

Stewart Reuben

I am an International Arbiter (since 1976), Organiser and Candidate Master and have been working directly with FIDE since 1980. I was secretary of the Rules Commission for the past 20 years.

My influence has primarily been technical. Two recent examples: 2013 we had a meeting in Tromso; the Deputy President Makro, 3 Vice Presidents, the Chairman of the Rules Commission, a leading arbiter and me. They all agreed that Quickplay Finishes should be totally deleted from the Laws of Chess. I disagreed. I thought this would be very inconvenient for not only British chess, but also many other federations. The result: they are still there. I could not have achieved that without Makro's help, who came to realise it was too divisive a proposal. There was a technical problem with Jack Rudd's application to be an IA in 2014. At first it was rejected. I spoke briefly privately to the Chairman of the Arbiters Commission and now he holds the title.

I have long felt that, when people are elected to office, they should be supported. Work with people, not against them. Of course, if they are misguided or just plain wrong, I try to change matters. Politics is truly the art of the possible. But, as Makro said of me, 'You are no politician. You always go directly towards what you want.' I have made it perfectly clear that I believe in the US model, that politicians should be elected for a maximum of 8 years. Thus I supported Kasparov (and before him Karpov and Bessel Kok). In FIDE it is immensely difficult to dislodge the incumbent.

I strongly believe the ECF has a responsibility to chess to ensure that material is in comprehensible, readable English. I was dismayed at the lack of interest shown by the ECF in Tallinn in 2013. Dr Jana Bellin and I were in no way supported. England was much better represented in Tromso in 2014. But it was probably too late to get many of our people on the commissions. But this year it enabled me to have time to have an input into: Disabled, Events, Qualification and Technical as well as Rules.

A large number of people in the ECF believe that FIDE Officers are the devil incarnate. No, they do not have horns sprouting from their heads. For the most part they are well meaning people. The commissions are extremely democratic. But for the past 21 years I have often despaired of trying to get FIDE to follow its own statutes. Often this is what has caused greatest problems.

If elected, I will serve at most for the four year cycle. I already have in mind two alternates who would have my confidence. Historically it can be observed that I have not clung to office. But building contacts takes a great deal of time and patience. I also regard it as essential that the FIDE Delegate works together with the International Director. I would also seek to keep everybody informed of what has happened in FIDE, the ECU and the CCA as rapidly as possible.