

My Name is Rob Willmoth. I am a gold member of the ECF Federation.

I left my last job as a Vice President at Barclays Capital in the Strategy and change Dept, specialising in problem solving in corporate actions after 21 years. For the last ten years I have been a professional chess coach.

I now run Barnet Knights junior chess club, which has grown to 250 members and also robwillmoth coaching that employs chess coaches and operates in around 50 schools in the London and home counties area. I play regularly for Barclays, Hendon, Hackney and Barnet Knights. In addition to this I am also a qualified arbiter and a candidate master.

Over the last couple of years ago I have been taking a much greater interest in ECF matters. I have attended every council meeting regardless of being in London, Birmingham or Zoom. I have put forward a number of recommendations for junior chess that will help change the landscape for junior chess. These are slowly being moved forward by the ECF. I have also suggested moving away from the traditional game fee that can be a considerable problem for adult leagues and junior congresses, setting forth a possible set fee structure. In addition to this I have also put forward an incentive scheme for junior coaches and also better incentives for adult member benefits.

I recognised quite quickly that there has been little cooperation or communication between numerous areas in English junior chess. As a result I have set up an English Juniors organisers group. We have around 200 members in the group and have contacts in every county in England. The group is currently just a communications group. I feel that by communicating all across England we can drastically improve junior chess and as a result this will provide a positive knock on for adult chess. My local adult team has benefited over the last ten years by the influx of juniors players, some of which are now over 200 and in the first team.

As the current incumbent of the ECF as a Gold Member Representative, alongside my colleague Lorin D'Costa, we already have experience dealing with members and their queries. Both Lorin and I not only coach and play, we have regular contact between ourselves given our extensive work together on many North London chess projects. This means we often discuss and chat, resulting in a share of information which helps us understand further what is going on in English chess.

Voting for Lorin and myself would ensure Gold Members are well represented, given the experience we both have as well as the level of direct contact with members themselves, as well as provide continuity and a stability within the ECF. I hope you think the same