

# Feedback 2011

- firstly the [comment slips](#) given at the congress, then from [other sources](#).

Our responses to some of the comments:

**Expensive food/facilities, time to serve food:** These comments (as well as the positives) have been passed to the venue. They and I will discuss again when planning next year.

**Longer games:** the (admittedly limited) survey at the congress resulted 14 - change, 17 - no change, so we can't really justify changing with this result. However next year we'll make the time control 30 in 75 mins with 30 minute quickplay finish. While it won't give longer games perhaps the longer quickplay will help.

**Four tournaments instead of three, higher grading limits for Major:** Old hands will remember that we changed to four tournaments in 2007 but from then on numbers declined until we could no longer afford it and reverted to three in 2010. Entries increased then and this year, perhaps suggesting three is optimum. However, given the excellent entry of this year we'll reintroduce a Challengers next year but if numbers decline again we will almost certainly have to go back to three simply for affordability.

**Shorter lunch break:** Not really feasible I'm afraid. I asked several people including the arbiters for their views and I summarise below –

- the majority of players (especially those playing in the Open) want a break of a full hour between rounds.
- making the draw for so many entrants does need the full hour, particularly if the draw is difficult.
- doing the draw in 30 minutes could just about be possible. But you have to take other things into account. If a couple of games go right to the end the players only get 30 minute break for lunch and if the draw is difficult (or needs correction) next round start might be delayed. Also the pairing sheets still need to be written out, posted on the wall and everyone in that tournament would need to see it with, probably, only a few minutes available before the start.
- may not have time to put name cards on table or correct errors in the draws.

- however we will look at some kind of activity for the 12 - 2-ish period, though we will try again to run a commentary/coaching session.

**Analysis room:** Perhaps this was from someone who hasn't been here before? In previous years the analysis room has been on the same floor but is a small-ish, air-less, over-warm, windowless claustrophobic room. We felt using the lounge would be a much more pleasant environment for analysis. It is also close to the bar which pleased the venue! We did realise there were too many tables so was a bit cramped but there's nothing to stop a board & set being taken to another part of the lounge.

**Spring allegro: Under consideration.** Much depends on whether the venue can/will host it.

**FIDE rate:** We've looked at this previously but there are several reasons for not doing it – cost, complexity in setting up, a number of FIDE-rated players wouldn't enter (partly at least because the games are too short, two games in one day puts rating points at risk).

Good venue and well organized  
as usual. Later finishing would  
make travel more difficult: but not  
insurmountable

From 2012 we have the option to increase quickplay finish time to 30 mins per player but  
this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Sun.  
Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)? Yes /  No

NOT KEEN ON 9:30 STARTS, THANKS.

PRICE INCREASE MADE THE FOOT

STARTS LESS ATTRACTIVE. WE WENT ELSEWHERE.

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this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Sun.  
Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)?  Yes /  No

EARLIER - START. SHORTER

LUNCH BREAK

Keep trying with the  
coaching, it would be  
good if it worked

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this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and  
Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)? Yes /  No

I WOULD SUGGEST REDUCING LUNCH BREAK  
TO 30 MINS INSTEAD OF 1 HOUR?  
I LIKE THE 10AM START ONLY BECAUSE I TRAVEL  
DAILY TO EVENT FROM ALVA. SO ITS NOT SUCH AN  
EARLY START TO TRAVEL.

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this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Sun.  
Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)? Yes /  No

FIDE-RATE the Open. Not enough  
FIDE events in Scotland! Apart  
from that, perfect!

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per player; this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Sun.  
Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)? Yes /  No

Great as ever. My only concern here is  
the 3hr 30min game time so please test  
extending is being considered.

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this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Sun.  
Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)?  Yes /  No

Excellent. Only suggested improvement  
is addressed by question below.

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this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and  
Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)?  Yes /  No

Very well organised -  
Perhaps a spring off

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this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Su  
Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)? Yes /  No

Nice venue as always and well  
organized. Prefer 4 events to 3 or would  
pay extra fees to support additional event.

From 2012 we have the option to increase quickplay finish time to 30 mins per pl  
this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and  
Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)? Yes /  No

EXCELLENT VENUE REGARDS PLAYING CONDITIONS,  
FACILITIES, FOOD, VIEW - THE BEST OF ANY  
SCOTTISH CONGRESS.

From 2012 we have the option to increase quickplay finish time to 30 mins per pl  
this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and  
Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)? Yes /  No

Well-organized. Refreshments  
the club expensive. Some say  
for a 'plat' tournament to take  
place between official matches  
rather a long wait if these are  
early.

From 2012 we have the option to increase quickplay finish time to 30 mins per pla  
this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and S  
Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)?  Yes /  No

Very enjoyable - personally I feel that the

cut-off for the travel should be 1900, 1850 etc.

As I feel that 1700's finishing the open is slightly too hard.

From 2012 we have the option to increase quickplay finish time to 30 mins per player but this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Sun. Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)?  Yes / No

Very good venue and organisation  
but a bit hot!

From 2012 we have the option to increase quickplay finish time to 30 mins per player but this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Sun. Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)?  Yes / No

you

Getters chess!

EXCELLENT VENUE PITY ANALYSIS ROOM

NOT ON SAME FLOOR

From 2012 we have the option to increase quickplay finish time to 30 mins per pl; this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Sun. Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)? Yes /  No

An excellent tournament extremely  
well organised with helpful and  
informative up-dates in advance

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Many thanks for a professional &  
fun event. Always a warm  
welcome in Dundee!

From 2012 we have the option to increase quickplay finish time to 30 mins per player! this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Sun. Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)?  Yes /  No

WHAT'S TO CHANGE!? EXCELLENTLY RUN,  
AS ALWAYS. A PLEASURE TO PLAY HERE.

MY THANKS & APPRECIATION TO THE TEAM.

From 2012 we have the option to increase quickplay finish time to 30 mins per player but this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Sun. Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)?  Yes / No

Thankyou Jan marks

PLEASE! 15 MINS IS  
A TAD TOO ABRUPT.

A FANTASTIC TOURNAMENT! EVERYTHING IS  
PERFECT AND WOULD NOT CHANGE ANYTHING!!

From 2012 we have the option to increase quickplay finish time to 30 mins per pl; this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Sun. Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)?  Yes / No

THOROUGHLY ENJOYED EVERY MIN  
OF A VERY WELL ORGANISED TOURNAMENT  
IN A GREAT VENUE.

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FIRST TIME HERE - VERY IMPRESSED -  
HAVE NO USEFUL IMPROVEMENTS TO  
OFFER (JIM R. BIRCH)

From 2012 we have the option to increase quickplay finish time to 30 mins per pl; this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Sun. Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)?  Yes / No

EXCELLENT VENUE!

From 2012 we have the option to increase quickplay finish time to 30 mins per player but this would mean starting at 6:30 Friday; starting / finishing 09:30 / 18:30 Sat and Sun. Would you be in favour of such a change (please circle)?  Yes / No

Really enjoyed it. Great Venue.

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Excellent! Can't think of anything - great venue/organisation

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A big improvement on the last one / very in 20 years ago

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Well - Organised / Excellent Venue

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Keep up the good work your efforts are much appreciated.

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Very Well run Competition - Good Luck For next year

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Excellent congress! I like the venue.

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**CS forum:**

Thanks to the organisers for putting on a very enjoyable tournament. Impressively promptly graded as well.

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Many thanks for a Fantastic effort by the Dundee organisers who have put on yet another successful tournament.

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Many thanks to all involved at the Dundee congress. A lot of thought has gone into this tournament not only this year but also in previous years and I was constantly hearing good reports about it. This was the first time I have been able to attend and was really impressed with it's truly fantastic venue. I was also particularly delighted to see excellent junior prizes in each section. The importance of this aspect when organising a tournament should never be overlooked. Juniors (and their friends) return the following year and their chess playing parents return too. I enjoyed it very much.

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**Website forms:**

Fantastic congress! Well run, great venue and great arbiters.

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Enjoyed this years congress, but, as a regular participant I would prefer a Challengers event to be included. I realise this is dependent on number of entrants, but, entry fees could be increased slightly to facilitate. thanks.

**Email:**

Thanks, ..., for all of your team's after services. I shall treasure these mementos [photos] of a memorable Congress.

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We both ( my wife and I ) enjoyed the weekend, Dundee & Angus Chess Congress just gets better and better

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... just wanted to say thank you for organising another very successful and highly enjoyable congress. Well organised, excellent venue and facilities.

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thanks again for organising an excellent congress and all the lifts to and from the city centre. Not many congress organisers do that, and many are in venues which are tricky to get to and from if you don't have a car. One which springs to mind is the e2e4 series of congresses in England which are normally at DeVeres hotels in the middle of nowhere. Even though they are five star rated, there are often in places where there are no buses on a Sunday!

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I enjoyed the congress very much. It is one of my favourite events, and I hope that we will be back next year.

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So many players said this is one of the best congresses in Scotland that there may even be more entrants next year!

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Usually I find the food very good with the prices being acceptable; however the bar staff, although pleasant tend to be slow and not tuned in enough. On Sat. \*\*\* and I had a burger, two drinks, which without a queue took 5 mins to order and 20 mins to be served. On the Sunday again no queue. I ordered 2 meals and 2 drinks- the "till computer" broke down and they were totally stumped- 10 mins to "manually" give me 2 drinks and again a 20 min wait for the food.

Point being- excellent food, lovely premises but spoiled by poor bar staff (although very polite) hence they are letting themselves down by simply not correcting this; ie a problem I feel has been there since 2005. I do not mean to criticise but only give positive feedback for their managers etc.

Given a faster service I am sure our players would not go somewhere else (perhaps quicker since time is an issue).

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The venue was excellent, the service on the whole was great, at least my experience of it. The staff were very helpful. The breakfast menu was not only good value, it was great tasting food!

Just a couple of negative points, but not complaints. After all you are always going to get times where things due to what ever, don't run as planned.

1. When the reception was very busy, I had on two occasions a bit of a wait to get into the food/drink hall. This at the time was not an issue, but could have been. Not sure there is anything you can do about this?
2. I missed the buffet, arriving at 2:30pm (my fault). My match starts at 2:30pm, but I was prepared to lose a bit of time and have a bite to eat. I ordered a meal from the main menu, but it took 20 minutes before it arrived. I did not know or expect it to take so long. Had I known, I would not have ordered it. I scoffed it down, (It tasted lovely) and went up to the playing hall. I could have been defaulted and sick at the same time! Again, this is not a complaint as good food can take time, I just did not think it would take as long, nor did the menu or staff give an indication of how long it would be. I may also be at fault partly, but as I have stated above, I would not have ordered it had I known.

Apart from that, I could not fault the venue, facilities and staff for all their hard work and friendliness.