

AWARDS

1. Awards requiring Council's Approval.

Honorary Life Vice President: David Welch, Peter Purland, Richard Haddrell

Honorary Life Member: Brian Callaghan OBE, James Humphreys

Citations:

David Welch Born 1945

International Arbiter since 1977. At the Olympiad in September 2016 he is to receive the FIDE Honorary Award as an International Arbiter for his contribution to high level FIDE competitions.

He has been the Chief Arbiter, first of the BCF and now of the ECF, since 1993. He has been an arbiter at the Hastings International Chess Congress for nearly 40 years.

He was also organiser of the Liverpool Junior Congress when it was the biggest congress ever in Britain with 2000+ entries in the 1970s.

He organised the British Chess Championships for some years.

He is a trustee of the John Robinson Trust.

Peter Purland Born 1945

It is highly appropriate that Peter and David receive the award on the same day. They both became teachers at Liverpool College on the same day and used to share a house together.

Peter has been an International Arbiter since 1991. He was born in Wales and his title is registered with FIDE as Wales. He is currently Chief Arbiter of the British Chess Championships. Like David he has been an arbiter at many chess events.

He was Junior Director of the ECF for some years. He was and is very active in the English Primary Schools Chess Association.

Both David and Peter have been associated with the Gibraltar Chess Congress since it started in 2003. They are both arbiters at the event. They also introduced coaching at primary school level there and chess now flourishes in all schools in Gibraltar.

Richard Haddrell

Richard has provided many years of service to the game of chess and chessplayers, from the grass roots through to the national level, and has received previous recognition through a BCF President's Award in 1994.

Richard is a man of Kent, and a member of Tunbridge Wells Chess Club. Many will first have encountered him through his long-term involvement with the Southern Counties Chess Union, where among his other posts there stand out particularly Bulletin Editor from 1978/9 until this ceased publication, and Webmaster from 1998/9.

For the ECF, Richard is probably best known for his work as the Grading Administrator and the controller of the National Schools Championship. He has been a regular attendee at Council meetings, representing Kent and Kent Juniors, and his exceptionally sharp eye for detail has made him an invaluable member of the Governance Committee,

Brian Callaghan OBE

Brian received his OBE for services to Gibraltar Tourism and to chess. He is the proprietor of The Caleta Hotel and it was his idea that a chess tournament should be held there. Thus the Gibraltar Chess Congress started in 2003 and next January to February will be the 15th. He is now the Chief Organiser. The event comes under the umbrella of the ECF for FIDE purposes. The Masters is recognised as the strongest open chess tournament in the world and is highly popular with all players. It is mainly Brian's influence that so much resources have been poured into the event. He is also responsible for encouraging, more than any other open event, the participation of female contestants.

James Humphreys

James is CEO of Tradewise Insurance Company Ltd. It is based in Gibraltar and has been active since 1994. The company will have been chief sponsor of the Gibraltar Chess Congress for five years next year. In 2015 they also became sponsors of the Tradewise ECF Grand Prix; Hastings International Chess Congress and The Colin Crouch Celebration Chess Congress. The company also offers reduced rates for insurance to ECF members.

2. OTHER AWARDS TO BE NOTED BY COUNCIL

ECF Player of the Year Anum Sheikh already announced.

ECF President's Award for Services to Chess

R Victor Cross. His contribution to the development of junior chess has been immense. This is particularly true in the Devon area and the English Primary Schools Association. He has been one of the accompanying adults for junior trips abroad for many years. He was also a stalwart of the control team at the British Championships for some time

Paul Durrant. He is Chairman of Surbiton Chess Club which is very active. He is often referred to as 'Mr Surbiton'. He is also a member of The Thames Valley League Committee.

ECF Congress of the Year. St Albans. This weekend congress attracts about 220 players each year. The venue is pleasant and in a good location. It is very friendly and has an excellent bookstall and analysis room.

ECF Club of the Year (16 members or more). Hackney. There are about 60 members from this London-based borough. It welcomes both children and women. They play in eight teams in the London and Middlesex Leagues, the 4NCL and National Club Championships, as well as county games for Essex. Weekly free coaching sessions are provided for juniors. They hold Saturday night blitz sessions at a local pub. They are proud of their relationship with the local Kurdish and Turkish communities. Membership is free for the unwaged.

ECF Small Club of the Year (less than 16 members). Ulverston in Cumbria. The Leave 'em Laughing club has 12 members, 9 of whom are ECF members. They run a team in the Cumbrian Open League and two teams in the Cumbrian Southern League. The club is, of course, named after Stan Laurel and plays in the eponymous pub.

*“Leave 'em Laughing”
Chess Collective.
@ The Stan Laurel Inn*



ECF Website of the Year. South Hams of Devon. This has a great deal of accessible information on it. Particularly pleasing is the facilities for members to enter their games on the site. www.southhamschessclub.com

It has been decided to discontinue the award of Magazine and Bulletin of the Year as this year there were so few submissions. This is due to growth of the use of the internet.

Stewart Reuben (Chairman).

I shall be retiring in October and would like to thank Paul Bielby, Stan Goodall and William Metcalfe for their help. I believe this particular committee needs a turnover in personnel and also input from different areas of the country. Volunteers will be welcome.