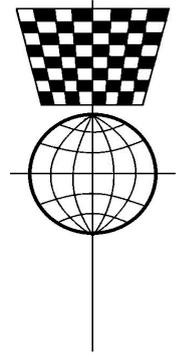


Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

<https://www.scottishcca.co.uk/>



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Sunday 1st March 2026, Online.

Present: Ben Major (Chari), Robert Bruce, Andrew MacMillen, Kevin Paine, Ian Whittaker

Apologies: Iain MacKintosh

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: These were accepted

Membership Secretaries Report:

The Association has 105 current members:

- 4 Patrons (2 Active)
- 86 Life Members - 9 of which play their games under the flag of a different association (13 Active under the SCCA flag)
- 14 Annual Members (13 active)

2025 Tournaments:

- 2025/26 Scottish Championship is nearing its conclusion with two games still in play which could still have a bearing on final results.
- Premier was won by Robert Bruce
- Open was won by Andrew MacMillen
- SCCA League Division 1 was won by England A
- SCCA League Division 2 was won by White Rose B
- SCCA League Division 3 was won by White Rose C

Despite the last minute scrambles when our new Membership Secretary resigned in December with no start made on renewals, our domestic tournaments all started on February 12 with the same number of participants as last year.

- The Championship has 6 entrants (7 last year)
- Premier has 3 entrants (4 last year)
- Open has 5 entrants (3 last year)

Only 3 people expressed an interest in challenger pairings so none have been started as of yet.

The Scottish League has now been set up with a start date of 16th March with three less teams than last year with England, NATCOR, and Social entering one less team each. The start date has been a bit delayed this year with the new committee still finding their feet and working out the necessary permissions that were required.

- Division 1 will have 5 teams
- Division 2 will have 4 teams and a double pairing has been agreed by team captains
- Division 3 will have 6 teams

Low number of active members is clearly a concern and explains why filling committee positions is so difficult and the low entries into championships.

Ian Whittaker advised that in years past we would leave leaflets advertising SCCA at OTB events and we could possibly look at doing this again. **(Action: Ian to see if he can find the leaflet that was previously produced)**

Ben asked if anyone knew what sort of engagement, if any, our social media presence has. Andrew and Robert both indicated they didn't know we had a Facebook page. Kevin indicated it had 237 followers however, the most recent post dated back to September 2024. **(Action: Ben to contact Mickey Blake about getting access to the page as an administrator to try and get this more active again)**

Andrew suggested we reach out to Schools and OTB clubs to promote SCCA. Robert asked if we knew of any chess in school programs within Scotland that we could reach out to. Ben mentioned he had only seen the Chess in Schools program down in England but hadn't seen any representation in Scotland. Ian indicated the funding was most likely ring fenced to the promotion of chess in England as it was from Government grants.

Chess Scotland are currently promoting a Hybrid/Online competition for remote clubs and this could be a good opportunity to further promote SCCA. Kevin indicated the key selling point of representing Scotland in registered tournaments. **(Action: Ian was going to speak to Chess Scotland about any interest in helping to promote Correspondence Chess)**

Ian mentioned a development fund of £1,000 that is in the accounts that can be used to try and attract new members. **(Action: All to think about ways we could potentially use this)**

International Secretaries Report:

This is my first report since responding to a request for volunteers to join the committee. I was appointed in September 2025.

Owing to the lack of any kind of handover or induction process, I have found the first few months quite difficult to navigate, but things are slowly becoming clearer.

Since September 37 individual entries have been received for international tournaments, copies of such notices are received, noted and forwarded to the Treasurer to tally against payments received.

The last 6 month has also been a very successful period for Scottish players obtaining norms and titles:

Allan Buchan, Iain Sneddon and Robert Montgomery all obtained the IM title, C Richard Beecham and Clive Murden obtained the first GM norms, Clive also obtained the SIM title. Gordon Anderson achieved his second IM norms and Ian Whittaker the Master title.

Kevin asked about certificates for members who achieved ICCF titles. Ian said he was left with some medals but they appear to be for lower titles (**Action: Andrew to contact Gordon Anderson who should be able to provide further guidance from his past history as International Secretary into how these certificates are obtained**)

Andrew would like to organise more International tournaments however, the low number of active members does make this difficult. (**Action: Ben to send Andrew a list of people who did express an interest in representing Scotland during the membership renewal process and to send a further email to the membership gauging interest**)

Treasurers Report:

Management accounts for the 11 months to 28/2/26 show that for the year-to-date receipts totalled £890 and payments made totalled £605 resulting in a small increase in the bank account balance, which currently now stands at £10,440.

The 100 Club continues to raise substantial funds with the SCCA receiving £530 gross to date (with approximately 50% being returned in prizes). Membership renewal receipts to date are £140 (this is still to be reconciled to the membership records). Competition entries received total £44.50 (though it should be noted that the majority of entry fees are made direct to ICCF where we later receive a credit for each entry – which is set off against ICCF fees). League team entry fees of £66 (covering both 2025 and 2026) were received with the remainder for 2026 due shortly. Donations of £109 were received, the majority of which was donated to

support the presentation of an engraved quaich, tumblers and a bottle of Macintosh whisky to Iain Macintosh on his retirement as president of the SCCA.

Significant payments in the year include £160 on the presentation gift to Iain and £100 as the SCCA's

annual affiliation fee to Chess Scotland. Annual service charges have been introduced by the Bank of Scotland on their changing our account type to a "Community Account" and these charges have totalled £50 in the year-to-date. Note that a major expense for the year arises when we receive our annual ICCF invoice which is expected to be received shortly.

Ian Whittaker mentioned he is currently the sole signatory to the SCCA's bank account and it would be good practice to have someone else from the executive act as a second signatory. Most payments these days are online and an authentication card would be provided by the bank to enable the second signatory to authorise these payments online. - Andrew MacMillen volunteered to be a second signatory which was approved. **(Action: Ian to liaise further with Andrew)**

The accounts for last year were audited by John Fanning. John once again has agreed to continue to offer himself as the SCCA Auditor. I will be putting a proposal to the AGM nominating John to be re-appointed as our Auditor.

Ian also mentioned that he has not seen any invoice in respect of web hosting. Ben indicated that he has access to the web hosting site. Ben has not received any emails about outstanding invoices and will log on to see if there are any notifications **(Action: Ben Major)**

Any Other Business

Discussion on the future of the Magazine was had. Last issue was released in Summer 2025. With such a low membership it is potentially a lot of work for such a low readership. Agreed that it would be put on hold for the time being as all news is put on the website and we also try and utilise social media more. Kevin indicated we do an ICCF mailing to all Scottish members to advise that the magazine will be put on hold with all news being available on the website or facebook going forward **(Action: Ben to organise communication to members).**

Ian asked if Clive Murden (webmaster) is part of the executive committee. Ben indicated that Clive is currently residing in Australia so the time difference would make it difficult.

Kevin asked if Alan Borwell had been invited as he would normally attend these meetings and as a former ICCF president would be a tremendous wealth of knowledge. Ben advised that Alan had been included in all meeting invites. **(Action:**

Kevin to contact Alan to gauge what level of involvement he still wishes to have)

Kevin pointed out that since the previous committee meeting there had been a significant change in the committee personnel. Kevin thanked Ben, Andrew, and Robert for volunteering to take on the positions and the work they had done. Andrew responded that as a long term SCCA member he felt it was only right to answer the call and feels privileged to serve on the committee. Ben and Robert both concurred with these sentiments.

Next Meetings:

Executive Committee - Wednesday 3rd June 7:30pm (online)

AGM - Sunday 7th June 4pm (online)