



## ECF Secondary School Chess News

January 2015

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### ECF Team Chess Challenge

Eleven Schools have already qualified for the national final of Team Chess Challenge by winning their regional final: King Edwards Camp Hill, Eltham College, Urmston Grammar, Nottingham High School, Westminster Under School, Mill Hill County HS, Bangor Grammar School (NI), Millfield School, Manchester GS, Wilson's School and RGS Newcastle.

Three more regional finals take place this term South West (11<sup>th</sup> Feb), Oxford (12<sup>th</sup> Feb) and West London (26<sup>th</sup> Feb). These are afternoon events for teams of 4 players so they are ideal entry events for schools wanting to start playing inter-school chess. Please do contact your local hosts to enter the event.



**National Final:** Imperial College Maths Department Wednesday 22nd April 2015

### ECF National Schools Chess Championship, U19 Open and U19 Girls

We are very grateful to Winchester College (U19 Open) and St Catherine's School, Bramley (U19 Girls') for their continued sponsorship of these tournaments.

The two Girls' [U19 Semi-finals](#) took part on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January with 22 teams from 14 schools taking part. Eight teams qualified for the national finals with the winners being Fernwood School (Nottingham) and Howell's School (Cardiff). The other teams qualifying for the finals were RGS Newcastle, St Edwards (Leek), Nonsuch School, (Sutton, A and B teams), The Abbey School (Reading) and Millfield School.

The [U19 Open zones](#) are now coming towards completion with zone finals due to be played by February Half term.

If you have been knocked out of your Zone, or not even entered earlier, there are two "[Last Chance Saloons](#)" this year offering qualification for the U19 National Stage:

- Saturday 7th February 2015 at Kings School, Grantham
- Sunday 1st March 2015 at Eton College

They are independent events, and a team can qualify from either. They are open to any team that has missed out on qualification from its Zone (that is, has not reached the Zone Final), as well as teams that did not enter at the Zonal stage. A team that enters the first Saloon and fails to qualify may still enter the second. The entry form is at

<http://www.sccu.ndo.co.uk/LastChanceEntries2014-15.doc>

## Calendar of Secondary School chess team events Spring 2015

### Saturday 7th February 2015

ECF National Schools Chess Championships Last Chance Saloon (North). A one day rapid play event for teams of 6 players at King's School Grantham. Contact Phillip Beckett [phillipbeckett@yahoo.com](mailto:phillipbeckett@yahoo.com) Open to any school team not in a national schools zone final.

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015

ECF National Schools Chess Championships Last Chance Saloon (South). A One day rapid play event for teams of 6 players at Eton College. Contact Richard Haddrell [richardhaddrell@gmail.com](mailto:richardhaddrell@gmail.com) Open to any school team not in a national schools zone final.

### Saturday 7th March 2015

Under 14 Tournament at Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall. A One day rapid play event for teams of 8 U14 players Contact John Smethurst: [j-smethurst@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:j-smethurst@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk)

### Wednesday 18th March 2015

ECF Afternoon Secondary School Chess Tournament at Wilson's School, Wallington Surrey Based on team Chess Challenge 4 round format for teams of 4 players. Register 4pm start 4.15pm Contact [Neill Cooper](mailto:Neill Cooper)

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015

Sevenoaks School, Kent U18 Schools one day rapid play tournament for teams of 4 players. Contact Yingxu Yin [yxy@Sevenoaksschool.org](mailto:yxy@Sevenoaksschool.org)

## January 2015 ECF Grades for Schools

The January 2015 chess grades have just been published. Do go to the grading website <http://www.ecfgrading.org.uk/> and look at the new grades. If your school is listed you can list them by searching for your school using the 'Find Clubs' button.

My pupils are so keen on gaining chess grades that I now grade some internal games played with clocks and under full chess rules. Hence there are now over 90 pupils from Wilson's School with ECF chess grades. Some have the new 'F' grade awarded when they have played just 5 games. If you would like to find out more, or would like to have help in grading games, please let me know.

If you would like to be added to the email circulation list for Secondary school news please email Neill Cooper at [manager.secondary@englishchess.org.uk](mailto:manager.secondary@englishchess.org.uk)