



# Annual Awards Scheme 2025



Nominations are now invited for this year's ECF awards, covering the period from 1st June 2024 to 31st May 2025.

To apply for an award you must complete the official Award form (see link below) and it is essential that you read the guidance notes carefully.

The ECF Awards committee will assess all nominations based on the criteria outlined in these notes.

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. Grants will only be paid to winning organisations or in the case of individual winners, nominated organisations.

## The Awards

- President's Award for Services to Chess
- Contribution to Junior Chess
- Contribution to Women's Chess
- Contribution to Chess in the Community
- Contribution to Accessible Chess
- Online Chess Contribution of the year
- Club of the Year
- Small Club of the Year
- Congress of the Year

## How to apply

Applications must be made using the [online nomination form](#). If you wish to submit a citation by any other method, including hardcopy, please contact the Chairman directly. Each citation must be accompanied by a third party statement confirming the accuracy of the nomination. The committee reserves the right to move nominations between categories where appropriate.

Completed nominations must be submitted to the Committee Chairman, **Keith Gregory** ([keith.gregory@englishchess.org.uk](mailto:keith.gregory@englishchess.org.uk)) **no later than the 30th June 2025**.

**The committee's decision will be final. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the outcome. In the event of the committee being evenly split on a decision, the Chairman will have the casting vote, in addition to his regular vote. Final decisions are expected within four weeks of the closing date but remain subject to ratification by the ECF Board.**

## Winners

Each winner will receive a trophy which will, where possible, be presented at an appropriate event, such as an ECF Council meeting or a local chess event. Winners will receive a trophy and be entitled to display an official ECF Award Winner logo.

Details of winners will be published on the ECF web site and may also appear in Chess Magazine, the ECF Newsletter, and across ECF social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter/X). Winning citations will be archived in the Awards section of the ECF website and may also feature in the ECF yearbook.

## The Awards Committee

Chairman : Keith Gregory ([keith.gregory@englishchess.org.uk](mailto:keith.gregory@englishchess.org.uk)).

Committee members : Julie Denning, Yury Krylov , Sarah Longson, Natasha Regan, Jack Rudd 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 ECF Awards recognise exceptional contributions to the promotion and development of chess across various areas of ECF activity. Awards are intended to highlight excellence, impact and measurable achievement.

Citations should clearly explain

- What has been achieved
- What makes the achievement distinctive or innovative
- The impact of the work, using both qualitative and quantitative evidence where possible.

Note: The number of nominations or repeated citations for a single nominee will not influence the evaluation unless they introduce new supporting evidence.

Nominations may be submitted in more than one category.

Each citation must be accompanied by a supporting statement from a third party who can validate its content.

The Awards Committee reserves the right to

- Conduct its own due diligence on submissions.
- Verify the independence of third-party supporters.
- Consult knowledgeable figures within the chess community to confirm claims.

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions that highlight how the nominee has facilitated or delivered activities related to the themes listed under each category will be particularly welcomed (although this is not a strict requirement)

While achievements may span multiple years—particularly in the Presidents’ Award category—the emphasis should be on what has been distinctive during the 2024-2025 period.

## Presidents Award for Service to Chess

- Recognises outstanding personal contributions to chess over time.
- The award is not limited to achievements within a single year.
- Up to three awards may be given annually (more in exceptional circumstances).
- Nominees do not need to be ECF members; contributions to the wider chess community are valued.

## Contribution to Junior Chess

For contributions that develop chess among young players:

- Providing opportunities for juniors to learn and play chess.
- Organising online and over-the-board tournaments for juniors e.g. Junior 4NCL
- Collaborating with schools and educational organisations.
- Creating interest and enthusiasm for chess at the local or national level.
- Designing and running junior events regionally or nationally.
- Innovating online coaching and education for juniors.

## **Contribution to Women's Chess**

Recognising efforts to promote and support women and girls in chess:

- Promoting chess to women and girls.
- Creating welcoming and inclusive environments.
- Coaching or mentoring players to national or international levels.
- Providing tailored support in open events.
- Promoting chess to girls in schools and scholastic settings.

## **Contribution to Chess in the Community**

For projects and initiatives that bring chess into broader social spaces:

- Supporting social chess outside traditional clubs/congresses e.g. cafes, pubs, libraries.
- Promoting chess in public spaces such as parks.
- Using digital tools to build community and engagement.
- Developing school outreach or prison-based chess programmes.
- Building inclusive access to chess in underrepresented communities.

## **Contribution to Accessible Chess**

- Recognises efforts to make chess, whether over-the-board, online or hybrid—more inclusive and accessible for individuals with disabilities or impairments. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - Blind or partially sighted players.
  - Deaf or hearing-impaired players.
  - Players with physical disabilities affecting movement or physical activity.
  - Neurodiverse players, including individuals with autism.
- Relevant contributions may include:
  - Coaching and educational initiatives tailored to accessibility needs
  - Organising community events and playing opportunities (online, over-the-board, or hybrid)
  - Promoting accessibility and implementing reasonable adjustments within mainstream chess events.
- Acting as a role model within the community of players with disabilities.

## **Online Chess contribution of the year**

- For significant contributions to the growth, innovation, and sustainability of online chess. Contributions may include:
  - Developing new and innovative online chess content or services.
  - Establishing and managing online platforms or events.
  - Supporting online arbiting, including fair play and sportsmanship enforcement.
  - Streaming chess content and supporting the growth of the streaming community.
  - Attracting and supporting newcomers to chess
  - Creating or improving websites to support the chess ecosystem.

## Club of the Year

- For outstanding work by a chess club in supporting its members and the wider community. Contributions may include:
- Maintaining a strong club community and supporting member engagement.
- Coaching and developing players, with a proven track record of improvement or success.
- Providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for new members and expanding membership.
- Running over-the-board and online events.
- Active participation and achievement in regional or national leagues (online, hybrid or OTB).

## Small Club of the Year

As for Club of the Year but where club membership was 16 or less at the start of the ECF Award period (although it may exceed 16 by the end of ECF Award period) This award recognises clubs that punch above their weight in terms of community impact, innovation and player development.

## Congress of the Year

- Awarded for excellence in organising and delivering chess congresses and competitions (online, hybrid or over-the-board) Considerations include:
- Designing and successfully running well-organised events.
- Innovation in formats and tournament structures.
- Consistent record of successful and well attended congresses.
- Attracting a diverse group of participants.
- Strength of the open section, while also supporting players at all levels.
- Demonstrated growth in participation across all sections, supported by clear actions and strategies.

