

Director of Home Chess: 2015-16 Election Address

Chess CV

- 4NCL Games-Inputter (2010 -), Board member (2011 -)
- International Arbiter (2012 -), acting as an arbiter at events such as: 4NCL (2013 -), London Chess Classic (2011 -), World Youth Championships (2014)
- Birmingham League Rapidplay Organiser (2012 -)
- Coach at several schools in and around the West Midlands (2011 -)
- Re-founder and President of British Universities CA (2010 -)
- Warwickshire CA Secretary (2012 -) and Junior Secretary (2010 - 2012)

Achievements in 2014-15

- Organised the largest ever British Chess Championships, in terms of the number of entries, at the University of Warwick.
- Increased the number of entries in the National Club Championships, from 18 to 24.
- Organised a successful County Championship Finals Day.
- Ensured both grading lists were published on the expected deadlines.
- Established a standalone English Women's Championships.

Intention for 2015-16

As the incumbent, I intend to keep things, such as those listed above, running "as they are", but I would start to investigate potential implementation of a radical change in one area.

FIDE has demonstrated that it is possible to run a monthly rating list. There are many benefits of this:

- At the moment, junior organisers have grounds for complaint in that that grades are inaccurate due to the lag inherent in the system. By shortening the period to one month, this lag is significantly reduced, and the integrity of the system will be improved in their minds.
- Coaches of juniors can get quicker feedback as to the improvement of their players.
- All players will see their progress throughout the season reflected in their ratings.
- New players can enter tournament sections appropriate for their ability. Some congresses have terms and conditions that ungraded players are only eligible to win a fraction of the total prizemoney if they win a prize. By shortening the period to one month, this will be a lesser problem, and be a more welcoming environment for ungraded players to join in playing competitive chess.

The ECF uses a batch-based system at present. Consultation with present and past Managers of Grading has indicated that a continuous rating system is likely to be an improvement on a batch method of calculation.

I recognise that changes of this nature would require a significant improvement in how results are submitted to the ECF. The change will be lesser for congresses. Organisers of congresses are used to submitting their results within a one-month deadline to meet the Grand Prix requirements.

Organisers of FIDE-rated congresses submit their results to FIDE even more quickly still, in order to comply with their monthly rating list.

Leagues will, however, find the task of submitting monthly lists much more onerous. In order to facilitate faster result collection, I propose to tender out for League Management Software (LMS), of which several already exist in different areas of England. This will be optional for Leagues to use, but its main benefit would be that it will be linked directly with the ECF grading system. As a consequence, Leagues using the LMS will only need their captains, club secretaries or league secretary to report results via the website, and the ECF can grade the results centrally.

While the basic requirement will be to collect results, many of the present systems are much more advanced, and some additional features would be developed.

This would be optional for Leagues to use, and Leagues wishing to report results in their traditional manner would be at liberty to do so.

The change to monthly grading lists cannot exist without the LMS in place, and as a consequence, the change would not happen for several years. If re-elected, I will start the process of consulting with Leagues about the features necessary in any LMS. It is intended that the April Council Meeting will be asked to approve a budget that would pay for its development. Concurrently, work will start on adapting Elo as appropriate for an English domestic grading list. I envisage that this work would be completed by the time the LMS is working, but the timeframe for completing these things is far greater than the one year period for which I am seeking re-election.

Due to the length of this project, Council has many opportunities to apply the brakes if it thinks this is appropriate, such as the Finance Council meeting in April, where funding will be sought. I am merely seeking election to start the investigation.