

Election Address: Shohreh Bayat

I am honoured to be able to put my name forward for election to the post of the ECF's Events Director. As many of you will know, I was appointed to this newly-created role on an interim basis by the ECF Board in March of this year, and have spent time since then working with Nigel Towers, Alex Holowczak and other board members to understand the requirements of the role and the portfolio of over the board events which the ECF will be looking to run over the coming year. I have also been involved with preparations for the County Championships and the over the board British Championships to help ensure that these events are successful and well run. The time that I have been able to devote to the role so far has of necessity been somewhat limited, in particular because of my FIDE commitments and the work involved in obtaining my five year United Kingdom residence and work permit, but I am very confident that as both those pressures ease I will be able to devote the amount of time and effort to the position that it deserves.

As regards my skills and experience which make me a suitable candidate for this role:

- I am a FIDE and International Chess Arbiter who has officiated at numerous events such as World's Senior, Cadets and Junior Chess Championships as well as Olympiads and events such as the Gibraltar International Chess Festival;
- I have been a member of FIDE's Technical Commission and am currently a Councillor of FIDE's Arbiters' Commission;
- I was General Secretary of the Chess Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran from 2016 to 2018, during which time I was involved in organising the Iranian Chess Tour;
- As an International Lecturer I have spoken at numerous chess conferences;
- I have had articles published in numerous journals;
- I am currently working as a chess tutor for Chess in Schools and Communities;
- Since my arrival in the United Kingdom I have been active in the organisation of various over the board and online events for both the ECF and the 4NCL.

My main focus as events director will be to ensure that ECF events are well designed and supported by our players, effectively run, and provide regular opportunities for players to take part in National Championships and events. I would like ECF events to be attractive to players at all levels including titled players, players seeking their next title norms, and club players or juniors looking to take part in national qualifiers or mass participation events.

In closing, I would like to thank the English chess community for its support during what has been, as you can imagine, a very difficult period in my life. If I am elected as Events Director it will be a pleasure to be in a position to be able to contribute to the further development of English chess.