

International Update

I attach my belated International Director's report for 2007-2008.

http://www.chessscotland.com/downloads/ID_Annualreport_0708.doc

I also give below:

- a short Review of Q3 2008
- a link to the latest FIDE ratings for Scottish players
- Forthcoming events in 2008 and 2009.

I intend to give reviews every quarter. Feedback and info to international@chessscotland.com

Jonathan Grant
International Director
October 2008



Q3 2008 Review

- 2008 was an experimental year for the **Scottish Championship** with a high £2000 first prize but no conditions for titled players. Disappointingly but not surprisingly a very limited number of titled players participated. Won convincingly by Alan Tate with 6.5/9, perhaps the most encouraging aspect was the increased number of strong juniors participating. Another success of the smoothly run tournament in Glasgow was the live transmission of games on the Internet. Personally I am not a fan of integrating the International Open and the Championship for the reason that non-Scots have an influence on destination of the title. Nonetheless our premier international level event needs to evolve if it is determine the strongest Scottish player. Increased dialogue between organisers and top level players should lead to an outstanding Championship in Edinburgh 2009.
- GM Jacob Aagaard of Milngavie, the reigning British Champion, was the clear winner of the 2008 Chess Scotland **Player of the Year** award. He decided to play at the Politiken Cup in July where his scalps included Socko (2628) and Landa (2615).
- This year's **British Championships** in Liverpool suffered from organisational and funding issues with the result that none of the top Scots participated.
- By comparison the **EU Individual Championship** in Liverpool was very well organised and GMs Colin McNab and John Shaw both showed good form in advance of the Olympiad, outperforming with 6/10. WGM Keti Arakhamia-Grant jumped to no.6 in the list of top Scottish wins when Nigel Short's (2655) mobile phone rang. Ultimately she fell 0.5 point short of her

final GM norm in the final round, also with 6/10. One to watch for the future – Ali Roy continued to develop with the highlight being a draw against a 2400+ FM. Although not selected for Dresden, Ali is invited to the forthcoming Women's Olympiad squad training sessions to assist her progress.

FIDE Ratings

<http://www.chessscotland.com/grading/fide2008d.htm>

- It was good to see our older juniors playing a lot and making progress over the summer - e.g. Chris MacDonald (Up 48 to 2139 with a win over Okhotnik 2441), Daniel Rocks (New at 2129), Andrew Green (Up 64 to 2102) and Clement Sreeves (New at 1988).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The forthcoming events section contains information about the main relevant tournaments on the FIDE and ECU calendars as well as the main UK championships and internationals. It is not intended to be comprehensive. Players are recommended to contact the organisers before making arrangements to play in or visit any event. Chess Scotland accepts no responsibility for the completeness or accuracy of the listed information.

It is intended to update on a quarterly basis. For the latest information on dates:

Visit the FIDE calendar page for championships <http://www.fide.com/calendar/fide-calendar>

Visit the FIDE tournaments page for open international events

<http://www.fide.com/calendar/tournaments>

2008

Adult

Main Scottish participation will be in

38th Chess Olympiad 2008 http://dresden2008.de/english/	Dresden, Germany	12-Nov-2008	25-Nov-2008
Hastings Chess Festival 2008/2009 http://www.hastingschess.org.uk/	Hastings	28-Dec-2008	05-Jan-2009

Upcoming top level events are

World Chess Championship Match 2008 Anand vs Kramnik	Bonn, Germany	14-Oct-2008	2-Nov-2008
World Blitz Championship 2008	Almaty, Kazakhstan	7-Nov-2008	8-Nov-2008

Challengers Match Topalov-Kamsky	Lviv, Ukraine	26-Nov-2008	15-Dec-2008
FIDE Grand Prix Series	Doha, Qatar	13-Dec-2008	29-Dec-2008
European Rapid Chess Championship 2008	Warsaw, Poland	20-Dec-2008	21-Dec-2008
European Blitz Championship 2008	No venue	No dates	No dates

Senior

World Senior Championship 2008 http://www.seniorenschach.de/en/index.php	Bad Zwischenahn, Germany	28-Oct-2008	8-Nov-2008
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Women

38th Chess Olympiad 2008 http://dresden2008.de/english/	Dresden, Germany	12-Nov-2008	25-Nov-2008
European Rapid Women's Chess Championship 2008	No venue	No dates	No dates
European Blitz Women's Championship 2008	No venue	No dates	No dates

2009

Adult

UK

Hastings Chess Festival 2008/2009 http://www.hastingschess.org.uk/	Hastings	28-Dec-2008	05-Jan-2009
Gibraltar Chess Festival 2009 http://www.gibraltarchesscongress.com	Gibraltar	27-Jan-2009	05-Feb-2009
Scottish Championship 2009	Edinburgh	11-Jul-2009	19-Jul-2009
British Championship 2009 http://www.bcf.org.uk/calendar	Torquay	26-Jul-2009	19-Jul-2009

International

European Individual Chess Championship 2009	Budva, Montenegro	5-Mar-2009	19-Mar-2009
European Club Cup 2009	Struga, Lake Ochid, FYROM	3-Oct-2009	11-Oct-2009
European Team Chess Championship 2009	Novi Sad/Serbia	21-Oct-2009	31-Oct-2009
European Rapid Chess Championship 2009	No venue	No dates	No dates
European Blitz Championship 2009	No venue	No dates	No dates

EU Championship 2009	No venue	No dates	No dates
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Senior

European Senior Chess Championship 2009	Murska Sobota/Slovenia	No dates	No dates
European Senior Team Chess Championship 2009	bids from St. Vincent/Italy and Velden/Austria	No dates	No dates

Women

European Individual Women's Chess Championship 2009	No venue	4-Apr-2009	18-Apr-2009
European Rapid Women's Chess Championship 2009	No venue	No dates	No dates
European Blitz Women's Championship 2009	No venue	No dates	No dates
European Club Cup (Women) 2009	Struga, Lake Ochid, FYROM	3-Oct-2009	11-Oct-2009
European Team Chess Championship (Women) 2009	Novi Sad/Serbia	21-Oct-2009	31-Oct-2009