

Dear Fellow Silver Members

I seek your support for re-election to the English Chess Federation Council to represent the Silver members for the 2020-21 season. As a current Silver member, I have carried out this role for the past four years, I feel able to build upon my experience and move forward with confidence for what this role requires for the future of chess and its players.

I have been playing chess for 27 years; I began as a 12 year old junior going to Chorlton chess club – Now I am 39 years old and play for Urmston whilst also being a member of Manchester Social chess club. During my time playing chess, I have carried out many different roles including being club captain at local level to running club tournaments and a congress. More recently, in light of the COVID19 restrictions placed upon over the board chess, I have also managed and selected teams for Manchester online county championships, an enjoyable but challenging role in the increasingly changing chess landscape.

I work well with others and have built lots of relationships with different members, leagues and organisations over time. I have been attending ECF meetings since the 2014 AGM when I volunteered to be the Lancashire rep. I have been a Silver member rep since the ECF AGM 2016 meeting when myself and Michael Farthing were elected to speak on behalf of the members. My reasons for feeling so passionately about being a rep were because I wanted the players to have a voice at meetings and feel confident that their views were being represented and discussed formally. Any feedback from these meetings is always reported back to members who have been most grateful of the opportunity for their opinions to be brought to the table. This proactive attitude, action and response approach would continue if you vote for me to remain as the Silver rep for 2020/21.

I do not take for granted the role I have undertaken over the past few years – I am proud to have been your representative but I have never rested on my laurels. I am proactive in this role and I feel that I have a good balance of skills and approaches - I canvass the opinions of the Silver members, asking their views on key agenda items prior to meetings, reflecting upon the traditions of the game, discussing options for potential change where this would benefit members and look at ways to secure the future of chess in the 21st century. If I am re-elected, I would aim to work in collaboration with whoever is also elected to support the Silver members, representing their views to the best of my abilities.

I always feel that any organisations need new blood coming through in order to continue the good work that has gone before and also to drive forward areas that could benefit from some change. This is why I have volunteered to do different roles within the game in order to gain a wider understanding of the complexities and viewpoints involved. I wholeheartedly believe that this has helped me to see the rounded viewpoints needed to support chess moving forward.

2020 has been a tough time with the COVID virus and so far, there has not been any over the board chess. Whilst I have seen that the ECF have published in the tournament rules to cover the mechanics of playing chess in clubs and tournaments under socially distanced conditions, we do need to safeguard chess players going forward when playing congress and over the board chess. Due to a lifelong health condition, I belong to a vulnerable group myself and am currently working from home. I would like to feel safe in the knowledge that players such as myself are protected moving forward with the changes and amendments to the game.

I do hope if you haven't already done so, you will renew your membership of the ECF as soon as possible (I have done mine) and remind your friends who play chess to do so. Due to the pandemic, the finances of the ECF do need to be covered. Unless people renew their subscriptions there is a real danger that when the pandemic finally ends, there will be no ECF.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and hope that you will give me your vote.

John Reyes Silver member ME007891