

## **PLAN TO DEVELOP ENGLISH CHESS**

### **Fundraising To Grow the Game**

Following the ECF's brilliant success in securing UK government funding for chess, I would make it a key priority as Director for Home Chess to ambitiously develop the game across the country at all levels, and to raise private sponsorship and public funding for this goal.

To secure affordable venues and facilities for chess clubs and tournaments, I would work in close cooperation with ECF Board members, particularly with the Director for International Chess and External Relations, on developing excellent relations with national and local government funders and private sponsors.

### **Creating a National Chess Centre**

As a key step towards building English chess at all levels, I would seek to create a National Chess Centre (NCC) in dedicated premises owned and managed by the ECF and its partners in the chess community. The NCC would seek to overcome one of the main challenges facing chess organisations: the lack of suitable, affordable venues for major events.

To fund the project, the ECF would invite charitable funds (e.g. the Chess Trust and the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust) and angel investors to become long-term stake holders in the NCC.

To encourage 'levelling up' across the country, the NCC would be situated in the Midlands, preferably in or near a major city such as Birmingham with good rail connections with the rest of the country.

The idea would be to make the NCC available for major chess events such as the English Championships and English Women's Championships, 4NCL, ECF National Counties and Club Championships, national juniors' and seniors' events, plus major international tournaments, training weekends and school holiday chess camps.

The NCC could also be let commercially for conferences and other mindsports events when not in use for chess events.

The ECF would also seek to partner with a leading university, in a similar way to other sports, to create its own National Chess Academy based at the NCC. This Academy would not only provide chess training, but also train chess coaches, arbiters and administrators, providing recognised professional qualifications.

## **Organising Chess Festivals**

As Director, I would seek to develop the British Championships as a more public-facing chess festival – not just putting on events for experienced competitive players, but also using the event to reach out to newcomers through weeklong street, park and café public chess events.

Over time, the British could become the model for a programme of chess festivals across the country, run in cooperation with local chess organisations. This could be achieved by working in partnership with Chess in Schools and Communities, which has already developed great expertise in running its highly successful ChessFest events in London and Liverpool.

## **Creating Title Opportunities**

As Director, I would seek to promote more international open and invitational tournaments with title opportunities for young female and male players, such as at the British and English Championships, the Northumbria Masters and Cambridge Open and others, in cooperation with the Director for International Chess and External Relations. Such events with norm opportunities are key to creating a conveyor belt for young talented players, who can then help to restore England's leading position in international chess.

## **More Focus on Training Coaches, Arbiters & Organisers**

I would arrange regular ECF seminars to train new people as FIDE trainers, arbiters and organisers, and give more opportunities via ECF tournaments and congresses for young women and men in these fields to rise through the ranks. The more experienced trainers, arbiters and organisers we have, the bigger we can build English chess.

*If you would like to help the ECF reach the goals I have set out here, have suggestions on how they can be achieved, or just have questions, please get in touch with me directly at: [timpeterwall@gmail.com](mailto:timpeterwall@gmail.com)*