

Election Address for Agnieszka Milewska

I am standing for the position of Director of Women's Chess because I believe the ECF needs to be at the forefront of bringing more women and girls into organised competitive chess. There has never been a better time to do this, thanks to the phenomenal success of 'The Queen's Gambit' in encouraging more women to take up the game, and the increasing numbers of people, male and female, now playing chess online.

I would look to use my experience as an active tournament player, coach, organiser and arbiter to help female players fulfill their potential, and work to redress the gender imbalance in chess at all levels.

During the pandemic, I have been involved in the England Women's online team on Lichess.org, working together with the British Women's Champion, IM & WGM Jovanka Houska, FIDE Women's Commission member Christelle Hafstad and IM Lawrence Cooper.

In addition to this, I have been privileged to serve as Alternate Director for Women's Chess over the past year, attending a number of ECF Board meetings, and this has helped me get to know how the ECF's various directorates work and interact with each other.

There are a number of good projects now taking place to encourage more women and girls to take up the game, including the 'She Plays to Win' online club run by England Women's Team Coach IM Lorin D'Costa. I would aim to offer practical help to organisers wishing to start similar initiatives.

If elected, I would also aim to work closely with the FIDE Women's Commission on implementing the project '2022 – the Year of Women in Chess', organising an international tournament for women players in England as part of that initiative in which female players could compete for title norms.

I would be in constant touch with women and girls playing in clubs and tournaments, and aim to be a point of contact for local organisers wishing to offer greater opportunities for female players.

Relevant Experience:

London coordinator, Chess in Schools & Communities (CSC)

Coach, Richmond Junior Chess Club

Teacher in London primary schools since 2015

Organiser, London Chess Classic schools events

Participant, English Women's Championship & British Championships

Manager, CSC teams, Junior 4NCL

ECF Level 2 Arbiter (and completed the qualification as FIDE Arbiter, title awaiting ratification)

With regards

Agnieszka Milewska

(ECF Gold member 000344)