

May I take this opportunity to introduce myself. I was elected as the Director of Junior Chess and Education of the English Chess Federation on October 29th when the ECF took over from the long established British Chess Federation, reflecting the fact that we were responsible for Chess in England. The ECF becomes the Chess organisation in England recognised by FIDE, the World governing body and by H.M. Government.

My aim is to enable any and all educational establishments in England to have access to chess equipment at a reasonable cost, to have access to chess coaches at a reasonable cost, and to encourage all who wish to play chess to have the chance to do so, to the best of their abilities. Chess is proven to be very beneficial as a means of improving self-esteem, concentration, reasoning powers, deduction, time management in an environment which does not depend on chance allocation of resources. Gambling is actively discouraged in Chess. Who can participate in chess? Anyone. We have equipment and rules which allow the participating of the sensory deprived, the physically handicapped, and the antisocial.

We are in the process of setting up a new class of Chess Arbiters who will be examined on the Laws of Chess, and successful candidates will be invited to take up members of the ECF Chess Arbiters Association and kept up to date on Law changes and interpretations thereof. The working title for this class is "Referees", and a card will be issued to members of this group.

I would like your help to be able to circulate details of ECF events, special offers, tournaments, etc. by means of email. We will do whatever we can to facilitate the development of chess in education, to answer any questions or queries, and to recommend suitable local chess coaches.

Thank you for your time.

Cyril Johnson
Director of Junior Chess & Education.
Tel 0116 260 9012.