

Council report March 2012 – Douglas Bryson (CS Grading)

The Alex Bisset windows grading system is coming up to its 10th anniversary. Barring any website server issues there has been an update of grades most weeks over the last decade. The system is sufficiently robust that it has continued to operate without major problems since the time Alex departed the chess scene. As mentioned several times in these reports the ultimate intention has been to change programs but as yet this is not available so we continue to rely on the AB program.

Although we cannot change the way the program operates we do have control over the output. The online grading system was revised by Andrew McHarg and this is a work in progress to further enhance the information available (See AM Council report). The by-products of the grading output: Grand Prix, FIDE rating reports, outside result input forms continue to be controlled and updated by Gordon Rattray. As mentioned these all needed a revision after the recent server change. A big thank you to both programmers.

There are a few minor grading issues. Some data is still submitted with initials for new players rather than full names, dates of birth are not always given for juniors, comeback players are not always identified as such, foreign player FIDE grades are not always mentioned, exact spellings are not checked with new players. The area grading team usually get it right eventually but life could be made easier if this type of information was always available immediately rather than after further correspondence.



Website updates:

The Wordpress news list on website front page has been in operation since August. This is a simpler way of creating content than normal web pages. Tournament reports and prizelists are now appearing very 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.

The 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.

There is a dedicated site for the forthcoming 2012 Championship created by Andrew McHarg at www.chessscotland.com/scottishchampionship2012/