

REPORT OF THE ECF SPORT AND RECREATION ALLIANCE REPRESENTATIVE

My principal duties have continued to be to represent the ECF on the Sport and Recreation Alliance and on the embryonic Mind Sports Council. I gave more details in my Report to last year's AGM.

An important aspect of these responsibilities is to ensure that the ECF and English chess generally benefit from the opportunities which arise from our membership of the Alliance. In this context I would like to note that I have always felt that the Alliance treats chess and the other mind sports on an equal footing with the physical sports, something which I have not found to be true of any other umbrella sporting body.

In previous years I have to admit that I have had little in the way of concrete achievement to report, but I am delighted to say that that situation has changed in 2011-12. In the remainder of this Report I comment on these achievements and look ahead to 2013. I have not referred to areas where I have nothing new or specific to report.

1 Community Sport and Recreation Awards

These Awards are presented annually by the Alliance and were formerly known as the Sports Club of the Year Awards. In previous years the ECF has perhaps been remiss in not making nominations for these Awards, but this year we nominated Chess in Schools and Communities.

Malcolm Pein, CSC Chief Executive, and I were both delighted when CSC were Highly Commended. Malcolm subsequently had the pleasure of receiving the Award at the Alliance's AGM from its President, HRH Prince Edward the Earl of Wessex. Unfortunately I could not attend the presentation, but Andrew Farthing was able to represent the ECF.

The ECF Press Release is appended to this Report. Further information, including Press Releases by CSC and by the Alliance, can be found at http://www.chessinschools.co.uk/sra_awards_2012.htm.

With this success behind us, I hope we can make further nominations in 2013. Anyone who wishes to suggest a club or other organisation should contact the Director of Home Chess or the Director of Junior Chess as appropriate, or me if I am reappointed.

2 Age Related Competitions

In 2011 the Government Equality Office conducted a consultation on exemptions to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010. They proposed a specific exemption for sporting competitions, necessary to ensure that junior and senior competitions could continue, but the initial draft did not explicitly include mind sports. In their responses to the consultation the Alliance, the ECF and the British Go Association all requested that this be made explicit.

Earlier this year the Equality Office accepted these submissions. Those who do not regard chess as a sport will be pleased to learn that as drafted the concession now refers to “intellectual games”.

3 Sports Club Survey 2013

The Alliance conducts a survey of Sports Clubs every two years and it is keen to make the 2013 survey as comprehensive as possible. We have the opportunity to add some specific questions of our own to be sent to chess clubs and if I am reappointed I shall be liaising with relevant Directors about this.

4 Voluntary Code of Good Governance for the Sport and Recreation Sector

The implications of this Code for the ECF were set out in a consultation paper which Andrew Farthing submitted to the April 2012 Finance Council Meeting.

The Alliance will be holding an EGM in March 2013 to bring its own governance procedures into line with the Code. Hitherto some Directors of the Alliance have been appointed and the remainder have been elected by the Central Council, a rather obscure body. It is now proposed that the Central Council be abolished and that there be direct election by Member Organisations. This should improve the chances of someone with a background in mind sports being elected or appointed to the Alliance Board.

David Sedgwick
ECF Sport and Recreation Alliance Representative
4th October 2012

ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION

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25th July 2012: For Immediate Release

ECF CONGRATULATES CHESS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ON PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



In the Sport and Recreation Alliance's Community Sport and Recreation awards ceremony for 2012, Chess in Schools and Communities was Highly Commended.

This is the first occasion on which a mind sport has been recognised in these prestigious awards.

Andrew Farthing, ECF Chief Executive, commented:

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"I'm delighted that the Sport and Recreation Alliance has recognised the wonderful work being done by CSC in this way. The idea that chess can bring social and educational benefits to primary school children has long been well known within the chess community. CSC is making this a reality in an increasing number of schools, and the Alliance's commendation is a worthy reflection of both the charity's ambitions and its success to date."

The award was presented to Malcolm Pein, Chief Executive of CSC, at the Alliance's Annual General Meeting held at St. James's Palace on Thursday 19th July. The accompanying photograph shows Malcolm receiving the certificate from the Alliance's President, HRH Prince Edward the Earl of Wessex.

For further information please contact:

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