

## **Ian Pheby writes:**

It is with great pleasure that I can now announce that Kevin J Thurlow (UNATS) will receive a 2011 ECF President's Award for services to chess. Kevin is the 4<sup>th</sup> League member to receive the President's Award. Eric Croker (Education) in 1991, Roland Smith (Revenue & Customs) in 2003, and Ian M Pheby (UNATS) in 2009 being the others. I doubt if any other League has had so many of their members honoured for their services to chess.

Congratulations to Kevin on a well deserved award.

My citation for Kevin is as follows:-

### **Kevin J Thurlow**

Kevin, who is 57, learned to play chess when he was four years old. Since then, Kevin has had an outstanding career in both the organisation of and playing chess to a high level at Club, National and International levels. He is a Candidate Master and an ECF Arbiter. He has actively promoted chess for everyone at local, National and International level since 1969 which has included his work as an arbiter, coaching juniors and adults, running his local Club (Redhill), organising and running events, columnist and publisher, etc. You will see from his record below that Kevin has held many posts simultaneously carrying out the duties of each post to a very high standard. His dedication and unfailing energy to chess despite the pressures of a difficult and time consuming job and his serious illness a few years ago have been such a benefit to so many players. He is respected by many for his contributions to the chess community for a period of over forty years.

There can be no-one more deserving of an ECF President's Award than Kevin J Thurlow.

Kevin's outstanding record is as follows:-

### **Organisation (as an individual)**

- British (now English) Chess Federation arbiter since 1993.
- Has acted as emergency arbiter at zero notice at Guernsey International Chess Festival (when Steve Boniface died), and assisted at international events in Netherlands, Norway, Guernsey and Hastings. Arbiter at Combined Services Chess Championships since 2003, (and collation of results for grading), and has acted as arbiter at many other tournaments e.g. Surrey, Civil Service, Thanet, Metropolitan, Islington, Brighton, CCF Junior events, Spectrum events at Birmingham, Dudley, Hastings, Bideford, Weymouth, Portsmouth, Tunbridge Wells, Aveley, etc.
- Passed FIDE Arbiter exam in 2010.
- Published chess articles in Kingpin, British Chess Magazine, Surrey Mirror (columnist for many years), BCF "Chessmoves", and other journals, and also items published on websites in England, Germany, Guernsey, Netherlands, and Scotland.
- Has interviewed players such as Kasparov, Korchnoi, Spassky, Smyslov, etc.

- Commissioned by London Civil Service, Post Office and Municipal Chess League to write a history of the League.
- He has been interviewed on chess by Channel TV, Channel 5, BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Guernsey

### **Organisation (Clubs and Associations)**

- Reigate Grammar School – Captain/Secretary 1969 to 1970.
- Redhill Chess Club Committee – 1975 to date including
  - Chairman 1996 to date;
  - Secretary 1982 to 1991;
  - Treasurer 1981;
  - Tournament Director 1982 to date;
  - Grading Officer 1985 to 2007;
  - First team captain 1975 to 1980, 1990 to 1998;
  - Editor of newsletter 1975 to 1985;
  - Junior Coaching, emergency captain, assisting other officers where necessary, giving simultaneous displays at schools.
- Civil Service Chess Association (for Civil Service Sports Council)
  - Vice-President 1994 to 2008;
  - National individual organiser 1994 to 2004, 2007 to date;
  - Production of Bulletin for each event;
  - Collation of Results for grading.
- London Civil Service Chess League
  - Vice-President 1994 to date;
  - League Recorder 1982 to 1993;
  - Bulletin editor 1982 to 1994, (Leonard Barden and B H Wood both congratulated him on it!);
  - Additional Committee member 1994 to date;
  - Adjudicator 1985 to date;
  - London Regional individual organiser 1991 to 2002;
  - SE Regional individual organiser 1996 to 2002.
- Surrey County Chess Association
  - Bulletin editor 1986 to 1988;
  - Inter Clubs Tournament Secretary 2004 to 2007;
  - Adjudicator 1978 to 1994;
  - Inaugural Director of SCCA CLG;
  - Member of Rules and Ethics Subcommittee 2000 to 2004;
  - Member of Chess Disputes Committee 2007 to 2010.
- Government Chemists CC Committee
  - Secretary 1978 to 1990;
  - 1st Team captain 1977, and on emergency basis thereafter;
  - Tournament Director 1978 to 1990.
- Captain of “South” in “South” versus “North” – a large match organised to celebrate rebranding of “Chess” Magazine, when taken over by Pergamon in the 1980s.

- Spectrum Chess
  - One of the three Directors of a company organising chess events throughout the UK 2008 to date.
- Surrey Mirror
  - Regular column, then match results for several years since the early 1990s.
- DTISSA Magazine
  - Chess column 1981 to 1995.
- TI-LINE Magazine
  - Chess Column in the early 1980s.

## **Playing for Clubs and Associations**

- Reigate Grammar School chess club 1964 to 1971;
- Redhill Chess Club 1967 to date (Surrey League);
- Government Chemists Chess Club 1975 to 1990 (London Civil Service League);
- UNATS Chess Club 1993 to date, (London Civil Service League);
- A variety of other Clubs e.g. Grays (Essex League), Beckton Rooks (North Circular League/4NCL), NPL (Thames Valley League), City University (London League), Wimbledon (London League), Wood Green (London League/National Club Championship – selected for European Club Championship), Mitcham (London League), Thistle White Rose (4NCL), Waltham Forest (Essex League), Guernsey (now called Channel Isolani) (4NCL), Yorkshire (county championships), Surrey (County Championships – runners-up 2007, Winners Minor 2008, County postal championships), Civil Service (Representative matches and postal), Combined Services (Representative matches);
- Member of winning teams in Surrey Division 1, Division 2, Division 3, Team KO, Civil Service Division 1 (for both Government Chemists and UNATS), Division 2, North Circular League Division 1, London League Division 1, County and national postal championship team events, and various Cup competitions.

## **Playing as an individual**

- Candidate Master and has played at international events in England, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Scotland, and Switzerland. His best performance was probably 2nd place at Guernsey in 1996 which gave him qualification for the British Championship, results in which allowed him to achieve the highest increase in FIDE rating in the country for that year. He has also finished 3rd in Lugano (2nd Section) in 1983. He has beaten grandmasters at speed chess.
- He has won Civil Service championships at Lightning, 5 minutes for all moves, Selected Openings, Selected Endings, Rapidplay, classical chess, and postal chess. He also won the Surrey Postal Chess title in 1982, and has won over 60 trophies at club level. He has won brilliancy prizes at the Guernsey tournament, Civil Service Championship, and in the Surrey League, and Surrey Best Game prizes in Counties Correspondence Chess Championship.
- The first prize Kevin won was in a BBC Radio “find the move” quiz, broadcast in 1959; the most recent, the Redhill Club Championship in May 2010.