

4NCL Division 2: Manx Liberty Team Candidate for Promotion to Division 1

The Isle of Man Chess team which barely made promotion to Division 2 last season after struggling to fend off a challenge from its fellow rival Gonzaga, can now take a breath of relief.

Thanks to the transition of SG Trier, a German mid-class Bundesliga team which ceased at the end of last season, a strong squad of European Grandmasters is going to join Manx Liberty to battle for promotion for the 4NCL Division 1.

The German team did fine under the tenure of former chairman and school chess legend Kurt Lellinger who elevated the club to the Top 10 of German chess clubs, with 180 members and a mid-class Bundesliga team at its peak.

His relentless dedication to organize funding for chess by approaching small local business people and club members for donations and his outstanding contacts to local politics ensured high class local chess events could be held with world class chess players from teams like Baden-Baden coming to Trier.

Unfortunately after his stroke in late 2012 and his death in early 2017, all funding to host local matches as well as the organisational support vanished.

All efforts to transfer the Bundesliga license from Trier to another club in Germany were blocked by the German Chess Federation.

Thanks to centralised rounds in 4NCL competitions, the Manx Liberty team does not need to worry anymore about club support to host local matches, secondly 4NCL teams can access players from different British clubs if they are short.

Grandmaster Dr. Stewart Haslinger and Top Junior player Robert Akeya-Price come from Mainland UK clubs to join the Manx Liberty team. Stewart Haslinger who is actually a scientist, has been a long time club member of the Trier Bundesliga team and has decided to join Manx Liberty from Cheddleton as both teams are now competing in the 4NCL.

Robert Akeya-Price, called "Bobby", recently finished 3rd at the British Chess Championships in the "Under 12" category and is located in London.

However he still has a long way to go and the Manx Liberty team leadership wants to see him reaching ELO 2000 at the age of 14.

The team will be completed by a group of passionate Manx chess players.

Indeed, promoting dedicated local players will be a main objective of the team leadership for the upcoming season.

However, these players might be struggling to hold strong Mainland UK chess players.

Overall, the competition has good chances to score or even beat the Manx Liberty team and promotion is far from certain.

Manx Liberty Division 2 2017-18

Number	Player	Title	Jnr.	Nat.	FIDE	Grade	4NCL
1	Erdos, Viktor	g		HUN	719978		2624
2	Lupulescu, Constantin	g		ROU	1207822		2620
3	Parligras, Mircea-Emilian	g		ROU	1204297		2616

4	Antoniewski, Rafal	g	POL	1111078		2537
5	Cyborowski, Lukasz	g	POL	1108760		2517
6	Haslinger, Stewart G	g	ENG	405248		2515
7	Bobras, Piotr	g	POL	1106880		2512
8	Gonda, Laszlo	g	HUN	720852		2500
9	Galyas, Miklos	i	HUN	707244	244	2481
10	Jaracz, Pawel	g	POL	1102222		2465
11	Cioara, Andrei-Nestor	i	ROU	1203509		2434
12	Seger, Ruediger	i	GER	4617274		2342
13	Kolbus, Dietmar	i	GER	4610628	219	2320
14	Jaracz, Barbara	wg	POL	1107453		2231
15	Dahl, Baard		ENG	444251	195	1974
16	Fabri, Henrik		ENG	403270	157	1939
17	Miah, Zahed		ENG	448940	148	1784
18	Costello, John		ENG	451819	136	1710
19	Akeya-Price, Robert	j	ENG	430510	153	1686