



PRESS RELEASE

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Smith steps down, Small to take over as Federation President

Kean Smith stepped down as President of The Bahamas Chess Federation (BCF) effective June 30, 2011, citing increased personal and professional obligations for the remainder of the year.

As BCF President, Smith was instrumental in strengthening ties with the World Chess Federation (FIDE) and establishing ties with numerous regional federations. Smith was also successful at building stronger ties with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Sports and the Ministry of Tourism.

Under his leadership The Bahamas became the first chess federation in the English speaking Caribbean to organize and host the Caribbean Chess Sub Zonal, held in June 2010. Also, the BCF organized its first FIDE Trainers Course. Furthermore, Smith introduced organized chess play in Grand Bahama and Abaco and most recently the BCF organized a chess workshop for primary school teachers in Western Grand Bahama. Though he is stepping down from the top position, he intends to remain active in developing chess locally, particularly on the Family Islands.

Smith expresses his gratitude to the members of the BCF for the opportunity to serve as President since December 2005 and will remain on hand to provide advice when required.

While Smith is stepping down as President, he leaves the Federation in the capable hands of the current Vice President and former President Byron Small. Small, who is no stranger to the Federation's leadership team, has served in all positions on the executive board and recently received his National Instructor (NI) title from FIDE. Small is one of only three BCF recognized National Masters (NM) and has pledged to continue to promote the development of chess throughout the country and internationally.

Small has expressed his gratitude to Smith for providing such outstanding leadership to the BCF and is pleased that Smith has led the way in so many initiatives to promote chess in The Bahamas and abroad. Small will hold the head office until such time as a formal election is held (expected to be sometime in early December 2011).