



English Chess Federation

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Chief Executive

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The English Chess Federation is a limited company registered in England and Wales (5293039) and affiliated with the Fédération Internationale des Échecs.

FIDE Presidential Election

The English Chess Federation is proud to declare its vote for Garry Kasparov as the next FIDE president. The reasons for this choice are overwhelming.

Better Vision. Mr Kasparov's 'Six Moves for Success' outlines a better future than Mr Ilyumzhinov's plan and particularly his record. Mr Kasparov understands that growth in the number of women playing chess requires more welcoming environments and more training for female players. Mr Kasparov actively supports research to advance the education profession's understanding of chess in schools. Fresh concepts, such as eliminating FIDE rating fees and a universal rating system show Mr Kasparov's support to national federations and his commitment to connecting professional chess players with casual players worldwide.

Better Governance. Professional qualifications in Mr Kasparov's presidential ticket simply outshine Mr Ilyumzhinov's. Kasparov, Callewaert, Wilkinson, Leong, Msimang and Sinquefield embody accomplishments in law, finance, volunteer service, public policy advocacy and entrepreneurial business. The new FIDE Statutes, which were drafted primarily by Mr Kasparov's legal team, exist due to Mr Kasparov's insistence on higher standards. The prominence of national federations in Mr Kasparov's literature offers refreshing relief from the corrosive trend seen in recent FIDE initiatives in player registration, cost and exclusive rights for FIDE-certified trainers and privileged access for FIDE academies—each of which offers benefits with unnecessary expense to national federations. Most fundamentally, retaining the same president for more than 20 years flouts democratic norms.

Better External Funding. Mr Kasparov and his team respect international business norms. Mr Ilyumzhinov has yet to disclose material or explain his role in private business negotiations regarding the FIDE World Chess Championship cycle. Mr Ilyumzhinov's signature on proposed financial arrangements that would almost certainly have been illegal had they come into operation, created the appearance of impropriety that severely damaged my national federation and FIDE's standing with respectable sponsors. A result of that affair alone is that sustainable sponsorship from advanced economies is not possible with Mr Ilyumzhinov leading FIDE. Sustainable sponsorship from respected sources in advanced economies is probable with Mr Kasparov and his team leading FIDE.

Better Behaviour on the World Stage. FIDE is about chess, not geopolitics. Mr Ilyumzhinov's habit of inserting FIDE into one side of international conflicts has compromised FIDE's integrity. In 2003, Mr Ilyumzhinov visited Saddam and Uday Hussein in Baghdad. He visited Mu'ammr al-Qadhafi in Tripoli in the midst of open warfare. While Syria's military attacked cities with barrel bombs and chemical weapons, Mr Ilyumzhinov visited Bashar al-Assad in Damascus as Syrian children were being

gassed, purportedly to discuss chess in schools. In the most recent crisis, he praises chess players who support Russian's military intervention in Ukraine, but denounces chess players who oppose it. Claiming to use chess for peace, he invites chess players to Moscow, but not to Lviv or Kyiv. Recent images of Mr Ilyumzhinov with Russian President Putin and the subsequent announcement that Sochi will host the World Chess Championship are further indications of Mr Ilyumzhinov's fealty to the Kremlin rather than political neutrality expected by the FIDE Statutes and the International Olympic Movement.

International chess deserves better. Mr Kasparov and his team can deliver. English Chess Federation directors and our FIDE Delegate would be pleased to discuss the Kasparov candidacy with national federation counterparts who are undecided. Please use the FIDE Directory to get in touch. Take heart! Chess is better with Kasparov.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Ehr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phil Ehr
Chief Executive
English Chess Federation

London, 16 June 2014