



ECF Secondary School Chess News

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As the recently appointed ECF manager of Secondary School Chess my role is to increase the amount of chess played in and between secondary schools. In view of the dearth of activity at present hopefully the only way is up!

I have found that in most counties any secondary school chess league has all but died. In a few counties (Warwickshire, Suffolk, Sussex) there is some activity, mainly at the U14 or below level. Only in Surrey is there a thriving secondary school league at the U18 level. It is very refreshing to see that such activity is now on the increase in Sussex.

I hope to encourage more inter-school chess by organizing afternoon and one day events. I have planned some pilot events over the next few months which are described below. I will advertise any secondary school event, as one problem is people not knowing about them. And I will report on all events in future editions of this newsletter. So please do let me know of anything you are planning.

ECF Afternoon events

<http://englishchess.org.uk/Juniors/teams/schools/>

The idea here is an informal afternoon event, either in school time or just after, taking only 2 hours. So games are short and sweet. A 4 round Swiss means that only 1 team loses all their games, and so almost all go away with some success. As a one-off event teachers are more likely to be willing to give up time, particularly if they can leave school early (though for some leaving early may be a problem). My pilot event is aimed at schools in the Croydon area. I know of similar events which are already run in Birmingham, Bournemouth and Cumbria.

ECF One day events

<http://englishchess.org.uk/Juniors/teams/schools/>

This event is designed for those schools (and teachers) who would like more chess matches. The ideas come from the Birmingham Schools Saturday rapid plays and the National Schools "Last Chance Saloon". A six round Swiss allows for a range of abilities to be present but for most schools to have some successes. In the case of the pilot event at Eton College on September 23rd this event will also be graded. Judging by the rapid entry of a dozen teams, many schools seem keen for more matches! Again, perhaps such events could be run in other parts of the country.

ECF Yateley Manor National Schools Championship

<http://www.sccu.ndo.co.uk/schoolschamps.htm>

This year's tournament is coming towards the finals to be played at Uppingham School in early July. Whilst numbers for this event in recent years have been lower than in previous years do look out for the announcement of the 2012/13 event which promises some great new developments.

ECF Junior Membership

From July 2012 Juniors will be able to join the ECF at a great new rate of only £8 if they join on line. This will allow them the benefits of belonging to the National Chess body and also being able to play in any juniors-only event with no grading fee.

Junior 4NCL

Adult chess over the past couple of decades has seen the development of high level team chess being played over a weekend in a hotel in the 4 Nations Chess League (4NCL). For the past few years they have developed a version specifically for juniors, called Junior 4NCL. For 2012 the dates and places are:

17th-18th November 2012 Hinckley Island Hotel

19th-20th January 2013 Hinckley Island Hotel

6th-7th April 2013 Daventry Court Hotel

For more information contact Mike Truran mike@truranfamily.co.uk

2012-13 Calendar of Secondary School chess team events

Wed 27th June ECF 4 board Afternoon event at Wilson's School

<http://englishchess.org.uk/Juniors/teams/schools/>

3rd - 4th July, U18, U16, U14, U12 UK National Schools Chess Team Championships 2012, Teams of 5 at Brean Sands, Somerset. Contact: Tony Corfe: tony@tcs-chess.demon.co.uk

5th-6th July Yateley Manor National Schools Championship 2011-12 Finals at Uppingham School

<http://www.sccu.ndo.co.uk/schoolschamps.htm>

Fri 14th September Russell Jamboree at Wilson's School, 5pm to 8pm, school teams of 8 players.

Contact Neill Cooper nsc@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk

Sun 23rd September ECF 6 board one day event at Eton College

<http://englishchess.org.uk/Juniors/teams/schools/>

13th and 14th October: Millfield International at Millfield School contact Matthew Turner

mjt@millfieldschool.com

17th-18th Nov J4NCL1 [Hinckley Island Hotel](#) contact Mike Truran: mike@truranfamily.co.uk

Sat 1st Dec Birmingham Schools One day U18 rapidplay at King Edwards School, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Contact Andrew Rogers: amrogers1@gmail.com

19th-20th January 2013 J4NCL2 [Hinckley Island Hotel](#) contact Mike Truran:

mike@truranfamily.co.uk

Early February 2013: National Schools Tournament Last Chance Saloons

Saturday 9 March 2013 Birmingham Schools One day Under 14 rapidplay Tournament at Solihull School . Contact Andrew Rogers: amrogers1@gmail.com

6th-7th April 2013. J4NCL3 [Daventry Court Hotel](#) contact Mike Truran: mike@truranfamily.co.uk

School Chess League news

The Briant Poulter (Surrey schools) chess league continues to be highly successful. It is based on leagues of similar ability, rather than on age. In 2011-12 there were 5 leagues of between 6 and 9 teams. Each team played between 7 and 10 matches, and each team is of 6 players. For divisions 1 to 3 games are long play whilst in Div 4 and 5 two rapidplay games are played in each match. All matches last between 2 and 2½ hours and are played on Friday evenings. For 2012-13 it has been decided to have an extra long play division, mainly for older players who like to think more about their moves.

The Sussex Schools league has grown this year, and now includes Under 18 as well as Under 16 and Under 14 sections.

Do let me know (manager.secondary@englishchess.org.uk) if you have any other secondary school league or team news.