

Awards 2013

President's Award

We made two awards this year but I should mention that there was another nominated candidate who would normally receive the award but had received it in the past, Richard James. The award has never been given twice and we did not feel that we should break with tradition.

The two who will receive the award are:

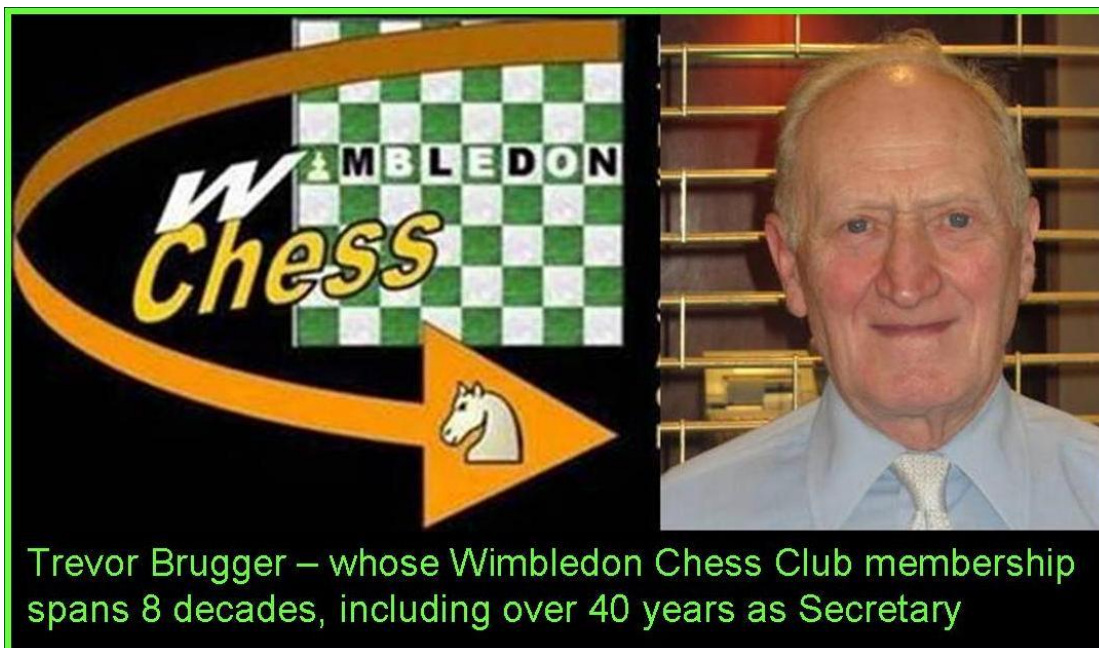
Michael Basman

Michael Basman is an English chess player, chess author and International Master. He was awarded the International Master title in 1980. He is a prolific writer, who has made many contributions to the field of chess openings, and is particularly known for frequently choosing bizarre or rarely played openings in his own games.

The UK Chess Challenge is an annual chess competition for school-age children from the United Kingdom. Michael Basman created the original challenge back in 1996 and is still closely connected with the competition. The UK Chess Challenge is competed for in about 2000 schools and is giving 100,000 children in this country the opportunity to enjoy the world's greatest game each year.

In recognition of his efforts to set up the UK Chess Challenge and continually trying to grow the event even further, Michael Basman deserves the accolade of a President's Award for Services to Chess.

Trevor Brugger



When his mum saw in the local paper that Wimbledon was re-opening for the 1949-50 season, she told Trevor that as Balham Grammar School champion he should join a chess club. In those days the club met in the YMCA, offering Trevor the chance to play football for them as well. But the 14-year-old Trevor didn't realise he was signing on with Wimbledon for life! For the thrill of bringing off an exciting attack has kept him at the club ever since.

Trevor has never forgotten those days and remains a staunch advocate of young players, endlessly circulating schools, pushing coaching, and seeing that captains pick youngsters for the club's teams. "We have to make our own stars if we are to keep our prestigious position," he explained, although over the years he has also recruited several international masters.

Trevor ensures players of all strengths can play in inter-club matches, which is why Wimbledon has 13 teams. Trevor captains a couple of sides himself. Whenever another captaincy is vacant he steps up until a new one is found. For decades whenever default time approached he'd step in to cover the board. His chess peaked during 1970-90 when he built a reputation as Dons super-sub in the London League top division. Strong opponents dismissing a stand-in whose highest grade was 159 found they had miscalculated.

Trevor succeeded Leslie Beaumont as Club Secretary in 1968 because, he says, "I like running things and making everything go smoothly". What members value most about Wimbledon is that it's a friendly club, and Trevor can take credit for setting the culture. He ensures new people are welcomed and never left without a game. Several nearby clubs have collapsed in recent years but it's largely down to Trevor Brugger that Wimbledon have kept going and continue to thrive.

There has been no nominations for Club, Congress or Website.