

## **Training seminars for Teachers, Coaches and Trainers**

There will be three training courses during the Irish Championships in Limerick. Two of them are for ICU titles and one for FIDE titles. Each one will last 15 hours or so.

On the first weekend (6-7 July) there will be a seminar for the title of Club Instructor (CI). On the second weekend (13-14 July) there will be one for the School Instructor (SI) title. What's the difference? The CI course places much more emphasis on coaching than the SI course which is almost exclusively focused on chess teaching (see below for more on this).

The FIDE Trainers seminar will run in the mornings throughout the week (8-12 July). Successful candidates will acquire one of the four FIDE titles (see below) that are available by examination, up to and including FIDE Trainer. The timetable allows attendees to play in the Championship or the other afternoon tournaments.

Fees, including course materials, are €80 for the ICU seminars and €300 for the FIDE seminar. More details, and online payment, can be found at [www.ulchessclub.com](http://www.ulchessclub.com). Registrants should also send their details by email to the Lecturer, FST Kevin O'Connell.

Closing date for entries is 3 July, but it is first come first served and the last ICU seminar (Dublin 2011) was a sell-out.

## **ICU-TRG**

TRG stands for Training and ICU-TRG is the ICU's training arm. ICU-TRG currently consists of FST Kevin O'Connell (Chairman), GM Alexander Baburin (who replaced Pete Morriss, to whom our thanks for helping to get the ball rolling) and AI Darko Polimac.

You surely know that GM stands for Grandmaster, but what about the other abbreviations? FST is FIDE Senior Trainer, the highest trainer title (about 100 in the world) and there are four other FIDE trainer titles: FIDE Trainer, FIDE Instructor, National Instructor and Developmental Instructor. We have two: FI Gabriel Mirza, who is the ICU's liaison man with FIDE-TRG, and DI Colm O Muireagain, with surely more to follow from the Limerick training seminar. There are about 2,000 holders of the four titles below FST.

We also have three national trainer titles: Academy Instructor (AI), Club Instructor (CI) and School Instructor (SI). We have not yet run a course for School Instructors (there should be one this year), we have 26 Club Instructors (awarded in 2011) and 5 Ais (awarded in 2012): Alexander Baburin, Michael Crowe, John Delaney, Gabriel Mirza and Darko Polimac.

## **Training – Coaching – Teaching – what's the difference?**

We all tend to mix together the terms trainer, coach and teacher, but they are very different, even though a particular individual may combine two or even all three of these instructor roles. Trainers train, they may train trainers, coaches or teachers. Trainers train people to do the job of training, coaching or teaching, or to do it better. Coaches coach players, as individuals or in groups, honing

their skills and helping them improve as players. We often refer to coaches 'training' people, but it is a loose and unhelpful usage of language. Teachers, unsurprisingly, teach, but not necessarily in school; an instructor in a junior club, working with beginners will be teaching, not coaching, helping beginners come to grips with chess sufficiently to reach a stage where they would benefit from coaching. That same instructor may be constantly moving back and forth between two groups, teaching one and coaching the other.

Almost all of the titles are for coaches - those who work with players, young or old, individuals or groups. The FST title and, to a certain degree, the AI title specifically recognizes those with the background and experience to do the training. SI is primarily intended for 'teachers' who do not have the necessary chess skills to work with players beyond the beginner level.

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