

WECU

MINUTES (draft)

Council Meeting (via Zoom) - Saturday 5th August 2023 starting at 5:00pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Guy Greenland welcomed those present at the Zoom Meeting .

Present:

Nikki Forster (NF) - President, Jon Underwood (JU) - Devon delegate, Phil Meade (PM), Guy Greenland (GG) - Secretary & Somerset delegate, Kevin Markey (KM) - Gloucestershire delegate, Graham Stuart (GS) - Fixtures Secretary & Hampshire delegate, Igor Docleastic (ID) - Bristol League Congress Organiser, Malcolm Steevens - Dorset delegate (MS)

Apologies were received from:

Oliver Wensley and Jamie Morgan

2. Minutes of previous Council Meeting 21st July 2022

Circulated and agreed (Proposed by JU, seconded by KM)

3. Matters arising

JU remarked that an Executive Meeting did not take place this year . GG apologised that he had been ill at the usual time of the Executive Meeting.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Executive Meeting for this year to be combined with this Council Meeting.

4. Officer's reports

President:

NF stated that her main concern was that WECU continued to be active (having been non-active for a considerable period of time), achieve a way forward, and confirm its role and purpose for the future.

Treasurer:

Oliver Wensley (absent from this Meeting), had circulated an email to Officers with information concerning WECU's current financial position.

A detailed set of accounts will be available shortly.

Secretary:

GG stated that he had nothing to report concerning secretarial matters apart from comments made in Matters arising - see 3. above.

GG stated he had approached regional Junior Organiser Chris Strong and sent information to NF regarding local Junior Chess activities.

GG introduced Igor Docleastic (ID) to the Meeting. ID stated he would be able to offer WECU access to the 2024 Centenary Bristol & District League Congress to establish who could take up the Union's qualifying place at the annual British Championships. The Meeting agreed in principle, that

WECU would hold its 2024 Championship in conjunction with the Congress subject to financial support being agreed - as proposed by (MB) and seconded by (GS).

The Championship place would be awarded to the best performing West of England affiliated player not already qualified to the British championship (ie. as a GM or IM).

These matters would need to be discussed more fully if a fund is to be donated to the Congress with the Treasurer (OW) and Congress Organiser (ID) in attendance. Proposed by GG that another Zoom meeting would be held so that members could attend also (see date of Zoom Meeting in AOB below).

Fixtures Secretary:

GS stated that Devon won both the Howard Meek Trophy and Wayling Cup and had gone on to compete in the ECF National Stages.

The ECF's League Management System had been successfully employed in presenting fixtures as well as recording detailed results of graded matches.

See attachment for details.

ECF Delegate:

NF stated she had attended the ECF AGM a year ago and had attended a finance Zoom meeting earlier this year; the financial accounts had been approved, including the Trust ; the budget for the year was approved and there had been a debate on how to change the membership categories (Bronze,Silver,Gold) but this had not been concluded.

5. Election of Officers

All Officers were elected en-bloc where named below (proposed by MB and seconded by KM)

- a. President – Nikki Forster.
- b. Deputy – post vacant.
- c. General Secretary – Guy Greenland.
- d. Treasurer – Oliver Wensley.
- e. Junior Chess Secretary – no election held – post vacant (NF stated she would be happy to share role with Chris Strong if required and in the meantime she will find out who is the local Organiser in each County).
- f. Congress Secretary – post vacant.
- g. Fixtures Secretary – Graham Stuart.
- h. ECF Delegate – post vacant (NF covering this temporarily).
- i. Jamboree Organiser – post vacant.

6. Re-election of Vice–Presidents - -elected en-bloc where named below (proposed by JU, seconded by GS)

Vice-Presidents : J E Fewkes, D C Jarrett, I M George, G N Jepps, M Steevens, Mrs F Headlong, R H Jones, P J Meade, B W R Hewson, R Rendell, L Walker and J Wheeler. K. Markey

8. Discussion on role of WECU and Chess Championships for the Union area into the future:

A general discussion took place concerning the future of the WECU qualifying place and future roles of Congresses in the area to take the place of a WECU congress (see Secretary's report above)

9. Date of Meetings for 2024:

(a) Spring Executive Meeting – not yet decided

(b) Council Meeting – not yet decided

10. Any other business

a) MB suggested that more regular meetings might be a good thing and GS stated that in that case the WECU Constitution needs to be amended as it appears out of date with relation to Meetings being set currently at one annual Council Meeting and one annual Executive Meeting.

b) Date of next Zoom Meeting

Saturday 7th October 2023 at 5pm via ZOOM

Meeting closed at 6.40pm