

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

As the President of the English Chess Federation and having been involved with the organisation within British Chess for over 40 years, I would like to thank everyone who has supported me and my efforts during the year, and also the efforts of the Board.

I have also tried to act as an Ambassador for the ECF and to do as much as I could to promote and foster chess in this country at all levels from school and grass-roots to International. I have been out and about in the schools and clubs and have been at the tournaments where it all happens. I have also tried to act as the focal point for players "grievances" no matter how petty or misguided some of them have been.

During the year the two momentous events in my eyes were the introduction of the new Membership scheme and the running of the 100<sup>th</sup> British Championships. In addition there was the World Championship Candidates tournament which was held in London by Agon on behalf of FIDE and in which a number of ECF members played a significant role.

The new Membership scheme has been running for a year and has led to the majority of players in the country now having an interest in the running of the national organisation through their individual membership. As with all new schemes there are still some anomalies and problems to be sorted out but so far the response has been encouraging. The real test will be how many of the "new" members renew, so I would urge you all to rush out and sign up for another year, and to make sure all your club members sign up as well. A big thank you is due to the staff at the office who kept processing the mountains of membership data that kept coming their way.

Being an "exiled" Cornish Devonian it was a great thrill to see the auspicious 100<sup>th</sup> British Championships returning to my home territory. Having been involved with the British Championships for over 25 years it was good to see such a wide range of players taking part from virtual beginners to grandmasters, from 5 year olds to 85 year olds, it just goes to show that this event has something for everyone and this years numbers were a record for the event. My figures show that 1201 entries were received. This will give the organisers of the 101<sup>st</sup> Championships something to aim at.

A lot happened on the international scene this year, not the least being the World Championship Candidates tournament. As many of you know, I do not have any great "expertise" on the international arena, English chess can find enough work to keep me busy, so I would like to thank the International Directors and the FIDE Delegate for the help and advice they gave me during the year.

Of course there are a lot more events that have gone on during the year, but I will leave it to the individual Director's to inform you of their events and achievements.

As well as these memorable events, all normal chess activities seemed to continue as usual and I would like to say a big thank you to all the local organisers who keep local chess running. Without them providing the foundations, there would not be any great events to write about. Finally I would like to wish you all an even better next year than this year, at least on the playing board.

Roger Edwards  
President