

Chess Scotland

AGM 2014

Director
Reports
2013/14

Chess Scotland

President

This is now the second year completed of my three year term. It has been another year which has seen many positives in Chess in Scotland. By number, the positive feedback I get as President far outweigh any negative comments.

It was very encouraging to see new weekend congresses last season in Inverness twice; Largs and Vineburgh once; more allegro tournaments, some of which link into CFK events. These are all welcome additions to the CS calendar. The Jan Sobieski Invitation in September and the FIDE event in Edinburgh were again welcome additions of a different type, aimed at the strongest players. The Blitz championship held in Edinburgh was, again, a great success. The various junior chess organisations continue to put in a huge amount of work to promote the future of the game.

The Constitution Review Group and Junior Management Board which were agreed at the last AGM have both been inaugurated and are making steady progress. The review of the constitution is a huge task and it is better to get it right than to rush into ill considered changes. Initiatives such as the Junior Management Board are excellent in promoting debate leading to informed decision making and consensus building.

It is unfortunate that, despite a full and frank discussion last year, personal opinions of critical and negative nature are aired in the forum section of the CS Website. Attempts to undermine the organisation on the forum and elsewhere are by no means unique to Chess Scotland. Others have decided to close down their forums. Meantime, thanks should be recorded to the Moderators. They have an unpleasant job in having to read through some pretty extreme stuff and have the unenviable task of deciding 'where to draw the line' between sincerely held views and outright malice.

Last season a number of new Directors were elected and I would recognise the excellent work carried out by them in that time. I am pleased to acknowledge their intentions to continue in post again next season.

It was a fine end to the season with both the Commonwealth Championships and Glorney Events being great successes. They show what can happen when members of CS work together to promote the image of CS in other people's eyes. It is a huge tribute to Alex McFarlane and his team that CS has been asked to consider bidding to host the Commonwealth Championships again in the future. It is good to see all the hard work put in by the Chess Scotland team of officials resulted in very positive comments about the Glorney. We should never forget the parents' support who arrange for their children to participate.

Hamish Glen
CS President

Chess Scotland

I am going to be updating this report on my return from the Olympiad and beg forgiveness that it is updated after the cut off, I feel the activities at the Olympiad are too important to be left until 2015

2013/14 has been a really challenging year for us with hosting both the Commonwealth Chess Championships and the Glorney / Faber. To quote from Sly in Rocky “WE DID IT!!”. Feedback from other federations and players on the Commonwealth has been very good and I know from speaking to the Commonwealth President that he was very happy. Now I am several weeks from the event and recovered, I can genuinely say I enjoyed it. It would be wrong of me not to pay tribute to Alex McFarlane for the enormous amount of work he did for the event. It is down to Alex, Lara and Dave that everything went smoothly during the event. I’d also like to thank all the volunteers who gave their time to help with entries, ferrying competitors to and from the airport and all the other essential but niggly jobs. Well done everyone.

Now that is over we can get back to a full focus on domestic chess. We need to start looking at getting Chess in Schools and I have been in talks with some of the main players worldwide to see what assistance we can get from them. On a positive note, Greece has just signed up to the idea so we can gain traction from there.

As I have been mentioning for over 4 years we need to look at implementing the FIDE coaching scheme. Any team captain or head of Delegation has to have that qualification to get free accommodation.

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Following on from the Edinburgh Council meeting, we need to start work on the Finance committee. I have 5 names and want to get that started after the AGM (with all the work going on for the Commonwealth and Glorney, there simply was not time to start it). Funding is going to be important in the coming years and we need to find a sustainable model for the future.

On the FIDE/ECU front, I have lost count of the number of meeting, calls and exchanges I have had in the last year, it certainly has been an interesting year. I am also working in an advisory capacity for the Anti-Cheating Commission and have been invited to both Laucerene and Athens for meetings.

As promised I am adding to the report to reflect on the General Assembly of both FIDE and the ECU that I have just attended in Tromso.

I am going to start on a sombre note as it would be wrong of me not to mention the double tragedy that occurred on the final day. First Kurt Meier collapsed and died whilst playing for the Seychelles and then to make a bad day even worse, Alisher Anarkulov died in the hotel room in the early evening. This really put into perspective, the petty politics that had gone on the previous 4 days. Our deepest sympathies are with the friends, families and to the Federations that they have left behind.

I attended the GA of the ECU, FIDE along with the Commonwealth Chess Association meetings in my 5 day trip to Tromso. I can confirm that we voted for Garry Kasparov and Silvano Danailov. Unfortunately both lost their elections and we still have Kirsan as FIDE President and Zurab Azmaiparashvili is now the ECU President.

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Scotland were asked for someone to stand for the committee of the CCA, to which I volunteered and to my great surprise and honour, I was nominated for the coveted position of Ethics committee chairperson for FIDE. To my astonishment I was the runner up in the election! When it came to voting for members of the committee, despite having 60 countries for me, I was just short of securing a place. I have been asked to serve on the Anti-Cheating Commission and I am currently considering the offer.

It is very clear to me that Scotland is considered to be an honest country that keeps itself politically neutral. Because of this, there is a great deal of faith in us. This is something we need to continue to uphold and build on the relationships both Alex and I have fostered.

One final note on the GA. I have heard people say that Chess Scotland Officials are corrupt. I would ask anyone who thinks that to come with me to the next GA and understand what real corruption is! We are very lucky here in that our troubles in Scotland are tiny compared to what I have seen and learned in the last week!!

Andy Howie

Chess Scotland

Membership Secretary

This document is my fifth annual Report submitted to the AGM in my role as Membership Secretary.

A range of statistics are reported monthly and recorded on the website. The key figures in summary form are:-

Full	30/04/09	30/04/10	30/04/11	30/04/12	30/04/13	30/04/14	31/07/14
Adult	156	153	151	155	161	162	160
Under 17	9	5	6	2	1	6	7
Under 14	13	11	11	10	17	14	14
Family Adult	20	28	22	22	23	22	25
Family Junior	2	2	4	4	2	2	2
Basic							
Adult	147	146	149	183	159	156	159
Under 17	12	8	6	11	9	6	7
Under 14	20	22	26	22	27	27	27
Family Adult	36	46	38	21	13	16	13
Family Junior	25	21	18	11	13	8	11
Patron & Life							
Patron	5	5	4	5	6	6	5
Life	131	109	111	108	111	110	112
Life magazine		29	28	31	28	32	30
TOTALS	576	585	574	585	570	567	572

In addition to the above, currently there are 6 non-members who subscribe to the magazine.

Chess Scotland

Membership Secretary

A few bullet points:-

- As shown above, overall membership numbers are comparatively stable.
- The use of PayPal continues to grow, 65% of payments (56% last year).
- The cost of distributing renewal invitation letters continues to be reduced by using email wherever possible.

It would be appreciated if any questions are forwarded to me in advance of the AGM.

Dick Heathwood 31 July 2014

Chess Scotland

Standards Committee

REPORT TO CHESS SCOTLAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2014 FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

There have been no resignations from the Standards Committee and all existing members have expressed their willingness to continue to serve for the third year of the three year term.

MEETINGS

The Committee held one Meeting during the year to review activity over the previous twelve months. A Note of the Meeting is published on the website. Other dialogue amongst members was conducted by email and telephone.

PROCEDURES

The detailed revision of the Operating Procedures as proposed by the Committee and accepted at the 2013 AGM has been recorded on the Chess Scotland website.

COMPLAINT

Subsequent to the 2013 AGM, one complaint was raised; it was allocated a reference number of 1301. After consideration, it was decided that no further action would be taken in relation to 1301.

Lara A L Barnes Richard Heathwood, Chairman ,
Gerald Lobley, Patrick McGovern, Vice-Chairman
Judith Milton, John S R Smith,
Ken Stewart

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Technical Director

The Arbiters' Committee met in February. Andy Howie was appointed as Senior Arbiter and David Deary as Arbiter. Full minutes are on the website.

After many delays by FIDE in producing the revised Laws, these are now complete and in operation from July 1. An updated version of the Rules Book has been printed. At the time of writing, the website version (which contains extra material) is being prepared and an updated version will be available soon.

K Stewart
July 2013

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My introduction to this role came at short notice so some prioritising was necessary. My initial focus was on the MacIsaac and Nancy Elder tournaments followed by the Richardson and Spens. Other matters had to wait a while.

Richardson Cup.

My suggestion for a consolation event turned out to be a damp squib so it was abandoned at the first hurdle. Out of this came some suggestions for changes to the format on which Richardson team captains were surveyed. The responses overall indicated that there is little desire to change.

Several other matters arose during the course of the event: a question regarding bona fide rules, there is no clear procedure for submission of results and there is no protocol for determining qualification for the Euro Club Cup. These and a few administrative matters have been addressed in another revision of the rules for 2014-15.

The Richardson trophy was enlivened by the emergence of Bon Accord as a force to be reckoned with. Bon Accord and Edinburgh will compete in the European Club Cup next term.

Spens Cup

Two changes were made in the hope of encouraging more entries: removal of requirement to be a member club of Chess Scotland and option to enter two teams. Unfortunately this did not result in additional entries which were down to 8 from 9 the previous season. However, Dunbar entered for the first time and Kilmarnock entered a second team. For next season the team size will be changed to 5, to enable the option of single-car travel.

MacIsaac /Nancy Elder

Both these events have declined markedly in recent years so the first task was to find ways to reverse the trend. Many ideas came through the forum and directly by email and I thanks those who offered suggestions.

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Disappointingly the MacIsaac tournament looks to have reached the end of the road. Despite a relaxation in the rules that allowed more than one entry per club and some cajoling for entries only 6 players entered. Some ideas have been offered as to why this is failing and what might be done about it but some significant obstacles would need to be overcome.

On a more positive note there was an encouraging response to the Nancy Elder with 24 entries. This came largely as a result of relaxation of entry restrictions: no requirement for clubs or individuals to be members of Chess Scotland, no limit on numbers per club, individual entry permitted, play over the internet permitted, flexible time controls, regional grouping. Feedback suggests interest in this competition will continue next season.

One particular regret is the apparent loss of the MacIsaac and Nancy Elder trophies. They seem not to have been seen for some years and, despite appeals through the forum and emails to clubs for help tracking them down, it appears they are lost.

East/West of Scotland Championships

These events had been successfully included in the Edinburgh and Prestwick congresses in 2013-14 so, given other early-season priorities, they (South Ayrshire for Prestwick) were asked to continue this arrangement. It seems likely that this, or similar, will continue for the foreseeable future.

Matters to be addressed 2014-15

- Some justifiable criticism was levelled at the Team Finals, the Richardson particularly. These were: absence of a Board/senior member of Chess Scotland, absence of live boards, quality of medals, workload placed on the arbiter, inadequate publicity;
- Consideration of an alternative to the MacIsaac.
- Develop the appeal of the Spens.
- Future redevelopment of the East/West of Scotland Championships.

Chess Scotland

Home Director (Open)

- Future redevelopment of the East/West of Scotland Championships.

Winners:

Richardson: Champions - Bon Accord, runners-up - Wandering Dragons.

Spens: Champions - Irvine, runners-up - Hamilton.

Jack Campbell Rosebowl: Champions - Edinburgh Civil Service, runners-up - Troon.

MacIsaac: Champion - Elaine Bamber, runner-up - Alistair Maxwell.

Nancy Elder: Champion - Declan Shafi, runner-up - Ian Brownlee.

Team Lightning: Champions - Hamilton A.

East of Scotland: Champions (joint) - IM Mark Orr, FM Alan Tate.

West of Scotland: Champions (joint) - Clement Sreeves, IM Stephen Mannion, Stuart A White

Appreciation

I would like to express my thanks to:

Andy Muir and Ken Stewart for running the Richardson/Spens and Team Lightning respectively;

Alistair Maxwell for acting as arbiter at the Team Finals;

Edinburgh and Ayrshire Congresses for incorporating the East- and West-of-Scotland championships in their events;

Dick Heathwood for improving accessibility on the Chess Scotland website of information in respect of CS event

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TOURNAMENTS:

Used <http://chess-results.com/>

20/7/13-28/7/13: European Senior Team Championships-Dresden :
Scotland were 53rd

20/7/13-28/7/13: 19 Scots played in the Andorra Open , Neil Berry
beat GM Fernando Peralta (2622)

22/7/13-4/8/13: Keti Arakhamia came 20th

19/10/13-27/10/13: European Club Cup, Rhodes, Edinburgh came
33rd, Edinburgh West came 47th

7/11/13-18/11/13: Scotland came 36th in the European Team
Championship in Poland, ahead of seeding

11/11/13-24/11/13: World Senior, Croatia, Craig Pritchett was 16th,
Phil Giulian was 71st, Douglas McKerracher was 133rd, and Ian
Marks was 114th

7/12/13-15/12/13 Jonathan Rowson replaced Magnus Carlsen in the
London Chess Classic

1/3/14-8/3/14 Cappelle: Steve Mannion scored 5/9 ,Alan Tate scored
6/9

8/3/14-18/3/14 European Senior Individual, Oporto, Portugal, Craig
Pritchett was 8th, Philip Giulian 22nd, Douglas McKerracher 28th

1/4/14-10/4/14 European Senior Team, Sibenik, Croatia, Scotland 1
came 15th

30/6/14-8/7/14 Commonwealth Games, Glasgow – Alan Tate became
Scottish Champion

12/7/14-22/7/14 World Senior Team –Lithuania – Scotland have one
team

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International Director

1/8/14-15/8/14 Olympiad Norway – Scotland have entered Open and Women's sections

BUDGET for 2014/15

£5,500 is allowed with £4,500 for Olympiad and £1,000 for Senior chess expected

Andrew Muir 11/7/14

Chess Scotland

Grading Officer

AGM Report by Douglas Bryson – CS grading plus various.

Grading System: The grading system has completed another season successfully and the new season is underway. There were 43 area graders from around Scotland supplied data. The programming team of Gordon Rattray and Andrew McHarg continue to provide invaluable support for the grading system and the online display of data. This season we added a weekly display of junior giant killers at the request of Inverness players in association with a new Cup to commemorate the late Robert Rough.

The plans for the new season are to continue with the existing service with various programming enhancements to follow when spare time permits developments to be made.

Should we continue to print the grading list? This month we printed 150 copies most of which go out as complimentary copies. Based on last year's sales of about 50 copies there would be a saving of about £120 if printing ceased. The grading book would still be created in pdf format – earlier this month we sent out a pdf of the new list to all area graders, tournament organisers and officials (the same recipients of the complimentary printed list). The pdf could be added to the online membership page as a purchase option.

Grand Prix: The Grand Prix continues to provide interest to tournament players throughout the season. It is a by-product of grading data and updated every week in the same process which refreshes latest ratings. We are grateful to the long-term support of our three main sponsors Chessbase, Everyman and New in Chess who have all agreed to continue into the new season.

CS officials involved in the invigilation of the GP have made a slight modification to the rules for the new 2014-15 season. Leagues which

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run individual events for players from that league can have that event included in the Grand Prix as a single point multiplier. Previously these events were not included since the leagues pay a reduced grading fee for these ancillary events.

FIDE Rating: The number of Scots with a Fide rating continues to expand slowly – it is currently 314 at August 2014. FIDE rated events during the season from July 2013-Aug 2014: Scottish Open Helensburgh, SNCL div 1, Winter Festival, Edinburgh Congress Premier, Edinburgh Blitz, Commonwealth Glasgow. Latest FIDE ratings are displayed every month in the website news list.

Euro countries of similar size and number of FIDE rated: Slovakia 2410, Denmark 2235, Croatia 2214, Norway 1120, Finland 725. Georgia 690, Ireland 311.

Last year we didn't try to FIDE rate our premier club events the Richardson and Spens cups since we assumed the plain meaning of new FIDE regulations meant a "licensed arbiter" had to be physically present at each match – a regulation which we could not meet in the current format of the competition. Andy Howie may have news on whether this interpretation has been changed or confirmed. If we have an answer to the arbiter situation which allows us to proceed then we need to decide if we want the events rated.

Events which are FIDE rated and take place outside Scotland are imported monthly into the domestic system for all CS members who have a SCO code. There are some players in these sets of results who are not members and their results are not imported. Some of these players are based in other countries but some are based here. CS pays an annual fee to FIDE for all SCO players regardless of their domestic membership status.

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Grading Officer

Hamilton Allegro May 2014: This adult event was advertised on the CS Calendar and took place but the organisers declined to submit for grading since they did not want to pay a fee. As a further consequence of not being submitted for grading the event was not included in the Grand Prix.

Several players queried if the event had been submitted. It is hard to recall any adult congress event which has not been submitted for grading. Events do not usually advertise that CS will provide grading services on their entry forms - players make the assumption that it will be submitted. There are no obvious CS guidelines on how to deal with the issue other than to advise players to check the intention to grade or not with that organiser before taking part in any further events.

Website: The website structure and programs as well as the online grading system are maintained by webmaster Andrew McHarg. Andrew plans some visual upgrades to the site and has also been working on a dedicated junior website with junior director Calum MacQueen. Most news stories are created and or uploaded by Dick Heathwood, Douglas Bryson and Andy Howie. Most congress organisers make use of the CS website facilities to update their entry lists.

Recently we enjoyed an excellent photo illustrated daily update from the Tromso Olympiad by women's captain Jonathan Grant. Any CS officer can get a WordPress log-in and upload news stories directly.

100 Club: This CS lottery generates a regular income of over £500 a year for CS with the only direct expense an annual lottery licence of £20. The lottery only needs a few more entrants to reach the 100 level as described in the title. Latest and historic winners are listed in the news panel on the front page of the website as well as information on how to subscribe.

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Scottish International Open 2013

This was a partial success. Unfortunately the holiday element of staging the event in Helensburgh did not attract the hoped for entry. In part this was due to accommodation problems with my first choice accommodation deciding to do a refurbishment and my second choice being nearly fully booked by the time I realised about the first!!

Despite this those who attended enjoyed the event, made all the better by glorious weather. One foreign competitor even described his stay as being similar to visits he had to the Italian coast.

Commonwealth Championships 2014

The biggie. The first time such a major event came to Scotland was obviously going to be a learning experience. Whilst we had the minimum funding virtually guaranteed before making a bid on this the additional monies which would have allowed us to add the bells and whistles failed to materialise. The logistics of staging such an event are complicated. We did not want to get involved in bussing official delegates between their accommodation and the playing venue, nor did we want to have to deal with players arriving at all hours having to be transported to their rooms. With these restrictions we were very lucky to find the City of Glasgow College with its excellent value for money catering.

We had over 200 competitors in total with over 150 in the main event. Internet interest was at an all time high with all the junior games and 42 Championship games being broadcast live. There has even been $\frac{3}{4}$ million hits on Andy Howie's photographs from the event

The standard of the games was high and the top boards were hard fought in every round. Rumours that the Indian players would agree quick draws with each other proved to be baseless. 'Grandmaster' draws were few and far between, even in the last round. It would have been nice to see a few more titled players and a larger English entry.

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There were 16 countries represented amongst the players and 4 on the control team. At this early stage it is hoped that stronger links may have been formed with some of the competing countries.

No playing norms were achieved though two of the arbiters picked up IA norms. The lack of playing norms despite having 40 titled players may indicate that a return to acceleration is called for.

I would like to express my thanks to all those who helped in the organisation of the event. Without a good team behind me this event could not have happened. IM Puchen Wang could not believe the amount of work which was involved in simply packing up! He now has an increased respect for all chess organisers.

Grateful thanks also to the lottery through Celebrate and to our benefactor for making all of it possible.

Scottish Open 2015

I am working on finding a venue in Edinburgh for next year's Scottish Open.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the AGM as I am helping Dave Clayton at his Congress (Dave does so much in bringing the live games from all over Britain) but would like the AGM to consider the tie-break used in the Scottish.

There is no form of tie-break which is completely acceptable. To negate potential problems I would like to suggest that now that FIDE actually recommends a series of tie-breaks that we should use these. It should be noted that these are subject to change and that we should use the latest recommendation.

The current recommendation is:

Individual Swiss Tournaments where all the ratings are consistent:

Direct encounter

The greater number of wins

The greater number of games with Black (unplayed games shall be counted as played with White)

Chess Scotland

Championship Director

Average Rating of Opponents Cut (lowest ignored)

Buchholz Cut 1

Buchholz

Sonneborn-Berger

I would not be offended if the idea of having tie-breaks is abandoned in favour of simply sharing the title.

Chess Scotland

This has been a particularly tough but worthwhile and enjoyable first year in this role; particularly considering Scotland hosted the Glorney-Gilbert International event. Feedback from other nations at the tournament AGM was very positive and everything ran smoothly at the venue, Stirling University. My huge thanks go to all who helped out including Hamish Glen, David Congalton, David Deary, Dick Heathwood and the coaching team of FM Neil Berry, Clement Sreeves and Adam Bremner. There were countless other people who gave their time such as Stirling Chess Club, IM Craig Pritchett and John McNicoll (John who took excellent photographs). I apologise if I missed anyone out, there were simply so many people getting involved! It was really good to see Chess Scotland working as a team with people taking on different jobs to ensure a successful event.

One thing to note from the Glorney-Gilbert AGM is that although substitutes have been allowed in the past, they will not be allowed in future. There were some very good individual performances amongst our teams but, overall, England was too strong in all events. Our young players can only benefit from exposure to this level of international chess. The response to the Glorney Appeal was very encouraging but the Finance director may address this aspect.

The Liverpool Quadrangular was held from the 7th—8th December. Again, thanks go to GM Matthew Turner and Jonathan Edwards as coaches as well as the parents who helped in various ways including practical help such as making lunches and Chess Scotland Registered Coaches helping with coaching.

Chess Scotland will be sending a team to the EU Youth, to be held at Malenovice, Czech Republic

We've seen positive moves in Junior Online Coaching with many new juniors taking up the opportunity and two new coaches joining the team.

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International Junior Director

Plans for 2014-15

We're looking into supplying Online Coaching as a prize for junior events held by affiliated junior associations.

I wholeheartedly support motion two about a Chess Coaches Committee. I feel this will be very successful in keeping the standards of coaches high.

The Chess Scotland Junior Website will be live very soon (if not already). The layout and code are in place but it needs to be populated.

I am looking forward to another year of helping young players, coaching is something which I enjoy and find is very rewarding.