

YCA ECF Delegate's Report, 2018-19

As YCA delegate to the ECF I attended the two ECF Council Meetings held this year: the Annual General Meeting on 13/10/2019, and the Finance Council Meeting on 27/04/2019. Reports on these meetings have appeared on the YCA website, at <http://mannchess.org.uk/YEvents/2018-10-13ECFAGM.htm>, and <http://mannchess.org.uk/YNotices/2019-04-28ECFCouncilMeeting.htm>.

The ECF has laudable expanding aspirations as a national organisation: fielding teams in international competitions, promoting junior chess, and so on. Unfortunately, it was left underfunded by the loss in 2010 of an annual £50,000 government grant. This means the ECF has to seek increasingly more money from its membership. There are those who claim most of the grass-root membership wants grading but does not wish to fund broader ECF activities, especially international chess (amateurs meeting the shortfall in sponsorship of the funding of professionals). There are those who deny this to be the case, and argue that grass-root membership wishes to, or at least should, fund the broader activities of the ECF.

The tension between the two viewpoints is evident not only on the floor of Council meeting, but also amongst Board members, who have, at least, in recent years learnt the art of largely concealing their inevitable individual differences in Council meetings.

The fee increases sought in April 2019 went through. Membership and other fees for the new season are therefore as follows (with existing rates shown for comparison):

	2018/19	2019/20
Platinum membership	£70	£75
Junior Platinum membership	£70	£75
Gold membership	£34	£39
Junior Gold membership	£17	£19.50
Silver membership	£23.50	£27
Silver Junior membership	£5	£6
Bronze membership	£16	£18
Bronze Junior membership	£5	£6
FIDE Rated Events	£10.50	£11
Congress Pay to Play	£7.50	£9
Congress Pay to Play Junior	£2	£2.50
Non-Members Game Fee	£16	£18
Non-Members Game Fee Junior	£5	£7.50
Organisation Membership	£60	£64

Have Your Say in Future (or go back to sleep)

The Yorkshire, Leeds, Bradford and Hull leagues already have votes as ECF member organisations, and all the other local leagues in Yorkshire could become member organisations (at no extra cost*) so that they too have votes in future. The Doncaster and Scarborough Congresses similarly have voting rights, and other Yorkshire Congresses could similarly become ECF member organisations (at no extra cost*) and have a say in ECF affairs.

(* The current Organisation Membership is £64 for 2019/20, payable only if the organisation does not submit enough games for grading, in the order of 30 games, so even Harrogate would be exempt from paying. Nevertheless, you need to apply to the ECF for membership.)