

Public Relations and Website Report 2021-22

Ray Collett 24 June 2022

Introduction

The Covid-19 epidemic meant I did not write a report for 2019-20 and chess activity was very much diminished by Government regulations during parts of 2020 which prohibited people from different households mixing. During the period with greatest restrictions only online chess was permitted and the MCCU website reported the results of the MCCU online competition won by Greater Manchester. Even when precautions were relaxed many players felt unable to share car transport to venues or even play because of risks of infection and chess activity over-the-board was much reduced in 2021-2 season.

Review of MCCU website

The MCCU website principally reports chess results in the area covered by MCCU's affiliates. It includes brief reports about affiliated counties and their clubs and members, but rather than duplicating reports available elsewhere, it provides links to county association websites.

An important aim of the website is to report results of MCCU stage county matches. There were only 6 MCCU county matches during the season and full results were published. I wish to thank county captains who have sent me details and corrected my errors. A further 4 results of national stage county matches involving MCCU teams have also been published so far, but only one Midlands team has made it to the finals this weekend.

Another aim is to promote and develop chess in the MCCU area. I published 40 news items of which 3 were about junior events, compared to 58 items in my pre-Covid report for 2019-20

The third important aim is to feature upcoming congresses and chess-related events in the MCCU area. Like the 2020-1 season, some online chess results were reported.

I welcome stories, especially ones with pictures, from county matches and tournaments held within the MCCU counties.

The web hosting company, EazyWebz, was available for uploads at all times. In July 2021 I had to notify EazyWebz that I might have inadvertently compromised the security of the website. I had briefly lent a memory stick which had an electronic document containing the site password to a player's widow so she could upload pictures I had taken of her husband at chess events. The website administrator temporarily blocked further alterations to the website and along with me confirmed that there appeared to have been no intrusion the following morning. The MCCU treasurer was contacted to receive permission to change the site password and a new password was assigned a day later.

General Data Protection Regulations

I have received no requests to remove contact information or pictures from the website since the union's last AGM.

Thank you for news

I again thank all correspondents. Without this input the website would be less comprehensive and much less accurate. Please let me have suggestions to enhance the site or its navigation.

Promoting chess in the Midland Counties

Clubs could consider whether to run a chess themed event in local festivals, which are usually well-publicised locally. Please let me have stories relating to any charity event organised by clubs in other counties. In relation to senior chess, many towns have branches of University of the Third Age (U3A) and clubs should consider arranging friendly matches with members of such groups. Such groups may be suitable forums for coaching near-beginners for whom many chess clubs are unsuitable because of the high standard of play among regular league players.

Webmaster

The site requires a revamp and I will welcome offers for a replacement web editor. I am, however, willing to continue as Director for Publicity and Web Editor for the 2022-3 season.