# Nomination from East Anglian Chess Union for a Presidents Award for Services to Chess

# Richard Freeman

One constant since the founding of the East Anglian Chess Union over 39 years ago has been Richard Freeman as Secretary and Treasurer for most of the period together with other roles. For someone to hold positions in an organisation for over 39 years is a rare and great achievement but to hold several constantly over that length of time is a special achievement. Over his period in post the EACU has thrived and much of its success is down to Richard’s hard work. Richard is the last surviving of the three founders of EACU in 1983.

Richard has always performed his roles in an efficient, effective, and professional manner. Both roles of Secretary and Treasurer are, I feel, often undervalued but are vital to the smooth efficient running of any organisation. When, as in Richard’s case, the roles are performed so well that no issues arise then most chess players are probably unaware of the work done. However, Richard will pass on to his successor(s) a legacy that will enable them to easily step into his shoes and continue where he has left off.

In addition to the two roles Richard has been the organiser of the popular EACU Congress held in Newmarket for several years. This is now a FIDE rated event and had a record attendance the last time it was held. He also set up another congress, the EACU Closed Championships, which has been running for 5 years.

Outside of EACU Richard was a County Captain for a few years, and a team captain at his local Club for several years. He plays regularly for Milton Keynes in the Bedfordshire Chess League and in the 4NCL as well as for the Bedfordshire County team.

Richard is standing down this year from his EACU roles as he is moving from Bedfordshire to Cheltenham. His work for EACU and within East Anglia has been invaluable and I feel that the Presidents Award is an excellent way to recognise his achievements.

John Wickham

EACU Chairman

Supporting statement for the nomination of Richard Freeman for a Presidents Award for Services to Chess

I have known Richard for over 35 years and can confirm and support the nomination.

In addition, I would add that Richard has been an ever-present in the Bedfordshire Chess community for almost 50 years. He has captained the Bedfordshire County team to wins in the EACU County Championship and the national Minor Counties competition.

At club level, he has captained teams in the Bedfordshire League, winning the league on several occasions with at least 3 different clubs. He has also held the position of Club Secretary at Milton Keynes.

Adrian Elwin

Chairman, Bedfordshire County Chess Association