

Election Address Autumn 2014: David Openshaw for International Director

I was appointed by the ECF Board to the post of International Director in November 2012 and elected to the position at the October Council Meeting in 2013. I now put myself forward for re-election by the ECF Council.

I will repeat my background from my previous election address as I think it's important for Council Members to know of my background as it helps to evidence what I can bring to the position.

I have many years commercial experience as a Managing Director in the Retail Automotive industry (Turnover £70m to £200m over 1000 employees). Later I ran my own business. I also have experience as a non-executive Director.

I have considerable experience in voluntary sports administration with the English Croquet Council. I also served the maximum two terms as President of the World Croquet Federation from 2004 to 2010. As a player I won the British Croquet championships three times and one silver and two bronze medals in the World Croquet Championships. I captained the GB team from 1982 to 2000 during which we won the World Championship on four out of five occasions.

I'm pleased to say that I competed in both the 50th and 100th British Chess Championships. (Coming 4th in the British Boys under 16 Championship and nowhere in the British Seniors Championship).

I think it's important that the ECF Board members have a mix of skills, knowledge and experience. I feel I bring commercial expertise, outside board experience, knowledge of sports administration outside chess and experience of playing and captaining sports teams at the top level.

My objectives for the coming year for the ECF are as follows:

To bring about further improvements in the effectiveness of the ECF Board.

Bring a specific proposal to Council regarding Charitable Status.

I am pleased we now have a Commercial Director and I want to play my part in ensuring we focus on obtaining commercial/brand value for all of our ECF events.

I would like to see Board members elected for a two year period.

My objectives for the International Directorate are:

To ensure availability of our best players for our next European Team Championship in November 2015 and to improve our performance compared to 2013.

In conjunction with the Junior Director develop the Elite Development Programme with the aim of increasing the number of GMs/WGMs and in particular players rated over 2700.

To create an environment which encourages IMs/GMs to be professional players.

To develop Seniors chess both internationally and within England.

David Openshaw September 2014