

Election Address Autumn 2015: David Openshaw International Director

During my period as International Director from November 2012 I have achieved the following:

International teams: Brought in donations of £26,000 for the Olympiad and European Team Championships, through agreement at Board and Council Meetings put the funding of our International Teams for these events on a better long term basis from 2016. Each year we have fielded our strongest possible Open team (five of our top six players have been available each time). We have fielded increasingly stronger Women's teams throughout the period.

Elite Development: Further donations have been obtained which have enabled us to have a coaching programme for two of our younger GMs (2600+) and to give them match experience. I have worked closely with Junior Directors to manage the development funds awarded annually for the John Robinson Fellowship.

European Clubs Championship: Three clubs have represented us in the European clubs competition helped by support from 4NCL and this year for the first time we have a Women's team in this competition.

Management of Officers: Managed effectively the work of the International Rating Officer, the Manager of Arbiters (International), the Selection Committees and the Manager of Seniors Chess.

Seniors Chess: Further outside help (of approximately £12000) have allowed us to field strong teams and support individuals in World and European Individual and Team Championships with good results (World Seniors Team Championship 2015 bronze medal, Keith Arkell European Seniors Champion 2014).

Contribution to Board Activities

I have contributed to the significant development of the Board over the period of my directorship particularly in the following areas:

Improvement in Governance procedures by proposing the introduction of a seven day advance notification of motions and papers to Board Meetings.

I have helped focus the Board on commercial opportunities. In particular by proposing we have a Commercial Director position on the Board.

Played a major role in the introduction and development of our strategy process and to the actual production of this year's strategy document.

Worked with the Home Director, the Manager of Women's Chess and our stronger Women players to plan a new event (the English Women's Championship) due to take place in October.

My Relevant Experience

I have 11 years commercial experience as a Managing Director in the Retail Automotive industry of Companies with a turnover of between £70m and £200m and with over 1000 employees. I then ran my own consultancy business which included some Board level management coaching for 15 years. I was a non-executive Director of the Thames Valley Training and Enterprise Council for two years.

I have considerable experience in voluntary sports administration with the English Croquet Council and the World Croquet Federation. I served the maximum two terms as President of the World Croquet Federation from 2004 to 2010.

I have played sport at the highest level. 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.

For the past six years I have regularly played League and Congress chess which brings me into contact with many ECF members. I am also pleased to have competed in both the 50th and 100th British Chess Championships.

Objectives

My objectives for the coming year for the ECF are as follows: To bring about further improvements in the effectiveness and cohesiveness of the ECF Board, to make further improvements to our strategy and business planning, to play my part in ensuring we focus on commercial activities, and to encourage third party events (ie non ECF events).

My objectives for the International Directorate are: To ensure availability of our best players for the next Olympiad, to improve our performance compared to 2013 and 2014 in both the European Team Championships and the Olympiad. In conjunction with the Junior Director develop the Elite Development Programme with the aim of increasing the number of GMs/WGMs and in particular the number of players rated over 2700. To develop Seniors chess both internationally and within England. To provide opportunities for our Arbiters and Event Managers in ECU and FIDE events.

Summary

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

September 2015