

AGM 2017



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CHESS SCOTLAND

Director Reports 2016/17

Chess Scotland has, over the past year, faced a few challenges the most important of these being the Financial situation that we find ourselves in. This was addressed at a council meeting in March followed by two Management Board meetings where many difficult decisions were required. The outcome was that Chess Scotland was required apply increase to our fees and the resulting decisions have been made available on the Chess Scotland website for some time.

Management Board

The Management Board has continued its policy of meeting on a regular basis over the year and the minutes of the meetings are posted on the Chess Scotland website. I would like to thank all directors for their commitment and enthusiasm in their respective remits over the past year. There has been some hard work, and even a bit of fun, in all these endeavours.

Website

During the year it was decided that the website, for a number of reasons, not least of which was the requirement to carry out Online voting required a major makeover. We now have a website that has a modern platform and is simpler to update with directors being responsible for their own updates and hopefully reduce the workload on the few. The website now functions over different devices including mobiles and tablets where the content is now much easier to view. Added security features have also been built in.

Online & Proxy Voting

Chess Scotland have now introduced Online voting for members and Proxy voting will only be available for Clubs, Leagues and Affiliates not attending the AGM. Next year the Online voting system will be extended to all those who have voting rights. Those who still have Proxy Voting will also receive an acknowledgement that their votes have been registered. All Proxy Votes must also be registered, whether the nominated proxy voter attends the AGM or not.

Richardson Cup

Following some comments on the forum, it was decided to offer a review of the Richardson Cup rules and playing criteria. Suggestions were sought from members and there followed a review by the Management Board and the outcome was published on the website. These changes will be incorporated into the rules and take effect in the coming season.

Chess Scotland Activities

Scottish Championship – I would like to congratulate all the players and prizewinners that took part in the Scottish Championships and in particular, Murad Abdulla, our youngest champion for many years who was also rewarded for all his efforts by achieving the FIDE Master title as well. Congratulations.

I would also like to thank all the organisers for their hard work without whom such an event could not be the success that it was.

Juniors: - There have been some outstanding performance by our junior players over the year and they have all represented themselves and Scotland with great credit. I would also like to thank all the organisers, coaches, chaperones and support from parents – they all contribute massively to the success of Junior Chess.

I would also like to take time out and thank Liz Sams, and the team of who stepped up and offered their help with the administration of both the Primary Individual and the Glorney Cup Teams.

Glorney 2018

This coming season Chess Scotland are the hosts and the Management Board will be assembling a team to organise the event, particularly so that all the work does not fall on one or two overworked individuals. This event includes the addition of a 6th Nation, The Netherlands, into the competition and we look forward to welcoming them to Scotland in 2018.

Directorships

It is disappointing to see that the number of unfilled posts both on Management Board and Council remain unfilled year after year, this year being no exception. The work required for these posts does not go away and these responsibilities must be taken up by those directors already in position or by the newly elected.

The demand on most Council members is not great, we ask for a meeting once, very occasionally twice, a year. Other than that, we may need to contact council members by email if there is a requirement for consultation on a single issue. Some council positions do have specific non-directorship duties and are defined in the Constitution.

Jim Webster
President

August 2017

This has been a challenging year for Chess Scotland. Earlier this year, we received the accounts and found there was a gap in the budget. Projections showed something similar this year. Meetings were called and opinions considered. In the end I think the balance of savings and increases works well and should put us back on track.

This year I have been back to roots and getting down and dirty with the technical aspects of Chess Scotland. The website upgrade has given me plenty to do fixing bits and pieces. Thanks to Andy McHarg for a really good job!

The membership database has been given a well deserved upgrade and many of the aspects of it have been simplified. There are still modules to complete (mainly concerning clubs) but this will be ready for the September renewal timeslot.

As promised at the AGM last year, we have delivered an online voting system. We managed to keep costs to nothing, and made it fairly simple and robust. The intention is review the process at the next management board meeting and implement any improvements.

Looking now to my activities as FIDE Delegate, I attended the GA and various other meetings in Baku last September. I also met privately with the ECU where we discussed Scotland and how we can be more involved at a European level.

During the year I have had several meetings with the BICC to discuss qualification for the British Championships. After a hiatus of many years, we are looking to meet once or twice a year going forward.

Looking forward to next year and a new member to the Exec. It is going to be good that we are fully up to strength on the Exec but frustrating that we still have vacant positions.

Here are the current numbers in membership with a comparison to previous years.

Full	April 2009	April 2010	April 2011	April 2012	April 2013	April 2014	July 2015	July 2016	July 2017
Adult	156	153	151	155	161	162	145	139	127
Under 17	9	5	6	2	1	6	6	17	22
Under 14	13	11	11	10	17	14	11		
Family Adult	20	28	22	22	23	22	25	23	23
Family Junior	2	2	4	4	2	2	4	11	11
Basic									
Adult	147	146	149	183	159	156	150	146	144
Under 17	12	8	6	11	9	6	5	33	37
Under 14	20	22	26	22	27	27	21		
Family Adult	36	46	38	21	13	16	16	8	11
Family Junior	25	21	18	11	13	8	4	9	13
Patron & Life									
Patron	5	5	4	5	6	6	4	5	4
Life	131	109	111	108	111	110	99	102	104
Life magazine		29	28	31	28	32	30	27	24
TOTALS	576	585	574	585	570	567	520	520	520

This year has seen the implementation of a new database for individual members. A big thanks to Andy Howie for designing and implementing this at no cost to Chess Scotland (it only cost me a bar of chocolate and a smile!) This database has certainly streamlined processes and allowed easier access to pulling off reports etc.

Later this year that club database will be transferred to a new database which will help streamline the process even further.

We have seen the introduction of a new membership type with the new Student Membership currently set at the same rate as Juniors. This was after a heart felt plea from a player at university and agreed at Council.

The numbers have remained relatively steady this year and I am pleased to say that we have had a few players who haven't been members for a few year taking out subscriptions this year. All your support goes to the benefit of Chess Scotland so thank you!

Membership Secretary

As always I am open to any ideas on how to improve the service provided. I have been asked again this year about payment by direct debit and this is something I would need to discuss further with David to see if this is any way a viable option. It might also be worth exploring the recurring subscription method through PayPal previously mentioned.

Again I thank Andy and Dougie for their help and assistance through the year.

The Arbiters' Committee met in March. Full minutes are on the website.

It had been planned that a course for Arbiters would take place in April but unforeseen circumstances prevented this. I hope that the course will take place in the fairly near future. Anyone interested should contact either me or Alex McFarlane.

The new revised FIDE Laws came into force on July 1. There are quite a number of alterations but little that changes things drastically. No other changes are planned to the Rules Book which will be revised and made easier to use. We are also responding to FIDE proposals regarding arbiter qualifications; there are some issues which could make it more difficult to run FIDE-rated events in Scotland and these are being monitored.

The Arbiters' Committee was also involved in discussion and revision of the Richardson and Spens rules.

Ken Stewart

July 2017

AGM Report 2017 by Douglas Bryson – CS grading plus various

Grading System: The grading system has completed another season and the new 2018 season should be underway a few days after the date of this report. The grading task is a team effort involving over 40 area graders, the programmers and the chief grader. The main task of the graders is to correctly identify players and collate, process and display online the result data as accurately and promptly as possible. Apart from occasional computer glitches there have been weekly updates of latest rating data for well over a decade.

All area graders, tournament organisers, CS officials and patron members will receive a complimentary pdf copy of the new grading list by email. The pdf has been added to the online membership page as a purchase option. There is a small print run of pre-ordered copies (last time 70 copies) for those who prefer a printed book. There will be a limited number of copies available for purchase from the membership secretary. The print option will continue while there is sufficient demand and it is cost neutral.

The Alex Bisset (AB) program which was developed between 2002-2007 continues as the main grading program and the one downloaded by area graders. A new application developed by programmer Gordon Rattray was used throughout this season for the task of the weekly upload of the AB data to the online grading system, the monthly import of FIDE grades and FIDE result data. The application also ran calculations in parallel to the existing AB program and produced a display where the calculations differed. In most cases the discrepancies are out by one or two rating points and may be due to the method the existing program uses for rounding. The intention is to mirror the calculations exactly or be able to offer an explanation of why the differences occur before we are in a position to release the new application for general use.

Earlier in the season Gordon was awarded an honorary life membership by CS in recognition of over ten years support for the grading system. CS programmer Andrew McHarg's extensive overhaul of the website took place in April and continues to provide robust hosting of the online grading system.

Grand Prix: The Grand Prix concluded with the 2017 Scottish Championships in Dundee and prize distribution should start at the Marymass Congress. Thanks to Andy Howie and Fiona Petrie for organising prize distributions. Our sponsors Chessbase, New in Chess and Howard Wood's Chess Essentials Bookstall have all agreed to continue into the new season. The new e-mag will feature regular adverts from our sponsors.

FIDE Rating: As at July 1 there were 406 players with a main list FIDE rating, 67 with a Rapidplay and 185 with a FIDE Blitz rating. The latter figure is almost entirely due to a new series of Blitz events organised by David Clayton. One side-benefit of the blitz expansion is the increase in the number of players with a FIDE ID. Some clubs have not fully embraced that we really mean it when we ask that all players should get a FIDE ID before they play in a FIDE rated event such as the Richardson, Spens or SNCL. There have been ineligible players fielded in successive years in CS organised events. An email to grading@chessscotland.com along with the player's year of birth will enable us to add the player to the FIDE database (if eligible). We can only add players with a Scotland designation so if your player wishes to be registered with another country they must contact their home federation. There may be a cost if a player wishes to change their country designation later.

100 Club: The 100 Club lottery continues to produce a regular income for CS of about £500 annually. An annual payment of £12 buys 1 unit per month and 12 opportunities to win a prize. New units can be purchased via the online membership system. Latest and links to previous winners are listed in the news panel on the front page of the website as well as information on how to subscribe.

Calendar: Updates were made throughout the season in response to organiser requests to have their events listed and entry forms uploaded. Many congress organisers take advantage of the facility by which names of entrants are listed in the calendar. It can be an encouragement to others to enter if they see an event is popular. A modification is required for FIDE-rated domestic events in the calendar listings to reflect monthly rating updates – currently ratings are not automatically adjusted if the player is initially listed in the calendar prior to a new FIDE rating list.

CS International Director report 2016/2017

On the International front this past year we have seen Scotland represented at almost all of the major team events, both 'adult' and 'senior' – and we also had representatives in many of the individual World and European Championships.

Adult

Olympiad

Scotland sent two teams to Baku in Azerbaijan for the Olympiad, an Open team and a Women's team, and I managed to be there for the first half of the event as a 'coach/organiser', trying to make sure everyone was able to concentrate on chess as much as possible.

There was some funding given towards the cost of flights (I paid my own way) although several players very graciously did not accept the money offered.

The teams performed reasonably well and were in good spirits throughout the event. Highlights were day 1 when the Presidents of Azerbaijan and FIDE attended the Russia- Scotland match to officially open the Women's event, and the following day saw Scotland vs USA in the Open section which was chosen for the TV commentary.

Both Ali Roy and Kathleen Rutherford achieved the WFM title, while Andrew Greet was in the running for a GM norm for much of the tournament. I gained my FIDE Instructor title, although it meant missing the free day!

All our players acted in an excellent manner throughout the event and were also extremely helpful in the difficult organisation process. The next Olympiad is in Batumi, Georgia in 2018 and I would hope we can again field teams in both events.

European Teams Championship 2017

Although officially next season, in late October, the organisation for this event is well underway. We have entered a team in the Open section.

Although there is no CS funding for this tournament, I have managed to secure a grant from the ECU development fund which should cover about 40% of the accommodation costs and will be split equally among the 5 team members.

This follows some discussions which Andy Howie had with the ECU at the Baku Olympiad. It appears there is money available for certain smaller and less-well-funded countries and is something which we have to take advantage of in the current economic climate.

Jacob Aagaard has also graciously agreed to offer free places in a training weekend in early October for the five team members.

The team entry will be officially going in before the end of August deadline.

European Individual Championships, Minsk 2017

Scotland were represented in this event by Ketí Arakhamia-Grant and Alan Tate, who received CS funding for the registration and entry fees. All other costs were met by the players.

The Dundee 150 event which has recently finished was, by all accounts, a fantastic event. Having a very prominent International standard event, running alongside the Scottish Championships, and being reported on in sites such as ChessBase (thanks to Howard Wood) and with live internet coverage of the games can only be good for Chess Scotland in the international arena.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend, but the organising committee of Duindee 150 included me in their deliberations and I helped a little by securing the participation of two of the players. Should we have any such events in the future, I think the ID should be heavily involved and also attend the tournament if at all possible. My apologies for not making it back this time.

Senior

The senior Scottish representatives are, without exception, a credit to Chess Scotland and this year again they proved to be extremely helpful and well-organised. We sent teams and were represented by individual players in many of the year's events.

-European Seniors Team Championships, Novi Sad, Serbia

There was no real interest in this event given that the event was very late in being advertised and organised. Scotland did not send any representatives, but I would hope with better organisation for next year we can send teams to Slovakia.

World Senior Team Championships Crete, Greece

Chess Scotland sent two teams to this event, one in each of the 50+ and 65+ categories. Both teams performed well, finishing mid-table.

These events are generally organised by the players themselves, with my guidance and help if or when necessary. This works well in practice, but perhaps needs formalising a little more in case of a change in ID!

European Senior Individual Championships, Armenia

I may have made a terrible mistake with this event. I was under the impression it was being held in Armenia and we had no-one interested in playing, but have just noticed it starts soon in Spain. I have contacted Jim Webster for further information on this.

World Senior Individual Championships, Marianske Lazne, Czech Republic

There were 7 Scottish representatives in this event, competing in the Open 50+ and Open 65+ categories and we had some very good individual performances. There are also Women 50+ and 65+ events held so it may be something to look at in the future to see if we can have SCO representation in one or both of those also.

This year's event (2017) is already being organised, although the individuals can enter by themselves. I would like to formalise this process and ensure CS are aware of entries and can thus report back on the events. It will also be helpful, as mentioned, in case of a change in International Director.

European Club Cup, Belgrade

Edinburgh Chess Club took up the option to play this event in Novi Sad, performing well in an incredibly tough event. This year's event is to be held in Turkey in October and I will be contacting the clubs to see if there is interest.

Player eligibility and registration as SCO

This item will probably be a controversial one in some respects. Earlier this year I contacted Jacob Aagaard to offer him the opportunity to register under SCO, something which he had wanted to do last year but which I decided to pass on to the AGM. This led to him withdrawing his application.

Having felt I badly mishandled the situation last year, I contacted both Jim Webster and Andy Howie to explain what my plans were and they both supported my decision to unilaterally invite Jacob back into CS.

If anyone feels this was not my decision to make, I will happily discuss the details of my decision with them. However, I will not be publicly discussing the reasons for Jacob's return to SCO affiliation as there are private and confidential details involved.

Overall, I believe Jacob has both the right to SCO and also he has proved to be an excellent contributor to chess in Scotland in many areas and we should welcome his decision to return.

Budget

With finances being very tight this year in all areas, I will leave it to David Congalton to explain if we have spent too much (which I sincerely doubt). Again, with a very small budget we have managed to help players and teams wherever possible. Private sponsorship and funding, however, is the only obvious route to continue and expand our representation on the international stage.

I would like to thank all the individuals who have helped to make the role of International Director run as smoothly as possible, along with my fellow directors who aided me throughout the year.

I will take this opportunity to say that I am happy in this role, but still feel there is much improvement to be made – both personally and in CS on the international stage.

Andrew Burnett

(CS International Director) 01/08/17

Scottish Championship Director's Report

2016 Scottish Championship

The 2016 Scottish Championship was beset with problems. Finding a venue in Glasgow proved to be very difficult. The intended venue was more than twice the anticipated cost (based on a previous event) and other venues were not available. Glasgow Schools would not give a price until March and no booking could be taken unless janitorial staff agreed. One hotel wanted £2000 a day but might give a discount of up to 10% if 100 bedrooms at £150 per night were also taken!!

Another venue which would have been otherwise ideal had no intention of getting its faulty lighting repaired.

In the end a venue was found at Strathclyde University Students' Union. This however was not the end of the problems. The simultaneous closure of the main Edinburgh-Glasgow rail route and the Glasgow Underground adversely affected participation leading to a smaller than expected entry. The event would have been a financial disaster but for donations received.

Keti Arakhamia-Grant won the Scottish Championship.

The problem in locating premises at a reasonable cost must cast doubt on the plan to alternate the Scottish between Glasgow and Edinburgh with occasional trips to other towns or cities.

2017 & 18 Scottish Championships

Technically this year's event is part of next year's report.

Thanks to the provision of a free venue (paid for by an anonymous donor) and two others paying for GMs this year's event was a success. The Scottish Champion is Murad Abdulla who is the second youngest champion ever. The hoped for venue for 2018 has fallen through (though contrary to earlier info, it may be a possibility for 2021) and a venue in Edinburgh is being sought for the next 3 years.

Thanks to those who have made donations to the running of the Scottish, some quite substantial. Finally, thanks to all the arbiters and technical staff who have given freely of their time to make the Scottish the event it is.

Scottish Championship Director

It should be remembered that the Scottish is the only event in this country which provides norm opportunities. With luck we now have juniors coming through who will be looking to gain IM and GM titles. Indeed, Murad achieved his 2300 rating for the FM title at this year's Championship.

Marketing & Sponsorship Director report

AGM 2017

Firstly, I would like to start my report with an apology that I have not achieved what I would have hoped in the position.

Having said that I have made some progress in the past year

After the Scottish Championship in Glasgow 2016, I sent a brief report of the event to every TV station (local, national) Radio Station and newspaper in the country giving a general report and also highlighting key performances of their local players (if any), As a result I did receive a few replies, most favourably from Dundee area papers and I have kept local papers and local TV stations informed of other good results (mainly juniors) obviously with the recent event having been held in Dundee there has been a lot of work done by other people to secure relevant coverage.

At the same time, I contacted local companies in Tayside area with a view to acquiring sponsorship for the 2017 Scottish with very limited response. Alex and the Dundee local club were able to work together and did a great job.

I now have a database of contacts for media I can provide to my successor.

Other than media I also emailed a large number of local and national companies to discuss possible sponsorship, unfortunately responses have been poor, however I am currently working with MyCivilService (providers of discounts to civil servants), if we can agree an incentive, that they feel is attractive enough, then they will include us on their list of discount providers. This would give an opportunity to reach every civil servant in the country for a very small cost. I would be happy to continue to see this through to conclusion if this would help the new director. If we get to advertise with them we need to offer a discount membership for the first year (at least) it is the percentage of the discount that we need to agree on.

The big obstacle to overcome is the image of chess, potential sponsors need to be satisfied they are going to reach enough target audience to generate interest in their product/service. This is something that needs a lot of work, I think this is

Marketing Director

possibly what the next director will need to focus on. work needs to be done to rebrand chess to make it more attractive to sponsors, this is not something that will be achieved overnight but once done will make it easier to market to potential sponsors.

I have also contacted various organisations that offer grants and donations to check if we would be eligible, for most of these you need to fulfil certain criteria- the demographics of chess currently does not allow us to qualify. There are possibly a couple that I did approach but missed the deadline. One thing to note is that any funding received would most likely be ringfenced (e.g. junior training/ grants to buy equipment for visually impaired etc) In considering this we maybe need to discuss if we should/could become a registered charity

At the start of the year I also contacted a large number of schools (that do not currently show on active players lists) to make them aware of the new season, the new schools league, junior events and local clubs to try and encourage increased participation. Again, this is on a database for future use.

Through the year I have continued to send (occasional) updates to contacts to make sure the link remains open for future approaches

I wish the new director all the best and will continue to offer any help and support I can

Fiona Petrie

Marketing & Sponsorship Director

Home Director Report

July 2017

In writing this, my final Home Director's report I would like to reflect on the changes made and would like to think we have moved forward over the last two years.

CS Scotland events (Richardson, Spens Campbell Rose bowl Nancy Elder)

This year we introduced a player registration form to replace the Bona Fide requirement previously in place. As I'm sure everyone knows it was becoming more and more difficult to enforce the Bona Fide rule plus we needed a requirement to check for players FIDE eligibility and this form fitted both requirements.

All the CS tournaments ran without a major hitch although trying to pencil in dates for each round weren't easy. To crown it all a new tournament in the Scottish calendar meant we had to move the traditional final date. Unfortunately I forgot to factor in Easter Saturday (whoops!) and apologies for that.

It is notable that the Nancy Elder trophy has been missing for years. Rumour has it it is in Dubai. If Chess Scotland want to fund me going to Dubai then I'll happily do it. Otherwise I think we would require to purchase a replacement trophy.

There have been calls to introduce published team sheets (prior to each round) in the Richardson Cup and to a lesser extent, the Spens Cup. Personally I think it's a good idea but it can lead to human error, both from the captains, and from the arbiter. There would need to be a require from the arbiter to post the team sheets on the web site at a specific time and a whole new set of rules/penalties to be introduced for failure to comply . This would be a matter for the new home director to take up.

There has also been mention of introducing incremental time controls. Personally I have been convinced of their benefits but the problem facing Chess Scotland is implementing this without a proper non-playing arbiter on site during a match. To myself this would be an absolute must and we simply don't have enough arbiters combined with the working knowledge required to impose time penalties.

The only way round this would be playing all the ties for each round at a central venue which would then require the entry fees to be hiked up to cover the cost of such a venue.

Richardson Cup

Winner: Glasgow Poly

Runner up: Edinburgh

Spens Cup

Winner: Phones

Runner up: Bellshill

Campbell Rose bowl

Winner: Hamilton

Runner up: Edinburgh Civil Service

Nancy Elder

Winner: Jim Kleboe

Runner up: Tom Constance

MacIsaac Rapidplay

Prizewinners:

Open : 1st £100 CM Paul Roberts, 4.5/5 ,2nd £50 FM Alan Tate, 3.5/5

Major: 1st = £50 Keith Aitchison, Calum McGillivray, James Hartman 4/5

Chess Scotland decided this year to carry out a bold experiment, namely to launch its newest event, The National Rapidplay Championships. This was the culmination of two years thought of how we could resurrect the MacIsaac trophy, which would be awarded to the winner of the open section. After the success of the Chess Scotland finals, it was decided to also hold the Rapid play in the same venue, namely the Adam Smith Theatre in Kirkcaldy. We also decided to have two sections, a FIDE rated open and a non-FIDE major tournament.

The structure of the event proved to be a success although the entries only totalled to seventeen, a trifle disappointing but reasonable given the tournaments inaugural status. We also decided to charge £20 (£3 discount

Home Director (Open)

for CS members) in order to generate a reasonable prize fund and frankly we were also in uncharted waters as to who would turn up.

We also decided to use an incremental time control of twenty five minutes plus ten seconds. Again this proved to be a sound decision which yielded excellent games to watch with little threat of games lost in a time scramble. On to the tournament then. There were a few upsets with yours truly scoring an unlikely win against Willie Rutherford, but that result was overshadowed by the fine win by Stephen McQuillan against Alan Tate, which left Paul Roberts to win the tournament. Paul won £150, a keepsake trophy, the title National Rapid play champion and holds the MacIsaac trophy for one year.

The challengers section was impressive with all the games, like the open of a high calibre. The prize money was shared equally by Keith Aitchison, Calum McGillivray, James Hartman who all got £50 each plus a keepsake trophy. I took a personal delight in watching young James giving us all a masterclass in a complex rook and pawn ending.

Finally I would like to thank Chess Scotland for its support, and in particular Jim Webster and Andy Howie for their support both before and during the event. Thanks must also go to the staff at the Adam Smith theatre for their help and support during the day.

On a funny note the Labour party were having some event upstairs and Gordon Brown's security asked if he could pass through the hall during the tournament. They decided not to bother after hearing Andy Howie's reply!

In summary I have very much enjoyed my tenure over the last two years as Home Director and look forward to what the new Home Director will bring in. My thanks must go to the executive committee, as well as Douglas Bryson, Keith Rose and Bill Gray for their continued and much valued support over the years

Ian Brownlee, Home Director July 2017

PVG Lead

The procedures for PVG within Chess Scotland continue to operate smoothly. All applications for PVG sent to Volunteer Scotland in the season just completed, have been successful.

At present, the numbers on the CS PVG Lists are as follows :-

Coaches - 63

Chaperons - 22

Arbiters - 19

There are a number of Chess Club Coaches who have received their PVG through CS and it is proposed that an additional list is created on the CS Website showing the names.

Hamish Glen, Lead Signatory PVG