

ECF AGM 2018

Director of Women's Chess Election

Chris Fegan Election Statement

I am standing for election as Director of Women's Chess and am currently in that post after being appointed by the ECF Board a few months ago.

I have been working hard on trying to improve the situation for Women in English chess.

I have held various consultations and meetings with women chess players of all chess strengths and of all age demographics since my appointment to try and ascertain what are the main issues we need to address as the ECF to increase the number of women chess players and more women members of the ECF.

It is important to note that an increase in the number of women members will be of great benefit to the ECF in many ways including increased membership income. I would also envisage an increase of women members helping with ECF organization at all levels of English chess.

I have also been discussing new ideas to try to improve women's participation such as the possible provision of crèche services.

The period since my appointment has been a very busy one for Women's English Chess with such high profile events as the World Senior Team Championships in Radebeul, Germany, the British Championships in Hull and the English Women Championships in Solihull having all occurred recently and we have the Olympiad in Batumi taking place later in September.

I have been involved to some degree in all of these events in an effort to improve the chances of England women players both as individuals and as representatives of the country in the team events both with extra financial but also logistical and human resource support.

I am delighted to report the following success and achievements to date:

- 3rd place for the English Women's team at the World Over 50's Championship
- Increased funding for women at the British Championship in Hull
- Women's Reception at the British Championships 2018
- Doubling of the Prize money at the English Women's Championship
- Huge increase of players at English Women's Championship in 2018 when compared to previous events.
- New coaching opportunities for English women chess players
- Improved financial support for England Women team members in preparation for Batumi
- Improved logistical support for England women team on site in Batumi

I have also taken action to improve the situation for English women chess players in structural terms by other means such as agreeing with the ECF Board that we should have a new policy of “positive action” for women in English chess and also by the ECF Board agreeing the appointment of a Manager for ECF Female Social Media who has made an immediate impact by the launch of a new and successful Twitter account @ecfwomen.

I am also very keen to increase co-operation with the various key ECF partners in England and I have also held meetings with the senior management of both the UKCC and 4NCL and one possibility that has been discussed is the introduction of a 4NCL Women’s League.

I am standing for election to the post of Director of Women’s Chess with plans to build on these achievements and ask for support from the ECF Council and its members to continue the work.