

Junior Board

**Interim Report
March 2009**



Victorious U14 side, Liverpool Quadrangle Dec 2008

**Jacqui Thomas
Phil Thomas
Andy Howie**

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Junior Board Members

Phil Thomas, Michael Hanley and Derek Mills were invited by Jacqui and Andy to form the Junior Board. All accepted. For this season the Junior Board will be the selection committee for Internationals.

Grading Limits and Time Controls

After the AGM, there was a protest from Junior Tournament organisers about the changes. Tournaments had already been organised and advertised as main grade. After the Junior board met it was decided that tournaments could continue with the status quo, provided that it is advertised on the entry form. This was ratified at the management board meeting. After discussion with all parties involved, it is the intention of the Junior board, to put a proposal to the AGM to modify this to 25 minutes.

Dinosaur Chess

There have been a few complaints from schools about not being able to obtain the software. Andy has agreed to look into the technical aspects of resolving this.

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Schools Development

Secondary School initiative to pay 50% of coach costs to go into a Secondary & run a pilot chess club is still ongoing awaiting coaches to get schools to take up the offer.

Junior Development

Two training days have taken place (1) December 2008 for the Liverpool Quadrangular team. (2) January for the Younger players and candidates for U12 at Liverpool 2009.

Profits from the first of these has been used to provide some coaching and mentoring for juniors in the Aberdeen area.

Andy Muir has donated coaching time to help the Glorney squad.

We hope to extend these pilot schemes.

Liverpool Quadrangle December 2008

We took three teams down to Liverpool for the Annual Quadrangle tournament with Northern England, Midlands and Wales. U16 were favourites to win and disappointingly came second. U14 's were expected to come to come last and bizarrely won their section (probably due to John Dempsey's Midas touch from the Olympiad). In the U12's we selected two very

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young players that we recognise for the future. They played above expectation (an average of 400 points above their grade) and this is an experiment that we intend to continue. The U12's came a very close third and nearly overcame the English in the final round. The English U12 team were stronger than their U14 counterparts. Overall, a very enjoyable tournament and a great atmosphere amongst the parents and participants alike.

Law Society

Perth, March 21st

As part of Craig Prichett's handover, we were informed that Lynsey Shovlin had already been appointed as tournament director. As this report has been published prior to the event taking place, we are unable to report on the proceedings. A full report will be available at the AGM.

Girls Championships

Girls Championships will be held over 2 days at the West of Scotland Junior event on 2nd and 3rd May. It is intended to offer a place at the Euro Youth for the best U10 and 12. This prize has a monetary value of approx. £500 per place, making this probably the biggest junior prize in the country.

Primary Individual

6th and 7th June, 2009. Venue Dolphin House, Culzean Castle. First 20 places have been invited and we are awaiting replies. 12 more to be selected based upon the same selection criteria used for Liverpool Quadrangular. Change from previous years as will be more activity focused.

Primary Team Championships

After a discussion at the first directors meeting of this year, it was decided to invite the SJC to run the Primary Team Championships as a single merged event. This offer was kindly taken up. Jacqui Thomas, in her role as Schools Development Director, has taken over as Tournament Director. This is the first joint venture between the two organisations and we pleased to report that not only does it appear to be successful, we appear to have a record entry. Hopefully this can be built upon. The finals will played on the 13th of June, 2009. We are currently sourcing a suitable venue.

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Scotsman (Secondary Team Championships)

Stephen Taylor kindly offered to be the tournament director. As the previous year's event did not finish, free places were offered to any team that entered last year. The first round group stages have now completed and the second round fixtures have been released.

Schools Individual Championships

With Edinburgh hosting the Scottish Championships this year, we have moved this event to give it a bigger profile and make it more prestigious. We have decided to move away from qualification and make it direct entry.

Glorney

21st to 24th July, 2009. Venue Strathclyde University. Teams have been partially selected. Strenuous efforts are being made to get 2 European teams for the first time in many years. Anyone with any overseas contacts, please let us know. Accommodation and costs have been kept to the same as last year. Alex McFarlane has agreed to be the Chief Arbiter

Euroyouth 2008

August 30 to September 10th

Head of delegation will be John Dempsey, chief coach will be Alan Tate. Selections are in

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progress. Selection policy is to send up to 5 representatives in the U18 event and 2 in the U10, U12, boys and 3 in the U14 (Andrew McClement has a personal invitation). In the U16 event we intend to send one representative but have delayed selection. Since we are relatively weakest in the U16 age we intend to send the candidate who we feel would benefit most chesswise from the experience.

For the girls sections it is policy to send the strongest available girl in each age group.

World Youth

November 2009

Selections will not be made until cost of Glorney and Euroyouth events are better established.