financial loss and would recommend a suspension of the competition until the situation in the country improves, hopefully in 2022. We do take on board both Julian and Laurie's comments re the importance of running an event but we would sooner spend the year looking into improving the competition than having a year of potential failure and ruining the high esteem in which the competition is obviously held.

Several respondents have mentioned internet competitions. Alex, ECF Director of Junior Chess, sums up his concerns re this in his response. We also would not be happy running an online competition. One of our Host Schools did report an incident to us when they found someone trying to access inappropriate material during the Zone this year. We also have concerns over potential cheating.

Provisional Dates

We have proposed dates to the three Semi Final venues but none of them have, unsurprisingly, responded.

Bridge Overseas is provisionally holding Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport for the Final on 5th -7th July 2021.

We would like to thank EPSCA for the opportunity we have had over the last six years to run this competition. We have had such joy from the children's excitement and made so many new friends. We would definitely like to be considered for appointment in the future should the opportunity occur.

Very best wishes to you all

Glynis and Ian

Appendix G; Agenda Item 5c Report on Collaboration between ECF, UKCC and EPSCA

National Primary Schools Chess Championship On Line 2021

- Tournament will be organised by a collaboration between the ECF, UKCC and EPSCA.
- Tournament will be run in three stages:
 - i. Local matches
 - ii. Regional quarter finals and semi finals
 - iii. National Final
- Schools will enter teams of four children plus a reserve. The children will be ECF members and registered on chess.com. They will be under 11 on 1.09.2020 for the Under 11 Tournament and under 9 for the Under 9 Tournament.
- Children must have been registered pupils at the school at least three weeks before the tournament start date round
- Children cannot represent more than one school in any school year.
- Schools will enter teams and will identify for each team, a team manager and a Board Steward.
- Matches will be played on weekdays after school. Children may play from either their school or from home.
- Time control of 35 minutes plus a 15 second increment will be used.

- Tied matches will be decided by bottom board elimination.
- All matches will be played on Chess.com
- **The format of Local matches** will be a three round all play all between four schools.
- Team matches and pairings, plus results will be shown on the EPSCA website.
- Schools will deploy their nominated Board Steward to monitor games. The roles for Board Stewards are specified in Appendix XX.
- Team Managers are responsible for organising the team, ensuring playing conditions and entering results. Team Manager roles are specified in the Appendix XX
- **The format for Regional Quarter finals and the Semi Finals** will be a straight two stage knock out. Six winners will be invited to the finals.
- Team matches and pairings, plus results will be shown on the EPSCA website.
- Schools will deploy their nominated Board Steward to monitor games. The roles for Board Stewards are specified in Appendix XX.
- Team Managers are responsible for organising the team, ensuring playing conditions and entering results. Team Manager roles are specified in the Appendix XX
- **The format for the Final** will be a five round all-play-all over a weekend for six teams. Either at a hotel/Uppingham or virtual if necessary.

Entries

- The target will be 80 schools in each of the under 9's and under 11's. This would be 320 children
- There would be twenty regional matches at each age group. January to end of February.
- Twenty winners plus the four highest scoring losers would be paired in the knock out semi-finals. March to June
- Six teams would contest the final in July

Appendix H; Agenda Item 5c; Report by Rapidplay Controller

EPSCA Rapidplay 2021

The following changes are recommended:

- a) Entry fee £10 with a £3 surcharge for non-ECF members (No change)
- b) Charge £25 entry fee after 31st January. Entries on the day not accepted.) No change)
- c) Grading the Under 11, under 10 and under 9 events (A sections only)
If A and B sections have to be run together the grading will not be pursued.
- d) Payment to arbiters of £70 per head. (Paid last year).
- e) Draws undertaken for all sections using Swiss Manager

- f) Registration desk on arrival and a Payments desk all morning.
- g) Book stall Tim Onions.
- h) Move event from school to a NW hotel through Guaranteed Events.

Format one: (Assumption that by November 2020 the chess world is back to normal for OTB chess.)

- i) Large hall capacity 100 matches, 200 children.
- j) Seven sections U11A&B, U10 A&B U9A&B U8.
- k) Seven controllers plus finance and registration collection table
- l) Refreshments with the hotel.
- m) Entry on line with on line payment.
- n) Grade all A sections
- o) First aid presence from St John's Ambulance.
- p) No new entry on day but group entry pays on the day.

Format two (Assumption that OTB is permissible but under clear H&S conditions):

- q) Entry fee £10 with a £3 surcharge for non-ECF members (No change)
- r) Charge £25 entry fee after 31st January. Entries on the day not accepted.(No change)
- s) Grading the Under 11, under 10 and under 9 events (A sections only) If A and B sections have to be run together the grading will not be pursued.
- t) Payment to 6 arbiters of £70 per head.(Paid last year).
- u) Draws undertaken for all sections using Swiss Manager
- v) Registration desk on arrival and a Payments desk all morning.
- w) Book stall Tim Onions.
- x) Move event from school to a NW hotel; restrict entry to U8/9/10/11 A sections and 100 children (25 per section). Play two metres apart. Hygiene regulations. Parents excluded.

Format three (Assume continued lockdown in the north west.

- y) EPSCA Rapidplay played on line
- z) One day tournament
- aa) Five rounds on Lichess
- bb) Pairings on line after each round. Results submitted to controllers
- cc) Only four sections and 25 children per section
- dd) On line registration and payment.
- ee) No grading except via site.
- ff) Three controllers, all remote.

Control Team to be invited:

Ian Campbell

Ian Hughes
Bob Tinton
Rod Middleton
Fiona Green
Tom Green
David Clayton
Julian Clissold
Steve Mason

Appendix I; Agenda Item 5c; Proposal to Run the Rapidplay Online as Collaboration between EPSCA, ECF and UKCC

EPSCA Rapidplay 2021

Running an On-Line Rapidplay

- It is hoped that the event will benefit from the collaboration between EPSCA, ECF and UKCC.
- Weekend in February probably 6/7th February
- Five sections for age groups Under 8 up to under 11
- All sections run as Swiss tournaments.
- All sections use chess.com
- All sections use 15 minutes plus ten seconds time control
- Registration on line
- Membership of ECF a condition of entry as signing fair play agreement
- Pairings to be published on EPSCA website, results to be reported to controllers and collected on EPSCA website.
- Five arbiters to monitor the five sections
- Two controllers to oversee the tournaments.
- Three events on Saturday two events on Sunday.
- Entry fee of £15
- Target of 150 children
- Games graded with ECF On line.

Appendix J; Agenda Item 5f Report by the Representative to the English Chess Federation

I attended the annual meeting on 12th October 2019 in London, and the annual finance meeting on 18th June 2020 via Zoom.

Due to the covid-19 situation there may be little over the board chess during the immediate future. However, the ECF are hoping that most members will renew their membership, as they have many fixed costs.

Membership fees remain unchanged for the membership year 2020-2021. Junior Gold membership remains £19.50, junior silver £6.00 and junior bronze £6.00. The junior congress pay to play fee remains £2.50.

The ECF asked that they could have the discretion to use the funds they have without asking Council at this time as funds are limited. This request was accepted by Council.

The plan is for monthly four digit grades changing the “grades” name to “ratings” to be first published on 1st October, and that the monthly updates will be on the 1st of each month.

The next annual council meeting will be on Saturday 17th October 2020 via Zoom. The agenda is now published. Adam Ashton, Rob Willmoth and Natasha Regan are standing unopposed for Finance Director, Membership Director and Non-Executive Director respectively. There is a contested election between Nigel Towers and Tim Wall for Home Director. Stephen Greep is standing for the Governance Committee. No indication has yet been given about whether the ECF needs to use the financial flexibility approved in July.

Nigel Dennis

23rd September 2020