

Election Address for Peter Hornsby for position of 'Non-Executive Director' to the ECF Council'
2016

Earlier this year Lord Lyndon Harrison attended the 'National Universities Chess Championships' (NUCC) to award the prizes and in a letter he wrote afterwards he said the following:

'It was a very happy occasion for the young men and women, British and Overseas, who competed in the day tournament. This was, I believe, the third tourney organised by Peter Hornsby, and his outstanding team of helpers. It featured some 16 university chess teams...it was notably very efficiently and effectively organised... [He] clearly has a flair for [running] such events. And every confidence can be placed in him. I am of course happy to elaborate on Peter's pronounced talent to organise.'

The creation of NUCC was a culmination of years of dedicated enthusiasm. At junior level I represented Yorkshire for the under 18's and frequently qualified for the Finals of the British Land Challenge.

Whilst being a respectable competitor, I felt there was potential at my school for Chess to flourish where it had previously stagnated. With that in mind I helped re-found the Chess club and run the 'Inter House Chess Championships' which has been running successfully ever since I left, to my great delight. From there I worked in Spain in 2013 and continued in the same manner, setting up a Chess club and running the first ever competition among all the students at the local 'Escolania' school despite the language barrier!

This experience put me in good stead to take on the position as Chess Club President at Durham University in 2015. Working with my colleagues we set up the inaugural 'Inter College Chess Championships' which attracted over 50 players, smashing participation levels across all demographics. This enabled us to field three then a record four teams at BUCA for Durham. But more importantly we doubled the average attendance we would get at our weekly sessions, along with positive engagement at our social events.

Before graduating however I was motivated to set up more university chess competitions with the creation of NUCC. This offered local, accessible and inclusive tournaments which engaged a large number of people (over 200 across three events from dozens of universities), in particular many of those who had never played Chess for years which was very satisfying to get them back into the fold!

The success of NUCC attracted sponsorship and publication from the British Chess Magazine and Purling London as well as an article in the Yorkshire Post and Durham Palatinate and was awarded 'Blueprint Enterprise Prizes' by Durham University. These types of tournaments have great potential which is why they are expanding across the country and are open to non-students too to that end; to make people fall in love with the game as I have and to offer further exciting dynamic competitions. For this to be possible I formulated a team of volunteers to support this end, which is a crucial asset in undertaking roles of responsibility.

In any role I would undertake with the ECF I would continue in the same vein, to increase the profile and participation of chess not just among students but the wider community as well. My record shows that I can offer boundless energy and enthusiasm to mount a fearless grassroots campaign across the UK.

I look forward to making a real difference in a position of responsibility in helping the ECF with your support, and if anyone has any questions please email pbhornsby@gmail.com and I look forward to hearing from you!

Many thanks, Peter Hornsby