

Chess Scotland

Annual Report 2010 / 2011

Chess Scotland

The second year of my three year term has now been completed and I can't believe how quickly it is passing. I have a final year to complete my goals.

I inherited the presidency with Chess Scotland in a good state and I am pleased to see that, with the continued hard work and dedication of the Directorate, we have



maintained this.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate FM Alan Tate for his FM Title, 2 IM Norms and GM Norm this year. IA Alex

McFarlane for being selected for the World Championship qualifiers in Russia, GM Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant on winning the Scottish, Ali Roy for the British U16 Girls Championship and finally the Girls Faber team, WFM Rhian Hughes, Ali Roy and Alice Lampard for their win in Ireland.

Finally, I'd like to thank the outgoing Directors for their sterling work and welcome the new Directors on board.

Michael Hanley

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Like Mike, this is my second year in post and I have to say, I am really enjoying it. There is so much still to do and I have realized that to do everything that we need to do is going to take time to complete.

Taking the constitution as an example, as I mentioned in my report to the council, it is going to take time to have it



all done and in place. It is not something that can be rushed and it is not something that I am going to go and rush. I now have a framework in place for how Chess Scotland should

work and we are working on putting the detail to that.

This year's highlight has to be Alex's selection for the World Championships. It is an accolade that is long deserved and I am delighted that he was asked to participate.

This year I have been more involved with the ECU and FIDE, especially with the elections. We did not get the result we wanted in either but still have the close relations with the organizations.

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I still have an area of concern and that is we are not seeing more arbiters coming through. Looking around the tournaments, it is the same faces that are arbiting. We desperately need fresh blood.

On a positive note, we have seen the emergence of several brand new tournaments this year, this is very pleasing and



gives players more of a choice in where to play.

Here's hoping that next season is as good as this has been

May all your pawns be queens (unless of course we are playing!)

Andy

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Financial Report

Financial Review-2011

Despite pressure on everybody's income these days I am pleased to report that Chess Scotland's income has on the whole been maintained. Some costs have increased but thanks to all the directors and others involved in expenditure the increases have been kept to a minimum.

League affiliation income increased because there has been



a slight improvement in the numbers playing in most areas. Unfortunately Edinburgh, which has consistently been growing over the years, has experienced its first fall in numbers. The reduction in membership subscription

income is mainly due to a drop in those taking out life subscriptions. There are a number of reasons to account for the fall in grading income, smaller Scottish Congress entry, the disappearance of some congresses despite a few new events appearing, no income from junior events and a few late payments. The late payments will appear in the following year's accounts. The increase in tournament income is negated by similar increase in tournament expenditure.

During this fiscal period we had the Olympiad and we were able to support financially the players to enable them to participate in this event which was in Siberia. Younger

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Financial Report

players were also given assistance to compete in international tournaments including the World Youth Championships, the World Junior, the Glorney Cup and the Liverpool Quadrangular. At home we subsidised a number of events for both adults and juniors although the costs for one adult event have been carried over to the following year due to it taking place later than usual. Both Publication and Insurance expenditure are showing slight reductions thanks to the prudence of the editor and a



decision to remove some of the older equipment from the insurance policy.

Due to the efforts of everybody to keep costs to a minimum there is an overall reduction in the administration costs. No new equipment was

purchased during this fiscal period.

Although we have ended the year with a small surplus in the general account we have to balance this with a significant deficit from the Scottish Championships. Unlike the previous year when we had over £6,000 of sponsorship plus free accommodation this time we had to pay accommodation costs and had only sponsorship of £1,000. Even with the donations from Lord Kirkwood and others it is a difficult task to stage a tournament that will attract both home and many overseas players. Despite efforts to keep costs to a minimum and still put on an attractive event the deficit amounted to nearly £1,700.

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Last year I announced the discontinuation of the North Ayrshire Chess Initiative due to a lack of funding. I am pleased to say that North Ayrshire was able to reverse that decision and decided to continue the course for another year in a more modest form. However, although I haven't heard anything definite, I am doubtful if they will have the funds to continue with it in the coming season.



Without the support of the Scottish Government Grant, Lanarkshire Council, The Law Society of Scotland, Lord Kirkwood and many others we would not be able to provide the current

level of organisational and financial support we currently provide. Hopefully this support will continue in the future and might even increase but in the meantime I would like to thank, on behalf of Chess Scotland, all those named above and the many others who have made donations including those made anonymously. Also thanks to those who give their time yet seek little or no recompense for their work. I would also express our thanks to Karen Clark, our auditor, who makes no charge for the work she does.

“Mac” McKenzie, Finance Director

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All the tournaments under the jurisdiction of the Home Director have been held once again this season.

There were some problems with tournaments such as the lightning event having to be delayed because of the weather, but generally all events have been organised within the season with the exception of the Elder Trophy final which I understand has still to be played.

Without volunteer organisers, these tournaments would not



exist, and so I would like to thank the following.

Chris Hampton, Andy Muir, Mick Hanley, Phil Thomas, Andy Howie, Ken Stewart, Donald Wilson, Glynis Grant, Jacqui Thomas and

everyone else that helped throughout the season.

There has been some correspondence with Poly CC over the format of the Richardson Cup and the way the draw is done. I have no doubt that this issue will be raised at the AGM. It is for the meeting to decide this matter and not the Home Director on is own.

I would also welcome opinions on the viability of continuing the Individual events as numbers are decreasing rapidly. I would say that if there are less than four entries.

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I regards to this concern, I would like to have considered for next season the following idea. That the two tournaments are run on the same principle as the Spens Cup. The event will be run as the McIsaac with the first round losers playing in the Elder Trophy. This would require a rule change in the Elder Trophy in regards to grading restriction. The idea that players are guaranteed a minimum of 2 games might appeal to prospective players.



I am determined to keep these names at the forefront of Chess life in Scotland

list of prizewinners.
Lightning Hamilton
EOS Calum
MacQueen & David Oswald

WOS Stephen Burns Mannion & Alan Grant
Richardson Polytechnic CC
Spens Castlehill CC
Campbell Rosebowl Kilmarnock CC
McIsaac Alastair Maxwell
Elder Not Known as final has to be played

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Tournaments:

25/7-7/8/10: Ali Roy won British Girls u-15 Championships

4/9-12/9/10: Alan Tate and Jonathan Grant came equal 16th in The EU Individual Championships in Italy

19/9-4/10/10 : In the Olympiad in Russia, the open team finished 83rd, the women's team finished 65th Joy Durno achieved the WFM title.

26/10-6/11/10 Craig Pritchett came 26th in World Seniors in Arco, Italy

13/11-20/11/10 Alan Tate came 3rd = and made a GM Norm in Mediterranean Open in Croatia

26/2/11-5/3/11 Capelle – Alan Tate made an IM Norm and came 60th ,Neil Berry came 153rd

21/3/11-3/4/11 Alan Tate came 213th and Clement Sreeves 322nd in the European Individual , France

3/5-11/5/11 In the European Senior Team Championships, Kalithea, Greece, Scotland came 11th . There were fine performances from Craig Pritchett (7/9 & best score on board 1) and Douglas McKerracher (5/6)

6/5-19/5/11 Keti Arakhamia came 9th in European Woman's Individual – Georgia

3/5-27/5/11 Alex McFarlane was arbiter at world championships, Kazan, Russia

Finances:

£5500 was allocated for the Olympiad in Russia. The final amount which was paid was £5747.

For 2010/11 there was some underspend. Of this Alan Tate received £240 to allay his entry fees and expenses.

It has been suggested that entry fees should be paid when players or teams are representing Scotland in International tournaments. The estimated annual cost of this is £750. If there is any underspend available for this in 2011/12, I would like these paid. For 2012/13 I would like these included in the budget

£1500 is budgeted for the European Team Championships in November 2011.

Andrew Muir 24/7/11

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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.

Full	April 2009	Apr 2010	April 2011	July 2011
Adult	156	153	151	155
Under 17	9	5	6	7
Under 14	13	11	11	7
Family Adult	20	28	22	24
Family Junior	2	2	4	4
Basic				
Adult	147	146	149	162
Under 17	12	8	6	7
Under 14	20	22	26	26
Family Adult	36	46	38	29
Family Junior	25	21	18	18
Patron & Life				
Patron	5	5	4	5
Life	131	109	111	107
Life magazine		29	28	31
TOTALS	576	585	574	582

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

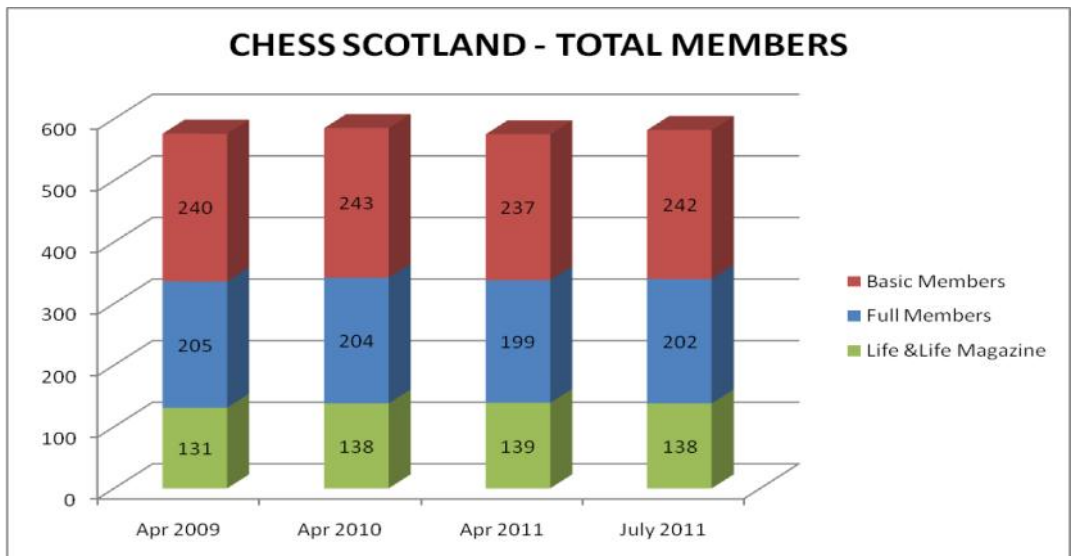
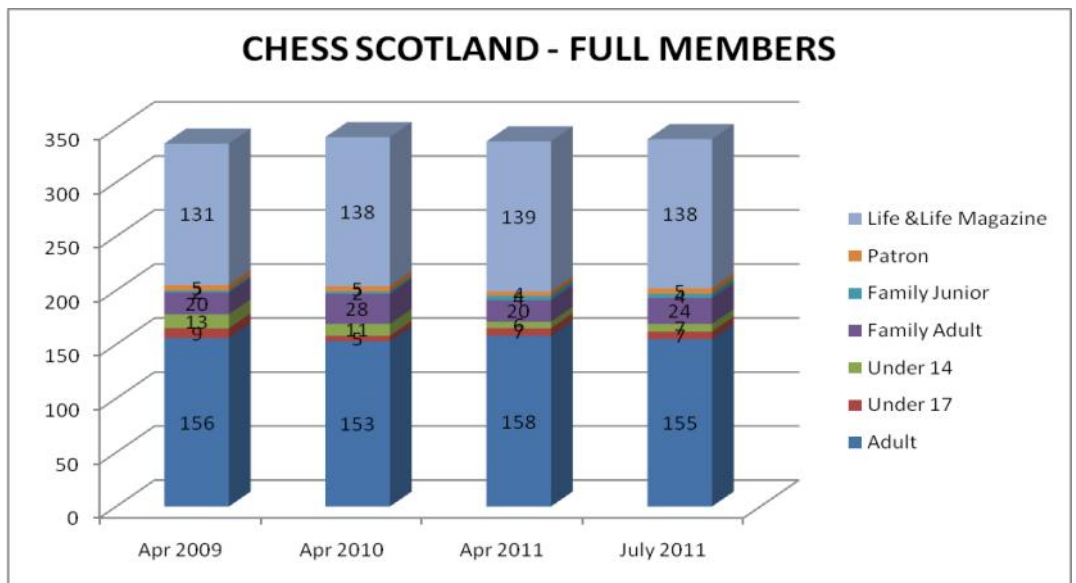
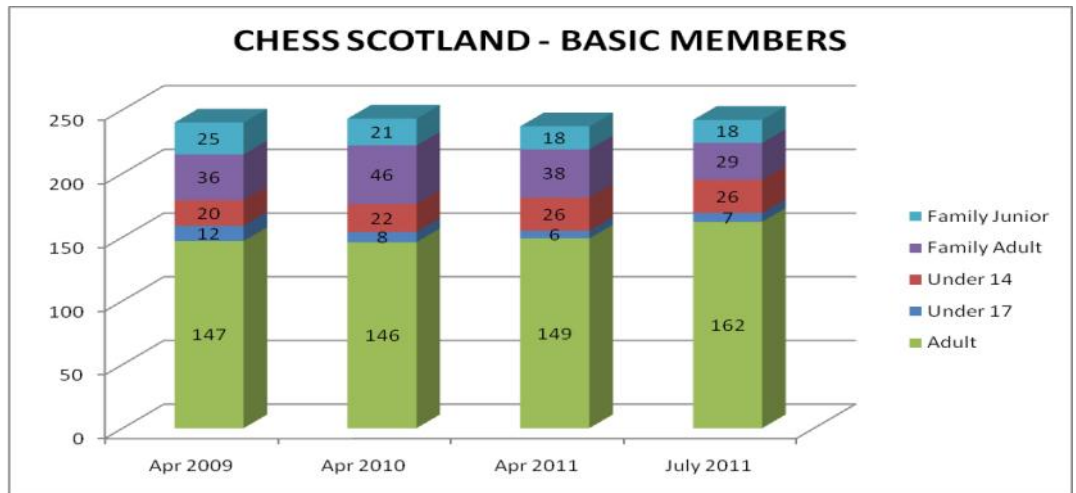
The membership numbers remain relatively stable but this does require an ongoing effort to encourage members to renew. Over the past year, 225 invitation renewal letters were distributed by magazine insert, 256 by Royal Mail and 406 by email. In order to reduce costs, the proportion distributed by email will continue to increase. Of the 487 payments received and processed, 173 were routed through PayPal.

WEBSITE

The Membership News section of the noticeboard is updated at the end of each calendar month with information on renewals etc. activity - see attached charts. Updates for the calendar and other pages are implemented as promptly as possible.

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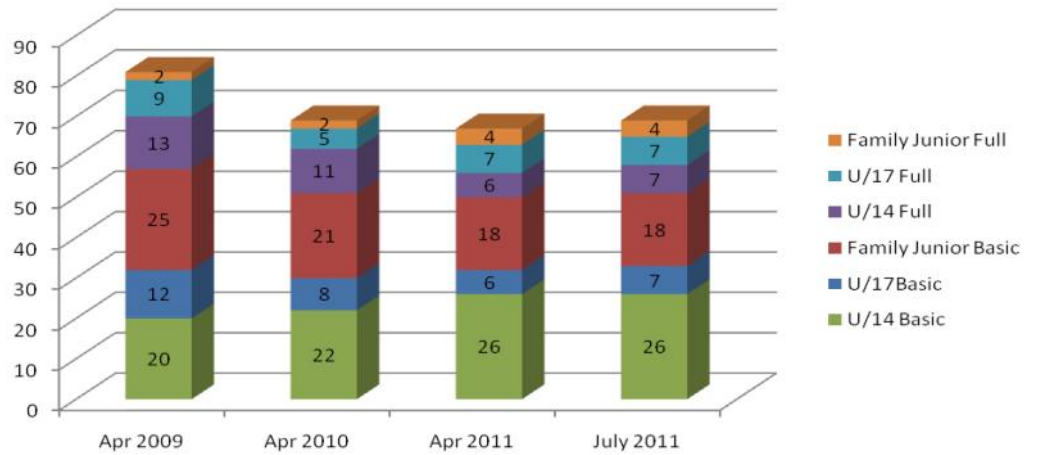
Membership Secretary Report



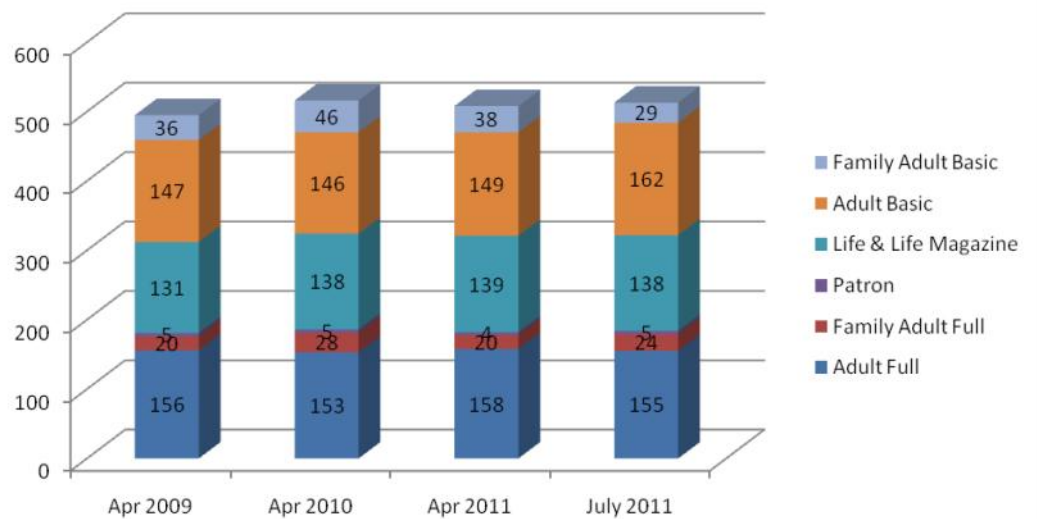
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Membership Secretary Report

CHESS SCOTLAND - JUNIOR MEMBERS



CHESS SCOTLAND - ADULT MEMBERS



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The Arbiters' Committee met in February and discussed both routine and current matters.

The minutes are available on the website.

The new system for arbiter qualification continues to be developed though progress is slower than ideal. However, there are at present very few requests for the course from potential arbiters.

Ken Stewart



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General comments

I have been in this post for three years and prior to that I was very active with SJC. With SJC strategy my strategy has been and remains to provide many opportunities for juniors from beginners up to verge of international selection to play and to concomitantly increase the numbers of active juniors. With the IJD role, for juniors the standard of the elite players has been improved by.

Increased participation in international junior events
Increased participation in domestic adult events.
1 to 1 coaching has become the norm for our elite juniors.

Whether or not we regard chess as a sport I regard it as self evident that to



compete internationally we must recognise the importance of practice, training, and coaching.

Over the past 3 years We have been lucky to have had the coaching services of GM Matthew Turner, IM Andrew Muir, FM Alan Tate and very recent in Dublin the combined talents of Chris MacDonald, Calum MacQueen, and Andrew

Green - 3 coaches working together as a powerful coaching team.

More access to fritz and online chess.

Improved access to chess books. The last of the 2009-2010 IJD budget added one chess book to the libraries of the youngest players selected to represent Scotland in 2011.

All of the above was greatly facilitated by the contributions of all the parents involved and especially those who travelled with the various squads.

As I step down from the IJD in order to take a one year sabbatical from heavy chess administration. We not only have a talented and highly motivated group of juniors representing Scotland. We have strength in depth. I have recently played through the games of our 7 to 10th best U12 players (from primary individual) and many of the U14 games from the Glorney. The U14 team selected for Dublin was stronger but those reserves would have performed well and scored a number of individual victories.

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Individual games were 35 minutes for all moves, the Glorney events were all moves in 2 hours. The effect of giving extra time to players has a much smaller effect than most adults chess players believe.



International Tournaments attended.

Our first event in the new season was the **Euroyouth2010 Championships** held in Halkidiki, Greece in October 2010, where we had a good representation of players in attendance.

In December 2010 we attended the Liverpool Quadrangular

where our U16 team came first. Our U12 team had no 9-1 losses this year. Their worst results were 2 5.5 to 4.5 losses

Recently we took 20 players and 2 reserves to the **Glorney Festival** in Dublin. Our Girls team (Faber / Gilbert Cup) came first by an impressive margin as only one lost game out of 18 - that loss happened after the tournament was won. Contrast with England who finished 2nd with 6 individual games lost. Our U12 team were much stronger than in the past but England still took the title although we were half a point ahead after the first 2 rounds. For the U14 team Kiron Roy who scored a win & a draw against the English board 1. Debutante Andrew McCusker scored 4.5/6 on board 4 - - around 2 years after playing his first tournament

This year we had a mini squad going to **Mureck, Austria** which I attended in the joint roles of Head of Delegation & Coach. This event offers free places for the 1st nomination in each age group, U14, U12, U10, U8. I hope that Scotland participation will continue in future years.

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Future International Tournaments.

Euroyouth2011 is in Bulgaria this year and the Head of delegation and second coach is Robin Moore. Alan Tate travels as principal Coach.

World Youth2011 takes place in Brazil in November. Angus McDonald has taken on the administration for this event. Flights are quite expensive but we hope to get a few representatives to attend.

U16 team Olympiad for teams of 4 is scheduled to take place in Turkey from October 23 to November. Tournament details are not yet published, 5 strong



juniors have expressed an interest in going but until hosts publish tournament details are published detailed planning can not start. The intended head of delegation is Charlie Roy.

Liverpool Quadrangular (9 to 11 Dec)

Same format as before except that there will be an extra tournament for reserve players

(created specifically to prevent defaults by the other teams).

The future

Our youngest players are becoming much more competitive internationally. For the U12 team that travelled to Dublin recently was in my experience unique in that all 6 players had coaching arrangements in place well before the tournament. The lowest graded player traveling was graded just above 1100 – in the recent past it has been rare to have more than 1 player available with a grade above 1000. Despite the increased grades this year the grading page shows that the U12 team scored 5 points more than predicted (the U14 team actually scored 5.5 points more than predicted). I doubt that extra points scored are due to inconsistencies in the grading system. Our winning Girls team actually scored 1.3 points less than predicted from grades.

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In the more recent tournament at Mureck a link from the ECF site records that the 7 English players (travelling with 2 strong coaches) had scored 15 points after 6 rounds. At the same point Scotland's 7 players had scored 16.5 points. Admittedly this is a single fact taken from my most recent surfing and neither country sent their strongest players **BUT** for me it enhances the my optimism for the future of Scottish juniors abroad. 2 or 3 years ago we would have been heavily outscored by England's players.

Despite the 2 paragraphs above, more could and should be done to prepare our youngest internationals for action. It is not and should not be part of the IJD remit to take over all coaching of these players - A statement I regard strongly as non negotiable.



I propose that after I step down from IJD at the 2011 agm that I take on the role of creating and running an U12 Youth squad for our elite players of that age group. With the primary aim of helping prepare them for their trips abroad. Initially no budget would be required with the main input being my time. Current coaching arrangements would

remain in place. Appointment of Personal Coaches for newly emerging elite players would continue to be encouraged by me.

I invite the agm to discuss this offer from me - whether or not I am able to attend.

Dr Philip Thomas
International Junior Director
Chess Scotland
2008 to 2011

Chess Scotland

Grading:

Another season was successfully completed using the Alex Bisset grading program and the new grading list was published earlier this month. The key grading change this season was a new facility initiated by Andrew McHarg by which members log-in to the website and get a much enhanced report of their results with historic stats. This combined with a revamp of the website is the first part of a series of upgrades to online services planned by Andrew.

Problems with the grading program tend to be confined to new area graders setting up the program for the first time. Often the problems do not relate to the program but more often concern issues relating to knowledge of directories and zip files.



Speed and frequency of result reporting continues to improve with several leagues and clubs submitting multiple grading updates during the season. Although this initially increases the grading workload it also saves time by early highlighting of typical issues concerning identities of players e.g. is this the same player as a similarly named individual from several years ago.

Despite all the improvements in speed and online publication of instant results the number of players in the grading list continues to fall. There were 2265 players at the time of publication of the list this month compared to 3211 in the peak year of 1995. Almost 1000 players have been lost in the last 16 years and of course many of the current list are young juniors for whom chess may only be a temporary hobby.

As of this month there are 462 players in the FIDE database with a SCO country affiliation of whom 256 are rated. The speed at which new players achieve an international rating will be related to how many domestic events want their data submitted to FIDE. The new East Dunbartonshire event earlier this month was the latest tournament to be included in FIDE rating. There is information at ChessScotland.com which gives details of what is required for a domestic event to be eligible for FIDE rating.

Alan Tate's IM title application was made and acknowledged by FIDE earlier this month. The application will be considered at the FIDE congress in October. If successful the title will be awarded conditional on a rating of 2400 being achieved.

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Website:

The internet could of course be an explanation for the shift in playing live to people getting their chess competition online at various chess sites.

The CS website is designed to be the main information source. Andrew McHarg has begun the process to revamp the site and addresses one of the regular comments in these AGM reports that more people need to contribute directly to the website rather than everything going through the webmaster. The rolling news list in the centre of the front page is powered by Wordpress and should allow multiple authorised users to contribute news stories directly to the site. Some practice may be required before a new user will feel confident but the potential is now there.



In view of the professional level of upgrade services now envisaged I would like to step down from the webmaster role after 14 years. I have nominated Andrew McHarg as the new webmaster.

Sundry:

Grand Prix: A rule change relating to size of events will now be in place for the new season with all main list weekend events counting double regardless of number of players. Grand Prix sponsorship of software, book and magazine prizes has been secured for another season.

100 Club: The 100 club lottery has now been promoted on the website for over a decade and contributes £500-600 per year for the association. However the number of units has never quite managed to break the 100 level mentioned in the name (half the fees collected in a month are returned in prizes). New subscribers can join the 100 club via the online membership page.