

International Director's report to council - 22 March 2009

In my annual report I indicated that my key philosophy is that excellence inspires others. I want to see Scotland's top players actively representing Scotland.

My ongoing objectives have been:

- Encourage and support participation of our strongest players in representative events (adult, women and senior).
- Support the running of training events to develop our aspiring players.
- Allocate our very limited funding in the best way possible.

Events and selection

- Highlight of period was the participation of Open and Women teams at the Dresden Olympiad. Our strongest active players (both Open and Women) for the Olympiad in Nov 08. The Olympiad remains the most international important event that Scottish players take part in. It is where the International budget is primarily directed.
- FIDE has confirmed the award of titles to Ketī Arakhamia-Grant (GM), Rhian Hughes (WFM) and Carey Wilman (WFM) following their performances at this event.
- One of my main aims was to ensure extensive Olympiad coverage from a Scottish perspective. A large vote of thanks to Geoff Chandler and Keith Ruxton of Rampant Chess for their entertaining writing; Harald Fietz and his sister Astrid for photo reportage as well as Dougie Bryson for his work on the website.
- 4-man squad participated in **Cappelle la Grande**, France (28 February to 7 March 2009). The Scottish delegation was GM Colin McNab, FM Neil Berry 2317, Alan Tate 2170 (current Scottish champion) and Andrew Green 2136.
- Scotland will be represented at the European Senior Team Championship in Velden, Austria from 5th-13th April 2009. The team selected in board order is Peter Jamieson, Alastair White, Alan Borwell, Hugh Flockhart - (captain)

Training

- IM Tibor Karolyi visited Edinburgh in the Spring for a three day training event.
- Further event in planning for 7 – 10 May 2009.

Funding

- Funding is viewed on a two year cycle i.e. primarily required every two years for Olympiad. Assumption is that Euro Teams is unfunded in the alternate years.

Jonathan Grant, International Director