

I am a 42 year old active chess player and organiser. I am well known for running the e2e4.org.uk series of Chess events which have, in a short space of time, gained a reputation as being first class Chess tournaments. I am also the Festival Organiser at the London Chess Classic and have served as Chairman of Leicestershire & Rutland Chess Association. In addition, I am both a FIDE International Organiser and International Arbiter.

My working career has a commercial background, having been a Director of two well known branded companies - easyCar and Virgin Cars. I have also worked professionally for a sport's governing body (The Football Association) and I am an experienced football referee operating until recently at a senior level within the semi-professional game.

I believe that I can add value to the ECF board through having:-

- Significant commercial experience at board level
- Successfully demonstrated how good commercial practice can be applied to chess organisation to give players excellent value for money
- Experience and insight as to how a governing body should operate
- Youthful exuberance (relatively speaking!)

I believe that past ECF boards have, in whole or in part, let us all down by allowing the finances of the federation to reach the perilous state they are now in. Cash reserves are dangerously low and something needs to be done about this urgently. Some previous Directors have been more concerned with their own egos and personal agendas than that of the federation.

What to do in terms of strategy is of course a matter for the executive Directors. However, the non-executives need to ensure that appropriate action is being taken as and when necessary. I believe that my commercial background can help the board identify where costs can be saved, where the Federation can be more efficient as well as identifying where revenue streams can be maximised.

For example, the ECF has just launched its Universal Membership Scheme after many months of hard work and negotiation. It has come up with a scheme which may not be perfect, but which the vast majority of Council found they were able to support when asked to do so. There may be a temptation to change this scheme for many reasons but to do so now would be foolhardy. The ECF board needs to work hard to ensure that the scheme is first of all implemented effectively, then monitor the effects of the membership scheme and deal with any obvious and immediate flaws. Beyond that, it must be prepared to be patient and ensure that any future changes are properly considered, fact based decisions.

A non-executive director should be able to broaden the horizons and experience of existing executive directors, facilitate ideas (particularly in terms of business strategy and planning) and play a part in appraising and commenting on a company's investment/expenditure plans. I believe that my previous experience puts me in an ideal position to do this on your behalf for the English Chess Federation.

As such, I ask you to vote for me as non-executive Director.