



Annual Awards Scheme 2024



Nominations are invited for this year's ECF awards. They will cover the period from 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2024. To apply for an award you must complete the [Award form](#) (see below) and it is essential that you read the guidance notes as the ECF Awards committee will use these to assess the nominations in each category.

We are grateful to the Chess Trust for supporting the ECF Awards with a grant of £2,000. This year winners in each category (with the exception of the Presidents award) will receive £250, although grants will only be paid to winning organisations or in the case of individual winners, nominated organisations.

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

Applications must be made using the online form which can be found [here](#). 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. The committee reserve the right to move nominations between categories if it feels that is appropriate.

Applications must be with the Committee Chairman Keith Gregory (keith31p@gmail.com) no later than the 14th July 2024.

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, where possible, shall be presented at an appropriate event, such as a meeting of full Council or at an appropriate local event. 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.

The Awards Committee

Chairman : Keith Gregory (keith31p@gmail.com).

Committee members : Julie Denning, Sarah Longson, Natasha Regan, Jack Rudd, Nigel Towers and Peter Wells. n.b. 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

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
- 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 (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



Our ECF Awards

Club of the Year



2024

Small Club of the Year



2024

Contribution to Chess in the Community



2024

Contribution to Women's Chess



2024

Contribution to Junior Chess



2024

Contribution to Accessible Chess



2024

Online Chess Contribution of the Year



2024

Congress of the Year



2024