Director of Membership C19.11.6.4

Candidate's address by D.R.Thomas

In general a Director, having been elected by Council and seeking re-election should, in my opinion, rely on his report as sufficient reason (or otherwise) to be re-elected by them. Having, however, been appointed to a vacancy during the year by the Board I feel it would be appropriate to supply Council with a slightly modified version of my note to the Board offering to take the post.

In the Spring I was made redundant as the direct result of a company acquisition, and although I am still a few years short of retirement age I have no intention of seeking alternative full-time employment. I therefore believe I will have ample time to fulfil a role within the Federation.

With respect to the membership side of the brief, having worked in IT I am well qualified to deal with any technical issues which may arise with the membership system. However, as a long-time former General Secretary of the Birmingham & District Chess League, and still an active officer of and participant in that League, I also have experience of, and the ability to understand, grass-roots concerns about the Federation and its relations with active players.

I will readily admit that I do not regard the active side of marketing as my strength. If the post of Commercial Director is not created and this area remains my responsibility, I would expect to appoint an officer to handle that aspect of the role should that appear appropriate. The purely managerial tasks of co-ordinating sponsorship approaches and the like I do not regard as problematic.

Finally, for the benefit of those members of the Board with a shorter history of involvement with the Federation, I would add that I have significant experience of working as part of the Board team, having been a member of the old BCF Board, in a non-executive capacity, for several years. This involvement ended only with the formation of the ECF and the reduction in the size of the Board: I felt that this involved an increase in the work load of the remaining non-executive directors which was a commitment I was unable to make at the time. As I have said above, this is no longer an issue.