

# Annual Report

CHESS SCOTLAND



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## President

### Management Board

The Management Board, owing to the current COVID-19 situation, has suspended its policy of meeting on a regular basis during the current year. When these meetings resume the minutes will once again be posted on the Chess Scotland website. I however would like to thank all directors for their commitment and enthusiasm in their respective remits over the past year.

### COVID-19

This has continued to ravage the Chess Scotland calendar with events cancelled or postponed, not only for formal Chess Scotland events but league and club chess across Scotland. I look forward to some semblance of normality and the resumption of OTB chess sooner rather than later, but I am not holding my breath just yet.

I will continue to post updates on the Website as, and when, new information becomes available.

### Directorships

#### 1. International Director

Jacob Aagaard was elected as International Director and I would like to thank Jacob for taking on this position. Under the current conditions, however, that we held only two tournaments. Jacob managed the selections, and I provided the administration interface between FIDE organisers and Chess Scotland. Both these events have been extensively covered by Andy Burnett in Scotland Chess E-Magazine (April & August 2020).

##### a. World Seniors – Prague

Chess Scotland submitted 3 teams, 2 for the 50+ age group and 1 for the 65+ age group.

Open 1 (50+) – Bryson, Douglas M : Farrell, Neil : Grant, Jonathan I M : Andy Burnett

Open 2 (50+) – Robertson, Ian : Stevenson, James : Aird, Ian : Grant, Glynis

Open (65+) – Jamieson, Peter : White, Alastair : Scrimgeour, Alan : Levy, David N L : McKerracher, Douglas

As things evolved the event was unfortunately terminated at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> round with COVID-19 concerns and for the safety of the players.

##### b. FIDE Online Olympiad 2020

Scotland was placed in Division 3 of the Olympiad and was represented with players in 4 categories plus reserves for all boards

Team : Andrew Greet, Alan Tate (C), Keti Arakhamia-Grant, Suzie Cooke, Murad Abdulla, Monica Espinosa,

Reserves: Ian Gourlay, Declan Shafi, Alice Lampard, Ali Roy, Declan Shafi, Sarah Smith

It is the credit to all players who played and every player was represented at some stage during the Division 3.

Scotland then achieved the distinction of qualifying for Division 2, including a pairing against the England. Once again, all players played a part in Scotland's performance.

I would like to thank Alan for stepping up as team captain and organising board selections and the Zoom meeting that were integral to the functional of the events.

#### 2. Home Director – Junior



Harry Marron was appointed for this position and his report is published separately. I would also like to thank Harry for taking on this position.

### 3. International Director – Junior

Ruairidh McKay was appointed for this position and his report is published separately. I would also like to thank Ruairidh for taking on this position.

### 4. Coaching and Training Officer

Chess Scotland have identified the need a need to fill this position and an appointment will be made in due course.

### Data Protection and GDPR

Chess Scotland will continue offering support ongoing to clubs, leagues and congresses with the availability of a shortened version of both GDPR and Privacy documents.

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

### Chess Scotland Activities

1. **Scottish Online Championships:** – I would like to congratulate all the players and prizewinners that took part in the Scottish Online Championships. I would also like to thank the players for their hard work without whom such an event could not be the success that it was. I would like to recognise the tremendous amount of work put in by the organisers, particularly Andy Howie (and Karen) who acted as Arbiters and organisers.
2. **Juniors:** - This has been a busy year for our juniors with a number playing in international tournaments, including the Glorney Gilbert International, this year going Online for the first time. The annual Liverpool Quadrangular is not taking place this year but is Chess Scotland will be taking part in the Celtic Nations Online Junior Team Invitational 2020. Preparations are now well under way.  
I am not going to say too much about these events as I know the Junior Directors will cover this under separate reports.
3. **Glorney Gilbert International - Online 2020**
  - a. **Organising team** - This was well organised event and led by Ruairidh, Harry and Andy who put in a tremendous amount of work keeping things on track, negotiating with the other participating nations to ensure a successful event. Once again Andy Burnett produced another excellent report, and is available in the Scotland Chess E-Magazine (August 2020)
  - b. **Players** - I must congratulate all players for their impeccable behaviour and massive team spirit throughout. In many cases being well out-graded but never giving up and putting their all into every game.

### Eligibility

The Working Party, set up by the 2019 AGM, has completed its deliberations and a proposal in ready for the first opportunity to present its findings to the membership. I have taken this into consideration, and the



consensus of Council is that it will need to be scheduled for the first available face-to-face meeting of Chess Scotland.

In accordance with the announcement of the website we will present the proposal and its findings at the forthcoming AGM, whenever that will be. We simply need to overcome the COVID-19 restrictions first.



## Admin Director

### **Richardson / Spens Cup 2020**

The Home Director, Harry Marron, asked to run the Annual Home Tournaments as he had now taken on the role of Junior Home Director. However due to the COVID-19 virus, both tournaments were at first suspended, then cancelled. It is most unfortunate that this has happened and the general collapse of other over the board events is concerning. If there is interest in an online Richardson/Spens cup, then please contact me. We could run a tournament with 45 minutes plus 15 second increments or longer

### **Scottish Championships**

In the absence of a Championship Director, I temporarily took on this role and with help and guidance from Douglas Bryson, Alex MacFarlane, Jim Webster and David Congalton, Chess Scotland secured the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. Arbiters were booked, the venue secured and we started receiving entries from abroad, as far afield as Israel and Europe. Then COVID-19 put a spike on that as well and it had to be cancelled. We have been offered the same venue for the same price next year if feasible. As a small consolation Andy Howie ran a Scottish Online Championships, which was very successful.

### **Online Chess**

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus I have been helping Over The Boards clubs to create their own clubs on chess.com and these clubs have been running weekly tournaments as well as playing each other both on live club and individual events Chess.com also offered their "free" accounts to create clubs and tournaments over the summer but I honestly don't know if this is still the case. Anyone wishing help on setting up online clubs please contact me directly.

### **Training**

In the absence of a Training Officer (there is a recurring theme here) I took up this mantle and formed a committee including two directors, Ruairidh McKay and Harry Marron. We have a plan in place for a training strategy for both adults and juniors with a training manual at the core of this and communication with other organisations so we can provide support for anyone, adults and juniors and fix a training structure. If anyone will like to get involved with this, then please contact me.

### **Scottish National Online Chess League**

At the time of writing I am in the process of setting this up, although there is a lot of initial admin so forgive me about the time taken to compile it. There have already been announcements on the forum, and I will continue to inform you as we go along. The consultancy period is almost over so I am in the process of structuring it. I have been asked by the President to stipulate and emphasise that this is a purely personal enterprise and nothing at all to do with Chess Scotland. I thought this was already absolutely clear since I don't use the admin director email address with it. I was considering using the CS logo at the top of the page but I realise now this is not an option and I will use an alternate logo at the top of the website and probably create a specific organisation for this which I have already discussed with the new committee as I have already set up a small committee in a personal capacity and if anyone wants to help out, they would be most welcome.



Finally, I would say that although Over The Board chess (OTB) and local OTB clubs may be in hibernation I am fully expecting everything to be much better in the next twelve months. In the meantime, we can enjoy the benefits of online chess, which I feel will be a permanent if not exclusive part of our chess enjoyment in the future.



## Executive Director / FIDE Delegate

It is difficult to know where to begin with this year, so much has happened and the landscape is constantly changing. The year started with both Jim and I being out of action due to illness and we have been upside down with the pandemic ever since.

The Working party have met and given their recommendations on eligibility, the SGM was planned for my return from Russia, but world events took over very quickly. I'd like to thank them for the hard work in producing the document and look forward to finally putting this to bed when we can finally have our AGM.

With the pandemic came many decisions about what to do with Chess in Scotland. We didn't want to go into suspended animation waiting for the pandemic to clear, but still offer something for the chess players of Scotland. Given it is a large task to cover everything, I agreed to cover tournament and Ian agreed to cover leagues.

I know Ian is busy working with the leagues and organising an Online Scottish National League so I will leave that to Ian to cover. So far Karen and I have run 9 tournaments with 2 in plan for this month. Next month we will probably run 1 as the calendar is quite packed with the British Championships. In parallel, we also have the Scottish Chess Tour which run every month, first weekend by David Clayton and John McNicoll. I offer assistance, support and run the anti-cheating side of it but the credit is down to them.

Online chess is here to stay. It will never replace OTB but if there is one thing I have learned from this experience, it is the benefits of it. I am now working tournaments in multiple countries (sometimes on the same day!) so now have a wealth of feedback. The overwhelming feedback is that they want this to continue but not at the expense of OTB (which I totally agree with). The some of the reasons given by people who have kindly fed back include, unable to travel to tournaments due to location and illness and being able to play in inclement weather. One of the detractors seems to be the idea that cheating is rampant. We have very strict anti-cheating protocols that have developed with experts in FIDE and have proven so far to very robust. For obvious reasons I can't go into detail about what we do but I think it is fair to say, if you cheat, we are going to catch you!

Ideally, I would like us to introduce a new grade to our grading system to encompass online, but that is a few years away so for the moment we are using the Allegro grade.

Early this year Fiona Petrie had to stand down on health grounds. We thank her for her service and wish her back to full health as soon as possible. Harry Marron agreed to take on Junior Home and Ruairidh McKay took on International Junior. I cannot thank them enough, both have been fantastic and kept me on my toes! I really hope both want to continue in post beyond the AGM as they bring a great deal to the Management Board.

From a FIDE/ECU not a great deal has been happening due to the pandemic. We have a GA and ECU GA scheduled for December.

With the work I do with Anti cheating, we have developed a close and welcome working relationship with the ECF. I am grateful to our counterparts there for the excellent sharing of ideas we have had the last few months and I'm keen to keep this going.



**CHESS SCOTLAND**  
[www.ChessScotland.com](http://www.ChessScotland.com)

# Annual Report

Finance Director



## International Director (Junior)

### **Glorney Festival**

I would like to pay tribute to the hard work of Alex Holowczak and Andy Howie and others making this happen online this summer in the context of the recent global events. This was a tournament in which despite no face-to-face contact, there was a good team spirit and a pride in playing online chess in the right way. There have been many problems recently across the globe with regard to fair play since over-the-board play ceased in March. Fairness and honesty as the mark of a Scottish junior player is great national attribute to have and we have done well this year in the Glorney with regard to that. The Belgians replaced the French this year and they were a welcome addition to the tournament.

### **ECU European Youth Championships**

There were many different preparations put in place in order to secure the ECU-requested venue at which we could maintain social distancing. In the end, despite having a venue ready to go, the “rule of two households indoors” put in a place a week before our tournament stopped us from going ahead at a central venue. All our participants were required to have an external webcam connected to their laptop as extra security with regard to fair play.

After one or two results didn't break our way at the Glorney, I was wondering how things would go in the European Championships. I need not have worried. A great atmosphere to the Scotland camp over the weekend from young people and parents accompanied some rather phenomenal results with Frederick Gordon equalling our best Open performance ever in the European Youth Championships at 5/9. Meanwhile, the girls went one better with Ashley Tandon beating our best ever girls' performance posting 4.5/9 whilst Nivedita Suyal deserves a more than honourable mention for equalling it with 4/9. It was a Scotland performance that gives me great optimism for the future in both the open and girls' sections. I would like to pay tribute to Andy Howie for his hard work liaising with ECU arbiters amongst all other things. This provided the platform of support for our juniors to go and achieve what they did.

### **Celtic Nations Team Invitational**

Due to Peter Purland signalling to me that the Liverpool Quadrangular would not go ahead due to the ongoing pandemic, I am grateful to my International Junior counterparts in the Irish, Welsh and Jersey federations for consideration of my proposal of an alternative invitational team online tournament. Scotland squads have now been selected and this tournament aims to go ahead on the 5th and 6th of December.

### **FIDE World Cadets & Youth Championships**

There has been a selection made for the European Qualifying tournament for these World Championships. This will be happening on the 7th to 9th of December.



## **International Junior Development & Training**

There was an International Junior Squad Training Day before the Glorney Festival and we also aim to have one the weekend before the Celtic Nations. I believe there is potential to ensure that young coaching talent is nurtured within the Chess Scotland set-up and that developing a framework to allow for their development as coaches is crucial as part of validating their value and skills within the Chess Scotland community. This needs to be a key strategy of any development of coaching infrastructure going forward. Coaching quality needs to be looked after and supported.

## **Summary**

I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor Fiona Petrie. I have found out since being asked to take on the role just how busy it is. I have fully appreciated the opportunity and pleasure to work alongside Harry Marron as Home Junior Director and I believe that there is clear vision on the way forward for junior chess across both of us. I have since starting the role, made it a priority to develop working relationships with elite juniors and their families as part of ensuring they have as much support as our federation's resource can provide for their development as chess players.



## Home Director (Junior)

Despite all that's going on, competitive chess play amongst juniors appears stronger and healthier than for some considerable time. Several recent (juniors only) online events have attracted 100+ competitors. The decision taken by CS management board to grade these events on the allegro list has undoubtedly assisted in improving the numbers playing. Promotion of these events by grassroots regional organisers has also had a positive effect.

The benefits of keeping kids engaged in the game at a time like this is of huge importance. For most part children have been increasingly driven indoors and are looking for something constructive and educational to do. Chess ticks all the boxes. The growth in numbers joining available online platforms tells us all we need to know. We have to build on the momentum generated over the past 6 months, as there remains huge potential for growth in the game throughout Scotland.

Having been invited to take on the vacant director post in March 2020 I quickly reformed the Home Junior Board which had not met since before the AGM 2019.

The board were pleased to have the new International Junior Director Ruairidh McKay also join us in the summer.

The Board has formed 3 sub groups:

- 1 Tournaments and Events
- 2 Funding and Resourcing
- 3 Strategy & Development (statistical analysis)

Much of the progress made this year has been as a result of members of the junior board leading on these groups and taking on additional responsibilities. My thanks go to them for making this possible.

It's hoped that these 3 groups will combine their work into the formation of a draft strategy for junior chess in Scotland.

Earlier this year it became apparent that competitive chess wasn't going to be possible in an over the board format. A Tournaments and Event group (Lead: Harry Marron) was established to produce and co-ordinate online opportunity for young people to play competitive graded games. (Thanks should go to in particular to Andy Howie for arbiting and screening PGNs on such a huge number of games and tournaments.).

Combined with other regional events and those organised by Scottish Chess Tour the result has been a busy and exciting competitive fixture calendar. This in turn has led to a robust and meaningful grading list, allowing the international junior selection committee to make considered decisions.

The funding and resourcing of junior chess to an adequate level has been a difficulty for some years. A sub group has been established to look again at this issue in terms of what is actually needed by way of dedicated financial support to juniors and also how to source it. (Lead: Steve Sarawyn)

The junior board has also made it a priority to establish what is actually important when it comes to developing junior chess in Scotland. In order to answer some of these questions we plan to take a statistical approach to answering questions. This process is still in early stages, but we have to separate fact from myth before we can move to a strategy for junior chess in Scotland that will actually make a positive difference.



(Lead: Mark Sanger).

In summary, I feel we have made good progress in a difficult year. Chess as an activity has been forced to become predominantly online. Young people do not seem to have great difficulty playing in this format and as an organisation we need to embrace this and view it as a huge opportunity to grow the game. There are some very skilled and knowledgeable people in Scottish chess that can help make this happen and I look forward to working with them in the future.



## Arbiter and Rules Director

This will be my first report for an AGM and I feel it is appropriate that we note the difficulties that have been encountered during 2020. The loss of Ken Stewart nearly 2 years ago was a difficult time for all of Chess Scotland and it is only with the help of International Arbiters Alex McFarlane and Andy Howie that I was convinced to take on the role of Arbiter & Rules Director.

Some background to my being involved in the Arbiters' Committee may be appropriate here as it was Ken who suggested many years ago now that, as I and others had been vocal in suggesting that the arbiters at lower levels were being overlooked in terms of information and support, I be involved in the committee and he felt that I should chair it. This may seem at first glance a strange choice but as Ken was doing most of the work in terms of agendas and collating information it was really only chairing a meeting once a year while making committee decisions as required, usually agreed by email these days, so it was not an onerous task. This is undoubtedly true when you consider the people who served on the committee in my time who by and large were active arbiters and who were the people who had ideas to improve things even when sometimes not being helped by FIDE decisions.

The Committee met earlier in the year and it should be noted that we are currently still working on updated guides for Arbiters and Tournament Organisers.

We are determined to increase the number of active arbiters while trying to improve the quality of the ones already in place. We are currently looking at the make-up of the committee due to availability of some of the members currently in place but hopefully that will be resolved by the time of the next meeting.

Earlier in the year Andy Howie was given the honour of being Deputy Chief Arbiter at the Candidates Tournament in Ekaterinburg. It is good that Scottish arbiters like Andy and Alex McFarlane are held in such high regard in FIDE and with the committee posts they hold.

We had submitted FIDE Arbiter title claims for both myself and John McNicoll but nothing has happened yet and Andy Howie has been in the process of resubmitting these as they appear to have been overlooked or lost when FIDE moved offices.

2 arbiters were added to the Chess Scotland list earlier in the year: David Clayton (in recognition of the work he does in Scotland) and Morven Petrie.

COVID-19 has had a crippling effect on all chess activities but thanks to the efforts of Andy Howie, John McNicoll and David Clayton there has been plenty of online chess for players to enjoy and they should be roundly applauded for the efforts they have made. I have offered my help but clearly they don't need it! Probably just as well as my time has been limited by other commitments.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to all the members of the Arbiters' Committee for their efforts and all who have tried to keep chess running under the most extreme circumstances.



## Home Director

The season has obviously been massively disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Credit should go to the people involved in the Scottish Chess Tour for providing a series of graded, competitive events utilising online platforms.

1 Team Lightning Championship - Cancelled

2 Richardson/Spens/Nancy Elder These tournaments all started in fine fashion but were eventually postponed. A decision was taken subsequently to cancel both the Richardson and the Spens. The Nancy Elder (having reached the semi finals stage) remains postponed but not as yet cancelled. However the outlook for completion remains bleak at the time of writing. My thanks goes to Ian Brownlee who agreed to organise both team competitions this year.



## Grading Officer

### Grading System

The COVID-19 crisis has had an immediate and ongoing effect on the grading system. By June 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 when the end-season grading list was compiled the number of results processed by graded players in the main system was reduced by 25% from the previous year. Fewer results means grades of players and in particular junior players may not reflect change in playing ability. As mentioned in the grading list preface it is unlikely a period of enforced inactivity will have a major impact on adult playing strength. However junior grades are not stable and without data or sufficient quantity of data the grades will not keep up with true strength. There are some adjustments possible to move grades more quickly to a more appropriate level e.g. higher additions. These will be announced once the situation is clearer. Thanks to all area graders, tournament organisers, club and league officials plus individuals who supplied information and grading data throughout the restricted season. Thanks to programmers Gordon Rattray and Andrew McHarg for ongoing support.

All CS members can download a free pdf of the grading list from the “Membership” menu on the front of website. There was a small print run which was costed at break even.

### Allegro Grades and online play

Once the impact of the crisis was understood and that OTB play was unlikely to resume quickly the possibility of grading online play was considered. The decision was taken to process online events for the allegro system (not the main grading system) and only after the PGN of every game had been screened through “fair-play” checks. There will be further consideration given to the long-term use of online play in the grading system once more normal conditions return.

### Fees

The COVID-19 break in activity has reduced all unpaid grading fee invoices to just one outstanding for an amount under £20.

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### Grand Prix

The cessation of tournament play in March meant there were no further opportunities to add Grand Prix points to the totals already accumulated at that date. Congratulations to the winners who should now all have received their prizes. With no tournament circuit at which to present the prizes many thanks to all CS officials and others who assisted with the extensive country-wide distribution task. Some prizes had to be posted and so far there have been no reports of non-receipt.

Many thanks to sponsors Chessbase, New in Chess and Chess Evolution and Scottish Crane who along with cash awards from Chess Scotland and the Walter Munn fund contributed to a prize pool worth over £3,500 at full retail prices.

Hugh Flockhart’s aim in starting and promoting the “adult” Grand Prix over many years was to enhance the tournament circuit. In view of lockdown and no imminent re-start of tournament activity we thanked



existing sponsors for previous support and did not ask for a continuation into this season. The Grand Prix will therefore not apply to any online or OTB events taking place this season.

## **Giant Killer**

The prize is administered by Chess Scotland on behalf of Inverness CC. The winner was Unnabh Shrestha of East Kilbride.

## **100 Club**

This is the Chess Scotland lottery which thanks to a pool of mostly regular subscribers has been assisting CS financially for many years. 50% of the cash raised is returned in prizes and the remainder goes into general fund raising. The only cost is a £20 annual official licence. The draw is made by the random number generator in Excel.

However despite strong support the 100 Club has still to reach the named total of 100 units in a draw – the current tally as at October 2020 is 86 – the best was 97 first reached in February 2005.

An annual payment of £12 buys 1 unit per month and 12 opportunities to win a prize. Some subscribers have more than one unit per month in the draw. Latest and previous winners are listed in the news panel on the front page of the website as well as information on how to subscribe, the simplest of which is using the paypal system on the membership page.

## **Other website updates**

### **Calendar**

Updates were made throughout the season in response to organiser requests to have their events listed.

A significant development on the calendar has been the number of tournaments using the Scottish Chess Tour software developed by programmer Malcolm Peacock which allows players to pick their name from the online database and make entry fee payments directly into the system thereby providing a big time saving for organisers.

### **Book reviews**

Ian Marks high quality book reviews have now been running for over eight years.

### **History Archives**

Alan McGowan continues to update, revise and expand the impressive online archive including biographies, history of championships, clubs, master visits to Scotland, photo galleries.



## PVG Report

PVG applications were dealt with as normal until COVID-19 arrived. At that point in time the use of paper applications was suspended.

All three CS Signatories have since attended training organised by Volunteer Scotland on the use of a Digital Portal to apply for PVG and this is now being trialled by us.

At some point in the future, it is intended to conduct an audit of coaches on the CS PVG List to establish their activity (or not) and update the list. This will require the assistance of the Membership Secretary.



## Membership Secretary

The tables of membership category follow

Full	Apr-09	Apr-10	Apr-11	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-14	Jul-15	Jul-16	Jul-17	Oct-18	Oct-19	Oct-20
Adult	156	153	151	155	161	162	145	139	127	275	252	222
Under 17	9	5	6	2	1	6	6	17	22	64	59	76
Under 14	13	11	11	10	17	14	11					
Student										13	14	21
Family Adult	20	28	22	22	23	22	25	23	23	23	27	26
Family Junior	2	2	4	4	2	2	4	11	11	17	15	14
<b>Basic</b>												
Adult	147	146	149	183	159	156	150	145	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			
<b>Patron &amp; Life</b>												
Patron	5	5	4	5	6	6	4	6	4	2	2	1
Life	131	109	111	108	111	110	99	102	104	141	138	139
Life Magazine		29	28	31	28	32	30	27	24			
<b>Totals</b>	576	585	574	585	570	567	520	520	520	535	507	499

This can be simplified thus

	Apr-09	Apr-10	Apr-11	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-14	Jul-15	Jul-16	Jul-17	Oct-18	Oct-19	Oct-20
Adult	359	373	360	381	356	356	336	316	305	298	279	248
Junior	81	69	71	60	69	63	51	70	83	94	88	111
Patron & Life	136	143	143	144	145	148	133	134	132	143	140	140

In the last year we have lost 30 adult memberships. The predominant reason for this is the fact there is going to be no chess for the foreseeable future. With 8 months of membership still to renew before the offer runs out, I would appeal to all current members to consider renewing and supporting Scottish Chess.

Due to a couple of initiatives by Harry, David and Andy, by offering 3 month trial memberships for participants in the Girls Championships and Primary Individual, the junior membership has risen by 26% to the highest level ever seen. I was very pleased to see the number of Juniors taking out full memberships on the back of this and I hope we can continue to offer tournament to keep the interest going.

With the local lockdowns, getting to the bank is proving difficult. Please can I request where possible if people can pay using the PayPal method. You do not have to have a PayPal account to use it. If people are not sure, I have the facility to raise invoices through PayPal, please contact me if you wish me to do this.

Can I please remind members both old and new, when you are paying, if you are using a PayPal account with a different name, please can you email me with the person you are paying for. This causes delays in processing memberships, especially when they do not respond to follow up emails!

For those considering joining or renewing, just to remind you that up to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, you will get 2 years membership when you either join or renew.

As always I'd like to thank Dougie and Andy for their help during the year. Without their assistance the job would be infinitely harder.



## Standards Committee

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Following the resignation of Duncan Campbell as Chairperson at the 2019 AGM, the members of the Standards Committee nominated Gerald Lobley as his replacement for a 3-year term and this was notified immediately to the Management Board. This information, along with new contact details, was posted on the Chess Scotland website to ensure continuity of access for CS members. Jenny Gray was elected from within the Committee to act as Deputy Chairperson.

### **COMPLAINTS**

One complaint was received just prior to the 2019 AGM but was dealt with during the current season as Complaint 1901. After telephone and email discussions between the individual parties, a resolution was agreed between them following clarification of correct CS procedures. The Standards Committee agreed by an email meeting (October 21st 2019) that no further action was required and the matter was now closed.

### **MEETING**

Due to the extraordinary situation pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic no further meetings were held this season.

### **MEMBERS**

No new members were elected, so the current composition of the Standards Committee is:

Elaine Rutherford Bamber – Glasgow  
Lara A L Barnes  
Duncan A F Campbell – Oban  
Jenny Gray - Aberdeen (Deputy Chairperson)  
Gerald Lobley - Newmachar (Chairperson)  
Stephen H Smith – Stirling



## Anti-Cheating Committee

With the move to online chess, the first task the committee had was to integrate online rules into our procedure. This was done in July and published on the Chess Scotland Website

The Anti-Cheating committee has considered 4 cases in the last year, all since the move to online chess and has handed out sanctions.

In comparison with other countries, we do not have much of a cheating culture in Scotland, something that has been commented on by other nations in International events.

The committee would like to express its delight on the ethos we are seeing with our players and encourage them to continue to play fair when they are online.