

Julian Clissold
The Post of ECF Non-Executive Director

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I am retired after forty years in senior posts in education. This included responsibility for budgets in excess of £15m, for more than 400 academic staff and for the strategic direction and management of a major educational institution.

In the world of chess, I am:

- Chair of English Primary Schools Chess Association
- Past President of the Manchester Chess Federation
- ECF Arbiter and Coach
- ECF Primary Schools Northern Organiser
- Organiser of Manchester Junior Chess
- Controller on Manchester Congresses

I am standing for the post of Non-Executive Director of the English Chess Federation because I believe that:

- The future of chess in the UK is dependent upon a healthy and vibrant organisation of junior chess. It should be a major priority for ECF and the development of junior chess should guide many of its strategic objectives.
- Junior chess cannot achieve the sort of prominence and support that it deserves and requires without a central brain and rationale. Only the ECF has the licence to stand at the juncture of various junior initiatives and make sense of their collective strategic purpose and impact.
- I believe the ECF has a key role to play in the promotion and organisation of junior chess. That does not assume that it is the major or even the biggest provider; it does mean that ECF should provide leadership in procuring provision that is integrated, rational and avoids duplication of effort.
- As chair of EPSCA I am acutely aware of the tensions that exist between various organisations that promote chess. I am firmly of the opinion that the available resources for the organisation of chess are stretched thinly and those involved have to learn to work smarter and more efficiently. This means that organisations need to work collaboratively and with full communication. This continues to be a major priority for me.
- The ECF has to re-invent itself as the “brain” behind the strategic development of chess in this country. It should look to the provision of evidence based understanding of the range and current scope of provision and use that intelligence to bring together partners to achieve clear national targets.

Julian Clissold
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