

C39.8d (2)

Election address for Katarzyna Toma for a position of Non- Executive Director on

English Chess Federation Board

I am a Woman Chess Grandmaster and a member of English National Women's Team, I have been playing chess competitively since early childhood, throughout years of studying and career as a full-time veterinary surgeon. I have settled status and I live in England since 2015th. I have changed federation only in 2018th when I was sure I enjoy British lifestyle, and this is my new home.

I am FIDE Trainer and I have been coach and team captain for various women's events in Poland, South Africa, and England (European Team Championships, Club Championships, Olympiad). I have played chess in many countries, and I am familiar with various point of views on approaching development of the game.

For many years of being an active player I was trying to be "apolitical" but not everything is ideal, so I have decided to start being proactive in creating better chess environments for all.

Chess world is facing turbulent times, on one hand we have great advertisement thanks to series Queen's Gambit, influx of new players, online events but on the other hand we face huge challenges connected to cheating, misconduct, sexual harassment, and inadequate long- term financial security for established tournaments and players. Chess management needs to be more flexible, and we should navigate towards more transparency, professionalism, and integrity. If elected, I will challenge rest of the Board to identify the pathology, implement the treatment plan and make sure we have a good prognosis for the future. As a female, player, coach, veterinarian, and expat I feel I have unique perspective on chess, and it will be beneficial for players and ECF Board.

Yours sincerely,

WGM Katarzyna Toma