President's Award for Services to Chess 2015
Ray Edwards, Julian Farrand, Keith Richardson, David Sedgwick and Carl Portman [more overleaf]

Magazine of the Year 2015 - British Chess Magazine
The longest-running chess magazine, now edited by James Pratt.

Congress of the Year - South Lakes, Cumbria
Approximately 180 people play in five sections, each with £500 prize money. There never seem to be any arguments. However, the crowning glory is the ballroom at the Cumbria Grand Hotel - there are glorious views from the playing area.

Small Club of the Year - Little Heath and Brookmans Park Chess Club in Potters Bar
The name of the club was getting bigger than the actual club. Membership dropped to 9 and they meet in Chris Cook's home. He also teaches day classes to retired adults. Now they are up to 14 members and we should make the award as soon as possible before they become too big.

Club of the Year - Chester Chess Club
It has over 60 members, 40% of whom are juniors. It has about 20 teams in local leagues. The keyword is 'inclusivity'. Disabled players are welcomed and special arrangements made where necessary. It has an outstanding junior section.

Website of the Year - Yorkshire Chess - www.yorkshirechess.org
It provides details accounts of all local chess, but unusually it also provides material that is of interest outside the UK. e.g. The Fantasy Chess Olympiad. It has a growing chess forum and a number of magazine type articles are included.

The Committee was impressed with the quality of the submissions. There were several of considerable merit for both club and website.

Stewart Reuben

RECIPIENTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Ray, Julian and Keith are the trustees of the Permanent Invested Fund. They have done sterling work in this field over the years.

Ray has previously been International Director of the BCF. He was also an important figure in the development of the British Chess Magazine when the BCF bought the company. This enabled the federation to keep the magazine alive and to generate enough income to pay off the loan. Eventually it was sold at a profit.

Julian is best known as the first-ever English ombudsman (in insurance). He is the husband of law lord Baroness Hale. I (SR) first met him at about the age of 12 year old when playing for my school. He is about four years older. Both Ray and Julian are members of the Book of the Year Committee and have been reviewing books for this purpose for many years.

Both are quite strong chessplayers, indeed playing for England in the same team in the European 60+ Team Championship in Vienna 11-20 July 2015. Keith was to have been a member of the same team, but his wife's ill-health forced him to withdraw. Keith is a correspondence chess grandmaster.

David Sedgwick started out as a player. He became interested in playing internationally and then branched out into being an arbiter. He is an ECF Senior Arbiter and an International Arbiter, our only Category A one who is currently active. When they started official FIDE lecturers for the FIDE Arbiter title, he and Stewart Reuben were one of only two instances of there being two lecturers from the same Federation. He is the ECF Manager of Arbiters (International). He has been BCF International Director and the ECF representative on the Sport and Recreation Alliance. He is currently a member of the Hastings International Congress Committee and the Friends of Chess Committee, and has a long record of service at club (Insurance Chess Club and Mushrooms Chess Club), County (Surrey CCA) and Union (SCCU) level.

Carl Portman is the ECF Manager of Prison Chess. Until he was appointed in 2014 there was little activity in this field. Chess clubs have now been established in three prisons. He has established a column in 'Inside Time' a national prison magazine. He has contacted all the governors in England. He is an ECF accredited coach. He is also a chess journalist writing for the Combined Services Chess Association. He also has a regular column, 'Never Mind the Grandmasters...' in Chess Magazine.