

MCCU Publicity Director's and Webmaster's Report 2014-5

Ray Collett 18 June 2015

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. During the year pages were added to publicise the MCCU congress at Walsall and I will augment this page if the union decides to hold a congress next season.

Review of annual performance

I have attempted to report in as timely a fashion as possible the results of MCCU stage county matches. I published 39 MCCU stage match results, 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 12 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 major aim has been to report the current leading positions in the Midlands Grand Prix and Rapid Grand Prix. I have continued to experience difficulties in keeping up-to-date as I do not always receive information from congress organisers.

A third aim has been to promote and develop chess in the MCCU area. About seventy news items were reported including items about MCCU junior players, about the same as 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.

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.

This year there were no times when the web hosting company, Easyweb, was not able to receive my uploads and I have not heard of any outages.

Publicity for MCCU Walsall congress

A new page was added to the website giving details of the event and subsequently a list of winners and an illustrated report. A thousand flyers were printed and distributed to organisers of other UK congresses, county secretaries, and other chess organisations. MCCU contact lists were e-mailed.

Publicity for 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. Worcester CA has recently registered two chess events - one for adults and one for juniors - in the Worcester Festival and I will prepare an appraisal of these events in September for Worcestershire CA, and copy it to county secretaries.

Conclusion

I again thank all correspondents - 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 willing to continue as Publicity Director and website editor next season, but if there is 'new broom', who would like to refresh the site's appearance and report at similar depth, I am very willing to stand aside.