

Tim Wall – Election address, ECF Silver Members Rep

Who am I?

Member, Forest Hall Chess Club, Newcastle upon Tyne

Coach, Forest Hall Juniors & the ECF Academy

A 54-year-old chess dad (and chess son)

Organiser, Northumbria Masters

Passionate advocate for popularising chess

ECF Gold member, FIDE Trainer and FIDE Master

After 20 years working as a journalist abroad, mostly in Russia and Azerbaijan, I came back to my native North East four years ago, and have since jumped into teaching, playing, organising (and writing about) chess.

My idea of the perfect Friday evening used to be a night out on the town with friends in Moscow – now it's teaching kids at Forest Hall and running senior and junior teams in the Northumberland League. Since lockdown, my dream has changed once more: It's just to play a match or tournament over the board again.

Chess has given me a lot – great friends all over the UK and around the world, the pleasure from studying a beautiful Grandmaster game, and the kick I get out of seeing kids I've taught grow as young people by thinking for themselves. I am lucky in that my father, John, now 87, and son (also called John, aged 17) share my enthusiasm for the game.

Why am I standing for Silver Member rep? As well as wanting to give something back, I'd like to see the club member's view well represented at all levels of English chess. I have (I think) a decent track record in putting forward constructive proposals to the ECF, and I would like to continue doing that – representing the views of club and congress players on the ECF Council.

If elected, I would work together with all the other Direct Member reps, consulting with members before ECF meetings, reporting back afterwards – and putting the feedback you give me directly to the ECF Council and Board of Directors.

It's great that we are having contested elections for these posts, as it means that people want to volunteer and get involved. We're going to need bags of enthusiasm to revive our game as we ease out of lockdown and come back to competitive chess, hopefully safely and (over time) in greater numbers as we recruit more of the casual/online players who have taken up chess recently into over-the-board chess clubs.

All that remains is to encourage you to vote for me and for John Reyes, my good friend from Manchester who has been a dedicated and hard-working Silver members rep since 2016.

Together, let's hope we can get chess back on its feet again very soon 😊

Please feel free to contact me with any questions/comments at:

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