

1<sup>st</sup> July 2014

## Supporting Garry Kasparov FIDE Presidential ticket

The New Zealand Chess Federation (NZCF) is pleased to support Garry Kasparov for FIDE President as well as members of the Garry Kasparov ticket for their respective positions.

New Zealand is at the far edge of the FIDE world, but like all other chess federations, it has suffered from the increasing burden of compliance costs. With a small player base, New Zealand is not in a position to fund administrative work, and relies on volunteers. These volunteers become fewer and less enthusiastic as the workload grows.

Chess, as a game, commands respect around the world. Many corporate advertisements feature chess in one way or another. Unfortunately, chess as a competitive mind sport does not fully benefit from this respect. We need chess restored to a level of respect and credibility worldwide that ensures international sponsorship for top events, with the resultant increase in support and prestige at national level. That would give us the backing and credibility to seek sponsorship for our own projects, players and events.

The New Zealand Chess Federation believes that the iconic figure of Garry Kasparov would be successful in attracting world interest in chess that would result in increased sponsorship. We believe that Team Kasparov includes people who would run FIDE in a thoroughly professional manner and who would offer considerable support and assistance to the Continental chess associations. We are also convinced that the group of people on Kasparov's Team Asia ticket brings a range of experience and enthusiasm which can only result in the fulfilment of their motto, "Asia Rising". Of course, we are very pleased that our own Helen Milligan is on that team!

As the candidate for Oceania zone president, I look forward to working with the new FIDE team led by Garry Kasparov to help develop chess across Oceania. I urge all federations in Oceania to unite as a bloc in support of Team Kasparov. It would be a great honour to work with a united zone in the development of chess.

It is unusual for New Zealand to stand up in advance of a FIDE election and state how we will vote. It is different this time because change is absolutely necessary. We want a new future for chess and we believe Garry Kasparov represents that future.

Yours sincerely,

IO Paul Spiller<sup>'</sup> (FIDE ID: 4300718) President, New Zealand Chess Federation.