

Nottinghamshire AGM

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Chris Holt

ECF Rep

This year saw a return to some sanity in the ECF; well at least we did not have anyone trying to take their clothes off which I would take as a win.

The fun this year was Malcolm Pein trying to be Freddie Forsyth; crossing swords with the evil Russian empire as he tried to unmask an agent in the form of a close friend of Viktor Orban being elected to a FIDE office as a Russian proxy. This drew in the International Olympic Committee as paymasters for a large number of chess federations, the US State Dept who were determined not to allow Mr Putin any PR victories during the Biden administration, while there was war with Ukraine and the British Foreign Office who saw the US involvement with the ECF and were panicked into activity lest they were left behind. Needless to say, with all this lobbying power ranged against them, and the threat to cut off their money supply from the IOC and unspecified threats from the US, the Hungarian plant was seen off. Malcolm has been advised not to get too close to windows in high buildings for the foreseeable lest the FSB decide to enact some revenge.

While I admire Malcolm's tenacity and drive, I do wonder if he was going slightly more off-piste than council members might like; an enjoyable tale of intrigue and dirty dealing it undoubtedly is.

In more mundane news, we proposed John Swain's amendment to the membership rates proposal to moderate the pay to play fee to £10 and encourage more people to play weekend events rather than the £15 to elevate them to Gold membership but quite the surcharge if you only play one event. While we won the argument, the block voting was against us, especially from Mike Truran's. With many directors stepping down, we have an opportunity to reshape the direction of the organisation if we can get a slate of replacements which, at the time of this report, looks somewhat doubtful.

Chris Holt

ECF Representative