

President and Exec Director Report

It made more sense to roll the two reports into one as we are both going to say the same thing. The first half of this year has had its highs and lows, the highs being the visit to Parliament to discuss chess in Scotland and chess in Schools project, the lows being Donald's resignation and discovering an error in the Jonathan Rowson trophy winner not having been informed (the two are not related!).

We'd both like to pay tribute to Donald. He was an excellent President and has been very helpful for the two of us when we first started our roles. It was with regret that we accepted his resignation, but we fully understood the circumstances and thank him for the invaluable assistance he has given. Mick has taken over the duties of the Junior Home Director to the AGM.

As we all know, we are in the closing months of Micks presidency and if everything goes to plan, he will be going out with a Bang. We will be hosting President Danailov either in April or in June and at the same time we will have a 25 board simul v GM Topalov to raise funds for the E boards.

Details for the event will be forthcoming when we have confirmed dates

Regards

Michael Hanley & Andy Howie

Finance Report

No final decision has yet been made regarding the grant we receive from the Scottish Government for 2012-13. I attended a meeting with government officials to discuss the grant along with a number of other grant recipients where various views were expressed including the need for core funding of organisations to continue. Last month I had to submit Chess Scotland's Business Plan for the period 2012-13 to the Government. To date we have received an assurance that we will receive a grant to cover the first six months of the year.

Towards the end of last year I had meetings with the Munn Family and I'm pleased to advise that they have agreed to extend their support by making another donation of £1,000 for the Junior Grand Prix. They also advised they still hold back issues of the Scottish Chess magazine and the Correspondence magazine and although this was advertised no interest has been shown. The MacDonald Fund that supports the Player of the Year award was reaching a critical level but has received support from an anonymous donor to the tune of £400.

As already publicized we purchased 8 sensory boards in the later part of 2011 and I hope these will be fully paid over a two year period, To date we have received £398 from the fundraising appeal that was launched to help with the costs.

Last year the bank indicated they intended to make charges for transferring money from our deposit accounts but after discussion with them it was agreed that the charges could be avoided if we went online. As our current accounts are already online I didn't anticipate any problems in making the change but it did prove to be more difficult and for a time I couldn't access the deposit accounts but the problems have been resolved. Unfortunately the same can't be said about our Smartstamp account used for magazine postage. This account is operated by Royal Mail and they migrated their website to a new platform with disastrous consequences and on the latest information anticipate the problems might not be resolved for another two months.

Another change affecting bank transactions concerns international payments made to foreign organisers. In the past Chess Scotland only required to pay our bank's processing charges but these organisers are now insisting we now pay their bank's charges also. One good bit of news is that the Inspector of Taxes has agreed to waive our Corporation Tax liabilities for the time being due to the current low interest rates.

Mac McKenzie

International Junior Director

It has been an extremely busy time for those involved in junior chess in Scotland and I've been lucky enough since my election to have put together a dependable and reliable group of people who have been only too happy to put a huge amount of time and effort into keeping the many activities simmering along.

The first event under my own stewardship was the European Youth Championships, in Albena, Bulgaria, where 10 juniors attended and put in some exceptional performances. The feedback we had from parents who attended this event was exceptionally positive and our supervisory team, of Robin Moore and Alan Tate both received glowing reports.

In October, our Under-16 Olympiad team of Andrew McClement, Shivan Murdochy, Ali Roy and Sam Gregory performed well above their seeding in Izmit, Turkey, finishing in 12th place of the 28 participants.

In November, we sent 9 juniors to participate in the World Youth Championships, in the exotic location of Caldas Novas, deep in the heart of Brazil. Angus McDonald from Aberdeen did an exceptional job in organizing and leading the Scottish delegation and once again there were some exceptional results with some of our juniors scoring grading results well above their current grading.

Early in December, the Liverpool Quadrangular Tournament saw 30 Scottish juniors descend upon Merseyside. A lively, fun-filled weekend wasn't without its successes. Three of the under-12 team, Jan van Heese, Iona Bryson and Vagif Ramazanov returned with perfect scores.

All three of our teams, at under-12, under-14 and under-16 level, returned home with 2nd place secured. With many of the youngsters qualifying for the same age groups next year there is a feeling that we could easily improve on that next year.

Post-Liverpool sees a bit of a break from international events, however, we've kept ourselves busy, scouring the junior tournaments and leagues of Scotland for emerging talent.

We've spent some time and effort ensuring that promising juniors are aware of the benefits of good coaching, both online and otherwise. There is no doubt that this is proving to be a massive success..

We are also negotiating with the South African Girls School Champions, who are touring the UK and Ireland in September. Two matches will be hosted here, one in Edinburgh and one in Ayrshire. October and two matches will be hosted in Scotland, These events are yet to be finalized and I'll report back in due course.

Next year will see Scotland host the Glorney Festival. We are currently planning this event and intend the Festival to be a hugely successful event which competitors will talk about for years to come. Once again I'm unable to say too much more about this just now, as negotiations are still ongoing. I will expect to be able to discuss this in more detail in the coming weeks.

Finally, the summer of chess 2012, starts here. This meeting will see the deadline for selectors to nominate their players for the 2012 Glorney festival and for the EU Tournament in Mureck, Austria, which begins in late July and also for the European Youth Championship in Prague, this year in August.

The positive feedback we've had from parents, players and officials so far has been almost universal popular and has infused my team with an enthusiasm and dedication which makes me believe that we have been moderately successful to date and can build on this in future.

Kind Regards

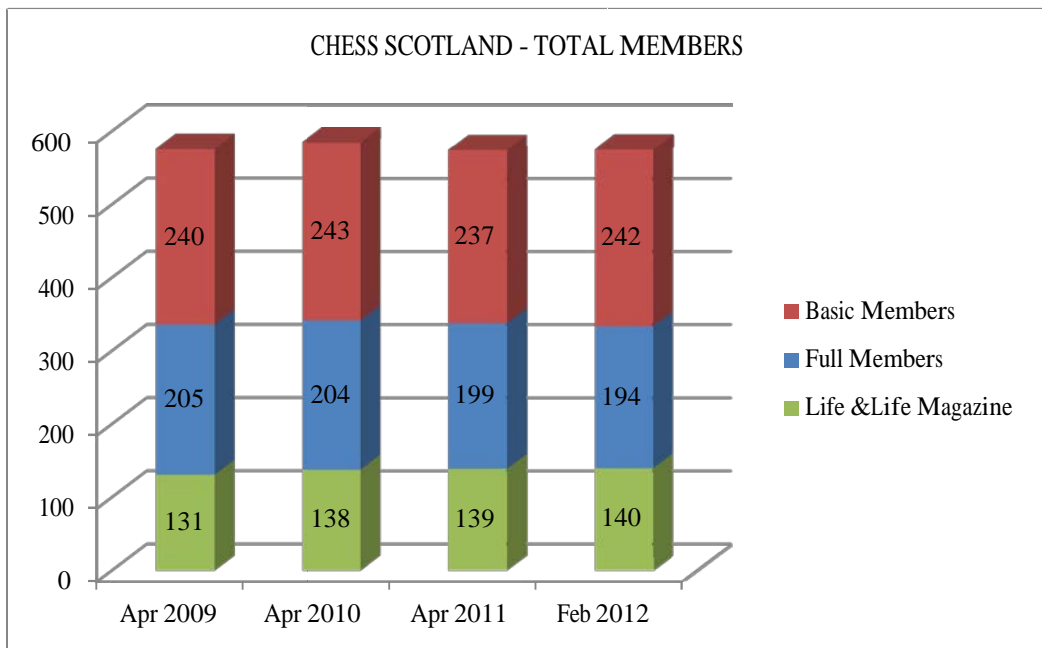
Paul MacDonald
International Junior Chess Director ChessScotland

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT - 01 MARCH 2012

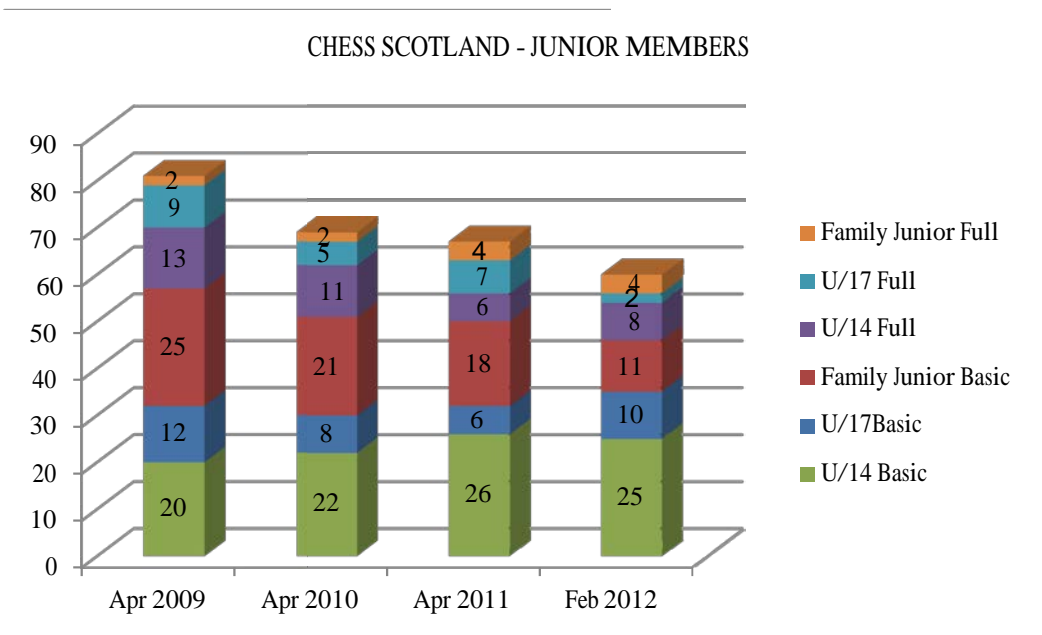
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Every effort is made to encourage members to renew their subscriptions whilst, at the same time, costs incurred by Chess Scotland are kept to the minimum by using email wherever possible. Some members require repeated reminders.

Overall membership numbers are relatively stable:-



On the other hand, family junior basic membership is pulling down the overall junior membership.



Statistics on all aspects of membership activity are published monthly on the noticeboard's Membership News.

OVERALL SUMMARY

All aspects of the Membership Secretary role are progressing normally, there are no known Difficulties /complaints. PVG is taking up an increasing amount of time

Technical Directors Report

The Arbiters' Committee had its usual annual meeting on February 24. The minutes are available on the website. A one-day course for arbiters may be held soon. We shall soon require to comment on proposed changes to the Laws of chess – at present we await details of this from FIDE. I continue to respond to assorted questions, etc on matters of Laws and rules.