HAMPSHIRE
CHESS ASSOCIATION

President: Peter Eales
Secretary: Graham Stuart
Affiliated: English Chess Federation
and West of England Chess Union

President's Award for Services to Chess – John Wheeler

In my past roles as president of the Portsmouth Chess League, and vice-president the Hampshire Chess Association, I have been fortunate enough to personally benefit in from John's steady hand in his role as secretary to both organizations.

John made a remarkable contribution to the running of the Portsmouth Chess League for a period spanning 40 years. His skilled management of the league ensured it was the best run league in Hampshire. As if that was not enough of an accolade, he then took on the simultaneous role of secretary of Hampshire Chess when the association was in turmoil, and not only returned it to normality, but most importantly, he laid the foundations that will allow Hampshire Chess to look to the future with confidence.

I know I can confidently speak for the other holders of these offices that having John guiding us through our brief terms in office was invaluable. AGMs can be tricky meetings if actors are determined to disrupt, but John's incredible understanding of the constitution and the rules ensured the right outcome. I saw other leagues fall into chaos under such tactics.

John's dedication as a delegate to the various related bodies ensured we were always on top of the many changes that have occurred in the past 20 or so years.

John's contribution to Portsmouth, Hampshire, and West of England chess will probably never be surpassed, and this contribution thoroughly deserves to be recognised by the highest award we can nominate him for.

Peter Eales
(President, Hampshire Chess Association)