

ELECTION ADDRESS FOR ROGER EDWARDS

C19.11.1

During the first year of my Presidency I have tried return the ECF to a period of calm and stability following the traumatic events of the preceding couple of years. I have also tried to encourage change through evolution, not revolution. These changes have not yet been fully completed, but the trends are in the right direction and we do appear to have avoided major controversies throughout the year.

I have seen my role to be an Ambassador for the ECF and to do as much as I can to promote and foster chess in this country from school and grass-roots club chess to chess at International level.

I have been “hands on” and never been afraid to get my hands dirty. I have been out and about in the schools and clubs and have been an arbiter/organiser at many tournaments. I have also been a regular attendee and worker at the 4NCL. I also feel that I played an important role in the 100th British Championships, the most successful championships in modern times. I have readily lent an ear to all opinions, ideas and advice given to me at these events. Although not always agreeing with decisions reached by Board or Council, I am willing to compromise when the need arises to make the agreed policies work.

If re-elected I would like to carry on in the same mode so that the ECF has a stable base from which to expand into possibly turbulent times with the introduction of Charitable Status. Whenever possible, I am always willing to visit clubs or schools or other organisations to make people more aware of the good work that the ECF does. I would also like to see members being consulted on a range of issues, although given a recent instance where two junior siblings proposed each other as “player of the year”, the process may need to be operated with some discretion.

One unknown piece in the equation is whether Council will wish to abolish the role of Chairman. Whatever Council decide, I am sure that I can adapt myself to fit in with either situation. I do feel that the ECF need a “fund-raising” Director as I do not feel that the current Board (including myself) have sufficient time/expertise to do it. But that is a decision that Council have to make

I would also like to see the 101st British Championships be an even bigger success than the 100th. In numerical terms this is improbable but I would like it be a very successful event in its own right albeit against a different set of criteria to the 100th. This is the largest event organised by the ECF but I would not like it to have a detrimental effect on any of the other events organised and run by the ECF so I would like to try and publicise them as well where possible.

So overall I would see my role as continuing our steady progress which has witnessed a shift to an organisation with a greatly increased membership, moving towards a more cohesive unit ready for the events in the following year(s). I hope you agree with me.

Roger Edwards