

# THE IRISH CHESS UNION

Cumann Fichille na hÉireann



PATRON: Michael D. Higgins, PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

24th September 2015

Mr Alan Salsac  
Chairperson  
Munster Chess Union

**Re: Munster Delegate to the ICU**

Dear Alan

Thank you for your letter of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015 concerning the above matter. My response is set out below.

I am very surprised by what you have said about John Cassidy's recollection of events surrounding the 2015 Ennis Chess Congress. I have a very clear recollection of what John said to me repeatedly during the course of the lengthy telephone conversations I had with him at the time as set out in my earlier letter to you of 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015. I can state categorically that there was no misunderstanding on my part of what John Cassidy said to me at the time.

The MCU have never been denied a right of representation on the ICU Executive. Following the vote of no confidence, Gerry left the meeting of his own accord. He was not ejected from the meeting and when asked to leave he could have refused. I am therefore fully satisfied that there was no breach of Article 6 of the Constitution. I might also add that Gerry was absent from two previous meetings held in May and July and sent his apologies for this.

Regarding article 13 of the Constitution, I am also satisfied that there was no breach of this Article as Gerry was given a right of reply prior to the meeting and his answer, along with what he put forward at the meeting itself, was not sufficient to warrant his remaining on the executive.

I also note that you decided not to share the contents of my letter with the MCU members before passing a vote of no confidence in the ICU Executive. You have since published a response to my letter on the MCU website. I think it is important that ICU members and those in Munster, in particular, should be afforded an opportunity to consider the contents of my letter about the alleged behaviour of the Munster Delegate to the ICU in the interests of getting a more balanced view of the matters at issue. I also have to consider my responsibilities to members generally to keep them informed of issues arising for the ICU

Executive and in that context I believe that my letter should be made available to all members. This is something I intend to address.

You may recall that I also asked you about your state of knowledge about a number of issues that the ICU has been dealing with over the last year that have largely arisen in Munster. I would welcome an opportunity to discuss these matters with you at your convenience.

In relation to the FIDE regulations in his reply to the Executive Gerry has misconstrued the FIDE technical regulations stating something that is completely untrue.

In the circumstances, I do not believe that any apology from the ICU is warranted. I would also call upon you to nominate another person to be the MCU Delegate on the ICU Executive.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pat Fitzsimons', with a stylized, cursive script.

Pat Fitzsimons  
Chairperson  
Irish Chess Union