



Malcolm Pein

Standing for the role of Chief Executive of the English Chess Federation



Election Manifesto

I want the ECF to adopt a more ambitious and forward-looking approach that befits a governing body. It should actively fundraise and try to engage with government while seeking to grow the game.

There is huge potential. While ECF membership fluctuates around 10,000, the number of English based players on the major chess servers is over a million.

We have an excellent team of operational Board members to take the ECF forward: Nigel Towers (Home), Rob Willmoth (Membership), Agnieszka Milewska (Women) and Alex Holoczwak (Junior), who it should be remembered, are all volunteers. They have all worked very hard, and successfully, together with other volunteers, to bring members the Go membership scheme, hugely improved grading and many new online events.

If elected as Chief Executive, my primary objective would be to increase the game's popularity both over-the-board and online in order to feed players into our traditional mainstays of clubs, congresses and leagues, many of which are experiencing a gradual decline with older membership.

The first prerequisite for this is leadership. It's important Council understands I tried to avoid a contested election. I wrote to Mike Truran to try and resolve our differences before standing.

I propose:

- * **A more ambitious approach:**
- * **Prudent, costed, investment in development**
- * **Restructuring BCF legacy Assets: Chess Centre Ltd, PIF**
- * **A fundraising program for English chess**
- * **Reconfigure the ECF's relationship with the Chess Trust and John Robinson Youth Chess Trust**
- * **Reintroduction of a Weekend Grand Prix to boost English congresses**
- * **A greater emphasis on outreach nationally and locally**
- * **A year-round programme of tournaments in the regions to provide opportunities for new talent**
- * **A campaign to lobby the UK government to support the game**

My Policies

Positioning of the ECF

Council members have a clear choice. Mike Truran's position is that the ECF should be an "enabling" body. My approach can be summarised as *Innovate - Activate - Facilitate - Propagate*.

This means such things as creating new events, outreach to potential partners at local and national level, all the enabling that we currently do, which should remain a vital part of our work, encourage chess organisations to work together, promote the positive aspects of the game to a wider audience.

Restructuring BCF legacy Assets: Chess Centre Ltd, PIF

Covid has put significant strain on ECF finances making the allocation of approximately £200,000 of investments, cash and other assets that remain in the BCF an important issue.

The BCF/ECF structure should be streamlined ASAP - it's 15 years since the BCF ceased to function - and these legacy assets need to be secured and leveraged for the benefit of members. The ECF Strategy Statement and Business Plan states that the BCF and legacy assets should be moved to the Chess Trust charity. I am against these funds being moved anywhere other than the ECF without **significant safeguards**. I have tabled motions to Council which will amend the motion passed in 2018, pre Covid, when circumstances differed.

Funds would be used for the following purposes:

- 1) To build the ECF working reserves to an amount specified by the Finance Committee. I would propose £100,000.
- 2) To limit or avoid entirely any possible increase in membership fees.
- 3) Use a portion of the funds, agreed between the Board and PIF Trustees (I propose 20%), over the next three years to support clubs, leagues and congresses in their Covid recovery. I would focus on the areas highlighted by clubs in the recent survey (ECF website). This could include engaging two part-time Development Officers: one for the north (NCCU & MCCU) and one for the South and West - (SCCU, EACU and WECU) to provide logistical help, and advice and facilitate grants for new initiatives.
- 4) The Chess Trust (with assets of £762K as of August 2020) and the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust (with assets of £676K as of August 2020) should be encouraged to increase expenditure a little to assist the ECF in this difficult period: The funds in these trusts and their spending to date can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
- 5) We should adjust the mindset that the legacy assets, whilst obviously finite, are the only funds the ECF will ever possess. I have fundraised over £100,000 for the national team and British Championships during the last five years and more should be done to support other areas.

Reintroduction of the Weekend Grand Prix

The weekend tournament circuit has long been the lifeblood of the congress scene. I would aim to relaunch the Weekend Grand Prix to support congresses, help them acquire sponsorship, boost participation, and attract more strong players.

An emphasis on outreach

Chess clubs should be encouraged and incentivised to reach out into the community and recruit new members. The ECF should organise more public chess events like *ChessFest*, the UK's biggest open-air chess festival, organised by *Chess in Schools and Communities* in London and Liverpool this July. See [video here](#). We should also be assisting clubs and congresses to make chess events more accessible to new players.

A year-round programme of tournaments in the regions to provide opportunities for new talent

Seed a year-round programme of regional and international chess tournaments to produce the next generation of English grandmasters. We would look to emulate the excellent example of the Northumbria Masters, a local initiative supported by *Chess in Schools and Communities* and the ECF's International Director's Budget, which produced the norms necessary to create new Grandmasters and International Masters. A series of women's tournament must be a priority.

A campaign to the UK government to change the status of the game

I would strongly make the case for supporting chess to government to get chess the recognition and funding it deserves, so that we can substantially grow the game and make English chess healthy and vibrant for future generations to enjoy.

The game's development has been hampered by a lack of government support due to it having no official status. Changing this must be a priority. This requires the ECF to step up as the governing body and be the initiator of ambitious plans to develop social chess and bring the game to a wider audience. I will try my utmost to engage with the DCMS. What was particularly pleasing about *ChessFest* was the message of welcome from the former DCMS Minister Oliver Dowden, who described the game as both a 'sport and a cultural pursuit'. [See here](#).

With your support and that of colleagues I will begin this work. Please do not hesitate to contact me via the website:

www.developingenglishchess.com - if you have any questions.



Malcolm Pein: A Life in Chess



Malcolm learnt the moves at the age of three, won his first tournament at five and was British Junior Champion in 1977. He represented Merseyside, Lancashire and England at junior level and has played for Liverpool Chess Club since 1971 and Wood Green Chess Club since 1978. He qualified for the International Master title in 1986. His most notable triumphs in tournament play include victories over Jon Speelman, Vishy Anand, Peter Svidler and Lev Psakhis.

Although still an active player, Malcolm ceased playing professionally in 1993 and since then has been involved in English chess in the roles of coach, journalist, publisher, tournament organiser, fundraiser, Chess in Schools charity CEO, ECF Director, ECF Delegate to FIDE, England team captain and chess entrepreneur.

In 2010, Malcolm founded *Chess in Schools and Communities* (CSC) – a UK-registered charity whose aim is to improve children’s educational outcomes and social development by introducing them to the game of chess. Malcolm has been the charity’s CEO since its inception, and by

the end of 2020 the charity had taught the game to over 250,000 children. It has expanded into libraries, youth clubs, care homes and there is an expanding prisons programme supported by the Ministry of Justice. Malcolm frequently goes into prisons to do simultaneous displays.



Fundraising and Sponsorship

To launch the charity in 2009, Malcolm devised, fundraised and organised the London Chess Classic, the UK’s first world-class elite all-play-all tournament since Phillips & Drew GLC in 1986. The tournament has run annually up to 2019, with the 2020 tournament cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2009, Malcolm has raised over £10 million in donations and other contributions for CSC, including corporate donations from companies such as Barclaycard. He has been instrumental in securing six-figure sponsorships for the London Chess Classic, Grand Chess Tour and FIDE.

ECF Fundraising

Since becoming ECF International Director, Malcolm has raised funds towards the costs of our international teams and international tournaments. In 2016, Malcolm secured £25,000 sponsorship for the ECF from *Jupiter Asset Management* as well as a £15,000 private donation to support the England team and the British Championships. These two items assisted England's participation in the 2016 Olympiad and 2017 European Teams. In 2017, Malcolm secured £30,000 towards the British Championships and a further £30,000 in 2018. In 2019, the participation of the England team at the World Team Championships in Astana was entirely funded from private sponsorship, as was our participation in the 2020 and 2021 Online Olympiads. Most recently Malcolm raised £4,000 for the Northumbria Masters norm events.



ECF Posts

Malcolm was elected ECF Director of International Chess in October 2015. Since that time the England Open team has enjoyed enormous success and won medals for the first time over 20 years with silver at

the 2019 World Team Championships and bronze in the 2019 European Team Championships. Our fifth place at the 2018 Batumi Olympiad was our best Olympiad performance for over 20 years.

When he was elected Malcolm defined the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the role. Whilst Covid has been a factor, these KPIs are well on the way to being achieved.

Malcolm is also the representative to FIDE for the ECF.

He has been the captain of the England Open team since October 2015, with the team also enjoying notable success at the 2016 Olympiad in Baku against China and Azerbaijan.



Journalist and author

Malcolm started writing for *The Daily Telegraph* in 1987 and has written a daily chess column every day for 34 years, over 11,000 columns in total. He is also the owner and executive editor of *CHESS* magazine. Malcolm has also written a number of chess books and booklets, and recently he has started to record videos for *Chessable*.