

Why I'm standing and what I can offer

In my view the ECF Board has achieved much in the last year. It got the ECF's finances straight - due to the efforts of John Philpott and Chris Mattos in particular (it has also helped that the membership scheme has been a financial success); participation of juniors in international tournaments has been fantastic - no mean feat as junior chess is self-financing - evidently Phil Ehr and his team have done a great job; the 100th British Championships at Torquay were a success with record attendances - credit to Lara Barnes and her team.

However, some recent decisions have concerned me: in particular, the Board's decision – taken without consulting the officers it directly affected or consulting Council – to require ECF membership in ECF-organised graded competitions (such as the national secondary schools team tournament and the national stages of the county championships). I think this was taking the membership scheme too far and regrettably it led to the [resignation of the National Secondary Schools Coordinator](#). I am keen that such decisions should be taken with due consideration.

I think the ECF needs strong Non-executive Directors who can bring different perspectives to decision making and who, where necessary and in order to bring balance, will challenge their fellow Directors. I believe I can do this.

- I believe in speaking up.
- I also believe in consultation and engaging with people – in my experience this produces better solutions and helps achieve “buy-in”.
- As a software developer I can offer advice on IT systems (and this may help with the membership system and the yet-to-be-implemented event registration system).

About me – Chess

- I've been a keen player for 30 years - my [Grading Card](#) has detailed stats for the last 11 years and shows that I've played a little over 800 graded games in that period.
- I'm a member of [Streatham and Brixton CC](#) which participates in the London, Surrey and Croydon leagues. I've been President for 15 years and a team captain for 25 years. I organise club tournaments.
- I'm the Results Officer and ECF Council Delegate for the [Croydon and District Chess League](#).
- I'm the ECF Council Delegate for the [Surrey County Chess Association](#) (a new appointment). Previously I was SCCA's Results Officer and a county team captain.
- I was joint organiser of four Richmond Rapidplay events (with responsibility for the task list, redesign of the entry form, processing entries, finances and maintaining the contacts list).

Professional and other interests

- I've been a software developer since 1984.
- I like reading and subscribe to the London Review of Books and Granta; I like music – post-punk and beyond; I enjoy real ale and am a member of CAMRA.

I ask for your support as a strong independent voice with experience of local and national chess matters.