



## Proposal Document for Junior Chess



**March 2005**

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Scottish Junior Chess agree with CS that a united approach is far better than a divided one.

Views expressed by respected moderates have persuaded SJC members to work vigorously in their efforts to draft honourable and very workable proposals, while at the same time formulate a significant number of exciting new development ideas.

SJC believe that CS has not yet succeeded in linking the talents and commitment of Scotland's most experienced Junior Chess Organisers. There are enormous benefits for Scottish Juniors if agreement can be reached between SJC and CS, particularly at a time when national politicians are being presented with excellent pro-chess documents and outcomes from Aberdeen.

SJC believe that a radical overhaul at junior level is needed, resolutions sought to personality clashes, and that we must move forward in a dynamic and resourceful manner. SJC has spent many hours preparing a radical and inclusive vision for Scottish Junior Chess. These plans will be offered to the Junior Council following agreement with CS on unresolved items.

These development plans are consistent with current mainstream political thinking with regard to OOSHLA's, social inclusion, and community learning. A fundamental realignment of the Scottish Junior structure will result from these changes, effectively building a powerful numerical base, working from the bottom up rather than the top down. CS will recognise that increased funding from the executive will not be made available to produce fine chess players, but rather to produce outcomes of the kind achieved in Aberdeen.

It is the opinion of the SJC that this can be brought about by the proposals set out in this document.



To tackle the problem of capable junior organisers who are disenfranchised, working in isolation in their own geographic areas, with minimal support, and inexperienced organisers administering an ever-reducing number of events, we propose that the body charged with administering junior chess should bring together the most capable and experienced organisers in Scotland.

We propose that an Interim Junior Council should be set up on the following basis:

### **Junior Council to comprise of eight representatives of Junior Chess**

Four to be appointed by Chess Scotland  
Four to be appointed by Scottish Junior Chess

The Junior Council shall consist of 5 Executive positions -  
Chairperson/Group Leader  
National Schools Development Manager  
National Junior Events Manager  
Junior Secretary  
Junior Treasurer

The full Junior Interim Council shall vote for the 5 Junior Interim Council Executive posts.  
This interim council shall administer the successful amalgamation of SJC and CS, and formulate strategies for season 2005/06.

Prior to the CS AGM, nominations will be accepted for all five junior executive posts.  
In the event of there being multi-nominations for any post, a vote of members shall then take place.

Members are Junior Individuals who are members of CS or SJC, Schools or Junior Clubs who are members of CS or SJC, or adults active in the promotion and/or development of Junior Chess in Scotland.

SJC accept the CS Junior Group amendment that extends proposed Junior representation on CS Council from one to three. Chairperson/Group Leader, National Schools Development Manager, and National Junior Events Manager shall become full members of CS Council.



A Junior Chess Account to be set up and administered by the Junior Council, reporting directly to the Chess Scotland Finance Director. This account to be set-up with a deposit of £3000 from the main Chess Scotland budget in order to initiate the proposed junior development and training plans. A sum to be agreed and placed annually into the junior account to enable future development and training plans to be progressed.

CS rep. Jeremy Hughes brought to the attention of the junior meeting on Feb 6 that a Junior Account could be set-up within the terms of the present CS constitution, specifically 10.4. The principle of a ring-fenced Junior Account was fully agreed with the junior delegates representing CS:-

"A separate Bank Account to be opened (as already permitted in section 10.4 of CS Constitution) for management of junior funds"

SJC agree to the CS amendment that the account should remain with CS, under Junior Council jurisdiction.

Funds placed into the junior account, whether 'donations' from the CS Account, or monies raised thereafter, to be shown in the CS Balance sheet.

The initial grant requested to kick-start this account is £3000. At the meeting of Feb 6, CS reps felt that this sum was not likely to be approved, although the principle was accepted: -

"Consideration to be given to initial and ongoing funding to be passed from CS to Junior Council" (from Stephen O'Donnell's notes Feb 6)

Responsibility for Junior Internationals to be negotiated.



The new Junior Council shall be responsible for developing a strong junior base. More focus to be on grassroots/novice development.

All juniors are considered novices until reaching Junior International standard or approx. 1100 ELO. Novice does not mean beginner.

Negotiations to take place to extend remit of Junior Council to U14 Junior International standard: "Junior Council focus to be on 'grass roots' junior chess, with junior international matters remaining within remit of CS. This can be reviewed in the future, if desired" (from Stephen O'Donnell's notes Feb 6)

A range of detailed development ideas has been drafted to facilitate the expected increase in junior involvement in chess at all standards of play, including a substantial increase in the number of junior tournaments. These ideas are ready to be rolled-out. Details will be made available if these proposals are endorsed.

### **Junior Reconstruction**

The phrase 'Junior Autonomy' to be dropped and replaced with 'Junior Reconstruction'.

The new Junior Council to work independently on grass roots development within the CS Organisation.

Only active junior organisers to be part of the new Junior Council. 'Active' can be wide ranging, but must mean actively working towards, or helping in some way in the advance of junior chess.

In exceptional circumstances, volunteers who have no particular involvement in junior chess, but have expertise in certain areas that could prove useful to the Junior Council, would be invited to assist the Junior Council.

A Scottish Junior Chess brand to be developed, with a clear indication that it was part of the main body of Chess Scotland. Scottish Junior Chess have professional expertise in both design and branding.

### **Junior Communications Team**

SJC have prepared proposals to include details of how a new Junior Communications team who would contribute to an exclusively junior website that would link to and from the main CS website. The content and layout of the site would be the responsibility of the appointed Junior Council member. Scottish Junior Chess currently have a working website with the professional expertise in website design and have website space available to continue with this.

A group of volunteers will be responsible for updating all website information and email communication for junior members. The existing web space reserved for the current SJC website will be made available for this purpose. This site will reflect it's close association with CS.



**Charity Fundraising Events**

Scottish Junior Chess have successfully raised in excess of £1000 for the Children's Hospice Charity (CHAS) and it is intended to expand upon this precedent in the coming months.

More details are available if proposal is endorsed.

**Junior Friendly Venues**

Scottish Junior Chess believe that the selection of venue is a key factor in the success of any event and have ensured, particularly with the Chess for Kicks Events, that good venues with good facilities for parents and children is a critical consideration and will result in increased participation of calendar events. The success of the Chess for Kicks events is a clear example of this philosophy in action.

**Junior Friendly Arbiters**

Scottish Junior Chess believe that the selection of arbiters for junior events is key in maintaining the continued interest of juniors and should be approached from a different perspective than adult tournaments. SJC have a selection of junior friendly arbiters, and plan to encourage more junior organisers to sit the arbiter's exam.

It is recommended that all arbiters will have been processed through Disclosure (Scotland) in line with current CS Child Protection Policy.



At the Chess Scotland council meeting of November 2004, it was agreed that Chess Scotland and Scottish Junior Chess should discuss the possibility of merging the ongoing school and junior events of both organisations.

### **Primary Team School Events**

Like Chess Scotland, Scottish Junior Chess have run qualifying Primary Team Events in Scotland.

Due to the advanced stage of both Scottish Junior Chess and Chess Scotland competitions it has been agreed that no merging will be possible for this years' events.

### **Junior Individual Events**

Scottish Junior Chess and Chess Scotland shall proceed with the completion of all respective individual events in their current format.

Scottish Junior Chess are currently running their national "Chess for Kicks" events which has in the region of 12 qualifying rounds, culminating in a grand final to be held at Hampden Park later in the year.

Scottish Junior Chess may consider accepting Chess Scotland individual qualifiers into the Chess for Kicks Final. It is agreed that talks should be initiated between CS and Scottish Junior Chess to consider the possibility of merging individual events.





To agree the way to achieve Junior Reconstruction

To develop short, medium, and long term strategies for the benefit of junior chess players.

To consider additional fundraising methods.

To organise a variety of team, individual, and regional tournaments.

To organise regional training days for juniors below the standard of International Squad Juniors.

To liaise with Junior International Trainers/Organisers.

To foster, develop and implement a joint policy with CS for obtaining continued political support of Chess in Schools.



Chess Scotland to make the necessary changes to its constitution to establish the Junior Council on the basis set out in these proposals so that these proposals can be implemented.

The Junior Treasurer shall report to the Chess Scotland Finance Director.

The Chairperson, National Schools Development Manager and National Junior Events Manager shall become full CS Council members and make annual progress reports to the CS AGM

These changes will render the following CS positions obsolete:

Junior Auditor

Schools Development Director

Junior Commission

