

1 Greenmount Office Park  
Harolds Cross  
Dublin 6W

28<sup>th</sup> July 2010

**Re: Dun Laoghaire Club International Chess Festival**

Dear Chess Friend,

As Chairman of the ICU for the last two years I have focussed our efforts on supporting Junior Chess through the Glorney & Faber Cups. We have also supported regional weekend tournaments and the Irish Championship.

The biggest gap in our support has been for those players who are close to achieving international titles and recognition. It is generally agreed that the best way of doing this is to arrange all-play-all events of sufficient strength to allow the players achieve “ norms”.

Ireland has 1 International Grandmaster and 6 International Masters. All of these players achieved their titles abroad at considerable personal expense and with no support from their home Union.

This year Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has agreed to support the Dun Laoghaire Club in the organisation of a chess event to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> year in existence.

Michael Crowe, Mark Quinn, Alexander Baburin and myself decided to organise major events to fill this gap in our supports to Irish Chess.

The Irish Chess Union agreed to support the venture and some private sponsorship was also arranged.

To encourage interest from our own members the programme was extended to include a full week of events to cater for all interests in chess. Please see the Calendar attached to this note.

It is only four weeks to the start of the Dun Laoghaire Club Chess Festival, the highlight of which will be two International Invitation Tournaments designed to help Irish players to achieve the standards required for International and Grandmaster FIDE titles.

All of our best players have been invited to participate and the event will provide an opportunity for quality preparation for the forthcoming Olympiad in Siberia.

The main events have been enhanced by the addition of many other quality competitions and exhibitions which will attract players of all standards and help to improve their prowess at the game and also encourage our players in the principal tournaments.

The programme is published courtesy of the Irish Chess Union and there is something there for everyone ([www.icu.ie](http://www.icu.ie)).

No event of this size can function without help and assistance.

In particular we need help in the following areas:

1. Assistant Controllers
2. Bulletin Preparation and Publishing
3. Administration – taking entries; supervision of play; setting up pieces & clocks.
4. Security for participants both adult and underage.
5. Assistance in financial affairs
6. Guest Liaison
7. Catering
8. Liaison with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council – who are the main sponsors of this event.

Above all we need financial support and participation in the associated events.

To this end we have designed a package that will allow keen chess players to support the aims of this event and spread the cost over as many people as possible, even if they don't actively participate.

To be a friend of Dun Laoghaire Chess, all you have to do is purchase entry to all of these events for the fee of €100. These entries can be transferrable to different individuals across the spectrum of the competitions. It is also good value in that the cost of entry to all eligible events would be €155.

As a friend of Dun Laoghaire Chess Festival you are not limited to €100!!

This is an ideal opportunity for clubs to sponsor their members to participate in various events.

It is my intention that this event will become an annual fixture. Already we have had donations of trophies and in particular one to commemorate the memory of Sergeant Carroll, a prominent member of the Dún Laoghaire Club.

Don't forget that Scotts Lounge on Georges Street Dún Laoghaire will become a "Chess Pub" for the duration of the event.

Can you please direct any offers of assistance to Eamon Keogh and any entries to Michael Crowe.

Our contact details are on the attached calendar for the festival and any queries or further information should be directed to Eamon Keogh.

We have offers of Bed & Breakfast facilities in Dun Laoghaire at very keen rates. Those interested in availing of these offers can contact me at 087-2453476.

Finally even if you can't support us financially and you are unable to assist in the running of the event we do welcome you as a spectator.

Yours Sincerely

Eamon Keogh