

BACL Internet Officer's Report

2019-20 Season

New Website and the ECF League Management System

The previous website needed extensive work to allow us to continue as we were while avoiding charges from our host (see the accounts for charges that were incurred). So we moved to a new site which wouldn't incur those costs and also adopted the ECF League Management System for the entry of results.

As benefits of this, the BACL site is now more secure, more mobile friendly, easier to maintain, and allows more scope for future development without great effort on my part. For example, over the summer we added a discussion forum to the site, which while not much used as yet, may prove to be useful going forwards.

That we're using the LMS also puts us in a good position in respect of the ECF's plans for monthly grading.

Using the LMS we were able to accommodate the BACL's bonus point (shows in the league tables, but not in the match result). After some initial teething issues around access and the inevitable learning curve, most results were reported promptly, though we did have some issues around result confirmation. This is probably my main complaint about the LMS. The move to the LMS lost both the recently introduced emails to captains letting them know that the opposing captain had entered the result and that they were expected to confirm it. We also lost easy visibility of results which were entered but not confirmed. Both issues are on the LMS developer's list of items to be addressed.

Another minor grumble is that the LMS doesn't nicely handle our Player of the Year competition. Player stats are available but extracting the Player of the Year standings from them requires a fair amount of effort.

With an eye on other agenda items, I note that the LMS could also be used for reporting of results from online competitions.

Suggestions Welcome

If anyone has any thoughts about how the league website could be improved, I'd be pleased to receive them. If you have suggestions for the improvement of the LMS, please also send those to me and I'll look to send them along to the developer.

Chess64.org

The BACL has, at no charge, acquired this web address. The intention is to allow any club who would benefit from it, to have a club website at an address such as ourclub.chess64.org. To help with league hosting costs a small fee may be charged.

If your club would be interested, please get in touch.

Steve Lovell, July 2020