

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

For AGM November 2025

This report will summarise the current membership position in comparison to previous years.

Exhibit 1 – Comparison of WCU membership numbers:

	Season 2024-25			Season 2023-24			% change
Zone	Total	Adults	Juniors	Total	Adults	Juniors	
East Glamorgan	286	203	83	268	200	68	+6.7%
West Wales	146	123	23	145	122	23	+0.7%
Gwent	97	82	15	95	79	16	+2.1%
Dyfed	19	18	1	22	20	2	-13.6%
North Wales	44	37	7	53	40	13	-16.9%
Unattached	12	10	2	8	7	1	+50%
Total	604	473	131	591	468	123	+2.2%

Total membership has increased from 591 to 604 in 2024-25.

Exhibit 2 – Comparison of WCU registered clubs playing over the board league chess pre and post pandemic:

	Season 2024-25	Season 2023-24	% change
Zone	Club numbers	Club numbers	
East Glamorgan	10	11	-9%
West Wales	6	6	No change
Gwent	5	5	No change
Dyfed	5	6	-16.7%
North Wales	7	6	~+16.7%
Total	33	34	-2.9%

This shows a very static position with the number of clubs. However, it is disappointing that League chess has not resumed in Dyfed post the pandemic.

Exhibit 3 – Comparison of WCU new members 2022-23 to 2023-24

	Season 2024-25	Season 2023-24
Zone	New members	New members
East Glamorgan	81	75
West Wales	41	49
Gwent	21	33
Dyfed	5	3
North Wales	5	23
Unattached	6	3
Total	159	186

Total member numbers have increased from 591 to 604 in 2024-25 and included in the total figures are 159 new members. This means that in 2024-25 146 members from 2023-24 did not renew their membership.

It is pleasing that new members are coming into clubs on a consistent basis, but this is not having a significant increase in total numbers of WCU member. Therefore, we must be losing similar numbers to we are gaining each year. Clubs need to look at the reasons why players are leaving Welsh Chess to see if there is a pattern that emerges that we can do something about.

Conclusion

Current fee levels were increased for the season 2023-24 and remained in place as shown below for season 2024-25. With the AGM being after the start of the current season I had no authority but to keep fees at this level for 2025-26.

Existing WCU members - Adults - £20 and Juniors (U-18 on 1/9/2025) - £10

New WCU members - Adults - £10 and Juniors (U-18 on 1/9/2025) - £5

It would be up to the AGM to decide whether they want to backdate an increase in fees to start of this current season, but I would advise against this for logistical reasons.

At the AGM in 2024 I offered my resignation as Membership Secretary but in the absence of a replacement agreed to continue in this role until a replacement was found. Unfortunately, at no point during the last 12 months was a replacement found. My current view is that the current management board is failing in its remit and as a result I have reached the conclusion that I will no longer be prepared to carry on in the roles of Finance Director and Membership Secretary.

The WCU is in desperate need of new proactive people to come forward for the good of chess development in Wales and I very much hope that this is the case at this year's AGM.

Jason Garcia

Membership Secretary