

AGM 2021

Withdrawal of Nomination - Director of Women's Chess – Fenella Headlong

When this post was last elected a few years ago, I was dismayed that it did not go to a woman; I promised myself that I would look in to it when it next became vacant. That post is now vacant, the incumbent has indicated that they are not standing. I believe that I could offer a good mix of playing experience, organising experience, a passion for promoting chess for girls and women, and business / professional skills.

At the point of application, there is no visibility of who else is applying. Now that the nominations are public, I can see that there are two credible, female candidates for the post. I thought that this would be good for women's chess - two capable women offering to do the role with a desire to promote women's chess, and this would encourage healthy debate and choice.

Within a short space of time, I can see that this is proving divisive, not least because there is continual talk and discussion of hidden agendas, rather than focusing on the core items. Whilst it is true that Mike Truran and I play for the same 4NCL Team and I have known Mike since the mid-1990s, I have actually known Malcolm even longer. There has been a lot of discussion on the ECF Forum and via other routes about motives. For the record, Mike Truran has not asked me to stand nor persuaded me to stand. In fact, due to some other events / priorities which occurred over the summer, I only spoke to someone outside my household about the possibility of standing on the Sunday evening before the deadline, and only made the final decision to stand on the night before the deadline.

With regret, I would like to inform you that I am now withdrawing my application.

I would like to thank all those who nominated me, have sent me messages of support, or who have already indicated that they would vote for me.

I would like to wish Aga all the best for the AGM and for the role. I have no doubt that she is an excellent candidate and I am sure that she will be a real asset to the ECF Board. I had already been in touch with both Mike and Alex regarding a few of my ideas and practical suggestions that I would have been looking to champion, and I would be more than happy to share further details with Aga in due course, should she so wish.

Fenella Headlong

20th September 2021