



Annual Awards Scheme 2021



Nominations are invited for this year's ECF awards. They will cover the period 1st June 2020 to 31st May 2021. While appreciating that this has been a very difficult year, the awards committee have decided this is no reason not to run with the full schedule of awards. Details on how to apply and guidance on particular awards may be found below. Individuals making nominations should read this guidance before submitting an entry.

There are some changes to previous years. In 2020 we asked people to demonstrate achievement against three of the ECF major priorities, Junior Chess, Women's Chess and Chess in the Community. This year we have decided to make these actual awards, together with an award for another key ECF priority Accessible Chess. The award of Magazine of the Year has been withdrawn. There are now nine annual awards (Book of the Year is judged separately). We expect these will not change now into the foreseeable future.

The Awards

1. President's Award for Services to Chess
2. Contribution to Junior Chess
3. Contribution to Women's Chess
4. Contribution to Chess in the Community
5. Contribution to Accessible Chess
6. Online Chess Contribution of the year
7. Club of the Year
8. Small Club of the Year
9. Congress of the Year

How to apply

There is no set format for citations, although submissions should be made electronically, ideally as Word documents. For citations, using other methods, including hard copy, please contact the Chairman. All citations should be accompanied by a supporting statement from a third party who can validate the contents of the citation.

This section should be read in association with the guidance notes. All nominations will be treated in the strictest confidence

Applications must be with the Committee Chairman Dr Stephen Greep (sjgreep@gmail.com) no later than the end of June 2021.

The decision of the committee will be final and no correspondence will be entered into concerning decisions made. In the event of the committee being equally divided over a winner, the Chairman shall have the casting vote, in addition to his vote in committee. It is expected that the committee will reach their decisions within four weeks of the closing date. The decisions of the committee will, however, require ratification by the ECF Board.

Winners

Each winner will receive a trophy which shall be presented at an appropriate event, such as a meeting of full Council or at a local event where possible (covid dependent). Award winners will receive a trophy and be entitled to display the appropriate winners logo (see end). Details of winners will be placed on the ECF web site and may be announced in Chess Magazine, together with the ECF social media: facebook, twitter and the ECF Newsletter. Copies of winning citations will be placed on the ECF web site awards section and may appear in the ECF yearbook.

General Guidance Notes

The annual awards are a way for the ECF to recognise contributions to the promotion and development of chess within the areas of ECF activity. They should demonstrate high quality and measure excellence and significant achievement. Citations should be clear about what is different and what has actually been achieved, both qualitative and quantitative analysis should be applied where possible.

The number of citations for any individual nominations will not count towards the evaluation of an award (unless new supporting evidence is introduced). Nominations may be made in more than one category.

Please remember all citations must be accompanied by a supporting statement from a third party who can validate the contents of the citation. The committee reserves the right to carry out its own due diligence on submissions (including for example checking the independence of third parties, checking the content of submissions with knowledgeable third parties in the chess world etc).

For the awards the committee particularly (but not exclusively) welcomes citations which demonstrate the facilitation and provision of one or more of the areas listed under each award. Achievements may span more than a single year (particularly for the Presidents Award for Services to Chess), but the focus should be on what has been different this year.

Presidents Award for Service to Chess

- Awards for outstanding personal contributions to chess over time.
- The achievements for this category do not need to relate to a single year
- There will be three awards per year (although this may be increased in exceptional circumstances).
- Individuals submitted for this award do not have to be a member of the ECF, as such awards recognise a wider contribution to chess.

Contribution to Junior Chess

- Opportunities for juniors to learn and play chess
- County online groups running tournaments
- Connecting with schools and educational establishments
- School online groups running tournaments and playing in online tournaments
- Entering teams into events like the Junior 4NCL Online (or other competitions)
- Innovation in moving coaching to an online basis for juniors
- Creating an interest and enthusiasm for chess amongst the junior community in an area or nationally
- Designing and running junior events at regional and/ or national level

Contribution to Women's Chess

- Promoting chess to women and girls
- Providing a welcoming environment for women and girls to learn and play chess
- Helping to coach and develop women players to play at national and international level
- Organising women only clubs and events – both online and over the board
- Special provision for women's chess in non women's only events
- Engaging with girls in schools and promoting scholastic chess

Contribution to Chess in the Community

- Contribution in promoting and developing social chess outside of the club and congress environment; venues within the community – e.g. Chess Centres, Pubs/ Bars, Cafes, Board game clubs and using the internet to bring chess communities together
- Promoting and supporting chess in libraries
- Chess in schools and educational establishments
- Promoting chess in parks and outdoor settings
- Support for chess in prisons and related initiatives

Contribution to Accessible Chess

- Making chess (in any format) more inclusive and accessible for players with a disability or impairment including (but not limited to):
 - Blind or partially sighted players
 - Deaf or hearing impaired players
 - Players with physical disabilities affecting movement or physical capacity
 - Players with autism
- Making contributions across one or more areas including:
 - Coaching and education
 - Organising Community events and playing opportunities (including OTB, online or hybrid)
 - Promoting accessibility and adjustments for general chess events
- Acting as a role model for others in the relevant player communities

Online Chess contribution of the year (will be interpreted widely)

- Developing new and innovative content and services for online players
- Establishing and running online events and platforms
- Contribution to online arbiting for organised events, fair play and sportsmanship
- Streaming events and/or developing the streaming community
- Building and maintaining the chess community during the pandemic
- Attracting and supporting New to Chess and 'Queens Gambit' players
- Developing and improving web sites

Club of the Year

- Maintaining the club community and supporting members during the pandemic
- Coaching and developing club members with a track record of results
- Providing a welcoming and supportive environment for new members and growing membership
- Running over the board and online club events including socially distanced / rule of six events
- Participation and Achievements in Regional and National Leagues – Online, Hybrid or OTB

Small Club of the Year

As for Club of the Year but where club membership is 16 or less.

Congress of the Year

- Designing and running congresses and competitions during the pandemic (online, hybrid and OTB)
- Innovation in developing and establishing new formats
- Record of successful and well attended events
- Attracting a diverse player group to support the congress events
- Strength of the congress open section and ability to support players at all levels
- Increasing numbers of players in all sections, demonstrating actions which have led to this increase



The Awards Committee

Chairman : Stephen Greep (sjgreep@gmail.com).

Committee members : Julie Denning, Ameet Ghasi, Sarah Longson, Natasha Regan, Jack Rudd and Nigel Towers. Members of the Committee are not excluded from having been a part of a citation but will obviously not be a part of the assessment process for that award

OUR AWARDS

