

**Why I'm standing and what I can offer**

In my view the ECF Board has achieved much in the last year. It got the ECF's finances straight - due to the efforts of John Philpott and Chris Mattos in particular (it has also helped that the membership scheme has been a financial success); participation of juniors in international tournaments has been fantastic - no mean feat as junior chess is self-financing - evidently Phil Ehr and his team have done a great job; the 100<sup>th</sup> British Championships at Torquay were a success with record attendances - credit to Lara Barnes and her team.

However, some recent decisions have concerned me: in particular, the Board's decision – taken without consulting the officers it directly affected or consulting Council – to require ECF membership in ECF-organised graded competitions (such as the national secondary schools team tournament and the national stages of the county championships). I think this was taking the membership scheme too far and regrettably it led to the [resignation of the National Secondary Schools Coordinator](#). I am keen that such decisions should be taken with due consideration.

I think the ECF needs strong Non-executive Directors who can bring different perspectives to decision making and who, where necessary and in order to bring balance, will challenge their fellow Directors. I believe I can do this.

- I believe in speaking up.
- I also believe in consultation and engaging with people – in my experience this produces better solutions and helps achieve “buy-in”.
- As a software developer I can offer advice on IT systems (and this may help with the membership system and the yet-to-be-implemented event registration system).

**About me – Chess**

- I've been a keen player for 30 years - my [Grading Card](#) has detailed stats for the last 11 years and shows that I've played a little over 800 graded games in that period.
- I'm a member of [Streatham and Brixton CC](#) which participates in the London, Surrey and Croydon leagues. I've been President for 15 years and a team captain for 25 years. I organise club tournaments.
- I'm the Results Officer and ECF Council Delegate for the [Croydon and District Chess League](#).
- I'm the ECF Council Delegate for the [Surrey County Chess Association](#) (a new appointment). Previously I was SCCA's Results Officer and a county team captain.
- I was joint organiser of four Richmond Rapidplay events (with responsibility for the task list, redesign of the entry form, processing entries, finances and maintaining the contacts list).

**Professional and other interests**

- I've been a software developer since 1984.
- I like reading and subscribe to the London Review of Books and Granta; I like music – post-punk and beyond; I enjoy real ale and am a member of CAMRA.

I ask for your support as a strong independent voice with experience of local and national chess matters.