

Sabrina Chevannes for Director of Junior Chess and Education

I very much look forward to be given the chance to help promote and support junior chess in England by representing the ECF as Junior Director of Chess and Education. I think that I am highly suited to the role for a variety of reasons: I have given up a career in medicine and taken up chess full-time. I teach in some of the top schools in the country, organise various junior events and am very much involved in important junior chess organisations. I am extremely well connected, working alongside Malcolm Pein on the Chess in Schools and Communities project, Mike Basman for the UK Chess Challenge as well as Frederic Friedel for Chessbase. I believe that if anyone can get the best for the juniors in this country, I can.

Having looked at the ECF Strategic Plan 2011, it seems very similar to my own goals. Within CSC, our aim is to get chess in every primary school in the country and we are constantly recruiting and training up coaches in order to provide a continuous service to the schools. I personally run a chess academy which acts as an agency and provides school and private chess coaching. I help anyone who contacts me find an appropriate coach or the right guidance.

There are a few things that I would hope to achieve as ECF Junior Director of Chess and Education. Firstly, I would like to see an official ECF Junior Squad. I spend a lot of time liaising with parents of our leading juniors to find out what they want for their children and this is often top of their list. I understand that funding is an issue within the ECF but I feel that there is a way to make this self-financing and possibly even raise more for the ECF junior fund. There would be a tiered system which would depend on how committed the junior is and what they want from the game. I understand that the running of this junior squad would be too much of a commitment for one person and so hope to elect a board to help in the running of this. This would also include structured and regular coaching throughout the country. I am already trying to implement this myself. My idea of "In-tournament Training" has already started really well this year and many juniors have benefitted from it. I hope to be at more prestigious chess tournaments throughout the year.

I would also like to create a selection process for international events that is more widely accepted. This would consist of a variety of methods, which include selection tournaments, GP results and general performance. This allows those that cannot make certain events not to miss out on international opportunities. I hope to work closely with the International Director to run more FIDE rated events for juniors, enabling them to get an internationally recognised rating/improve their current FIDE.

There are a lot of great organisations running chess events out there, including my own academy and I believe I can help them all work closer together to achieve the ECF's goal. I am extremely well connected and highly respected as a coach and organiser. I have been asked to help run the Junior 4NCL this year as I believe it can be a prestigious competition for our top juniors. I organise the junior side of the London Chess Classic and I am taking over the running of the Richmond Rapidplay from May 2012 and starting a Richmond Junior Rapidplay in order to encourage more juniors to play. Not only am I connected with chess organisers and coaches throughout the country, I am personally very close with several titled players and being an England International myself, I often can get the top players to do coaching/simuls for me to help promote junior chess.

I have turned chess into a full time career and I have the passion and drive to get things done and achieve results. As a current ECF Manager of Women's Chess, in the short time I have been in the role, I have already ran two successful National Championships, gained significant sponsorship for women's chess and am in the process of organising an International Women's match with three other countries.

I think the main reason why I would be well suited to this role is because I care. I often come to tournaments just to support juniors I coach or to see how they are getting on and give them moral support. I genuinely hope that I can make a difference to the juniors in this country and I believe that in the role of ECF Junior Director of Chess and Education, I can do this best. In addition to all this, I feel that I can bring some diversity to the ECF board being so young and fresh as well as bringing a female perspective to some ideas!