

## Report to Council 2021

For the current year there were a number of changes to the way the awards were run and assessed. The main areas of change were:

- A review of the makeup of the committee making changes to try and reflect a more ‘diverse’ membership (gender and age balance and a range of playing abilities). Director responsibility moved to Home Chess and a non-Executive Director of the ECF was added to the committee. This was a difficult process but four members who had made a very considerable contribution to the Awards committee in previous years kindly agreed to step down to help this change (some had contributed over very many years). The Committee is now:

Stephen Greep (Chairman), Julie Denning, Ameet Ghasi, Sarah Longson, Natasha Regan, Jack Rudd and Nigel Towers.

- There is a clearer statement as to what the awards are about

*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 been achieved, both qualitative and quantitative analysis should be applied where possible*

- Each award has a series of assessment criteria against which award citations are judged – nominees have been asked to target citations which demonstrate the facilitation and provision of one or more of the areas listed under each award.
- Last year (2020) we asked for citations to lead on key ECF priorities. This did not really happen, so we introduced new awards of contribution to:

Women’s Chess

Junior Chess

Chess in the Community

In addition, we introduced one further award in a further area of ECF priority

Contribution to Accessible Chess

- The awards run from June to May each year. Award citations were requested to be with the Chairman no later than the end of June. The committee made their deliberations which were validated by the ECF Board at its meeting at the end of July. Each winner received an inscribed glass trophy.

The winners of awards this year were as follows.

**President's Award for Services to Chess:**

Joseph Conlon

Andy Howie

**Contribution to Accessible Chess**

The UK Braille Chess Association

**Contribution to Women's Chess**

Lawrence Cooper

**Contribution to Online Chess**

Oliver Brennan

**Contribution to Junior Chess**

Uxbridge Junior Chess Club

**Club of the Year**

Camberley Chess Club

**Congress of the Year**

Cheney Rapidplays

All the winning citations can be found at :

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ECFAwards2021.pdf>

**Stephen Greep**

**Chairman ECF Awards committee**

