

Annual Report

CHESS SCOTLAND



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President

Management Board

The Management Board has continued its policy of meeting on a regular basis over the year and the minutes of the meetings are posted on the Chess Scotland website. I would like to thank all directors for their commitment and enthusiasm in their respective remits over the past year.

Directorships

It is yet again rather disappointing to see that the number of unfilled posts both on Management Board and Council remain unfilled year after year. The work required for these posts does not go away and these responsibilities must be taken up by those directors already in position.

I undertook a survey of the current Management Board and Council members and to be honest it really makes disappointing reading.

As of the date of writing of this report there are 35 positions on council, with a breakdown as follows.

Please note that dual post holders are restricted to a single vote.

i.e. NO VOTE indicated below where multiple positions are held by an individual.

Executive Committee	4 positions	ALL filled
Management Board	8 positions	3 VACANT, 1 Dual position - NO VOTE
Officers	2 positions	1 VACANT
Members – Individual	4 positions	ALL filled
Members – Clubs	4 positions	3 VACANT
Affiliations	6 positions	2 VACANT, 1 Dual position – NO VOTE
Other	7 positions	4 Dual positions - NO VOTE

In summary

Voting positions filled	21 (9 Management/Executive, 12 members)
Vacant positions	8
Dual Position/No vote	6

I'll let you draw your own conclusions from this but there is one important fact – we are all volunteers with families and in many cases full time jobs. If things don't get done, or responded to quickly enough, perhaps readers might consider putting their name up and offering to help reduce the workload on those that do.

International Director

Andy Burnett is standing down as International Director and I would like to thank Andy for all the time and work he has put into this post over the years.

Data Protection and GDPR

We are still offering support to clubs, leagues and congresses with the availability of a shortened version of both GDPR and Privacy documents.

Any Chess Scotland club wishing copies of the Privacy Notice and Policy for their use simply need to contact Chess Scotland (President or Administration Director).

Online & Proxy Voting



Once again Chess Scotland will be implementing online voting for members and now including clubs and Proxy voting will remain available for Leagues and Affiliates not attending the AGM. Those who still have Proxy Voting will also receive an acknowledgement that their votes have been registered. All Proxy Votes must also be registered with the Executive Director prior to voting, whether the nominated proxy voter attends the AGM or not.

Lindores Abbey Chess Stars Tournament

This was a new event, and hopefully we may see this coming back onto the calendar in future years. Any event which brings to Scotland four of the best players in the world – namely Magnus Carlsen, Ding Liren, Vishy Anand and Serjey Karjakan will have a positive effect on the game in Scotland and raising the profile of chess. The event was fully subscribed and all those attending were treated to some great chess. Chess Scotland had a large part to play in assisting with the logistics of the event. Equally rewarding for some of our junior players was the opportunity to play in a simultaneous match against Anand while a few others were pitted against Karjakan. Sadly, results did not go our way but everyone playing had nothing but positives to say about their experience – and right here in Scotland!

Chess Scotland Activities

Scottish Championship: – I would like to congratulate all the players and prizewinners that took part in the Scottish Championships at Edinburgh this year. I would also like to thank all the organisers for their hard work without whom such an event could not be the success that it was.

Juniors: - This has been a busy year for our juniors with a number playing in international tournaments, including the Glorney Gilbert International in Ireland. Preparations for the annual Liverpool Quadrangular are well under way. I'm not going to say too much about these two events as I am sure the Junior Director will cover this under a separate report.

Several our juniors have also been travelling as far afield as India and China to enter events. Well done to them.

Glorney Gilbert International 2019

Organising team - This was well organised event and led by Fiona Petrie and her band of helpers who put in a tremendous amount of work keeping things on track, negotiating with the other 5 nations, arranging transport, meals and accommodation. David Congalton kept an eagle eye on finances and dealt with all the transactions for our travelling group.

Players - I must congratulate all players for their impeccable behaviour and massive team spirit throughout. In many cases being well out-graded but never giving up and putting their all into every game.

Complaint against Chess Scotland

Once again, we were involved in an action that necessitated formal legal advice. This was a follow on from last year's report with the same complainant taking further actions. Once again Chess Scotland have been cleared of any wrongdoing and the outcome of this rather unpleasant episode is, hopefully, now behind us. Details will not be released, nor discussed, with the membership as we have obligation to respect GDPR and Privacy laws.

Eligibility

There has much been said, and posted, on this topic over the past few months and it was decided that some positive action needed to be taken, partly building on the detailed and thorough Scottish Championship



2019 Investigation Panel Report. Accordingly, a small group (the Eligibility Working Party, EWP) has been created to address the issue and rules relating to eligibility.

The EWP will comprise 5 members, and 4 invited members (based on their experience) have already agreed to participate. They are :

Douglas Bryson – CS Grading Director (Chairperson)

Alex McFarlane – CS Scottish Championship Director

Gerald Lobley & Alastair White – as members of the original Constitution Working Group

The 5th member will be selected at the 2019 AGM from CS members who put themselves forward for this task. Self-proposals must be submitted by midnight Saturday October 26th and ballot papers for this position will be made available on-line immediately thereafter to be returned by midnight Thursday October 31st or for direct voting at the AGM on November 2nd.

The objective of the EWP is to create a single set of eligibility criteria that are clear, unambiguous and will be applied to all situations where eligibility is a factor.

On completion of the EWP recommendations I will call an SGM with the specific aim of adding their conclusions into the CS Constitution. This embedding of eligibility into the Constitution will formalise the process of how future changes can be made and ensure that all eligibility is solely under the control of the membership via AGM procedures. Any future amendments or changes will also require a 2/3 majority vote by the CS membership. As with any SGM there will be a posting of the outcome as a motion and gives an opportunity for all to review and comment, or ask for clarification, before the formal SGM.

It is essential that the Eligibility issue is in place as soon as possible (it will influence International selections, for example) and most certainly before all documents (electronic or paper) are circulated to possible participants for the 2020 Scottish Championship. To allow time for thoughtful consideration of any proposals the EWP will therefore be instructed to present their recommendations to the President no later than 31st January 2020



Admin Director

Nothing much to report this year. I have mainly been supporting directors as and when required, including securing funding for both the Grand Prix and the Scottish Championships. I also was able to secure a 50% discount for the venue at Stewarts Melville. This may not be possible for the next year, so I am looking elsewhere, primarily in Edinburgh as instructed by the Championship Director. I also helped Dougie Bryson in his efforts in the Grand Prix event, and also supported Jim Webster in various ad hoc capacities in the day to day administration duties although specific admin duties are under the remit of the appropriate director.

My main involvement this year was in the setting up of the loosely termed Tom Brown Legacy (soon to be split into Tom Brown Memorial and Tom Brown Chess Academy (which I also hope to be a part of)). Part of this initiative was to ask various Junior organisations to come together and work together and this was soon accomplished with an inaugural meeting with interested parties representing Junior Chess in most areas in Scotland with minutes sent to all participants and interested parties. As a result of this there was a very successful Lenzie Junior Congress with many more events to follow shortly in each regional area. The idea is that Chess Scotland is in association with these organisers with each local organiser running the event with our support.

I would very much like to thank the following for their unwavering support and I feel I should explain why:

1. From Chess Scotland, Dougie Bryson for his help and advice and keeping me right, and also David Congalton for his help in the meeting at Newhouse and for arbiting and help at the Grangemouth event. I must also mention Jim Webster, our President for his unwavering support. Also Alistair Maxwell for special thanks for his work and support (as always) at the Lenzie Junior Congress.
2. Harry Marron for his hours of work in getting this up and running.
3. Thanks must also go to the Ayrshire Chess Association, in particular John Montgomery, Iain Fraser and Stephen Taylor. Dougie Bryson, David Congalton and myself also had had a very constructive meeting with these gentlemen (thanks to all of you guys) which was sent to Chess Scotland Management.
4. I must also thank the various other Junior organisers and organisations, those who attended the meeting and those who could not, and I would mention Graham Anderson, NEJCA, Jenny Wilson, Stewart Gray, Colin Paterson, Bill Gray, Ayrshire Chess Association and to all of you guys, including our guest Jim Webster, who attended the meeting at Newhouse. John McNicoll has also expressed an interest and he will be invited to the next meeting. ~~as well.~~
5. I would also thank Alex McFarlane for allowing me to help at the Scottish Championships by allowing me to get involved in part of the Scottish Championship organisational effort. Of course, not forgetting Karen Howie who performed much of the Administration as entries secretary.

Finally, can I appeal for more volunteers as we are short of nominations for several posts especially Home Director. There are also other posts in training, sales and marketing which presently fall on the remit of the parent director.



Executive Director / FIDE Delegate

One of these years I am going to sit down and write this with, "It has been a quiet year and nothing much has happened". I can only dream!

Firstly, congratulations to Jacob Aagaard in becoming what I believe to be Scotland's first Commission Chair. A very well deserved honour. Alex McFarlane moved from rules to Arbiters Commission and I am still serving on the Fair Play and Commonwealth Commissions.

I am currently writing this from the Isle of Man tournament where I was nominated by FIDE to be the Fair Play Officer. This has been an enjoyable experience working with players at the highest level.

Relations with both FIDE and the ECU are going really well and we were visited by the FIDE President and persuaded him to pop into Edinburgh Chess Club where a talk was being given by the FIDE Secretary General. The look on players faces when we brought the President in will live with me for a long time.

On to Domestic matters. Sadly we lost our longest standing Directors this year when Ken Stewart passed away in November. Ken will be greatly missed by us all. The first management board meeting after his passing was very strange with an empty chair in Ken's place.

Most of the year has been spent dealing with legal matters and complaints to various organisations. Thankfully from the complaints we have been able to demonstrate our policies are not only correct, but robust as well.

In May, I was taken seriously unwell at the Ayr Congress. It was caused by the medication I was on. Thankfully that is now resolved and I am back to full health again.

With all of the distractions, I never actually published the minutes of the last AGM despite receiving them last year. I should add that at the previous AGM, I stated that Stewarton had not renewed their membership at that time and therefore were ineligible to vote at the AGM. That was based on the information I had at that time. I have since discovered that I was incorrect, for which I publicly apologise. None of the votes were close enough that this would have made any difference thankfully. With the gradual move to online votes for the proxies and the announced extension to clubs this year, a mistake like that will not happen as the person voting will get a mail telling them it is ineligible giving time to resolve if there is a mistake.

Finally I wish to discuss the matter of volunteers. We are far too few now with more and more being asked of less and less. We have less Arbiters, less tournaments. This is not sustainable. We have not had a council meeting for several years now as we don't have a functioning council.

If you want chess to continue in Scotland then we need more people coming forward. Directorships, Council members, tournament organisers, arbiters all are badly needed. If you can help, please do!



Finance Director

As the accounts show, the financial year from May 2018 to April 2019 was a good consolidating year, where we continued to implement the strategy of moving from being reliant on outside contributions and vulnerable when they are not forthcoming to being self-supporting through member contributions, annual fees received and other sources of income.

Income and expenditure were both significantly up in 2018-19 compared to the previous financial year. This was almost wholly attributable to our hosting of the Glorney-Gilbert International Chess Festival which was held in Paisley in July 2018. This successful event was cost neutral to Chess Scotland and taking the income and expenditure for this one event out of the financials leaves a similar picture for the 2018-19 accounts, as the previous year.

However, due to the measures introduced in 2017 we were in a slightly better financial position in 2018-19 and we were able to support the Scottish Championships and International Open, held in Paisley. As a consequence we were able to maintain the successful, Norm opportunity providing format of previous years.

As our flagship event and one of the oldest national chess championships in the world, the management board is unanimous in continuing to hold the Championships in this format for the foreseeable future and providing support, if necessary, over the next three years, to turn the deficit of the 2018 Championships into a surplus in years to come. For the 2019 event, held in Edinburgh, the Scottish Championships committee worked together to maintain the successful aspects of the event and look at issues which required addressing to develop and improve Scotland's premier event.

We were also able to provide some limited support for entry and organisation fees, at International level, to our Olympiad teams, who competed in Batumi, Georgia. World and European team events are, perhaps, the pinnacle of a Scottish chess players career and provide an incentive for our top players to work towards being selected. They may also be the ambitious dream of our junior players, whether they are currently playing at or on the verge of junior international level, moving into the weekend congress arena or just starting out and finding they have an aptitude for the game. With half of the Olympiad squad having represented Scotland at Junior level within the last seven years, it is an achievable dream. For those of us who don't dream of playing in an Olympiad, for whatever reason, it gives us an interest and a team to support at these events. It may or may not be comparable with supporting Scotland in other activities, but we always know we'll be there for the duration of the tournament and not coming home early.

Throughout the year, those involved have tirelessly carried out the tasks required to ensure events such as the Scottish Championships and Glorney-Gilbert take place or make sure that our nation is represented at international events of all ages from junior to senior. The reports of the International Directors will highlight the number of events where Chess Scotland provided administrative support to allow our players to participate in competitions throughout the world, in as smooth a manner as possible.



This administration is among the often underrated and maybe even underappreciated tasks Chess Scotland carries out. The list of unsung tasks members subscriptions contribute to also includes:

- Maintaining a national grading structure,
- Running national competitions such as the Chess Scotland Grand Prix and Walter Munn Junior Grand Prix, the Richardson Cup and the Nancy Elder Cup and the Robert Rough Giantkiller Cup,
- Providing the e-magazine,
- Administrating the memberships of individuals, clubs and associations,
- Providing PVG support and processing applications,
- Organising arbiter training courses and making available qualified arbiters for tournaments throughout Scotland.

This isn't, by any means, an exhaustive list but it all contributes to chess being played in an organised, co-ordinated way throughout the country.

Without the effort of what is, for now, a small band of people chess in Scotland would be in a much poorer state. We are encouraged though that during last season and this more people are coming forward to offer their time and assistance in various areas and we hope that more again will put themselves forward at this year's AGM to contribute whatever time and assistance, great or small, that they can.

We have made good progress and as last year, we fully intend to continue to operate within our own, self-generated means for the foreseeable future. Again, like last year, there is still much to be done areas we can improve. For example, unfortunately, we are not yet able to fully support our international teams at senior, adult and junior level and representing Scotland in the international chess arena is costly for those involved and could conceivably be a barrier to some, who otherwise might be good enough.

Chess is one of the very few (if not the only) activities that embraces all and is open to everyone, to compete on equal terms. Visitors to the Scottish Championships will see all ages, sexes, abilities and backgrounds competing. I see the promotion of this diversity as one of the key attributes of Scottish chess to promote to potential sponsors and contributors, including the Scottish Government and I am pleased that a few people, with solid professional experience, are coming forward to offer their assistance in putting Scottish Chess in front of potential backers.



Finally, we would like to thank and highlight those who have sponsored and donated to Chess Scotland events and chess in Scotland. We would like to thank:

- Chessbase and NewinChess.com for their continued support of both the Grand Prix and Junior Grand Prix.
- The family of Walter Munn for their support over many years of the Walter Munn Junior Grand Prix.
- Thanks also to new sponsors Chess Evolution and Scottish Crane who will continue their support.
- Ecosse Doors who contributed to the 2019 Glorney Championships.
- The Scottish Junior Chess Educational Trust for their support financially and through the 2018 Glorney Appeal, which helped Scotland subsidise the Scotland squad.
- The family of Tom Brown who made a significant donation to Chess Scotland to benefit junior chess training/coaching in Scotland. We have set up the Tom Brown project and will start to roll this out during this current season.

DG Congalton
Finance Director



International Director (Junior) / Home Director (Junior)

I have combined both international and home director reports into one for this year as I was covering both roles.

International

The year has been busy for our junior players with a significant number going to international events. This is encouraging and I hope we continue to see players attending these events.

However, it does highlight one concern-TRAINING, a lot of our younger inexperienced players are going to these vents and are significantly lower graded than most of the other competitors.

We need to look, as an organisation, at how we can continue to support our young players with proper training before major events. This is not a discussion to be had at the AGM necessarily but for future junior board and management committees to address.

I need to thank Ruairidh McKay for his continued help and support, Without his help dealing with a lot of the admin associated with these events I am not sure we would have the same number of players participating.

Glorney

We also competed again in the Glorney Gilbert International held in Dublin this year. While we did not bring home any of the team trophies every single player gave 100% and as always, our squad were complimented by hotel staff on their behaviour.

Next year the event moves to Paris and I hope we will be able to travel with a coach for each team- planning needs to start now for this.

Thanks need to be record to our u12 coach Richard Jennings who works tirelessly with our younger players most of the year and who travelled with the squad to Dublin.

In addition, we had the assistance of David Robertson as our second coach. Both gave support to all our players and I am glad to say will continue this for the Liverpool event

Liverpool

The annual trip to Liverpool is 6-8 December this year and we are again bringing new players into the squad.

Primary Individual

After a year gap the Primary Individual ran again this year but in a different format. It was agreed that the weekend invitational residential was no longer the way to run the event as parents are now travelling with the players.

The event, held as an open event, was a success with a large number of players taking part.

The Junior Board will need to review the event and see if it needs to change format as 25-minute games are maybe not long enough to determine a national championship. It may be that we move to a 2 day event with longer time controls.



Girls Championship

This was held again in Lathallan and run by NEJCA. I understand some players and parents feel it is a distance to travel for a one-day event, however the support of NEJCA and Lathallan in hosting the event makes it unlikely that a change of venue will be discussed by the home board in the near future.

Although the numbers participating were not high the quality of chess and the enthusiasm of the players remained high.

Administration

The junior home board met a few times this year and agreed short medium and long term plans moving forward. Unfortunately for a number of reasons there have been no recent meetings. It would be good to have input from all areas of the country with high junior activity and with the start of a new chess year I would suggest this be taken forward asap.

I would like to record my thanks for those who have been on the board this year and given a lot of time and effort and helped to create a plan to take forward.

Funding

As some people may have noticed the Glorney teams were provided tops by one of the parents for the event in Dublin this year. I have had a few meetings with this parent to discuss how to improve the funding for juniors. The cost to parents to take players to internationals is increasing, and can for some be prohibitive. I am keen, as far as possible, to make sure no player misses out an opportunity because of cost.

I will be continuing this work and hope with their help to secure sponsorship/funding.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all our young players, their parents and coaches for their commitment and support.



Arbiter and Rules Director

I have to confess that this is the hardest report I have ever had to write. As we all know, Ken sadly passed away last November. I was arbiting at Oban at the time when the news broke and we announced it at the start of play for the 5th round. I have no idea what happened in that round as we were all in a state of shock.

We felt in respect for Ken, we would leave the position vacant until the AGM and I would cover the position and I am pleased that Alistair Maxwell has agreed to follow in Kens enormous shoes.

As always we did the annual arbiter survey in December and had the annual Arbiters Council meeting in February.

The team lightning took place in March and was dedicated to Ken's memory. The winners were Hamilton A. We made a few changes this year and for the first time FIDE rated it. One thing we did not expect was the sheer number of teams entering. It really caught us by surprise and we had to modify the tournament on the fly to make it work. If the numbers are repeated in future years we will have to rethink the format but this is a nice problem to have.

Alex McFarlane was promoted to Principal Arbiter this year, an honour that was overdue. Alex is also on the FIDE Arbiters Commission and on speaking to the Commission Chair, is well thought of. It is good that we have representation in these commissions.

The torch now passes to Alistair and I wish him the very best as well as my full support in his new position

Andy Howie



International Director

This year has been quite a trying one in respect of international matters, though with several positives, and I'd like to start this report by thanking Jim Webster and David Congalton among others for all their help.

Seniors

This year we sent two teams to the World Senior Team Championships in Crete, which was directly preceded by the European Individual Championships at the same venue.

The latter went off without a hitch, but the Team version saw some fierce disagreements as to the make-up of the 50+ team.

I am still distinctly unhappy about what occurred – and feel Ian Aird is owed an apology from several members - and is a large part of the reason that I am standing down as International Director as of the forthcoming AGM.

I don't want to rehash the details, but I would urge whoever takes on the role to make very clear what the CS position is on Senior team events with regard to team composition and goals.

My own feelings are that participation of as many CS members as possible should be the driving ethos, as opposed to, say, Olympiads and Euros (non-senior) where we should attempt to put out as strong a team as possible.

How our teams fared can be found at the links below.

<http://chess-results.com/tnr413748.aspx?lan=1&art=25&fedb=SCO&flag=30>

<http://chess-results.com/tnr413742.aspx?lan=1&art=20&fed=SCO&flag=30>

There was little to no interest in the European Senior Team Chess Championships in Croatia last month (September), so no Scottish teams participated.

Scotland will, however, be represented next month (November) by 11 players in the World Senior Chess Championship in Bucharest.

Adults

A fairly quiet year for adult international play, with the main focus being on the European Team Championships due to be held in Batumi over October and November.

The registration process went relatively smoothly, although subsequent withdrawals have changed the team slightly.

One important point to arise from this, however, was the 'current membership status' of players in the selection process.

It might be advisable to introduce a 'no CS membership, no selection consideration' to the rules.



Before getting to the 'negatives', I did manage to secure a €2500 'captain's subsidy' from the ECU for this event and discussed with the team whether we should use it for coaching/captaincy, or instead used to offset the high costs of travel/accommodation/etc.

The team decided on the latter, but a blunder on my part (misreading the rules) meant that players were then faced with exceptional extra costs for accommodation (over those expected).

I am very grateful for CS (Jim and David C in particular) for helping me to sort this mess out.

World Junior

This would not normally come under the remit of the Adult ID, but given that the only player interested in playing, Caitlin Reid, was part of my Olympiad team last year and contacted me directly re: the World Junior, it was decided by myself, Ruairidh McKay and Fiona Petrie that I would deal with this one.

Thanks once again to David C for aiding and abetting me in the entry /finances side of things.

Caitlin is currently playing this event in Delhi, India, and although struggling in a very strong event, I think it's important to give our youngsters the opportunity to play such opposition, and to show SCO on the international chess map as often as possible.

Conclusion

Overall, not the best or most enjoyable years as ID – too many arguments and not enough positive contributions from the players, who seem to forget too easily that CS officials are doing their best with limited time and resources.

Unfortunately, for me personally, I have had neither the time nor energy to give my best as ID this year, and therefore I tender my resignation.

I am very grateful for all the help and support I've had over the years, and wish you all the very best!

Andy Burnett



Scottish Championship Director

This year's Championships were held in Edinburgh at the Dean Centre of Stewart's Melville on 6-14 July.

The venue was very attractive and we hope to be able to use it in the future. Negotiations are currently underway to return next year but the proposed hire price shows a significant increase so alternatives are also being looked at. It is hoped that it will be possible to announce the venue at the AGM.

Scottish Champion: Matthew Turner
Womens' Champion : Keti Arachamia-Grant
Senior Champion: Roddy McKay, Craig Pritchett
Junior Champion : Jake Sanger
Girls Champion : Sarah Smith

Championship & International Open

1st Equal Matthew Turner, Ritvars Reimanis 7/9

3rd= Colin McNab, Alan Tate, Daniel Gormally, Tim Wall

U1850

1st Equal and sharing Scottish Senior U1850 Title:

Michael Ash, Chris Linskaill, Donald Heron 4/5

Grading: Sam Perry

U1500

1st: Alex Macdonald 4/5

2nd: Isaac Browning 3½/5

Scottish Blitz

1st: Ritvars Reimanis 7/7

2nd: Calum MacQueen 6/7

3rd: Yichen Han 5/7

To keep costs down and not to overstretch the control team events were held in the afternoons only. It is hoped that we can return to having morning events and therefore allow a schools' tournament to be held as an additional event. There is also the possibility of holding an additional support event, possibly having 3 events U2000, U1700 and U1400 with only the main event in the afternoon.

The intention is to hold the Scottish in Edinburgh for the next three years, covering the period of celebrations for the Edinburgh Chess Club bicentenary in 2022.

It is unfortunate that there was some controversy over the awarding of the title. I believe that the current regulations have been in force for the last 3 Championships. It is unfortunate that the Chess Scotland website did not make this clear to some members.

I would like to thank the Committee and arbiters for their help and support. This is the first time in a number of years that the event was run by committee though two of the committee have assisted in the past. I would also like to thank Chess Essentials for providing the bookstall and Stewart's Melville for the venue.

Unfortunately I will not be at the AGM as I had already agreed to be an arbiter at another event.



In addition the following should be added if the motion to share the title is debated or read out during the debate (but I would much prefer it to be in writing).

I oppose the motion to share the title. I think it would be a very odd decision to award the title jointly to players finishing on different scores. This is especially true since the title cannot be shared by players finishing on the same number of points.

I understand the reasons for this proposal but I feel it devalues the title. In addition the 'problems' encountered this year are not restricted to only two players. I was approached by others who sought confirmation that Matthew Turner was eligible for the title and judged their play accordingly. I think it would be grossly unfair on those players to change the rules applied post event.

I believe that all contenders for the title were indicated by having the letters SCO displayed on the charts. If some players believed that not all players thus marked were eligible it is extremely unfortunate that the matter was not raised much earlier. The charts were marked with additional indications for juniors and seniors. I would think it odd that these were shown but not those eligible for the title if separate identification were needed.

I was totally unaware that there was any potential problem until late into the final round. Even though I had been approached for confirmation I thought it was simply that, confirmation and not a query about eligibility. As an arbiter I often get players seeking assurance that they can castle if their rook is attacked or crosses an attacked square. I saw these questions in the same way – I know the answer but I want to make sure.

I accept that Matthew did not qualify previously and perhaps greater attention should have been drawn to the fact that the two year residence no longer applied. But as far as I was aware the change had been in effect for the previous 2 years. I am involved in too many events to remember who participated in what and when for each of them. The changes to the illegal move rule are no longer announced, should arbiters continue to do this?

I was unaware that parts of the Chess Scotland website referred to these old rules even though they were no longer linked to. There is little doubt that the website requires some work in this respect.



Grading Officer

The grading system has completed another season and the new 2020 season is underway. Thanks to all area graders, tournament organisers, club and league officials plus individuals who supplied information and grading data throughout the season. Thanks to programmers Gordon Rattray and Andrew McHarg for their ongoing support.

All CS members can now download a free pdf of the grading list from the “Membership” menu on the front of website. There is still a small print run for those who prefer a printed book. A few leagues and individuals placed orders of sufficient size which allowed printing to continue as a cost neutral option.

It is extremely rare for any event to publicise an event as rated and then not supply any data nor to offer the simple courtesy of a response to communications about the non-supplied grading results. However this was the unfortunate circumstance this season that an allegro rated team event was not supplied for grading. CS will not be offering any future grading facilities or calendar listings to the individual involved. The organiser is not based in Scotland.

Grand Prix: The Grand Prix concluded with the 2019 Scottish Championships in Edinburgh and prize distribution should be completed at the Dundee Congress. Many thanks to *Chessbase*, *New in Chess* and *Chess Evolution* who have all agreed to continue into the 2019-2020 season. The remarkable long term support from Chessbase started in the 2001-2002 season. The new bonus award of £200 by new sponsor the Scottish Crane company went to Allan Buchan of Edinburgh CC who recorded the highest points total in any of the four adult GP sections.

The total prize fund including CS cash awards, retail value of software, books and magazines amounts to approximately £3,500. Thanks to all those who assisted with sponsor contact and prize distribution around the country.

100 Club: Will the 100 Club ever reach the named total of 100 units in a draw – the current tally as at October 10 is 83? The income generated for CS is approximately £500-550 annually, the same total is returned in prizes. An annual payment of £12 buys 1 unit per month and 12 opportunities to win a prize. New units can be purchased via the online membership system. Latest winners and links to previous winners are listed in the news panel on the front page of the website as well as information on how to subscribe.

FIDE Rating: As at October 2019 there were 474 (446) players with a main list FIDE rating and 944 (883) with a FIDE ID (last year’s Oct 2018 figures in brackets). CS views the expansion of FIDE rating as a welcome development to promote the game by offering almost all players a chance to gain a “world ranking”.

Calendar: Updates were made throughout the season in response to organiser requests to have their events listed and entry forms uploaded.



One of the most popular aspects of the calendar is the facility by which names of entrants are listed. It can be an encouragement to others to enter if they see an event is popular.

This year saw the first calendar use of “live grades” in the Primary Individual calendar display. A live grade display is of particular use in a junior only event since published grades may have changed significantly during a season. It is up to event organisers if they want to use this facility for pairing or entry purposes but it is now an option. The calendar refreshes at 3am overnight following a grading upload -usually on Wednesdays for a Thursday refresh.



PVG Report

Alastair Dawson has been appointed as a new PVG Additional Signatory for CS. This gives a team of Steve Mannion Senior, Alastair and myself

The procedures for PVG within Chess Scotland continue to operate smoothly. All applications for a PVG Scheme Record sent to Volunteer Scotland to act on behalf of Chess Scotland, since the CS AGM in November 2018, have been successful.

At present, the numbers on the CS PVG Lists are as follows :- (November 2018 figure in brackets)

Coaches - 68 (68)
Chaperons - 25 (23)
Arbiters - 18 (19)

Currently a Bill has been presented to the Scottish Government which could see some changes to the current PVG scheme. I attended a consultation meeting on this and the major implication for CS could be that an individual's PVG will need to be renewed every 5 years

Hamish Glen, Stephen Mannion Senior, Alastair Dawson



Membership Secretary

The tables of membership category follow

Full	Apr 2009	Apr 2010	Apr 2011	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Apr 2014	Jul 2015	Jul 2016	Jul 2017	Oct 2018	Oct 2019
Adult	156	153	151	155	161	162	145	139	127	275	252
Under 17	9	5	6	2	1	6	6	17	22	64	59
Under 14	13	11	11	10	17	14	11				
Student										13	14
Family Adult	20	28	22	22	23	22	25	23	23	23	27
Family Junior	2	2	4	4	2	2	4	11	11	17	15
Basic											
Adult	147	146	149	183	159	156	150	146	144		
Under 17	12	8	6	11	9	6	5	33	37		
Under 14	20	22	26	22	27	27	21				
Family Adult	36	46	38	21	13	16	16	8	11		
Family Junior	25	21	18	11	13	8	4	9	13		
Patron & Life											
Patron	5	5	4	5	6	6	4	5	4	2	2
Life		109	111	108	111	110	99	102	104	141	138
Life Magazine	131	29	28	31	28	32	30	27	24		
Totals	576	585	574	585	570	567	520	520	520	535	507

This can be simplified thus

	Apr 2009	Apr 2010	Apr 2011	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Apr 2014	Jul 2015	Jul 2016	Jul 2017	Oct 2018	Oct 2019
Adult	359	373	360	381	356	356	336	316	305	298	279
Junior	81	69	71	60	69	63	51	70	83	94	88
Patron & Life	136	143	143	144	145	148	133	134	132	143	140

The most common reason I am given for non-renewal is it is becoming too expensive and certainly we have the lowest amount of members in the last 10 years.

Can I please stress to members both old and new, when you are paying, if you are using a paypal account with a different name, please can you email me with the person you are paying for. This causes delays in processing memberships.

Equally when you are sending cheques, if you could please put either the name or the PNo on the back of it to help me identify, it would make things a lot easier.

As always I'd like to thank Dougie and Andy for their help during the year. Without their assistance the job would be infinitely harder.

Finally, and unusually for the Membership Secretary, can I please make an appeal to members to please come forward and help with unfilled positions. I can see first hand the extra work Jim, Andy, Ian and David are having to do.

Karen Howie



Disability Officer

There have been a number of more varied queries and requests that I have responded to in this 2nd year in my role as Chess Scotland Disability Officer. Being able to encourage and promote chess in the context of disability is of course the consistent theme. I have been contacted by chess clubs who support disabled members. It can be a challenge sometimes ensuring disability-friendly venues where funds are tight but I am heartened by the way that clubs are motivated to do what they can to make it work for interested disabled participants. I will try my best to support these efforts where I can. I have been contacted by Chess Scotland members who have issues around their own or others' neurodevelopment and sensory profile and asking what can be done to maximise their ability to enjoy chess in the context of this. I have done my best to help but I am also grateful to Ian Brownlee and other Chess Scotland colleagues around responding to requests for advice. I am in touch with SCDAD where Mark Towler is now president. I am now in the middle of the British Sign Language Level 2 course and slowly starting to approach the level of skill where I may actually be of some use, both in terms of communication but also in terms of knowledge of the Deaf community. I have met with Malola Prasath and done what I can with regard to support in his quest and interest around chess in the context of disability. At the time of our meeting, he was doing well with regard to organisation of events in Cardiff and I understand that the 4th FIDE World Championships for the Disabled and the 1st FIDE World Youth & Cadets Championships for the Disabled will take place in Cardiff now in late November/early December 2019. In a role where I am learning as much as I am helping as I go along, I look forward to further learning and helping in the coming year.



CHESS SCOTLAND
www.ChessScotland.com

Annual Report

Standards Committee



Anti-Cheating Committee

There are now 4 members of the Anti-Cheating Committee. Myself, Douglas Bryson, Ruaridh McKay and John McNicol.

So far we have only had to consider a single case and due to the person not responding nor appearing anywhere at chess events, we have decided to suspend the case but will re-open should they come back

FIDE are now pushing for the top 20 nations to have a structure like ourselves in place and I am delighted that we are far ahead of the curve. The suggestion is that if there are no fair play measures in place then that countries games will not be graded.

Most arbiters are familiar with scanning equipment and what to look for and Alex has been including it in his Arbiter courses. Cheating is not prevalent in Scotland and we really want to keep it that way.

With the work I am doing on the Fair Play Commission, I am aware of changes that are being proposed and when they will be enacted. For normal weekend events it will have no effect at all but for anything that is FIDE rated, there are minor steps we are going to have to take, most of which we are doing already. More on this when everything is finalized.