

Junior Board

Annual Report 2008/09



Victorious U14 side, Liverpool Quadrangle Dec 2008



Winning Faber side. FM Rhian Hughes, Ali Roy and Maryann McDonald



Primary Individual Champion—Ben He



Primary Team Champions—Kirkhill



P5 and Under Champions—Sciennes

**Jacqui Thomas
Phil Thomas
Andy Howie**

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Introduction (By Andy Howie, Home Director (Junior)).

For me, season 2008/09 will go down as a season with many highs and some personal deep lows.

Back in may last year, I was approached by Phil and asked about how I would feel about standing for Home Director (Junior). I was honest and said that I didn't know. I do enjoy working with juniors but with my father in law facing 2 serious operations, I was not sure if I could dedicate the time that it needed. Phil and Jacqui were fine with this and pledged that they would help me in any way I needed.

In February of this year, Phil and Jacqui came into their own. For those who were not aware of what happened to me, I had a stroke. This really put pressure on them as I was effectively out of commission and did not resume doing full weekends until. May (I was probably more of a hindrance as I insisted on going to tournaments!!).

I want to take this opportunity to thank Phil and Jacqui, many of this years successes are down to them, at times I was merely a passenger and very grateful to them for being there.

We have learned lessons this year. We need to expand the Junior Board and have more people helping. We have a good crop of Juniors coming through and if we play it right, we will have some strong players for the coming years.

This year, our juniors have done well. I would like to single out the Faber team of Rhian, Ali and Maryann as my "team of the year". We do not win the Faber very often and to do it in the manner that they did was something special.

Our juniors have given us something to be proud of this season. It is down to **all of us** to make sure that we build on that. The Juniors are setting an example to the Adults with their attitudes, politics does not bother them. They are doing it for the love of the game. I hope that we all can learn the lesson they are teaching us.

Finally, with the Juniors giving us so much to be proud of, it is appropriate that we celebrate this. The Junior Board would like to present...

The Year that was..

<http://www.sncl.org.uk/Scottish Juniors/junior board report.html>

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Junior Board Members

Phil Thomas, Michael Hanley and Derek Mills were invited by Jacqui and Andy to form the Junior Board. All accepted. For this season the Junior Board were the selection committee for Internationals. We have decided to expand the board for next year and have already invited Lisa McLellan and Hannah McFadyen to join us.

Grading Limits and Time Controls

After the AGM, there was a protest from Junior Tournament organisers about the changes. Tournaments had already been organised and advertised as main grade. After the Junior board met it was decided that tournaments could continue with the status quo, provided that it is advertised on the entry form. This was ratified at the management board



meeting. After discussion with all parties involved, it is the intention of the Junior board, to put a proposal to the AGM to modify this to 25 minutes under matters arising

Dinosaur Chess

There have been a few complaints from schools about not being able to obtain the software. Andy has agreed to look into the technical aspects of resolving this.

Junior Development

Two training days have taken place (1) December 2008 for the Liverpool Quadrangular team. (2) January for the Younger players and candidates for U12 at Liverpool 2009.

Profits from the first of these has been used to provide some coaching and mentoring for juniors in the Aberdeen area.

Andy Muir has donated coaching time to help the Glorney squad.

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Liverpool Quadrangle December 2008

We took three teams down to Liverpool for the Annual Quadrangle tournament with Northern England, Midlands and Wales. U16 were favourites to win and disappointingly came second. U14 's were expected to come to come last and bizarrely won their section (probably due to John Dempsey's Midas touch from the Olympiad). In the U12's we selected two very young players that we recognise for the future



They played above expectation (an average of 400 points above their grade) and this is an experiment that we intend to continue. The U12's came a very close third and nearly overcame the English in the final round. The English U12 team were stronger than their U14 counterparts. Overall, a very enjoyable tournament and a great atmosphere amongst the parents and participants alike. The image of all the parents in a line making sandwiches for the kids is an image that will live with us for a long time!

Law Society

Perth, March 21st

As part of Craig Prichett's handover, we were informed that Lynsey Shovlin had already been appointed as tournament director. 8 teams entered and the venue moved from the Nelson stand to the Jockey club at short notice. We are unable to gauge the success of the event financially as we are still waiting for the requested accounts for the event.

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Primary Individual



6th and 7th June, 2009. Venue Dolphin House, Culzean Castle. 32 participants fought it out for the coveted Primary Individual title. Activities included archery, caving, tug of war, team games and of course chess. One game even took place underground! The intention was to broadcast a game a round live, but unfortunately there was no

internet connection at the venue! The winner was Ben He, 2nd was Kiron Roy, 3rd (by a blitz playoff) was Peter Sanders. A good time was had by all and we have already booked the venue for next year (18th, 19th and 20th June, to stop a divorce for being away during a wedding anniversary!)

Primary Team Championships

After a discussion at the first directors meeting of this year, it was decided to invite the SJC to run the Primary Team Championships as a single merged event. This offer was kindly taken up. Jacqui Thomas, in her role as Schools Development Director, has taken over



as Tournament Director. This is the first joint venture between the two organisations and we pleased to report that not only does it appear to be successful, we appear to have a record entry of 90. The finals were played on the 13th of June, 2009 at the Victoria Halls in Dunblane. In the primary section, Kirkhill continued their dominance with a close run victory over James Gillespies. The P5 and under was won by Sciennes again over the luckless James Gillespies.

Girls Championships

Girls Championships was held over 2 days at the West of Scotland Junior event on 2nd and 3rd May. Two places were offered for the Euro Youth for the best U10 and 12. This prize has a monetary value of approx. £500 per

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place, making this probably the biggest junior prize in the country. The Two prizes went to Helen Lu and Leora Wadler. The overall champion was Alice Lampard (secondary) and Helen Lu (Primary). We are currently reviewing how this event went and how we would like to run next year.

Scotsman (Secondary Team Championships)

Stephen Taylor kindly offered to be the tournament director. As the previous year's event did not finish, free places were offered to any team that entered last year. The tournament was won by James Gillespies who were victorious over Hillhead. There was a dispute earlier in the competition where one of the teams was accused by cheating regarding time limits, by the others in the group. Based on the evidence that was given to us, we had no option other than to back the decision of the TD as governed by the rules of the competition.

Schools Individual Championships

With Edinburgh hosting the Scottish Championships this year, we had decided to move this event to give it a bigger profile and make it more prestigious. We have decided to move away from qualification and make it direct entry. Unfortunately it turned out that the capacity of the halls was less than we had been led to believe which meant we had to cancel the event.

Glorney / Faber / U14 / U12

21st to 24th July, 2009. Venue Strathclyde University. Strenuous efforts were made to get 2 European teams for the first time in many years. Alex McFarlane has agreed to be the Chief Arbiter. In the Glorney, we came a disappointing third after being beaten by England in the semi final. The Faber brought us success when WFM Rhian Hughes, Ali Roy and Maryann McDonald won the competition losing only one board in the 5 matches. An excellent effort. In the U12 and U14, we came third,

narrowly being pipped by the Irish for second place. The organisational efforts of both Phil and Jacqui has been recognised throughout the 4 nations and they are deserving of the plaudits they have received.



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Schools Development

Back on 20th Oct at the Directors meeting SDD had put forward key areas that she was working on

- 1) was to support IJD with the trip to Liverpool regarding structure for diet, sleep, coaching & supervision – this was achieved
- 2) this was the main focus within the SDD role for this season - SDD advanced a proposal that the development budget could pay a coach to go into interested Secondary schools, to provide a chess club. This would be on a 2 for 1 basis by CS paying half the costs of a coach to start up & run a chess club for an initial period of 6 – 8 weeks. It was aimed at the Schools using funds from their ‘supportive study’ scheme. SDD approached known active coaches with the idea & offer but on the proviso that the coach made initial contact with schools. Although SDD contacted at least 8 coaches no schools have come forward interested in the scheme – which she believes is because the coaches have not made initial contact.

Because SDD ended up taking a major role in the planning & support of all the Junior Board events this year due to various illnesses by other members, the SDD ideas from the Board meeting held 5th November have been postponed but will be part of the 2009/2010 manifesto.

- 1) the schools a “2 for 1” package under the Schools’ “Supported Study” scheme - to continue promoting & make more coaches aware of the offer
- 2) Invest in “later years” ? (Age 14-17, i.e., beyond the “impressionable age”)
- 3) Produce and deliver 1-day workshops for teachers.

Finally we still get regular requests for copies of Alex McFarlane’s ‘A Beginner’s Guide’ which get sent out for free to interested parties wishing Start up a school chess club. Requests mainly come from Primary Schools. We will continue to supply copies of the CD’s when requested.

Junior Board Manifesto / Mission Statement

To build on the past years successes. Encourage local organizers to run more training/coaching days. Encourage clubs to help coach, encourage & nurture their junior members. Recruit more volunteers to help in all areas at tournaments (from catering, setting up, controlling to sponsorship.)