

Isle of Man Chess Association AGM

Proposal for Committee Roles for the 2026/27 Season

Introduction

In the 2025/26 season we ran all our classical events as FIDE-rated tournaments for the first time, doing away with the need for our members to have ECF membership. Although ultimately a successful season, it was a steep learning curve, and at various times success was not a foregone conclusion. The biggest learning point for me, as Chairman, is that we need to define all the tasks required for a thriving chess club and assign them amongst the committee members so that we are sure of our roles, with the club having strength in depth for every key position.

Note that I've not included any reference to junior chess as I don't think it's realistic for us to run a junior section in the coming season. If enough enthusiastic members emerge to make a junior section viable, I suggest that they co-ordinate and make a detailed plan that can be put to the incoming committee or the wider membership via a General Meeting.

Proposed list of all roles/tasks to be divided amongst the committee members

- Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Club Administrator (NEW POSITION)
 - Working with Lead Arbiter to ensure tournament director and arbiters assigned to each FIDE-rated tournament.
 - Assigning tournament room set-up.
 - Assigning the key holders.
- Club Communications and Membership Officer (NEW POSITION)
 - Drafting the calendar.
 - Emails to club membership.
 - Tournament entries.
 - Name cards.
 - Website contact.
 - Club introduction.
 - Membership payment.
 - First meeting with new member.
- Webmaster 1
 - Website housekeeping and development.
 - Website tournament set up.
 - Results.
- Webmaster 2
 - Entries.

- Lead Arbiter (NEW POSITION)
 - Work with Club Administrator to assign arbiters to each FIDE-rated event.
 - Ensure latest FIDE Official Laws of Chess are on the website.
- National Arbiter 1
- National Arbiter 2
- National Arbiter 3
- National Arbiter 4
- National Arbiter 5
- National Arbiter 6
- Olympiad Captain
- International Rating Officer 1
- International Rating Officer 2
- FIDE Liaison Officer
- Swiss Manager 1
- Swiss Manager 2
- Swiss Manager 3
- Games Inputter 1
- Games Inputter 2
- Publicity Officer (NEW POSITION)
 - Writing articles and tournament reports for the website.
 - Generally publicising Isle of Man Chess Association/Club.
- Social Secretary and Casual Chess Co-ordinator (NEW POSITION)
 - Arrange social events for members outside of the competitions calendar.
 - Fill four evenings in the calendar set-aside for analysis of games and/or casual chess.
 - Explore opportunities for casual chess in the offseason.

You may have noticed that the role of Competitions' Secretary is not listed. This is because the calendar is drafted by the Club Communications and Membership Officer, and it will be the responsibility of the Club Administrator, and Lead Arbiter to ensure that tournament directors and arbiters (or combined roles) are allocated to each event. There is then no need for a Competitions' Secretary.

Tentative list of names of 10 officers for 2026/27

The existing committee consists of eight officers, seven of whom were elected at the 2025 AGM, and David Dunkley who was co-opted during last season. All eight officers have indicated that they would like to put their names forward for re-election (or in David's case, election) to the committee for the 2026/27 season and have committed to the duties listed below. If I am re-elected as Chairman, then I strongly recommend that my seven colleagues also be (re)elected, whilst creating two new positions on the committee.

Due the club's expanding membership, I believe that we should expand the committee to 10 officers, with the roles of 'Publicity Officer' and 'Social Secretary and Casual Chess Co-ordinator' to be filled by two enthusiastic individuals.

This is how I see the line-up for 2026/27, subject to the approval of members at the AGM:

Alan Ormsby

- Chairman
- International Rating Officer 1
- FIDE Liaison Officer
- National Arbiter 6

John Costello

- Secretary

Colin Watkinson

- Treasurer
- Olympiad Captain
- National Arbiter 4

David Dunkley

- Club Administrator
- Webmaster 1
- National Arbiter 1

Brian Woodard

- Club Communications and Membership Officer
- Webmaster 2
- Games Inputter 2
- National Arbiter 5

Brian Towers

- Lead Arbiter
- International Rating Officer 2
- Swiss Manager 2

Zahed Miah

- National Arbiter 2
- Swiss Manager 3

Glenn Cross

- Swiss Manager 1
- Games Inputter 1
- National Arbiter 3

Ninth officer (Position to be filled)

- Publicity Officer

Tenth officer (Position to be filled)

- Social Secretary and Casual Chess Coordinator

Conclusion

A version of this proposal was agreed by the committee on 14 July, to be presented for approval at the AGM. It outlines what is expected of each officer, whether it be the incumbent or a member that wishes to put their name forward. In my opinion, its adoption will make it more likely that the club will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Alan Ormsby, IOMCA Chairman, 9 August 2026