

**ECF AWARDS, INCLUDING CITATIONS**

**HONORARY LIFE VICE PRESIDENT** There are currently 15 such people. The award is given to those who have given outstanding service to chess through the ECF. *The decision whether to make this award is made by Council.* The two candidates listed below have the support, first of the Awards Committee and then the Board.

**Andrew Farthing** first started coming to the fore as a chess administrator when he retired from Lloyds Bank. He has been long involved with local chess organisations, such as the Worcestershire Chess Association and the Worcester & District League. From 2009-13 he was a non-executive director of the MCCU and is now its chairman.

In 2008 he became Strategic Planning Officer of the ECF and was elected to the post of Chief Executive in 2010, two posts that had a symbiotic relationship. In 2011 the Federation had to face its possibly biggest-ever challenge – the loss of the £60,000+ government grant. Andrew shepherded through the necessary cuts to expenditure in such a way that most ordinary members may have been unaware of the changes. In 2012 he was the principal architect of the move to universal membership as the prime source of annual income. A large number of people helped the almost seamless transition away from game fee as the major source. He retired as CEO in October 2012.

More recently he undertook a stint as Editor of ChessMoves. He has sometimes written on other subjects and in 2013 donated a large number of books and magazines to St Richard's Hospice Snow-drops Bookshop. He is a trustee of the Chess in Schools and Communities Charity. He is graded 145C and rated 1817.

**John R Wickham** is an ECF Arbiter. He was long-serving Norfolk Treasurer and Registration Secretary and is now Chairman. He first became the Norfolk BCF Delegate in 1992. He was appointed EACU delegate to the BCF in 1995 and is now Chairman. Such union delegates were members of the BCF Management Board. When it changed to the ECF in 2004 he became one of the two non-executive directors of the federation until 2012. He was a member of the Awards Committee and also its chairman for a very long time. He is currently Chairman of the Personnel Committee. He is an administrator of the Glorney-Bloodworth Chess Trust and of the British Chess Educational Trust. He is graded 131B.

**VETERANS' SUPPORT PROGRAMME** was introduced this autumn by FIDE in conjunction with the Association of Chess Professionals. This carries with it a prize of \$5000. **Leonard Barden** is one of the first recipients. The other 5 awardees are all originally Russian-speaking grandmasters, including Boris Spassky and Non Gaprindashvili. Leonard has been British Champion and is a British Master. It is hard to believe that the FIDE Rating List didn't exist when he was an active player. His column in the London Evening Standard is the longest-running daily column anywhere in the world. His columns in the Guardian and Financial Times are respected worldwide. He was Junior Squad manager for many years in its most

successful period. He persuaded Jim Slater to provide the funding for the 1973 World Junior Championship.

Material of a more international nature can be found on

<http://www.englishchess.org.uk/Forum/viewtopic.php?f=35&t=151&p=1044#p104>

All the following awards are made on the recommendation of the Awards Committee with the decision made by the Board. They started to come into existence when Bob Wade, when meeting with the BCF Management Board, pointed out that the federation wasn't good at thanking people.

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR SERVICES TO CHESS** were first awarded in 1983. They are not necessarily long-service awards and can be given for specific, possibly one-off, achievements. The committee has a geographical spread so that all areas of England are covered.

**Lara A. L. Barnes** is an International Arbiter, an ECF Senior Arbiter and International Organiser. She is Chairman of the Chess Arbiters Association. She was Manager of the British Chess Championships when held in her area, North Tyneside, in 2012 and particularly of the 100<sup>th</sup> Championships in Torquay in 2013 which attracted a record entry of nearly 1200.

She was prime mover in the revival of the Scarborough Congress which is now one of the most successful weekend events on the circuit. She has run the Northumberland Tyne-Wear Congress at the Parks for nearly 20 years - this year's will be the 50<sup>th</sup> and for the first time include a FIDE rated Open Section. She also acts as arbiter at many other events. These include Hastings for many years; and the Olympiad and the World Youth Championship in 2014.

Originally a music teacher by profession she has taught chess in the schools where she was employed and helped the Northumberland Junior Chess Association with their training days as well as the Megafinals and EPSCA Zonal events.

She has won the British Ladies Championship at correspondence chess and continues to play regularly for Tynemouth Chess Club where she captains the Tynemouth Hobbits in the top division of the Northumberland League. She is graded 149D. However she clearly has a deeper understanding of chess than her grade suggests.

**John A Philpott** became an Honorary Life Vice President of the ECF in 2007-8. But more recently his work has been invaluable in ECF administration as: Company Secretary; Voting Register Officer; Data Controller and Financial Controller. He has also been performing the Office Manager's job in Battle, on a voluntary basis, for the last 12 months.

Andrew Farthing is the prime architect of the membership system, but John is the executive who has enabled the system to work. That his grade previously was 155A and is now 136A tells us something. How does he find time for it all and be involved with Wanstead Club, the Friends of Chess and be a highly active player?

**Peter JB Wilson** was a Londoner, but is a long-term resident of Guernsey. He is an International Arbiter, International Organiser and International Candidate Master. He married his long-term partner, Mary McDermott, who is also an IA, at the beginning

of August. He was Chairman of the FIDE Computer Chess Committee and also the Commonwealth Chess Association from 1998-2002. He represented Guernsey in six Olympiads. After switching his allegiance back to England, he became ECF Director of Marketing for some years.

But it is as a team captain and player that he is best-known. He was co-founder of the extremely active Clapham-based, Mushrooms Chess Club, which won the ECF Club of the Year Award in 2008. He represented England in the European Senior Team Championship from 2004 to 2010, captaining one of the English teams each time. For a couple of years, when Stewart Reuben wasn't team leader of the whole group, he took over that responsibility.

In the last four years his health has deteriorated so that he has become less active. Travelling from Guernsey is something of an undertaking. His grade is 121D and Rating 1965.

**CLUB OF THE YEAR.** We currently divide this into two, the second being Small Club of the Year. We had difficulty this year with the definition. Perhaps in future it should be for clubs with less than 20 members. Views of Council Members would be welcome. Also it is thought there should be from 2015 a separate prize for Junior Club of the Year which can be a very different type of organisation from one for all players.

**3Cs Children's Chess Club** may be one of only two chess clubs in England with their own premises. The other is Hastings. But that of the 3Cs is purpose-built with trophy room; function room; canteen; chess library; computers with online chess. They have won the Manchester League 12 times in 14 years including 7 players under 21. Two teams compete in the 4NCL. Six teams in MCF with some 8 year olds competing in the "adult" league. Members go into local schools to conduct weekly chess sessions. 18 players over-150 grade on the current ECF list have come through the 3Cs' ranks. There is regular attendance of over 50 youngsters at weekly club nights with 4 separate groups for coaching of various abilities. One club night earlier this year 71 players aged under-18 attended!

### **SMALL CLUB OF THE YEAR**

**Penrith Chess Club** rose from the ashes, obtaining sizeable council grant after all its equipment was stolen. It appeared at its new premises on television, radio and in newspaper reports

Snapshots of recently achievements: winning the NCCU Club Championship (Minor) Trophy; 2 members qualifying as ECF Arbiters; operating a junior chess club in a local school; active within the County Chess Association committee; instigating several new internal competitions to promote variety and interest at all levels, e.g. 'Last Wednesday' handicap, conference pairs and Chess960 in addition to the usual standardplay and rapidplay competitions; and fielding 4 league and 3 cup teams (mostly in Cumbria). It is currently planning a congress.

**WEBSITE OF THE YEAR.** There can be some confusion. A blogsite or forum is somewhat different. Do we need awards for these as well?

**ChessDevon** <http://www.chessdevon.co.uk>. This does a good job of keeping everyone in Devon up to date with chess happenings in the county and the activities of its players everywhere.

## **MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR**

**CHESS MAGAZINE** with Malcolm Pein as Executive Editor, Richard Palliser and Byron Jacobs as Editors and John Saunders as Associate Editor the magazine provides a hugely valuable service to its readers. Those of mature years will remember back to the days it was produced by Barry Wood. Who doesn't get a frisson of excitement when it appears in one's letterbox? Of course the company also has a retail store at 44 Baker Street and often runs bookstalls at major events.

## **CONGRESS OF THE YEAR**

**Heywood Congress** has 5 sections. That means that they are very tightly grouped and there are few mismatches. The venue is easy to access, has car parking and is right in the town centre. Food can thus, not only be purchased at the venue where there is a bar, but also locally. The prize money is very good relative to the entry fees and it is a comfortable and a very popular tournament that has been going since the 1990's and is well-established on the tournament calendar. Bill O'Rourke puts a lot of hard work into it every year.

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR** was voted on some months ago and **Keith Arkell** won by a considerable margin. Even so, the number of people voting, although higher than in previous years, was still disappointingly low. Any suggestions to rectify this would be welcome.

**BOOK OF THE YEAR** is decided by a separate committee of Ray Edwards, Julian Farrand and David Friedgood.

This material was prepared by the Chairman of the Awards Committee Stewart Reuben, with the help of the Committee Roger Edwards, Stan Goodall and Bill Metcalfe, together with the input of several others.

When I started the system in 1983 it was agreed here should be a turnover in the committee of one person per year in order that different views would be expressed. Having returned to the committee after 30 years, I believe we should return to that format.

