

Annual Report

CHESS SCOTLAND



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President

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 have been some major issues to deal with over the past year with the implementation of GDPR and the organisation, as host country, of the Glorney Gilbert International.

Directorships

It is yet again rather disappointing to see that the number of unfilled posts both on Management Board and Council remain unfilled year after year. The work required for these posts does not go away and these responsibilities must be taken up by those directors already in position.

Data Protection and GDPR

This year, May 25th to be exact, saw the change to data protection laws and the introduction of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). This resulted in a rethink and reassessment of the way Chess Scotland process personal data and the extended rights of individuals to have access to this information.

Considerable research was undertaken and eventually I was able to produce both a Data Protection Policy and a Privacy Statement adapted to the needs and operations of Chess Scotland. Both these documents are posted on the Chess Scotland website, under the Policy (new) menu option.

In addition, when we sent out club membership renews a shortened version of both these documents, specifically tailored for clubs and leagues, was attached to the club membership renewal circulation. The membership renewal document was also posted on the website News page (Oct.9th).

Any Chess Scotland club wishing copies of the Privacy Notice and Policy simply need to contact Chess Scotland (President or Administration Director).

Online & Proxy Voting

Once again Chess Scotland will be implementing online voting for members and Proxy voting will remain available for Clubs, Leagues and Affiliates not attending the AGM. Those who still have Proxy Voting will also receive an acknowledgement that their votes have been registered. All Proxy Votes must also be registered with the Executive Director prior to voting, whether the nominated proxy voter attends the AGM or not.

Richardson Cup

This will be the second year of the revised rule implementation and the rules have been fully updated and are available to view/download from the website.

Chess Scotland Activities

Scottish Championship: – Once again I would like to congratulate all the players and prizewinners that took part in the Scottish Championships at Paisley this year. Murad Abdulla not only retained his Scottish Champion title but took his performance to yet another level and gained his first



International Master norm. Many 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: - This has been a busy year for our juniors with a number playing in international tournaments, including the Glorney Gilbert International also in Paisley and immediately following the Scottish Championships.

Glorney Gilbert International 2018

Organising team - This was an immense task and the team was led by Ian Brownlee who put in a tremendous amount of work keeping things on track, negotiating with the other 5 nations, arranging transport, meals and accommodation with considerable help from Douglas Bryson and Hamish Glen. Ian even managed to rein me in, but that still didn't stop me creating numerous spreadsheets to keep data collated. David Congalton kept an eagle eye on finances and dealt with all the transactions from all nations.

The Tournament - Andy Howie, Alex McFarlane, Ken Stewart, Fiona Petrie, Simon Gilliam and David Clayton ensured that everything related to the play within the tournament hall during the main event ran smoothly and even managed to include a rather chaotic blitz friendly event on the Wednesday after was great fun for all, after the intense competition during the preceding days.

Players - I must congratulate all players for their impeccable behaviour and massive team spirit throughout – it was a pleasure to be part of this event.

Trainers and Coaches - This was indeed a tremendous team effort and every thanks must go to Andy Muir, Ali Roy, Hamish Olsen and Richard Jennings for all the time invested in advance preparation, guidance and analysis. I know everyone really appreciated it. Thank you one and all.

Digital Chess Clocks (DGT Offer)

At the FIDE Congress last year DGT made an extremely generous offer to Federations, via the FIDE Development Commission, to offer their clocks, DGT 3000 and DGT2010, at discounted prices. This discount brought these clocks well within the budgets of many of our chess clubs. Taking this under consideration and in agreement with the Management Board I took on the task of managing and processing this offer to our clubs.

The net result was that orders for 285 clocks were processed and delivered to all who applied. At one stage I even had all 6 packing cases in my house and then proceeded to repack into the various order sizes before distribution.

I do feel however that it was well worth the effort and benefited Chess Scotland and its members. Thanks also to David Congalton for processing all the collection and payment to DGT of the financial aspects of this task.

Complaint against Chess Scotland

Starting in April 2017, I received a formal complaint regarding “Discrimination due to Disability” from a specific individual.

Following this complaint, I started an investigation and reported the findings back to the complainant – regrettably this was deemed unsatisfactory and there followed a rather extended exchange of emails with the complaint originator, some of which contained rather personal



allegations against Chess Scotland. The complainant eventually decided to take their argument beyond Chess Scotland to the Equalities and Equal Rights Commission, who then contacted Chess Scotland. We had therefore no option but to instruct a solicitor to act on our behalf. Following the instruction and the production of all information Chess Scotland had available – including the correspondence from both sides of the complaint – a response was sent by our solicitor to the Commission.

Additionally, there was the financial impact of employing a solicitor incurred by Chess Scotland the cost of which was covered by a donation to Chess Scotland.

In October we finally received a response from the Commission stating that they would be taking no action against Chess Scotland and our solicitor confirmed that we had no case to answer.

I must however emphasise that Chess Scotland will not identify those concerned in this case and that the record is now sealed. Additionally, the full details will not be open for discussion by the membership. This is considered to be restricted to Management Board members only.

This must have been the most stressful occurrence of my tenure to date. I really did not appreciate being called a liar or for that matter being threatened with civil proceedings via the Small Claims Procedure in the Sheriff Court.

It is now time to move forward and put this behind us.



Admin Director

This is my first report as Administration Director (and member of the executive board) after a very eventful year. Unlike the Home Director role, this directorship hadn't been taken by anyone before and I really didn't know what to expect. As the home director role wasn't taken up it was decided to temporarily split up the role to the other directors and my task was to continue to run the Nancy Elder tournament which had sixteen entrants. It was a very successful tournament with the only blight in that it overran past the CS finals.

Back to the Admin role. One of my first duties was to co-ordinate the job descriptions for each of the CS directors and officers and this was accomplished in liaison with Jim Webster and completed at the end of last year. There were a few other minor tasks performed and I thought I was getting an easy time of it until March this year when I was asked as Admin Director to run the Glorney and Gilbert festival, mainly due to health issues experienced by Fiona at the time. I will detail the Glorney Festival in the next paragraph.

As the Glorney festival was being held in Scotland this year it would prove to be a massive undertaking. Recognizing this early on, the Management Board formed a committee of myself in chair, Jim Webster, Douglas Bryson, Alex McFarlane, David Congalton and Hamish Glen. Without this, or any committee, the Glorney wouldn't have taken place. I strongly believe in future such a major event requires a committee and I strongly recommend whoever is in charge in future adopts a similar strategy. One of the first challenges was the unexpectedly large increase in the number of ancillary supporters as well as the 120 players for each nation. We had to extensively search for accommodation and at one point we were looking at a secondary accommodation site necessitating the use of buses. Thankfully Paisley University came through at the last minute. The CS Glorney committee played to their strengths and each member played their part to the full. I would personally like to thank each and every one for their support and help. We also had a coach team of Hamish Olson, Ali Roy, Richard Jennings and, finally, Andy Muir. These trainers/coaches also organized sessions in Grangemouth, Dundee etc. which will hopefully become the norm. I am directly involved with this as Admin Director although we are hoping to have a Youth Development Officer in place to facilitate this. Team Shirts were sponsored and organized by Simon Shepherd (thank you Simon). We also secured grateful donations by way of sponsorship by Ecosse Doors, as well as a generous fund-raising effort by Chess Scotland members. Finally, the efforts of IM Craig Pritchett and SJCANET ensured we had the finances in place. For example, we were able to subsidise most of the junior food, accommodation and other costs (including shirts for non-playing team officials) I am sure David as Finance Director will answer any enquiries regarding the finances as well as any other helper. I must also thank the team Arbiters, namely Alex MacFarlane, Ken Stewart, Andy Howie, David Clayton, Fiona Petrie, Simon Gillam for their invaluable efforts during the event itself.



One of the main admin duties was to liaise and co-ordinate the flights, accommodation and food for the home and other nations. I enjoyed meeting new friends from aboard and received a gift from the Dutch federation.

As well as David I must give special thanks to Jim Webster for his guidance and support and not just for the Glorney. Douglas Bryson also must receive praise for keeping me in check and for his behind the scenes work, including going to meetings with me. Andy Howie as always with his wit (!) helped me as well as everyone else.

Ian Brownlee, Admin Director



Executive Director / FIDE Delegate

This has been a very busy year with the Glorney festival taking up a lot of time and I have to pay tribute to Ian and Jim for the absolute power of work that they did in making it the success it was. I was grateful that my role was defined as “the day to day running of the tournament” which although stressful and the cause of more grey hairs than I have ever had before, I was spared the logistics issues that they both had to face! Again I would like to thank my entire team for making everything go smoothly.

This year, after 4 years of trying, I finally succeed in getting an Anti-Cheating Committee formed in Scotland. Unfortunately, this has come about due to an allegation of cheating, for obvious reasons I can't go into further details as we are investigating at the moment. This now gives players, arbiters and organisers a vehicle if they have real concerns. I am hoping we are not going to be used very often, but at the minimum, we will be looking at the changes in FIDE and working out the best way for us to implement in Scotland.

As I move into my second decade as a CS Director, having completed 10 years already (9 as ED!) I have to look at the state of the game in Scotland. This ties nicely into the Olympiad in Batumi. Karen came with me as an accompanying person and as the commission meetings are held in Open Session (anyone can attend), she took the opportunity to attend a couple of the commissions I could not attend due to clashes. From this she picked up some interesting ideas from the Chess in Schools and Womens Chess Commissions.

We both attended the Development Commission and it is clear that Scotland is in Band 2 (there are 5 bands, Bands 3-5 get funded assistance) purely on the strength of our top players. Of the 5 criteria, we are failing on 3 of them and when our top players retire we will slip down to band 3. To put this in context, Europe has all countries bar 4 in bands 1 and 2. I don't think this is a good indictment of the state of our game!

Congratulations to Fiona Petrie for becoming Scotland's second ever FA!

During the meetings, I met with Arkady Dvorkovich, Nigel Short and our current Deputy President. Regardless of who won, it was important that we keep good relations.

The GA was interesting. I had been approached by several countries to stand for the Ethics Commission and had been nominated. A couple of things happened that made me remove my name (I had a really good chance of being elected). Between ourselves and the US, we managed to stop a harmful change happening in the competition rules that would have affected all (not just FIDE tournament). It only took a motion from me from the floor to reject the report in its entirety to get the change!

The Presidential elections were “different”. During the Finance report, there were two incidents of note. Firstly we had meltdown from Makro which resulted in him screaming into the mike “I have been fighting the Kremlin for the last 10 years” and later on Zurab managed to alienate the entire African Continent by telling them that as Europe were putting the most money into FIDE, we should not be wasting so much time arguing over what is going on in Africa! It was pretty clear at this point, Makro was not going to win.

This was further cemented during the presentations. Arkady gave a very polished presentation with some items that are of real interest to us, looking at ways to lower the burden on federations, lowering fees parents have to pay for kids to go to international tournaments, same for Veterans (Seniors) chess. It was an excellent presentation and if he can achieve 25% of what he aims to we will see a real change.



Nigel went next. Gave a really good speech starting with parody of Kirsan's speech in Tromso and attacked Makro setting a trap. At the end he announced he was withdrawing due to lack of votes and urged his supporters to vote for Arkady (I had an inkling this was going to happen after a chat with one of Arkady's people)

Finally, Makro gave his speech. It is hard to put into words, but it was a 10-minute rant at Nigel which resulted in a presidential candidate being booed for the first time that I can remember. There was no substance, no ideas, just rants! I turned to Alex Holoczak (The ECF asked if he can act as my councillor, I had no objection to that) as we agreed that Makro was unelectable.

I cast my vote as prescribed by the Management Board and thankfully, the correct person won. Only other thing of note, I was so disgusted at Zurabs antics, I registered a null vote at the European elections that night. I was not the only one!

Speaking to my fellow delegates, it became clear that the three incidents I mention above led to Makro losing. It was a swing of 13 votes if I remember correctly, I know of 6 people who changed their vote that day from Makro to Arkady and that does not take Africa into consideration!

There has been a seismic shift in FIDE with representation being more balanced instead of Euro Centric. This can only be a good thing.

Overall a good congress, I know Karen enjoyed herself in Batumi and saw the sights. She now knows that the Congress is not me going off on a holiday and was taken aback by the number of people who wanted to meet with me! We have a lot of friends in FIDE and I intend to keep it that way! One motion I am putting up for the next congress is changing Scotland's name to Alba. I am fed up of being at the back of the queue to vote!

I'll finish my report with my annual plea / rant. 95% of what happens in Scotland is down to 5% of the people. We need people to step up and take positions, become arbiters, organise tournaments. We get 0 funding from the Government and everything we do has to be funded through sponsorship, grading fees and membership fees. If we want chess to thrive in Scotland, we need you to help!



Finance Director

The past eighteen months has been a time of transition, as we try and move from being reliant on outside contributions and vulnerable when they are not forthcoming to being self-supporting through member contributions, annual fees received and other sources of income.

It has been a difficult year for everyone involved, as there hasn't been the resources we've had in the past with the grant from the government to provide the support for our international teams, our Scottish Championship or other events or activities which may have been subsidised in previous years.

While it has not been easy, all of the Directors and the overall majority involved throughout Scotland in organising events and running chess in the country have been understanding of the situation and supportive of the tough decisions that have had to be made. This positive attitude and the radical changes made to memberships and fees has assisted Chess Scotland in turning around the deficit of previous years to a surplus for 2017-18. We are on track this financial year, 2018-19, to see a similar surplus, however we are aware that there are one or two obstacles on the way which have to be addressed, such as the financing of the 2019 Scottish Championships.

This is our flagship event and is one of the oldest national chess championships in the world. It has recently been supported by a benefactor whose support allowed the Championships to feature GM's, Norm opportunities and International competition which had been missing prior to the intervention of the benefactor. We are most grateful for their support but all good things must come to an end and the Championships is now at a crossroads, where we all have to work really hard to maintain the event in its present form and even hopefully develop it further.

There is still work to be done on this and there are also other areas we can improve on. For example, the 100 club is one area where we could perhaps do better and have a bit more support from members who can afford to "donate" a pound or two a month, while maybe getting a wee boost back every now and then.

It is more than unfortunate that we are no longer getting support from the Scottish Government and while we fully intend to continue to operate within our own, self-generated means for the foreseeable future but we will also be making strenuous efforts in the next 12 to 18 months to promote our case for support with the Scottish Government and to explore any other avenues of external support that we may be able to tap into.

This won't be easy though and a large part of the problem is simply the resources and time we have available to pursue this properly. With only a dozen people or so, working to try and run Chess Scotland as smoothly as we can, many of whom have full-time jobs and/or families, it is difficult to find additional time to put in to what would possibly be a lengthy process. There is a surprisingly large workload spread across a small number and I'm sure everyone involved in the management team of Chess Scotland would welcome any assistance, big or small, from other members who can help to spread the load a little lighter.



International Director (Junior)

Since taking the role in 2017 I am pleased to report that we have seen an increase in the number of juniors participating in international events.

I must thank Andy Howie for his support in guiding me through the initial processes for international events.

A big thank you is also due to Ruaridh McKay, our disability officer, who has supported me and given a lot of his time to do an amazing amount of the admin work to assist me. Many of the players listed below would not have been able to participate if Ruaridh had not been on top of a lot of the admin for me.

I have listed below the details of juniors participation for the most recent events and it is good to note the number of younger players participating, I am hopeful that this trend will continue and we will see a stronger junior pool of players across all age groups in the next few years.

I am hopeful we will be able to send more juniors, and would especially like to see more girls participating in international events.

Thanks, are also due to the parents for their support and the players for their commitment.

For those who are still to compete I wish them all good luck.

Summary of players competing internationally

European Schools CC, Krakow, Poland (June 2018)

U15 - Jonathan McKay

EU Youth, Mureck, Austria (July 2018)

U14 - Kalyan Kante

European Youth CC, Latvia (Aug 2018)

U18 - Euan Dawson

U16 - Lukah Connolly Sams

U14 - James Hartman, Benjamin Ridge, Dietah Connolly-Sams

U12 - Alasdair Sandham

World Youth CC, Halkidiki, Greece (October 2018)

U16 - Sambhav Chadha

U14 - Jake Sanger

World Cadets CC, Santiago de Compostela, Spain (November 2018)

U12 - Sanjith Madhavan

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Annual Report

U10 - Ishan Kumar

If any player would like more information regarding international events please contact me .

Fiona Petrie
Junior International Director



Home Director (Junior)

After taking up the position last year I have formed a new junior home board to be responsible for making decisions relating to junior matters. The home board has met a few times and we have now developed a strategy for short term, medium term and long term objectives.

I have attached these for reference, some will require confirmation from the Man com before moving forward

I would like to thank those who have taken up positions on the home board for their input this year and the time and commitment they have given to helping re-establish this board.

The biggest event in the junior home calendar this year was the hosting of the Glorney, as this was organised by the separate Glorney committee I am not going to make much reference to this in my report.

However, the Home board were instrumental in assisting me to ensure we had coaches for all teams, coaching days organised and players selected as requested. While the results were maybe not as good as we had hoped the players gave 100% and I would like to thank them for this.

The coaches- Andy Muir, Ali Roy, Hamish Olsen and Richard Jennings put in a tremendous amount of time and effort and I think moving forward we will see the players develop and I am hopeful of a better performance in Ireland next year.

Liverpool 2018 is next on our calendar (December 7-9) and teams have now been finalised for this. As always, we are introducing a number of new players to the squads, especially in the u12 section. I am pleased to report that Richard Jennings will once again be traveling as coach with the players.

A further training day in Dundee has been planned and additional u12 coaching plans are underway.

The Girls event was held again in Aberdeenshire and thanks to NEJCA for facilitating this. I know there has been discussion about the need to hold this in the central belt to maximise numbers. The home board have agreed at least for the next year to continue with it as is.

Unfortunately, the year has not been without problems and one of these was the lack of Primary Individual event in June this year. This was due to venue problems initially and by the time a venue was possible it was too late to arrange. We are now looking to possibly restructuring this event away from the traditional weekend activity weekend that has been held in recent years in places such as Dalguise. We would still be looking to hold it in early June as traditionally performance at this has been a useful indicator of players for consideration for Liverpool

We are now seeing a number of juniors participating in events such as Bridge of Allan and Stranraer, while these are not CS run, this is encouraging as many of these juniors have only been playing events run by SJC. We had no way of assessing their ability, and they were not showing on our grading system. If this continues I am hopeful that we will soon have an increased pool of junior players appearing on the grading list. This will ensure moving forward that we can continue to develop our junior programme.

If anyone involved in junior chess in the West of Scotland would be interested in joining the home board please contact me.



I apologise I have not been updating details on the CS noticeboard as frequently as I had hoped, I will aim to improve this in the coming year – in the meantime any questions or concerns are welcome, at any time. preferably by email.

Fiona Petrie
Junior Home Director

HOMEBOARD OBJECTIVES

Establish and maintain a junior chess board meeting schedule on a 12-month rolling basis (SHORT).

Summarise the status of junior chess activity in Scotland (SHORT).

The CS junior board will agree an event and financial strategy, including a sponsorship strategy for submission to CS for approval within 12 months (SHORT).

Maximise the number of juniors participating in chess activities, including CS membership and quantify the numbers (MEDIUM).

Increase the number of volunteers supporting Scottish Junior Chess and quantify the increase (MEDIUM).

Achieve a publishable and sustainable junior competition and training event schedule within 5 years (LONG).

Achieve a level of support and financial sponsorship to secure the above junior competition and training event schedule (LONG).



Arbiter and Rules Director

The Arbiters Committee held its annual meeting in March. After a long period of service, Simon Gillam has retired from the committee and was thanked for his very useful work. John McNicoll has been added to the committee. Minutes of the meeting are on the website.

A FIDE course for arbiters was held by Alex McFarlane in February; this went very successfully. Anyone interested in participating in such a course should contact Alex or myself.

The new revised FIDE Laws were introduced in two stages, the current Laws being operational from January 1. Possibly the most significant changes relate to illegal moves.

Ken Stewart
October 2018



International Director

It's been a while since I managed to put a report together or attend a meeting in person, so my apologies for that – it's been a very busy time this year both chess and work-wise.

To catch up, I'll start off with the Olympiad in Batumi which finished a day or two ago.

(I have hyper-linked all the tournaments below with chess-results/ official tournament links, from where all detailed information can be obtained)

Adult

[43rd Olympiad, Batumi 2018](#)

Chess Scotland sent two teams to Batumi (one each in the Open section and the Women's section) , as well as our FIDE rep and Membership Secretary, Andy and Karen Howie, with Alex McFarlane there as an arbiter (and Jacob Aagaard as coach of India's women's team).

I managed to persuade Neil Berry to take the role of Open section captain (quite late in the day) and I focused on the overall logistics, as well as being captain/coach of the women's team.

Our teams didn't perform too badly, given that none of our GM's were available for the Open section (Keti playing for the women's team and scoring fantastically well with 10.5/11). We blooded three players; Murad Abdullah, Clement Sreeves and Caitlin Reid all playing their 1st Olympiads).

Roddy McKay also scored heavily, the rest of our players fighting hard but struggling to keep up with the level of competition which is steadily rising in the Olympiad. Quite what we can do, if anything, about levelling this somewhat is unclear.

A full Olympiad report with photos, games, etc will appear in this month's (October) CS magazine, which I hope to have out before the end of the month this time.

Funding

Partly related to the Olympiad and partly a general issue, it has to be said it is extremely difficult to compete when many other nations are backed by state and/or private sponsorship. For example, almost all teams (or so it seemed) were wearing 'uniforms', although the dress code was not invoked. It almost certainly will be next time round in 2020.

As a last-minute decision, I ordered team be made up in Batumi, although the nature of this meant that some mistakes occurred: t-shirts instead of polo shirts, a slightly wrong logo. The players are paying for this out of their own pocket (£20 per head) although there may be some chance of a sponsor covering the cost eventually.

CS received a subsidy equivalent to about 300 euros per head from the travel fund – a last minute 'election' boost from FIDE it would appear – although a rough estimate is that half of that will be kept by CS to pay for registration/FIDE fees the team owes for the Olympiad. Perhaps David C. can provide exact numbers when they become available.



Several 'smaller' nations boasted strong trainers, well-known GM's such as Dorfman and Gurevich up against us for example. Jacob, as mentioned, was paid to coach India's women's team – it's extremely difficult to compete at this level with no funding, something that is also dissuading our top players from playing on occasion.

What can be done about this is another question entirely, but being asked if there is anything available for the Women's World Championship (which Keti has qualified for, in November in Siberia) and having to reply, 'sorry, nothing' is wearing a bit thin on everyone involved.

Scotland's results should therefore be seen within this context – the players are doing the best they can with almost zero resources, but in, say, 10 years' time, losing to teams like Barbados could well become the norm rather than an upset.

Away from the doom and gloom (!) the squad gelled well and behaved as would be expected on international duty – no disputes or personal problems or dramas of any kind. Neil's presence was extremely useful in this respect, his level-headedness and experience definitely something that Chess Scotland should be looking to tap into. He also gained his FIDE Trainer's licence in Batumi.

[European Individual Championships, Batumi, 2018](#)

As mentioned in a previous report, both Alan Tate and myself played in this extremely strong event – also held in Batumi earlier this year. Although we both struggled, I would say that this event should be on the calendar for any aspiring master of the game.

[European Women's Rapid and Blitz Championships, Tbilisi, 2018](#)

Keti Arakhamia-Grant played this event, again in Georgia, held just after the one mentioned above, finishing 17th (seeded 32nd) in the rapid and 47th (again seeded 32nd) in the blitz. CS were unable to offer any financial assistance, but myself and David Congalton helped ensure Keti's entry was accepted at short notice.

Senior

The seniors have been busy this year, with more to come next month.

[European Seniors Team Championships, Poland](#)

As we always try to do, Scotland sent two teams to Walzbrych for this event – one each in the 50+ and 65+ sections.

The 50+ team finished in line with expectations in 10th spot, while the 65+ team excelled and finished clear 5th when seeded 7th. All of our players either equalled or exceeded rating expectations.

[World Senior Team Championships, Radebeul, Germany](#)

Once again we sent two teams out to this one, held in Radebeul close to Dresden. The teams did very well, the 50+ group finishing well ahead of seeding while the 65+ team just missed their seeded spot but actually performed better individually.

[World Senior Individual Championships 2018, Bled, Slovenia, 17-30 November](#)

There has been a lot of Scottish interest in this event and so far we have 10 players registered for it, as can be seen in the link above. I have been a little remiss in the organisation of this one (preoccupied by Olympiad



matters) and would like to thank Jim W. and the other players for keeping the plans for this together and helping with details of flights/hotels/registration etc.

Player eligibility and registration as SCO

I have been advised that one player may wish to change from Wales to Scotland and will be speaking to them soon hopefully. My main concern is that this player has seemingly raised legal action against the Welsh Chess Union concerning their non-selection for the International squad for the Batumi Olympiad. I would therefore like to take my time over this decision, and if need be call on board members to discuss it, for obvious reasons.

International Team Selection Procedures

I was contacted by two players unhappy at the selection procedure for the Olympiad, basically feeling that they ought to have been invited to play in the women's team. I outlined the process to them and advised them that in future they should be following this, or if unhappy then raising the issue at the AGM.

I have been told that both have been complaining about this publicly (at Congresses for example). If it becomes an issue, I would hope that the board support me in my decisions, which have all been done following the format and procedures we have in place, which as far as I know have been untouched since I took over as ID.

As always, if anyone has any questions relating to my report, please feel free to contact me and discuss matters.

Andrew Burnett

(CS International Director) 07/10/18



Scottish Championship Director

Report on 2018 Scottish Championship.

The 125th Scottish Championship took place from July 7-15, 2018 at UWS, Paisley.

For the first time in a considerable number of years no conditions were offered to titled players. This meant that the field was considerably weaker than it has been. Despite that one IM norm was achieved by Murad Abdulla on his way to defending his title.

Scottish Champion, Junior Champion and winner of the International Open

Murad Abdulla 8/9

Senior Champion Walter Buchanan & Roddy McKay

Girls' Champion Rachel Smith

Scottish Blitz Champion Murad Abdulla

Championships Rapidplay Winner Andrew Muir, Calum MacQueen

Quality Chess Championships Blitz Winner Mishra Swayams

The event was slightly marred by an incident in rd7. A player had been given permission in an earlier round to have a 'live' phone. Although in round 7 it was not live he still had it on him. His opponent complained. The Anti-cheating arbiter reject the claim of a win. This was supported by an Appeals Cttee. The player has reported it to FIDE but nothing seems to be happening there.



Grading Officer

Grading System: The grading system has completed another season and the new 2019 season is underway. Thanks to all area graders and others who supplied information throughout the season. Thanks to programmers Gordon Rattray and Andrew McHarg for their ongoing support.

All area graders, tournament organisers, CS officials and patron members should already have received 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 for those who prefer a printed book. The print option will continue only while there is sufficient demand and is cost neutral.

The pairing programs Swiss Manager and Vega are now being used by many events around the country. Graders at these events have asked if the output from these pairing programs can be used to supply grading data compatible with the Chess Scotland grading program for domestic results (these programs do currently supply correct format data for uploading FIDE results). At the moment the answer is no which means a duplication of the same work into both the pairing and CS programs. We intend to investigate if any progress can be made on this issue.

Junior Grading: There were extensive discussions with junior organisations in relation to how junior events were rated and pay for grading services. Previously all junior events had benefited from free grading. The outcome reached was that junior organisations receive “free” grading for all junior-only events in return for an annual affiliation fee, currently £50. Standalone junior tournaments plus those run at adult w/e events pay a per-capita charge currently set at 50p per player.

Grand Prix: The Grand Prix concluded with the 2018 Scottish Championships in Paisley and prize distribution is almost complete, although one winner has moved to India without a forwarding address. Thanks to *Chessbase* and *New in Chess* who have continued sponsorship into the new season. They are joined by new sponsor the publisher *Chess Evolution*. Interestingly all three sponsors are EU based and the CS negotiating team has managed to secure excellent deals with our European partners.

There is also a new bonus award of £200 supplied by another new sponsor the Scottish Crane company to the player who records the highest points total in any of the four adult GP sections. The total prize fund including CS cash awards, retail value of software, books and magazines amount to approximately £3,500. Thanks to Howard Wood’s Chess Essentials Bookstall for support in the previous two seasons. Thanks to those who assisted with prize distribution around the country.

FIDE Rating: As at October 1 there were 446 (413) players with a main list FIDE rating and 883 (814) with a FIDE ID (last year’s Aug 1 figures in brackets). CS views the expansion of FIDE rating as a welcome development to promote the game by offering almost all players a chance to gain a “world ranking”. The new FIDE president elected at the Batumi Olympiad in September made a campaign promise to cut or eliminate rating and affiliation fees. Political promises are of course not set in stone but it would provide some direct benefit to CS FIDE rated events and FIDE rated weekenders if this comes to fruition.

100 Club: We had a publicity drive earlier this season to boost numbers in the 100 Club lottery. Numbers are currently (October 2018) at 94 units but have still never reached that named total of 100. The income generated for CS is approximately £500-550 annually, the same total is returned in prizes. 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 winners 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. One recent event requested a calendar listing on a date which was already occupied by an existing congress. Since the original calendar entry had been in place for almost a year the new event was not given a calendar listing until the established event had secured required entry numbers. Both events took place successfully but there is a limited pool of players for w/e events and clashes should be avoided.

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. Webmaster Andrew McHarg introduced the modification mentioned in last year's report such that the calendar listings now reflect monthly rating updates in FIDE-rated domestic events – previously the calendar would “stick” with the rating which was valid at the time the player was added to the calendar, which may not be the valid rating when the event starts. The same problem had affected August events on the annual changeover of CS ratings.



PVG Report

The procedures for PVG within Chess Scotland continue to operate smoothly. All applications for a PVG Scheme Record sent to Volunteer Scotland to act on behalf of Chess Scotland, since the CS AGM in August 2017, have been successful.

At present, the numbers on the CS PVG Lists are as follows :- (August 2017 figure in brackets)

Coaches - 68 (63)
Chaperons - 23 (22)
Arbiters - 19 (19)

A number of Chess Club Coaches have received their PVG through CS. It is proposed that an additional list is created on the CS Website showing the names of clubs who have such members in this category.

Hamish Glen, Lead Signatory PVG; Steve Mannion Senior, Additional Signatory PVG



Membership Secretary

This year has seen the transition from 2 types of membership (Full and Basic) to a single tier membership and I am pleased to report that this has not had an adverse effect on numbers. The following is a break down from 2009 to date.

Full	Apr 2009	Apr 2010	Apr 2011	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Apr 2014	Jul 2015	Jul 2016	Jul 2017	Oct 2018
Adult	156	153	151	155	161	162	145	139	127	275
Under 17	9	5	6	2	1	6	6	17	22	64
Under 14	13	11	11	10	17	14	11			
Student										13
Family Adult	20	28	22	22	23	22	25	23	23	23
Family Junior	2	2	4	4	2	2	4	11	11	17
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	2
Life	131	109	111	108	111	110	99	102	104	141
Life Magazine		29	28	31	28	32	30	27	24	
Totals	576	585	574	585	570	567	520	520	520	535

Simplifying to consider the new membership structure we see the following

	Apr 2009	Apr 2010	Apr 2011	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Apr 2014	Jul 2015	Jul 2016	Jul 2017	Oct 2018
Adult	359	373	360	381	356	356	336	316	305	298
Junior	81	69	71	60	69	63	51	70	83	94
Patron & Life	136	143	143	144	145	148	133	134	132	143

We have gained 13 new life members this year, almost 1 a month. Membership is holding strong even after the changes which is what we all hoped we would see.

I am aware of a few people who stopped renewing after the change to online magazine, but in general the feedback I have had has been positive.

I still have two areas of concern, the first is around clubs. In September, I sent out the Club Membership Renewals and it appears not all clubs have received this. I strongly suspect that clubs are not updating me when they change Secretary and the forms are going to the wrong people (I know this for a fact for at least one club, the previous person sent them on and I have heard nothing since). I would ask all clubs if they have not received the forms to check that I have the correct details.

My second concern is around paypal payments. Despite having notices up, people still do not let me know who they are paying for if it is not obvious from the email address. I have asked Andy to look into if there is a way to fix this and he is going to, but again, please can I ask people when they are paying by Paypal, if it is not obvious who the person is that you are paying for, you let me know (ie parents paying for juniors).



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Annual Report

There have been more requests this year for people paying by BACS, this is something that David and I need to discuss to find the easiest way forward.

As always, I'd like to thank Andy, David and Dougie for their invaluable assistance this year.

Karen Howie
Membership Secretary



Disability Officer

Many thanks to all who have given me the opportunity to serve as Disability Officer for Chess Scotland this past year. This has been a year for taking the time to get to know people and for people to get to know me. I have been getting to grips with FIDE definitions of disability and how this compares with our own current national understanding of disability.

I have been getting to know my colleagues at Chess Scotland alongside getting to know the job. I met with Steve Hilton when possible to learn about IBCA and his involvement with more UK-based organisational structures for blind & visually impaired players. As I write, he is down in Bulgaria with the UK team there.

I eventually made successful contact with SCDAD, our national chess association for deaf players, which was a much harder job than I initially anticipated! Eventually establishing contact with Ian Carmichael has been very rewarding and he has communicated a keenness to re-strengthen links with Chess Scotland. I am making a personal commitment to learning and passing British Sign Language Level 1 this coming year through evening courses. I was able to just get by when I went down to support our SCDAD boys at the 10th ICCD Olympiad just past which was down in Manchester. It was a very tough shift against strong teams but on the Saturday I experienced good banter and healthy spirits despite this and I look forward to getting to know some of our deaf Scottish chess players better in the coming year once my BSL language skills improve.

I am always open to new ideas on how to get better feedback on disability in Scottish chess. I put together a feedback form template and received positive feedback from Chess Scotland colleagues that I shared it with. Further discussion on how best to utilise the template would be welcomed in the coming year. I also submitted an article to Chess Scotland magazine earlier this year on my role. Much of the experience with disability from my day job is to do with the term in its broader sense and I have welcomed the opportunity to support Chess Scotland with issues beyond sensory disability when required.

This is a role which has needed time to build relationships and understanding and I am happy for the opportunity to continue in it as per the wishes of Chess Scotland.



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Annual Report

Standards Committee



Anti-Cheating Committee

The process and procedures of the Anti-Cheating committee was agreed at the September 2018 board meeting. As such this is a short report as we have only been active for a matter of months.

This now brings us in line with the aims of Anti Cheating procedures with FIDE. Chess Scotland has purchased a couple of hand scanners and three of our more prolific arbiters have their own so we will be covered for both CS and FIDE regulations concerning our FIDE rated tournaments.

To date we are investigating a single case and I am in the process of filling the committee. Two members have agreed to serve and the three of us are forming the first Investigation Chamber.

The procedures will be published on the website, but from a high level, the committee, after investigating a complaint, will submit a report to the management board who will determine based on the evidence presented if there should be any action to be taken.

Over the next few months, I will inviting others to join this committee. The hope is that we will not have to be used very often!

Andy Howie
Chair Anti-Cheating Committee



Inventory Report – October 2018

In accordance with the Constitution

11. Property and Finances

11.3. An inventory and valuation of the heritable and moveable property belonging to Chess Scotland shall be constructed at the direction of the Finance Director annually and shall be laid before the AGM.

This report is a compiled inventory of the Chess Scotland equipment, and is summarized below. The detailed inventory also contains serial numbers of all clocks, but these are omitted for this report.

Replacement costs are based on current market values.

Clocks

DGT XL	39	£64.99 = £2,534.61	(see notes 1 and 2)
DGT 3000	76	£89.95 = £6,836.20	
Saitek Game II	35	NIL	(see note 3)
Analog	33	NIL	(see note 4)

Value of Clocks held £9,370.81

Chess Sets

Pieces	145	£9.99 = £1,448.55
Boards	147	£9.99 = £1,468.53

Value of Boards + Sets £2,917.08

DGT Live Equipment

Sensory Boards + Pieces	7	£625.00 = £4,375.00 (estimated value)
Interconnects	8	£100.00 = £800.00

Value of Live Board Equipment £5,175.00

Total estimated Value of equipment owned and held by Chess Scotland £17,463.10

Notes:

1. One faulty, but repairable, DGT XL included in numbers listed above.
2. DGT XL clock is no longer available, cost shown is for the lowest cost replacement (DGT 2010)
3. Saitek Game II clocks are no longer available, and their operational condition is currently unknown.
4. Analog Clocks are untested and operational condition remains unknown.