Munster Chess Union
Established 1987

13th September 2015

Mr Pat Fitzsimons
Chairperson
Irish Chess Union.

Dear Pat,

Re: position of Mr. Gerry Graham as Munster Delegate on the Irish Chess Union (ICU) Executive Committee.

Thank you for your letter of 30th August.

I am afraid that nothing in your letter actually addresses the concerns I made clear to you when you telephoned me to inform me of your actions at the last meeting of the executive. My concerns and that of the Munster Union are constitutional in nature and do not focus upon the specific allegations made in your letter, none of which related to Mr. Grahams activities as the Munster Delegate, however as you have devoted so much of your letter to these allegations I will address them briefly.

Ennis Chess Congress

Both Mr Ray O'Brien and I have spoken to Mr. John Cassidy regarding these allegations and he denies having made such allegations. Whilst Mr Graham did express a reluctance to act as arbiter, there was never any suggestion that the Ennis Congress would be left without an arbiter or equipment as an alternative arbiter would have been supplied. No threat of leaving the congress in such a position was made. Further Mr. Cassidy avers that rather than him having made such comments to Colm Daly the conversation was the other way around. I was aware of Mr. Graham's position at the time and had been assured that the Ennis Congress would not be placed in a position whereby it would not have an arbiter or equipment. In light of this we consider this accusation to be unfounded. The real problem here was the consistent appalling behaviour of Mr Mirza at congresses in Munster, particularly the previous Ennis Congress.

Arbiter Registration Payment For Gabriel Mirza.

I am not in possession of sufficient information to pass comment on the accuracy of these assertions, but again they in no way relate to Mr. Graham's role as Munster delegate, but rather to his position as Chairperson of the ICAA.

As regards the affixing of an electronic copy of Andrew Kildea's signature to an application form without permission, I have seen the email correspondence, and the only person to whom Mr Graham sent this document was to Mr Kildea himself, stating that he had taken the liberty of affixing the signature and inviting Mr Kildea to let him know if there were any problems. As the document was sent to Mr Kildea alone and not to any third party, it being for Mr Kildea to forward it, at no time was Mr Kildea represented to anyone else as having signed

the document without having the opportunity to decline approving it. This is in our opinion a petty matter which is being used in a most unpleasant manner, but once again in no way relate to Mr. Graham's role as Munster delegate.

Having considered these matters and Mr. Graham's performance as the Munster Delegate, the Executive Committee of the Munster Chess Union passed a unanimous vote of full confidence in Mr Graham at its meeting of 3rd September 2015.

Our concerns were clearly stated and are that Munster have a right to be represented on the ICU Executive and the appointment or removal of a delegate is a matter for Munster not the ICU.

No notice was given of your intention to propose this vote of no confidence in our delegate, or the grounds for it. No opportunity was afforded to the MCU or its delegate to consider any defence or to send a different representative to address matters and consequently the motion was passed. Regardless of the passing of the motion, the ICU Executive have no right to remove the Munster delegate, and your vote of no confidence in no way amounts to a dismissal but simply to a registering of an opinion. I have already informed you that we view your insistence that Mr Graham then leave the meeting as denying the Munster Chess Union its constitutional right to representation at the meeting and as lying beyond your constitutional powers, we therefore also consider the business conducted thereafter to have been unconstitutional and invalid.

Despite strenuously making these points to you, they are not addressed in your letter, instead you offer a summary of the business conducted and state that "The absence of a Munster delegate would not, in my view, have disadvantaged your union in any way". I am afraid that you have entirely missed the point, your personal view is not important, even if we agreed with it, what is key is that the actions taken were entirely unconstitutional and therefore not justifiable in such a way.

Rather than addressing our concerns you merely state that "I am writing this letter to you to clarify what occurred and to explain the rational for the decision taken and the approach adopted. I would also ask that you consider nominating another person to act as your delegate on the ICU executive". It is our view that the contents of the letter neither justify the decision taken nor the approach adopted. I explicitly stated that if you felt Mr. Graham had acted in a way that justified disciplinary action against him, you were fully at liberty to pursue that path against him as an ICU member, but to take non MCU related issues and use them to unilaterally remove our delegate was not within your power and was entirely improper.

I am aware that you wished your letter to be read out at the AGM of the Munster Chess Union and this was considered by the Munster Chess Union Executive. It was agreed however that as the allegations were not considered relevant to Mr Graham's position, were in the view of the Executive discredited on at least the two counts we had time and opportunity to investigate it, as well as the position that the letter and the actions of the ICU Executive gave a distinct impression of a witch hunt based on personal agendas, it would be inappropriate to give it such publicity. It has not helped matters that a copy of your letter to me then immediately appeared in the hands of a third party who is not a member in good standing of the MCU, and who had to be removed from the AGM by the Gardai after holding

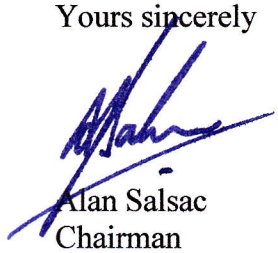
up matters for over an hour and that this individual has been attempting to use that letter to blackmail the executive of the MCU.

The most important result of your actions in this matter has been a severe damaging of the relationship between the Munster Chess Union and the present membership of the Executive Committee of The Irish Chess Union. This resulted in the Munster Chess Union passing a vote of no confidence in the present membership of the Executive Committee of The Irish Chess Union in order to formally register its dissatisfaction regarding your handling of this matter and further the meeting formally passed a resolution compelling me to demand an apology from the Executive Committee of The Irish Chess Union for its actions.

I hope that the above makes the position of the Munster Chess Union absolutely clear and in accordance with my instructions from the MCU AGM, I formally request that the Munster Chess Union be furnished with an apology by the Executive Committee of The Irish Chess Union for the unconstitutional way it has been treated.

I have now been advised that our delegate has been excluded from all internal ICU Executive correspondence. This exclusion further denies the Munster Chess Union its constitutional right to be kept informed and I earnestly call upon you to correct this.

Yours sincerely



Alan Salsac
Chairman
Munster Chess Union