

Election Statement for Chief Executive

The ECF needs effective leadership and the right blend of innovation and stability to advance our mission to 'promote chess in all its forms as an attractive means of cultural and personal advancement and to foster the highest level of achievement in the game.' My life's journey and service as Director of Junior Chess and Education demonstrate the experience and performance appropriate for senior leadership within the Board, alongside the ECF President.

I helped to nominate Andrew Paulson because he offers leadership, innovative energy and unmatched commercial expertise. His candidacy is a rare opportunity to inject the ECF with the wherewithal to significantly improve and possibly transform English chess. Part of my role as Chief Executive is to help him and every member of the new Board consult, collaborate and perform. In other words, the Chief Executive is meant to ensure effective leadership and delivery of high standards.

Principles and priorities that illustrate the balance I aim to achieve:

- Strike a new relationship with FIDE, keeping the ECF part of the Group of Fifteen national federations working to improve transparency and accountability.
- Achieve transition to a registered charity that maintains insoluble bonds and mutual support with professional chess. In advance of charity status, serve schools and the disabled in a way that demonstrates the character of the charity we wish to become.
- Adhere to the highest standards of public accountability in financial matters, business awards, overlapping personal interests and conduct.

Since I have current expertise in junior chess, I intend to work closely with the new Junior Director and his or her officers to ensure continuity, as well as improvement, in essential programmes.

A critical aspect to any organisation's success is the right match of talent to the tasks at hand. With that in mind, I endorse Andrew Paulson for President, his team, and Claire Summerscale, followed by Kurt Moreby, as Director of Junior Chess and Education.