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The English Chess Federation eNewsletter

This is the first edition of the ECF eNewsletter, which will be sent out on the 24th of each month to all ECF members for whom we have emails *

It is part of the function of ECF to keep its members abreast of all the latest chess news in England and, sometimes, further afield, and we hope you enjoy this new way of achieving that aim. If you have any chess news you think we should know about, or if you have any comments you would like to make on this newsletter, then please contact us through manager.publicity@englishchess.org.uk - the deadline for the newsletter will normally be on the 18th of each month so don't send us the info too late!

This being the first edition, we hope we've got some things right but we've probably got a few things wrong too so give us the lowdown on what you think is good, bad or just plain ugly!

We hope you enjoy the newsletter ...

Mark Jordan, Publicity Manager Email: manager.publicity@englishchess.org.uk

* If you don't want to receive the eNewsletter you can tick the opt-out box at the bottom of the email. If, on the other hand, we haven't got your email address, you've somehow managed to see this anyway and you'd like to receive it regularly, contact us at office@englishchess.org.uk and we'll put you on the list and also email you if there is anything else we think you might like to know.



Chess Supersite - a launch with dazzling events (*advert*)

Saturday, March 26th

The all-new ChessSupersite.com is set to launch this weekend with a dazzling array of chess events and very attractive prizes!

Featuring - the first Chess Supersite Invitational GM Tournament, starting at 12 noon Eastern, which also incorporates the world's first internet CHESS CASH CONTEST, with more than \$2500 in prizes just for guessing the moves to be played! The final match of the day also features Live Audio Commentary by legendary Grandmaster,





Garry Kasparov.

Then on Sunday March 27th, the first in a series of Chess Supersite Blitz Grand Prix Tournaments, with a total prize fund of \$30,000, starts at 1:00 PM EDT.

These events are open to all with no entry fees!

There is free six-month Platinum Membership of the Chess Supersite for anyone registering this weekend

Go to www.chesssupersite.com for more information and register for free!



Carl (left) with Mike at his presentation

News - Inside the ECF

ECF Manager of Chess in Prisons and long-time chess voluntary organiser, Carl Portman, received the ECF President's Award from ECF Chief Executive Mike Truran at the 4NCL, on 19 March 2016 [photo by John Saunders] – well done, Carl ...



Traci Whitfield, ECF Junior Director

The **Safeguarding Children Policy** has recently been revised. You can find more details here ---

<http://www.englishchess.org.uk/safeguarding-children-policy/>

The policy has been developed by Director of Junior Chess, Traci Whitfield, and her team, and the ECF strongly recommends that associations, clubs and organisers providing playing opportunities and training for juniors read the policy carefully and review their local policies in the light of what it says.

The TRADEWISE Grand Prix

The Grand Prix, which aims to encourage all those prolific tournament players, is in full swing, and is benefitting from the generous sponsorship of Tradewise. In the 180+ event, GM Mark Hebden is currently in the lead with fellow GM, Keith Arkell in hot pursuit. Yasmin Giles leads the Women's section. The Grand Prix does not just cater for the top players, however - there are also grading limited and junior sections, so anyone who plays regularly in tournaments has a chance of winning a Grand Prix prize!

<http://www.englishchess.org.uk>



Many members are already saving money on their car insurance - register your vehicle to receive a competitive quote before your renewal date. Tradewise64 are also a major sponsor of Hastings

Chess, providing assistance to female and young aspiring players.

- Mike Truran, Tradewise64 Relationship Manager

<https://www.tradewise64.com/>

</competitions-plp/tradewise-grand-prix/>

Mike Truran is the new **Chief Executive Officer**, **Robert Stern** has been appointed as **Chair of the Governance Committee** and **Tim Herring** has been appointed as **Chairman of the Finance Committee** - <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/about/ecf-officials/>

A call for more chess in schools from the editor of the Independent

An article appeared in the Independent recently singing the praises of chess as an educational tool. Okay, some members may take issue with a few of the views expressed but what chess player would not support the idea of more chess in schools? Don't answer that! Anyway, here is the link:

<http://www.standard.co.uk/comment/comment/amol-rajan-chess-the-cheap-easy-solution-for-our-underperforming-schools-a3205646.html>

A freebie for members - courtesy of 'Chess'

"Chess" monthly magazine has kindly allowed us to share with you two articles from the March edition! First is a Q&A session with our new CEO, Mike Truran, which is followed by a feature on the first 3 rounds of the 4NCL national team tournament. Just [click here](#) for the PDF [2 MB]...

CHESS HUMOUR

If you have a funny chess story to tell, a chess related joke, or a cartoon, then send it to manager.publicity@englishchess.org.uk and you may well see it here! I thought this was quite funny anyway!



The CHECKMATE TV series



A 10 player round robin tournament was held on the island of Gozo, just off the Maltese coast, late last year.

There were 5 male and 5 female competitors, including Nigel Short and Jovanka Houska and the programme was introduced by Simon Williams and Anna Richardson.

A number of programmes are being produced which will, in due course, be available for purchase. It is also hoped it will be screened on terrestrial TV. In terms of chess on TV, this is the best news for over 20 years! You can find out more on their website at www.checkmate-show.com/

"So, how long have you been playing the guitar?"

Request for legal services



For a number of years the ECF has enjoyed pro bono legal services offered by David Anderton and David's law firm, Ansons LLP. At his retirement in October 2015, the ECF has been very fortunate to secure pro bono legal services of Melville Rodrigues and his law firm, CMS Cameron McKenna LLP.

The ECF Board and Melville recognise that the ECF Board is looking for a range of pro bono legal services i.e. services in addition to those services currently provided by Melville and CMS.

The ECF Board wishes to add to the team of law firms who can offer pro bono legal services to the ECF Board. Melville will co-ordinate with the representatives of the additional law firms so the ECF Board can benefit from relevant expertise from the team of law firms (including CMS). The ECF will permit the additional law firms to publicise that they are pro bono legal service providers to the ECF Board, and the law firms' status will be confirmed on the ECF's website.

If you (i.e. a practising solicitor in England) feel that you and your law firm have areas of expertise and your firm would like being added to the team of law firms who would assist on a pro bono basis the ECF Board, please email Mike Truran (ECF Chief Executive at mike@truranfamily.co.uk) before 29th April 2016 indicating your firm's areas of expertise. Mike will follow up with you and introduce you to Melville.

Forthcoming Events

If you'd like your event to appear in this newsletter then email manager.publicity@englishchess.org.uk to be considered for inclusion ...

THE NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - Saturday 9th - Sunday 10th April

Still space! Go to the link for further details --- <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/competitions-plp/national-club-championships/>

103rd BRITISH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS, BOURNEMOUTH - Saturday 23rd July - Saturday 6th August 2016

The premier domestic event of the year! Go to <http://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk/> for further details.

THE ENGLISH WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

The English Women's Championship will be held this summer in Birmingham between 15-17 July. Details can be

found at --- <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/competitions-plp/english-womens-championship/>

There is a £1,000 prizefund, with £500 for the winner. There is an additional prize for the winner of qualifying for the women's team at the 2017 European Team Championships in Halkidiki, Greece.

This prize is normally awarded as part of the British Championships, and as a result, the British Women's Champion prize has been increased from £500 to £1,000. In addition, women who qualify to play in the main Championship will be entitled to free entry.

Additionally, some money is available by application for participation in FIDE title-norm events. Grants of up to £250 may be awarded. Women who wish to apply for this should e-mail the ECF Office at office@englishchess.org.uk in advance of participation in the event. Priority will be awarded to players who wish to participate in events under the auspices of the ECF.

4NCL



The UK's premier chess league the 4NCL (see above the report on PDF that 'Chess' has kindly allowed us to re-publish), also organises FIDE-rated congresses for individuals. The 8th congress takes place in Wakefield on 1st-3rd April, and the 9th congress takes place in Birmingham on 15th-17th July. For further details and to enter, go to http://www.4ncl.co.uk/fide/information_08.htm for Wakefield and http://www.4ncl.co.uk/fide/information_09.htm for Birmingham.

THE COLIN CROUCH CELEBRATION CHESS CONGRESS



The CCCCC, the Colin Crouch Celebration Chess Congress, takes place 2nd-10th April at Harrow High School, Gayton Road, HA1 2JG --- <http://www.colincrouchccc.co.uk>

The English Senior Championship and Under 2000 Intermediate are from 4th-8th April and start at the same time of 2.30pm daily. There is also an U150 Swiss 4th-8th April from 9.30am daily. It is not too late to enter any of these events - details are on the website. The games in the Masters will be broadcast live on <http://www.chess-results.com/> --- spectators are welcome.

The event is supported by Tradewise Insurance Company, the ECF, Friends of Chess and John Robinson Trust.

THE POLAR CAPITAL JERSEY INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT 2016

This year's event takes place from Sunday 10th – Saturday 16th April, at Hotel Ambassadeur, St Clement Bay, Jersey. There are two sections – The Open and The Holiday plus, The Nautilus Jersey Blitz Championship. Grandmasters Simon Williams, Mark Hebden, Tiger Hillarp Persson and Jovanka Houska, WGM and IM, have confirmed. Chief Arbiter: Adam Raoof (IA).

Please visit www.jerseychessclub.com to register or email info@jerseychessclub.com for further details.

Click on <http://www.jersey.com/english/Pages/default.aspx> to see what Jersey can offer during your stay ...

CENTRAL LONDON CHESS CONGRESS AT IMPERIAL COLLEGE, APRIL 2016

This will be held from 22th-24th April and has 3 sections (Open, Major, Minor) with cash prizes in each. Limited space, so don't delay your entry, and no under 18s for licencing reasons. Go to the website for further details --- <https://www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/chess/2016/01/central-london-chess-congress-at-imperial-college-april-2016/>

VISIT THE ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION CALENDAR!

For more chess events go to <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/event-calendar/> and to submit an event to the calendar go to <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/event-calendar/submit-your-tournament/>

NATIONAL CHESS DAY - Saturday 10th September

Calling associations, local clubs, schools and chess organisers! To support the mental health charity, Mind, National Chess Day will take place this year on Saturday, September 10th and will involve chess events throughout the country. The day will be publicised and supported by ECF at a national level and will involve events in locations right across the country. We are aiming to raise thousands for a very worthy charitable cause while also gaining some much needed public awareness of our great game!

Some possible ideas you could try: a simul (blindfold?), living chess, a variants competition, oldies vs children match, boys vs girls etc. These are just some ideas but we're confident that there are many more!. David Levens ran the Nottingham Marathon while playing chess against 6 juniors by mobile phone: it raised a lot of money for charity!

If you would like to get involved please contact either David --- davidlevens@chesscoach.co.uk or Mark Jordan, the ECF Publicity Manager --- manager.publicity@englishchess.org.uk

Contact

Website

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