

# British Championships 2011 Survey Results and Comments

## General Survey Non-Junior Events

Grading Championships		37 Responses
23	U180 FIDE Rated	
19	U160 Fide Rated	
12	U140 FIDE Rated	
13	U120 FIDE Rated	
29	current bands reasonable	
1	bands should be altered	
Major Open		
25	U2200 should enter even if qualified for British	
4	Conditions for foreign players	
20	No conditions for foreign players	
23	IM norms available	
8	9 day event	
9	Maximum rating limit imposed	
am & pm Opens		
23	FIDE rated	
6	Not FIDE rated	
10	Equal strength sections when numbers demand	
13	Split by grading bands	
9	Grading restricted non champ section	
14	continue current format	
General		
1	only played because of top players	
35	would have played anyway	
9	want evening blitz events	
11	want varied social calendar	
9	would pay for adult coaching	
1	would pay for additional junior coaching	

Unfortunately no survey of junior events took place

## Championship Survey

	Responses	44
Acceleration	Pairing information	
9 strongly oppose	1 Use phone	
8 oppose	40 Internet	
12 don't care	5 playing hall	
8 agree	2 don't know	
5 strongly agree	2 Object to removal	
Qualifying	Commonwealth Championships incorporating British	
23 Qualifying good	1 not play	
15 too many qualifiers	10 Reservations	
36 IMs automatic qualification	31 play	
17 FMs automatic qualification		
24 WIM automatic qualification		
7 WFM automatic qualification		
11 Commonwealth players in for 2013		
20 Commonwealth out		
2 Shorter session		

## Senior Survey

	<b>Incremental time</b>		<b>Returns</b>	44
18	Yes			
13	No			
13	Indifferent			
	<b>U1800 Senior</b>			
21	popular addition			
16	detract from senior champ			
5	play in both			
9	play in U1800			
	<b>Over 75 Title</b>	<b>Title Suggestions</b>		
31	Yes	Veteran	12	
12	No	Super Senior	2	
		British Over 75	4	
	<b>British Senior Womens Title</b>	Most Senior	1	
23	Yes	Doyen	1	
19	No			
	<b>Session length</b>			
25	6h			
11	5h			
8	4h			

## Comments

There is a strong desire for the U180 and U160 Grading Championships to be FIDE rated. This will probably be implemented though decisions will need to be taken as to whether FIDE or national rating will take precedence. The Morning and Afternoon Opens will also be considered for FIDE rating.

Splitting the Graded Championships into sections would mean joint Champions, possibly on different scores. It is doubted if this would be generally accepted.

There was some demand for a further U100 Championship which will be considered.

It is very likely that players Under 2200 who qualify for the British will be allowed the option of competing in the Major Open.

A contradictory result of the survey was that players would like IM norms available in the Major Open but were unwilling to fund the only way that could be done without weakening the Championship i.e. by offering conditions to foreign players.

There was little support for a 9 day event though there were some suggestions involving amalgamation of the Afternoon Opens.

There is some support for having evening events. It is hoped that greater local involvement in 2012 will allow for more evening events and perhaps some organised 'sightseeing'.

The 5 Day Opens need further consideration particularly when a large entry is received. Published grading prizes is a potential step.

The situation regarding the use of Accelerated Pairings in the Championship was unclear.

It seems likely that all (W)GMs and (W)IMs will be allowed automatic entry to the event. It is unlikely that this concession will be extended to FMs. There were a number of comments that WFMs would require a minimum rating.

It is likely that the answerphone giving pairings will no longer be available. An 'emergency' phone contact will replace it for players with a problem over this.

The idea of inviting Commonwealth players to participate in the Championship during 2013 was rejected. However, should the Commonwealth Championships be held in Britain in the near future then most would participate if the British Championship was incorporated into that event.

There is general feeling that qualification procedures are reasonable but some feeling exists that too many qualify. Qualification via a Grand Prix system is being considered.

It is likely that an experimental Incremental time may be introduced into the Senior Championship for 2012. There was strong support for the introduction of a British Veteran title for the top placed over 75. This may subsequently lead to an additional event! There were a number who expressed concern that a Senior Woman Champion title would be won by default. If it is introduced then the player would require to score a minimum of 3/7 to overcome these reservations.

An additional tournament for 'more experienced' players taking place during the first week is a possibility but it must be marketed in such a way as not to detract from the main senior event. For this reason it is unlikely to give a title initially.

Significant restructuring is unlikely to take place before 2014 and after the 100<sup>th</sup> Championship.

## **Answers to questions raised by respondents**

It is likely that the Jan/Feb grading list will be used for future events. Using a later list is not likely to be viable for first week events at least and a consistent approach is best.

Consideration will be given to holding the U8 event in a separate room. This will allow more supervision of players and accompanying adults and minimise disruption due to time scrambles in the main hall.

A grading restricted 11 round morning event is a suggestion worth further consideration.

It was suggested that the top players should be on a stage. Whilst this would help create an aura it would not be popular with a number of spectators who prefer to get closer to the boards.

It is unfortunate that control of the temperature at this current venue was so difficult. I doubt if Stewart predicted such warm weather in Sheffield when making the booking. Parking was a problem but public transport was excellent. Holiday venues will always be the preferred option but occasional visits to cities does give variety. Next year's venue is air conditioned.

Triple NCR scoresheets are always a problem. Unfortunately we have been unable to find a way round this problem. We should certainly advise players to use ballpoint pens.

Next year's choice of a northern venue was deliberate. Accommodation in the south is likely to be difficult to obtain and/or expensive due to the Olympic games. 2013 will be Torquay. The event is duty bound to move around the country.

Unrated and junior players in the graded championships is always a bit problematic. Juniors have recently been allowed to compete again as it is felt the grading system for them is now much more accurate. Unrated players do go through additional checks.

It is expected that the free coaching of juniors will continue. Nick Nixon appreciates the favourable comments he receives. An extension of official coaching given may be considered.

Finally thank you on behalf of all the organisers for the many compliments received.

## Accelerated Pairings – Pros and Cons

For	Against
<p>Stops first round pairings with large rating differences. This means more meaningful games with potential sponsorship benefits.</p> <p>Potentially more clashes between top players throughout event, enhancing spectator interest from beginning of event.</p> <p>Minor places more accurately decided.</p> <p>Arguably enhances norm chances.</p> <p>‘Swiss Gambit’ of early draw and then easy ride is less likely to be achieved after opening rounds.</p> <p>British system of acceleration can reduce ‘yo-yo’ effect of winning against low rated, losing to high rated, winning .... Some accelerated systems certainly do not seem to do this.</p> <p>It gives chess players something further to debate/argue about!</p> <p>The argument of reducing the number of rounds required for an outright winner on maximum points obviously doesn’t apply to the British Championship.</p>	<p>System not well understood by players or spectators who puzzle at different scores playing each other.</p> <p>Top players can meet earlier in the event.</p> <p>Possibility of large downfloats for leaders in later rounds</p> <p>No suitable software available. (Though both Swiss Master and Swiss Manager have recently been confirmed as not pairing to the rules for seeded pairings anyway.)</p>

## British Championships 2011

Name (not required) .....

Rating – Please tick appropriate box

2400+		2300- 2399		2200- 2299		2000- 2199		Below 2000	
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Please read the other side before completing these questions.

1. Pairing are accelerated for three rounds.

I strongly oppose the pairings produced	
I oppose the pairings produced	
I do not care which system is used	
I agree with the pairings produced	
I strongly agree with this system	

2. Please tick all statements that you agree with

The current qualifying system is good		The current qualifying system allows too many qualifiers	
All IMs should be allowed to enter		All FMs should be allowed to enter	
All WIMs should be allowed to enter		All WFMs should be allowed to enter	
For the 100 <sup>th</sup> Championship in 2013 Commonwealth players should be allowed to enter		For the 100 <sup>th</sup> Championship in 2013 Commonwealth players should <b>not</b> be allowed to enter	
I would prefer a shorter time control			

3. The answer phone is used less and less. It can be a significant expense in some venues (e.g. installing dedicated phone line). Please answer the following

I use the phone line to get my pairing	
I use the Internet to get my pairing	
I go to the playing hall to get my pairing	
I do not know in advance who I am playing	
I would object to the removal of the answerphone service	

4. 2012 will see the British in North Tyneside and 2013 (probably) in Torquay. There is the possibility of incorporating the event into the Commonwealth Championships for one year only.

I would not play in such an event	
I would have reservations about playing in such an event	
I would participate in such an event	

# Senior Survey

Name ..... (if you wish)

1. Would you like an incremental time control as used in the British Championship?

Yes		No		Indifferent	
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2. The possibility of holding a 5 round U1800 Senior event with a four hour session in the mornings of the first week is being considered. Please select the most appropriate comments.

Such an event would be a popular addition	
Such an event would detract from the main Senior Championship	
I would consider playing in both events	
I would play in the U1800 event	

3. With the increasing age of the population there is scope for having a title for the top player aged over 75. Do you think that appropriate?

Yes		No	
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What title should be given to such a Champion?

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4. Should there be a British Ladies Senior title introduced?

Yes		No	
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5. Which length of session do you prefer? Please tick.

Six hours	
Five hours	
Four hours	

## British Championships 2011 General Survey

Name (optional) ..... Section .....

**Please tick ALL that you think should apply**

Grading Championships (U120,U140,U160,U180)

The U180 should be FIDE rated	
The U160 should be FIDE rated	
The U140 should be FIDE rated	
The U120 should be FIDE rated	
The grading bands used look reasonable	
The grading bands should be altered	

Major Open (MO). The status of the Major Open has declined in recent years, mainly due to the increased number of FIDE rated events. How can its status be enhanced?

Players rated under 2200 who qualify for the British should be allowed to enter the MO	
Foreign players should be offered conditions to enter	
Foreign players would be welcome but should not be offered conditions	
There should be the possibility of IM norms available	
The MO should be a 9 day event	
There should be a maximum rating limit on entrants	

The non championship second week afternoon and morning 5 day events are proving very popular.

These events should be FIDE rated	
These events should NOT be FIDE rated	
These events should be split into sections of about equal strength	
These sections should be split into grading bands if the numbers allow	
There should be a grading restricted section for U160 (U1800) players	
The current format should continue	

We are always trying to improve the popularity of the Championships. Please indicate which would apply in your case.

I only played this year because of the top players in the Championship	
I would have played anyway but appreciate the effort made to get the top players	
I would like a blitz event held most evenings	
I would like a varied social events calendar	
I would welcome and pay for adult coaching if available	
I would welcome and pay for additional one-one junior coaching if available	

Other comments

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