Election Address Autumn 2013: David Openshaw for International Director

I was appointed by the ECF Board to the post of International Director in November 2012. I now put myself forward for election by ECF Council.

I have many years commercial experience as a Managing Director in the Retail Automotive industry (Turnover £70m to £200m over 1000 employees). Later I ran my own business. I also have experience as a non-executive Director.

I have considerable experience in voluntary sports administration with the English Croquet Council. I also served the maximum two terms as President of the World Croquet Federation from 2004 to 2010. As a player I won the British Croquet championships three times and one silver and two bronze medals in the World Croquet Championships. I captained the GB team from 1982 to 2000 during which we won the World Championship on four out of five occasions.

I'm pleased to say that I competed in both the 50th and 100th British Chess Championships. (Coming 4th in the British Boys under 16 Championship and nowhere in the British Seniors Championship).

I think it's important that the ECF Board members have a mix of skills, knowledge and experience. I feel I bring commercial expertise, outside board experience, knowledge of sports administration outside chess and experience of playing and captaining sports teams at the top level.

I want to work on an ECF Board with a range of skills so I support the election of Phil Ehr as Chief Executive, and the reappointment of Alex Holowczak, Dave Thomas, Sean Hewitt and Nigel Short. I believe there is a need for more commercial/entrepreneurial experience on the board and that is why I support Andrew Paulson for President and the creation of the post of Commercial Director.

My objectives for the coming year for the ECF are as follows:

To bring about further improvements in the effectiveness of the ECF Board

Bring a specific proposal to Council regarding Charitable Status.

Review the membership scheme and what we offer different levels of members. I want us to offer value for money to each membership category.

Ensure we focus on obtaining commercial/brand value for all of our ECF events.

My objectives for the International Directorate are

To obtain a strong performance in the European Team Championships for both our teams.

To ensure availability of our best players for our Olympiad teams in 2014

In conjunction with the Junior Director create an Elite Development Programme with the aim of increasing the number of GMs/WGMs and in particular players rated over 2700.

To create an environment which encourages IMs/GMs to be professional players.

To support the current ECF policy on FIDE.