

Chess Scotland AGM 2008 - Junior Director (Home) Report

Scottish juniors continue to achieve great success in Scotland and beyond. A number of Chess Scotland events have been held this year and continue to attract large numbers of schools and junior players.

- Christine MacGregor organised the **CS Primary team Championship** which includes a section for 'P5 and under' teams. Primary teams qualified for the final by competing in regional heats around Scotland. 11 primary teams and 10 P5 and Under teams competed in the final at the Victoria Halls, Dunblane in May. Well done to Kirkhill and Sciennes who finally emerged as the CS Primary and P5 and Under champions respectively after some very tough battles. There was a fun prize for guessing the number of emails that Christine sent or received during the organization of this event. The correct answer was 225 and this indicates the work involved in organizing such events!
- The inaugural **Law Society of Scotland Secondary Allegro Championship** took place at the Nelson Stand at Scone Racecourse on February 11th and was an outstanding success and a truly excellent day. I would like to thank Lynsey Shovlin, Craig Pritchett and Donald Wilson for all their hard work in establishing this new event as well as John Glendinning who was the catalyst for the initial discussions with Douglas Mills (Secretary of the Law Society). In particular, Lynsey found the Nelson Stand at Scone Racecourse that proved to be an excellent central venue, was the main organizer for the event and did a brilliant job. This new team event succeeded in achieving what many of us wish to see – the best juniors in Scotland competing against each other! Many of the very best players in Scotland took part and the quality of many games was outstanding so that the spectators, including Lord Kirkwodd, were kept enthralled. The final round finished with a 3 way tie on match points with St Margaret's High School emerging winners on game points and taking home 2 cups (one cup for the school to keep and a superb silver cup that will be awarded to winning teams in the years ahead), 3 chess clocks and chess sets for the school club and £50 each! The Law Society is delighted with the success of this tournament and the resultant media coverage and will continue their generous sponsorship next year.
- I organized the 26th **Chess Scotland Primary Individual Chess Championship** for the top 32 primary players. This was held at the Dunnolly Adventure Centre in Aberfeldy in June and I would like to thank all those who suggested players for consideration and provided contact information for players from all parts of Scotland. In particular, I would like to thank Jacqui and Phil Thomas who were very involved. Jacqui was also in residence over the weekend and devised great games to keep the children occupied between the rounds whilst Donald Wilson was, as ever, the very able and amiable arbiter thank you both! It was a very enjoyable weekend (kindly assisted by glorious weather) and the children were super. After a tough tournament Kiron Roy emerged as Primary champion with a superb perfect score.
- I also organized the **Chess Scotland Scottish School Individual Chess Championship**. This event was held at George Heriots school in March in association with the Chess Edinburgh Congress. Qualifying junior events were held in Perth, Dundee, Glenrothes, Edinburgh and the Borders. This event is sponsored by the Association of Certified Public Accountants (ACPA) of Great Britain and Kevin Henry, the Chief Executive of ACPA, attended the event with his wife Ann. The champions were Sam Allison (P5 and Under), Ben He (P6/7) and David Shenton (secondary) with David's success being covered in a superb front page photo feature in the Dunfermline Press (<http://www.dunfermlinepress.com/articles/1/22399>). I

would like to thank Amy Officer and Donald Wilson for their able arbiting, Peter Devenny for assisting and Robin Harper MSP for awarding the prizes and for his ongoing support to junior chess. Lastly, I thank ACPA for generous sponsorship and Kevin Henry for his keen interest in the event.

- Lynsey Shovlin organized the ***Chess Scotland Girls Individual Championship*** in June. Lisa Flaherty and Ruth Devenny were the Primary and Secondary Champions respectively.
- Steven O'Donnell organises the ***Scotsman Cup*** but this event was unfortunately not completed this year.
- The well deserving winners of the ***Junior Grand Prix*** are below (in winning order) and I am always impressed by the level of chess activity of many juniors. Chess Scotland is very grateful for the support from the Walter Munn Fund, Chess Base, Everyman books and 'New in Chess'.

Rooks Section J14-16

J15 Joseph McGreechin

J16 Shona Jordan

J14 Ruth Devenny

Bishops Section J12-13

J12 Scott Jordan

J13 Matthew Thomas

Knights Section J10-11

J11 Daniel Thomas

J10 Kiron Roy

Pawns Section J5-9

J7 Declan Shafi

J9 Robert Childs

J8 Fergus Skillen

I am not standing for Junior Director this year and wish my successor well. Also, my increasing work commitments require me to withdraw from organizing the CS Primary Individual Chess Championship and the CS Scottish School Individual Chess Championship. I hope that other junior organizers will be able to take over the latter event as this has proven to be a very enjoyable event for the competitors and serves to unite many individual junior events from various parts of the country.

I am very pleased that members of the SJC are standing for positions within Chess Scotland. I believe that this will result in a more united approach to junior chess across Scotland and will benefit all. On behalf of Chess Scotland, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those individuals at school, regional and national level who have worked so hard to promote junior chess in Scotland this year.

Lastly, I am also delighted that the ***SJCA Educational Trust***, established in 1969, has been reinvigorated. Judith Foster and her daughter have designed a super new website (<http://www.scotyouthchess.org.uk/>) and Craig Pritchett, Mike Scott and others (including chess juniors) will undertake a sponsored Edinburgh-to-Glasgow to raise funds for the Trust. I believe that the SJCAE Trust will become established as a key feature of the junior chess landscape in Scotland and prove to be a huge asset to Scottish junior in the years ahead.

Jeremy Hughes