

Chess Scotland

Annual Report 2011 / 2012

Chess Scotland

Three years? What do mean that's three years???

I can't believe how quickly the time has gone. It just does not seem to be time for me to step down already.

This year I agreed to take over from Donald as Junior Home Director and I am going to continue in that role, working with Andy on the Chess in Schools project.

It has been an interesting year, I have stood as a councillor, we have met with parliament to discuss Chess in Schools and then the highlight of it all was the visit of President Danailov.

I have used my Presidents Awards this year to pay tribute to a couple of people who's hard work and dedication over the years appear to have gone amiss. I hope to take this opportunity to redress the balance. More to be revealed at the AGM.

The one thing that has really impressed me during my time as President, is the strength and depth of volunteers we have. I know Andy has mentioned at times, his concerns at the dwindling numbers, but it has been really good to see how people have taken the challenge and come forward to help.

We need to keep this going to make sure that we continue to have a vibrant chess scene in Scotland and I am happy that my successor will keep things going.

Finally, and probably much to his annoyance, I have to pay tribute to Andy. We all know the events of the AGM three years ago and I am grateful that he has stepped up. Most people don't see the work that he does, that is the way he likes it. I could not have got through the last three years without his assistance and I was pleased to see he is staying in post to give the next president the same commitment.

Thanks everyone for the last three years. It is a time that I will look back on with some really good memories.

Michael Hanley

Chess Scotland

I would like to start my report by paying tribute to two people. The first is Mike, who has defied all odds in getting through the last three years. I am not saying it was easy at times. I guess I can lift his posting ban on the noticeboard. Mike is back doing the job he loves and that is working with Juniors. I think Mike has surpassed everything I expected of him and on reflection, his presidency will be seen in a good light.

The second I have to pay tribute to is Mac McKenzie. I think we have all been dreading the day Mac decides to hang up his boots and alas he has decided to do so now. On behalf of the board I would like to thank Mac for over 30 years of hard work. When I first became a Director I was in awe of people like Mac and Ken as they had been doing it for so long. Their advice has been invaluable to me over the years and Mac, I can honestly say I am going to miss you. I'd like to take the opportunity on behalf of the board as well as personally to say thank you for all the work you have done for us.

From an ED / FD point of view, this has been an incredible year. If you had said to me last year we would have hosted the President of the ECU, I would have been in parliament and we would have had a Scottish Championships of the Calibre that we did, then I would have laughed at you. Hosting the President was definitely one of the highlights of my short (well compared to Mac) career as a Director.

I will not be attending the FIDE congress for personal reasons. Please can I stress this is not because of health issues, that is now firmly behind me. Lara has agreed to attend with Alex to make sure we have the representation at the relevant meetings. I have kept my contacts with FIDE open and I am striving to increase our network and open further doors.

We have had offers of representation from President Danailov as well as from FIDE Vice President Ali Nihat if we need them to "persuade" the government of the benefits of Chess in Schools then they would be delighted to come.

I am looking forward to working with the new President and together building up chess in Scotland

Andy Howie

Chess Scotland

Financial Review 2012

I am pleased to report that, despite the small deficit shown in the accounts, it has been a very successful year financially for Chess Scotland.

During the year we received a substantial donation from a generous benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous. This money was to be used to ensure that the Scottish Championships could not only continue to survive but would make them a much more prestigious event. The benefactor also agreed to £3,000 of their donation being made available to Chess Scotland to assist with the purchase of sensory boards on the basis that it was repaid into the Championship Fund.

An appeal was made to all members to further assist with the purchase of the sensory boards. This met with a good response and donations are continuing to be made in the current year. The boards were purchased with the above monies plus a donation from the Aagaard Fund with the balance being made up from the general funds.

We also received financial support from the Munn family who agreed to donate a further £1,000 to the Walter Munn Youth Fund and thanks to an anonymous donor the McDonald Award Fund was boosted by a donation of £400.

The taxman also contributed by agreeing earlier in the year that Chess Scotland would be excused from paying tax and it would not be necessary to submit a tax return for the time being.

There were also signs of improvement from our usual sources of income, particularly subscriptions, grading and publications. As this was not an Olympiad year nearly all the international expenditure was for junior participation in various international events. Our other major item was, as previously mentioned, the sensory boards. Overall I think that all the office bearers have to be congratulated in keeping within their budgets and in a few cases finding that savings could be made. I should also mention at this stage that although our insurance premium has increased due to the cover

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required for the sensory boards I still think that some of our trophies are possibly under-insured as they have not been valued for a considerable time. Unfortunately we haven't been able to discover a source prepared to evaluate them without incurring a heavy cost.

Last year's Scottish Championships had to work within a very tight budget due to the lack of any sponsorship and this it managed to do thanks to the efforts of the organisers and various helpers. Although there was a deficit it did not require any additional financial support from the general funds

We still rely heavily on the financial support we receive from the Scottish Government and I am pleased to say that they have confirmed that they are continuing that support for the current year. I would also like to thank, on behalf of Chess Scotland, all those unnamed who gave support either financially or by giving their time while submitting minimal expenses or in many cases no expenses. Although not strictly within the 2011-12 period I would also like to thank the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association who have agreed to waive their grant for the coming year as another source of income has been found by them for that year. I should also mention Karen Clark, who has been our auditor for the past seven years and has made no charge for the work she has done. Unfortunately she has indicated this will be her last year as auditor and is not seeking re-election.

I should perhaps mention that I also will not be seeking re-election and I wish the new incumbent in the role the best of luck.

"Mac" McKenzie, Finance Director

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This season there were changes to the tournaments under the jurisdiction of the Home Director. I want to thank all those that have help with the organisation of the tournaments.

Mclsaac and Nancy Elder tournaments.

I wanted to try something different with the format of these events. I gave the organiser carte blanche to run the events as he saw fit. The numbers for these events has been dropping for several years now and something had to be tried to revive them. Not enough games were played to get a winner in either tournament. These titles were not awarded.

I would recommend that these events are perhaps incorporated into the Scottish Championship. This is a matter for the council to decide.

East of Scotland was incorporated into the Edinburgh Congress in the same way the West is incorporated into the Prestwick event. I would like to thank the Edinburgh Congress for agreeing to this.

The Richardson and Spens were completed but the two of the three finals were played at different venues from the centralised venue used for finals day. This is something that CS will have to look at in the future as arrangements were in place for the finals day and were changed to allow the matches to take place at local venues. The question is can CS afford to make such arrangements well in advance and having to change them at short notice.

I have also decided to stand down as Home Director. I hope to be involved in some capacity within Chess Scotland. It is well known that I am also heavily involved with the International Braille Chess Association as Secretary General of this organisation. I have done this job for 4 years and I will be doing a second 4 year term. This work is important to me as it helps the cause of chess for the disabled, particularly the blind throughout the world.

I still want to serve Chess in this country as much as possible, so I would consider nomination for any position within CS.

I wish to apologise for not being present at the AGM, as I will be in Chennai India playing in the 14th IBCA Chess Olympiad and attending the IBCA Congress as well.

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Tournaments:

September 2011: European Club Cup-Slovenia: Edinburgh CC were 57th

November 2011: European Team - Greece: Alan Tate & Graham Morrison made IM norms. Team finished in line with seedings.

November 2011: World Senior – Croatia: Craig Pritchett was 19th, Phil Giulian 40th

February 2012: British Solving – England: Colin McNab was 1st

March 2012: European Senior Team Championships-Slovenia: Scotland were 27th & 41st

March 2012: European Individual-Bulgaria: Alan Tate was 188th

Andrew Muir 21/7/12

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MEMBERSHIP

It is traditional to report the membership statistics as at April, for completeness I have added the statistics as at 31 July.

	April 2009	Apr 2010	April 2011	April 2012	July 2012
Full					
Adult	156	153	151	155	159
Under 17	9	5	6	2	2
Under 14	13	11	11	10	13
Family Adult	20	28	22	22	22
Family Junior	2	2	4	4	4
Basic					
Adult	147	146	149	183	180
Under 17	12	8	6	11	10
Under 14	20	22	26	22	19
Family Adult	36	46	38	21	21
Family Junior	25	21	18	11	11
Patron & Life					
Patron	5	5	4	5	5
Life	131	109	111	108	108
Life magazine		29	28	31	31
TOTALS	576	585	574	585	585

In addition to the above, currently there are ten non-members who subscribe to the magazine.

All of the above information is included in a comprehensive set of reports posted to the Membership News section of the discussion forum each month.

A few bullet points:-

- Overall membership numbers are stable
- The use of PayPal continues to grow, 48% of payments (39% last year)
- The cost of distributing renewal invitation letters continues to be reduced
 - More use made of email, 554 (406 last year)
 - Corresponding reduction in use of Royal Mail, 92 (256 last year)
 - Magazine inserts broadly unchanged, 214 (225 last year)

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Technical Director Report

The Arbiters' Committee met in February. No major items were dealt with and minutes are available on the website.

Recently, Alex McFarlane has circulated a draft of proposals (from various international sources) to revise the Laws of Chess at the FIDE meetings during the next Olympiad (this is done every four years). Most of the proposals relate to improving wording, but there are proposals for change regarding quickplay finishes, draw claims and mobile phone control. The views of committee members have been collated and passed to Alex who will be present at the relevant FIDE meeting.

After revision of the Laws, a new version of the CS Rules Book will be produced in paper and electronic versions with target date of June 2013.

Planning is in progress for a one-day course for arbiters to be held in Ayrshire in the autumn.

Ken Stewart

Technical Director

July 2012

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Paul MacDonald the IJD had a stroke in May and I have been trying to hold the fort until he is able to return. Paul had three main targets..

- 1/ To try and visit as many corners of Scotland in his role
- 2/ To set up a national online coaching structure.
- 3/ To try and identify new people that would be delegated for Heads of Delegation and support roles.

As far as target 1/ was concerned we visited Oban, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Dalguise and Inverness amongst others. Paul and I were very impressed with the good junior work taking place especially in the NEJCA area by Gerald Lobley and his very capable team.

As far as 2/ is concerned we now have Andrew Green, Calum MacQueen, Clement Sreeves, Neil Berry, Adam Bremner and Jonathan Edwards coaching approximately thirty students between them. Their enthusiasm, organisation and results produced have been truly wonderful. Paul and I cannot thank them enough.

As far as 3/ is concerned Hamish Glen is the Head of Delegation at Mureck and Hugh Brechin will be Head of Delegation at the Euroyouth at Prague.

Events...

Euroyouth- Alan Tate as Coach and myself as Head of Delegation travelled to Albena in Bulgaria with ten juniors. Everyone enjoyed it immensely but it was a real eyeopener for me. I was very impressed by the standard of organisation and quite taken aback by the amount of work required at these top events.

World youth- Angus MacDonald and an intrepid bunch of juniors and parents trekked halfway across the globe to take part at Brazil. They are to be commended for a great effort after such a very long journey. Thanks also to

Calum MacQueen for coaching support.

U16 Olympiad- Andrew McClement, Shivan Murdochy, Ali Roy and Sam Gregory represented Scotland in Turkey and performed very well above of seeding. They all said how much they enjoyed the event and made many friends. Thanks to Charlie Roy as Head of Delegation.

Liverpool Quadrangular- A very interesting event that gives so many players an opportunity to represent their country at U12,U14 and U16 level. It also

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comes at a very good time of the year for coaches and selectors to see not only what our best players are capable of but to also find out more about squad and younger players who are on the way up. Many thanks to Donald Wilson and Jacqui Thomas for organisational support and to Matt Turner for coaching support.

Glorney- Held at Daventry in the Midlands, we went for a big push on the coaching support front. Matt Turner for the Glorney team, Heather Lang with the Faber/ Gilbert team, Neil Berry with the U14 team and Adam Bremner for the U12 team meant we were fully armed and prepared! I think the general feeling was that we may consider ourselves unlucky not to have had a first place. The U14 and Faber teams lost out by one point and the U12 side beat Ireland and Wales twice. Many thanks to Donald Wilson as Head of Delegation and Judy Milton for travel arrangements along with our terrific coaching team.

Regards Robin Moore

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Webmaster and Grading Report

AGM report August 2012 – Douglas Bryson (CS Grading)

The grading system completed another year successfully. 45 area graders around the country compiled most of the domestic data. Programmer Andrew McHarg was responsible for online display features. Programmer Gordon Rattray dealt with data upload and new program development. The chief grader assisted area graders with set up and operation of the program, the import of FIDE data into domestic grades, importing latest weekly status reports from the membership secretary, monitoring the Grand Prix and supervising the overall grading task. The new 2012-2013 season has been set up at the start of August. The future grading work will offer a continuation of existing methods with the promise of upgrades when new programming developments are available.

The Grand Prix sponsors have all agreed to continue into the new 2012-2013 season. These prizes are worth about 2000 euros at full retail prices.

Website updates:

The Wordpress news list on website front page has been in operation since August 2011. This is a simpler way of creating content than normal web pages. Tournament reports and prizelists are now appearing quickly on this news list with a few now uploaded on the Sunday just after the event finishes with the grading report incorporated into player grades on the Monday.

Adult and Junior selectors have now revived the selection pages in the wordpress news list which should flag up all events where an international selection will be taking place.

Alan McGowan continues the history updates and among many other items there is now a complete run of Scottish Championship reports from the inaugural event in 1884 to the mid 1970s.

A dedicated site for the 2012 Scottish Championship was created by Andrew McHarg at www.chessscotland.com/scottishchampionship2012/

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The 2012 Scottish Championships held at the Trades Hall in Glasgow benefitted from a donation from an anonymous benefactor.

The targets of 10 GMs, 10 IMs and 100 players were exceeded. An extremely interesting competition saw a multiple tie for first place which included Jacob Aagaard who was crowned Scottish Champion.

The event was so successful that late entries for the weekend event had to be declined, possibly a first.

The main Championship will follow the same format next year but a review of the other events will take place.

As is now the norm the top games were broadcast live to a worldwide audience on the Internet. This year it involved a combination of ECF and Chess Scotland equipment.

I would like to thank all who assisted in this event especially Dick Heathwood, Donald Wilson, Andy Howie, Dave Clayton, Steve Hughes and Lara Barnes.

A special vote of thanks should go to our benefactor who has already asked me to proceed with next year's event on a similar scale.

Alex McFarlane

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PVG Report

Background

The Lead Signatory for Chess Scotland (CS), Steve Mannion Snr (SM), and the Additional Signatory, Dick Heathwood (DH), have used the CS website and correspondence with various CS volunteers to ensure that everyone is aware of developments in the area of PVG (Child Protection). In view of the importance of this topic and its associated legal obligations, both SM and DH felt that a formal report should be submitted to the AGM. It is recommended that this Report should be attached as an Appendix to the AGM's Minutes.

Registered Volunteers

The current position in terms of volunteers who have been processed through the previous Child Protection disclosures and the current PVG scheme are as follows:-

Registered Volunteer Category	Number Registered	Of Whom PVG Members
Coaches	56	14
Arbiters	21	2
Chaperons (incl unpublished)	10	4
Club Coaches	3	3
TOTALS	90	23

All of the above have signed a Job Description and Undertaking, these documents are retained by SM.

In early 2011 a number of volunteers who had not submitted applications for disclosure or applied to join the PVG Scheme were removed from the above lists.

The various categories of volunteers are well enough known to dispense with any need for repeating their individual descriptions; however, brief mention should be made to the category Chess Club Coaches. Where a chess club is a CS member, a facility is offered through CS for club members who are directly involved in coaching juniors on a volunteer basis to apply through CS for PVG scheme membership. This service is available even to club members who are not themselves individual members of CS. A number of applications are in the process at the moment and it is expected that further applications will be received from other clubs. This club coach facility is documented on the CS website. Obviously, there is no question of extending this service to clubs which are not CS members.

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Map of Scottish Chess Clubs

The map of chess clubs uses different coloured pins to identify the different categories of clubs:

- CS member clubs which cater for children and have one or more Chess (Club) Coaches who are members of the PVG (Child Protection) scheme
- clubs which are CS members
- other clubs

Whilst there are only three clubs currently in the first category, the number will grow as existing and potential new applications are processed.

Retrospective Checking

Those volunteers who were registered under the previous Child Protection disclosure process will now be required to migrate across to the current PVG scheme. The commencement of retrospective checking has been delayed by the authorities for many months but has now been announced for October 2012. In order to manage the workload involved a cap has been placed on organisations such as CS in terms of the number of PVG applications which can be submitted each month.

A phased migration is therefore called for. After consulting the authorities the sequence will be as follows:-

- Chaperons
- Arbiters and Coaches who are active and occasionally work outside of Scotland.
- All Coaches who have Disclosures Certificates more than 3 years old.
- Thereafter, Coaches will take priority over Arbiters with the oldest dated Disclosure Certificates processed first.

Each volunteer will be contacted direct by SM and/or DH, no action is required meantime from any existing CS registered volunteers.

Steven Mannion Snr & Dick Heathwood