

LAURENCE BALL – ELECTION STATEMENT AS CANDIDATE FOR NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I went to school at the RGS, High Wycombe and played for Bucks schoolboys. Stopped playing for a while then went to South Africa (RSA) for a number of years.

Whilst there I played, coached and became involved in admin at Club, Provincial and National Level: Played twice in the RSA National (Closed) Championship, non-playing captain at Turin Olympiad and awarded National colours. Coached players from Basic Development to National Level, and various schools (with great success) and junior Provincial teams.

Involved in Club admin and tournament organisation from an early age. President of club and Provincial Body for some time and progressed to posts on National Body including President. Was part of small select committee that sorted out the National Selection process and another on Boundary problems. When President, Chess joined National Sporting Body and started to get grants from Government. Instrumental in setting up Ethics Committee.

Whilst in Turin for the Olympiad I was privileged to be elected to the FIDE Ethics Committee. Spent 4 years on Committee, during which whole system was revamped. Among cases reviewed was that of the Kramnik -Topalov affair! Am an accredited FIDE Instructor.

Since returning to the UK, I have been involved in playing and coaching. As a player I play in the Kent and Surrey Leagues, the 4NCL, Kent Open team (was twice captain) and have twice played in the British Championship (Canterbury and Torquay). I do work for a living but find time to coach at Eltham College - a small school, but in the last 8 in the u11 Championships six years in a row - and sometimes with the Kent Juniors.

In my private life I serve on several Committees as a Town Councillor for Swanley and a District Councillor for Sevenoaks District Council. Last year I was proud to be the Mayor of Swanley. I am hopeful that any pressure at the ECF would not be as intense as being a Councillor or compare to holding my English flag at the Wanderers Cricket Stadium when RSA were playing England!

I believe that the general organisation of the ECF needs to be tweaked a little here and there. There needs to be a clear level of communication/chain of command between some of the organisational bodies (purely for example, EPSCA) and the Mother Body. Perhaps an ECF Ethics Committee needs to be formed.

Laurence Ball