

MCCU Publicity Director's and Webmaster's Report 2016-7

Ray Collett 16 June 2017

Introduction

The publication policy for the website remains centred on the MCCU area and events it organises. I include brief reports about affiliated counties and their clubs and members, but rather than duplicate reports on other websites, I provide links.

Review of annual performance

I have attempted to report in as timely a fashion as possible the results of MCCU stage county matches, but pressures of other work and being away from the UK in February meant that there were some late publications of results.

Thirty six MCCU stage match results were published, mostly within two days of a match being held. Again I wish to thank county captains who have sent me details and corrected my errors. A further 19 results of national stage county matches involving MCCU teams have also been published so far. I welcome stories, especially ones with pictures, from county matches.

A second aim has been to promote and develop chess in the MCCU area. I published 56 news items of which 9 were about junior players, a slight increase from last year. When junior regional events include MCCU counties, but take place outside the MCCU, I have included selected junior congresses within the MCCU web pages.

Like last year, I apologise that I have not had time to chase congress organisers to get full results to publish on the Grand Prix pages and I have not been able to publish tables this season.

The website home page continues to feature upcoming congresses and chess-related events in the MCCU area. I am sorry I do not have time to include congresses in other counties, which in any case are usually listed by the ECF website.

The web hosting company, Easyweb, was available for uploads on all time and I have not been informed of outages.

Promoting Midlands chess

Many towns and smaller cities hold festivals during the summer. Clubs could consider whether to run a chess themed event, which will be well-publicised locally.

Worcestershire CA this summer is running two blitz sessions at a city centre public house during the Worcester Festival and has contributed to an Active Ageing Festival. In relation to senior chess, many towns have branches of University of the Third Age (U3A) and my own area has recently established a chess group. 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.

Thank you for news

I again thank all correspondents - as in previous years Neil Graham has been particularly helpful - who have reported news, match results and pointed out errors. 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. I am conscious that the current website is getting tired and I invite another player to take over from me, but I am willing to continue as Publicity Director and website editor until someone else is found.