Hampshire Chess Association

Webmaster Report for AGM, June 2024

The HCA website may be found at https://www.hampshirechess.co.uk/ In addition, I manage the Twitter and Facebook pages for the Association. These may be viewed at https://www.facebook.com/hampshirechess and https://x.com/HampshireChess

We welcome news and opinion from any viewer and encourage players, chess clubs & adjoining Counties to submit content to the website. Our Social Media outlets often assist to promote other chess clubs and organisations such as the ECF.

Costs

The website uses webspace provided by HostPresto at a cost of £48 per year. The domain name hampshirechess.co.uk costs an additional £7.80 per year. Total cost is £55.80 including VAT.. The domain renews in June whilst the webspace renews in December. These are very favourable costs although webspace is limited and it is necessary to carry out regular pruning due to email spam being included in the total webspace used. I typically clear spam from the email system once per month to ensure we do not incur additional charges.

Activity

The website was populated with around 70 posts in the previous year. The lowest activity was recorded in August with just 1 post being made to the site, the highest figure was in October with 13 posts being made. It is likely that the number of posts will fall once LMS is used to update Congress results. Work is being done to understand how we may use LMS more actively within the website in order to keep content current and of interest to players.

Minor updates to the template have been made and I am unaware of any viewer requests that have not been managed. I typically upload the ‘same day’ of receiving an update but sometimes these updates may be delayed whilst I am away from home. Urgent news can quickly be posted to Facebook and Twitter remotely.

The website increasingly is complimented by the content posted to the Hampshire Chess History site (https://hampshirechesshistory.co.uk/) which has a higher output due to the tremendous work by Graham Stuart.

Recommendations

Provided HostPreto do not significantly increase their fees, I would remain where we are as the site is stable and well supported by the HostPreto team. Minor issues are resolved quickly and contact with them is without problem.

The HCA History website is now a very valuable source of information and should be supported by the Association. I would support paying the associated costs of the website from County funds. I would also support consideration to merging the two websites under the webmaster and Archivist which would increase one set of fees whilst removing another.

Michael J. Blake
HCA Webmaster, 25/05/2024