

## **ELECTION ADDRESS OF DAVID LEWIS, CANDIDATE FOR GOLD MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIVE**

I am presently a Gold member of the ECF, and I doubt if anyone is more surprised than I am that I should be standing for office in the ECF after only two years as a Direct Member.

When I took up club and competitive chess in my seventies, not having played a competitive game since my thirties, and not even being a strong player by club standards, I did not expect to be more than a foot soldier in the chess world. However, after my first year in the club the committee invited me to be a team captain. There was an unusual problem in that the team I was to captain did not yet exist, nor the county league division it was to play in, so I first needed to bring these entities into being.

Having successfully achieved this task in a few weeks, I went on to lead my new team to first place in the new division until lockdown halted our campaign; but, after witnessing (and tolerating) my perhaps over-active participation in the club committee with admirable forbearance, my colleagues now had sufficient confidence in my abilities to invite me to take up the post of club Treasurer. Thus, having begun my new chess life as a humble pawn, I feel I have reached the eighth rank during the middle game and been promoted, if not to a queen, then at least to a minor piece.

Until retiring in 2013 I was a solicitor for more than 40 years, spending the first half of that period in local government. This experience is relevant because it is evidence that I am comfortable with reading and summarising lengthy reports and familiar with the procedures of organisations like the ECF.

I'm hoping that my experience and achievements will persuade you that I have the willingness and ability to carry out the important functions of a Gold members' representative and to contribute to the other work of the Council. Moreover, I understand the duties of a representative, who must not only put forward the views of his electors but also owes them the duty to exercise his own judgment.

I am very conscious that my constituency includes Gold Junior members. The representation and support of junior members is of course as important as

that of their adult counterparts. Equally important to me are initiatives to promote the participation of women and girls in English chess. I will certainly support effective proposals in pursuit of these objects.

I cannot deny that during my two years as a Direct Member, I received an excellent service from Gold members' representatives. But not knowing who the other candidates are in this election, I decided to put my name forward as someone who is more than equal to the task and worthy of your vote.