



The English Chess Federation eNewsletter

HEADLINE NEWS --- Michael Adams enters the British Chess Championships

See the article on the British in the "Forthcoming Events section for further details ...

Already the second edition of the ECF eNewsletter, and we were pleased with the response we got for the first one! It will be sent out on the 24th of each month to anyone for whom we have an email address*. We experienced a few distribution gremlins the first time around but we think we have it mostly sorted out this time. Nonetheless, if you did not find your eNewsletter in either your inbox or spam, please email us at office@englishchess.org.uk. You'll also be able to access the eNewsletter via a link on the ECF website ...

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, do contact us at 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!

--- 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.



[ad] 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/>

Finance Council Meeting

The 2016 ECF Finance Council Meeting took place at the Thistle Euston Hotel on Saturday 16 April. 35 voting members of Council and 5 observers were present. In the absence of the President, Julie Denning was elected to the Chair. The news that will perhaps be of

News - Inside the ECF

The Safeguarding Children Policy

The ECF Safeguarding Children Policy was recently revised and you can find the full document here ---

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

The policy, developed by Director of Junior Chess Traci Whitfield and her team, is to ensure that ECF are compliant with legislation and can ensure the safety of our young enthusiasts. Associations, clubs and organisers providing playing opportunities and training for juniors also have

most immediate interest to members and other players is that neither the membership nor game fees will be increased this year! A short report can be found on the website via the link below. The full minutes will be published shortly ...

<http://www.englishchess.org.uk/2016-finance-council-meeting-2/>

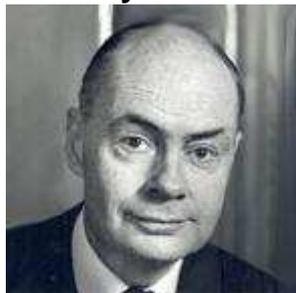
Chess in Prisons

The ECF "Chess in Prisons" initiative, organised by Carl Portman, who recently received an ECF President's Award, is going from strength to strength, and feedback suggests the discipline of playing chess is making positive contributions to rehabilitation and offending behaviour. The initiative has now come to the notice of our friends across the pond who are hoping to create similar schemes with, hopefully, similar positive outcomes. Go to the link to learn more

<http://saintlouischessclub.org/blog/inmates-and-checkmates-using-chess-prisons>

News - English Chess

Obituary - Sir Jeremy Morse



As Chairman of Lloyds Bank, Sir Jeremy Morse, who died in February, not only saved the bank from the prospect of a real threat to its fortunes, but took the opportunity to arrange sponsorship for the wonderful Lloyds Bank Masters Tournament from 1977-1994, which was a crucial source of experience for a generation of young players, many of whom went on to become GMs and IMs, often assisted by the norms made available at this very tournament.

Sir Jeremy was a keen chess player himself in his youth but found his real forte in problem composition for which he has an international reputation. For his support over so many years, English chess owes him a great debt

English Arbiters appointed to the Olympiad

It has just been announced that David Welch and Alex Holowczak have been appointed as Match Arbiters in the upcoming Olympiad in Baku. Congratulations to them!

Free excerpt from the April edition of 'Chess'



responsibilities under the legislation, and ECF recommends you read the policy carefully and review your local policies. The ECF can offer further advice on the issue should it be required.

The ECF Forum

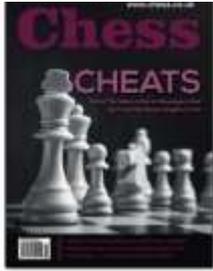
The ECF Forum is no longer in operation. All threads from the forum have been saved, so should you wish to access any of these you can arrange this by contacting the ECF office --- office@englishchess.org.uk

Ask the Directors



An 'Ask the Director' button is now located in the left sidebar of the website. You may have noticed that this has been the case for a few weeks already. The reason for delaying the announcement is that we wanted to run it live for a time to iron out any teething problems before we got inundated with questions. We are now happy it is running as intended, hence this announcement, and the directors are looking forward to receiving questions.

On clicking on the button you will find a form with a list of directors, which ensures your question goes to the director best placed to answer your question. We undertake to reply to your question within 5 working days. If it is not possible to provide a full answer within this time-frame, perhaps because the question is complex or all the required information is not readily available, you will receive a reply explaining this within the time frame which will include an indication as to when you can expect to receive a full answer. We intend to publish on the website, in anonymised form, some of the questions and answers we receive as



Chess monthly magazine has kindly allowed us to share with you two articles from the April edition of this great chess magazine. The first is 'Beer & Blitz', a report on an informal event organised by Kings Head and featuring Michael Adams and Luke McShane. The second report concerns the latest news for the 4NCL national team tournament. Just [click here](#) ...

we think that would be useful to the users of the website. It is envisaged that from this and other sources we will develop a FAQ page for the website.

The Tradewise Grand Prix

The Grand Prix, aimed to encourage all those prolific tournament players, is in full swing as 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 and Yasmin Giles leads the Women's section with Akshaya Kalaiyalahan in even hotter pursuit! The Grand Prix does not just cater for the top players however and there are also grading limited and junior sections so anyone who plays regularly in tournaments has a chance of winning a Grand Prix prize! Follow the link for more ---

<http://www.englishchess.org.uk/competitions-plp/tradewise-grand-prix/>

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.

More news

Gawain Jones wins the Dubai Open



Gawain Jones won the very strong Dubai Open yesterday on a two-way tie-break with Vladimir Akopian, continuing his excellent form and pushing his Elo above 2660. Along the way he also managed to win the blitz which took place after round 4 and will leave with \$14,000 in prizes. 2015 was perhaps a little disappointing for Gawain but with his his victory in New Zealand, his strong showing in Reykjavik. and now this real double triumph, he looks to be performing at a whole new level. Below is a link to the Chess.com post which provides a good round-up of the event and an annotated game won by Gawain Jones.

Picture of Gawain: Ray Morris-Hill - www.rmhphoto.eu
<https://www.chess.com/news/gawain-jones-wins-dubai-open-on-tiebreak-enjoys-buchholz-payday-9850>

GM Keith Arkell wins five opens on the trot!



Mark Hebden wins

the Polar Capital Jersey Festival

The final round of the Polar Capital Jersey Festival saw GM Mark Hebden, who was already guaranteed at least equal first, draw with FM Alan Merry to secure an unshared first. The result also brings Hebden back into the 2500+ realm from which he had fallen in January 2015. On board 2, IM Jovi Houska, who had a real chance of winning the event, reaching 4.5/5 and already having faced two of her main rivals, was unable to keep up the momentum and saw her outside chance of equal first vanish when she lost to IM Alina L'Ami. This allowed GM Simon Williams to sneak by into sole second when he defeated FM Glenn House with Black. GM Hillarp-Persson, L'Ami and Merry joined Houska on equal 3rd.

In the Holiday u1900 event Syd Jacob took



Dedicated chess pro, Keith Arkell, whilst still a fixture at the upper end of the table in many international opens, is pretty prolific on the domestic scene. He has won 5 domestic opens on the trot, 3 of which he succeeded in doing so with a 1.5 point margin- a record for him.

Keith has kindly provided us with a very interesting draw he achieved in the Hastings Masters against GM Berkes which features an enterprising strategic exchange sacrifice by Arkell which led to interesting endgame play.

Berkes - Arkell

e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Ng5 Ngf6 6. Bd3 Nb6 {A database search of this position pretty much just lists a bunch of my games. I prefer 6.. Nb6 to lines in which the Black King must go to f8.} 7. N1f3 Bg4 8. Qe2 {I am doing fine if White goes all in with 8 Nxf7? Bxf3 9 Nxd8 Bxd1 10 Ne6 Bh5 11 Nc7+ Kd7 12 Nxa8 Nxa8.} Bh5 {8...h6?? will not do: 9 Nxf7 Bxf3 10 Ne5 Bxd1 11 Bg6 #} 9. h3 h6 10. g4 hxg5 11. gxh5 Rxh5 12. Bxg5 Rxd5

Like a broken record, Chris Ward, in the commentary room, continued his life-long banter against my 'style' of chess: "Wow! When was the last time Keith Arkell sacrificed the exchange?" Firstly, I will always sacrifice material if I consider it correct or a good practical decision to do so; and secondly Chris was actually playing in the tournament (the 2015 British Ch) in which I played this very same sacrifice to draw with David Howell! In truth I think Chris and I simply approach chess differently. I see elegance and beauty in an accurately played game, whereas he would rather roll the dice and sacrifice speculatively. Both methods have their followers.

13. Nxd5 Qxd4

Black's compensation is obvious. White's structure is damaged and he has lost control of the black squares. To elaborate more on this important moment in the game, White's best minor piece in this position, and analogous positions against the Caro-Kann, is his Black squared Bishop. Without it a lot of the energy goes out of his position. By comparison his light squared Bishop is somewhat ineffective as it has nothing to target. Equally importantly, when I speak of the structural damage my exchange sacrifice inflicts, more specifically I mean that with only an h-pawn and an f-pawn it is very hard for him to break down a defensive set-up of pawns on g6,f7,e6. Of course, it was necessary to first check the tactical variations - eg making sure that there

1st prize and David Newall 2nd when they both drew in final round 7. Both players, respectively 2nd and 1st seed, were neck and neck at the top of the table throughout and well deserve their prizes.



THE
Colin Crouch
Celebration Chess Congress

GM Vakhidov, Currently resident in London, won the open in a closely fought tournament which served as a worthy celebration of Colin Crouch's life and contribution to chess. Australian IM. Justin Tan, came second and achieved a GM norm with a 2610 performance.

The English Seniors Championship ran alongside the Open and ended in a tie for 1st between Oliver Jackson and Cliff Chandler.

For more detail ---

<http://colincrouchccc.co.uk/>

South Shields Chess Club 150th Anniversary this year - April Fool Celebration



South Shields CC has been in existence for an amazing 150 years which must make it one of the oldest chess clubs in England. Let me know if your is even older. This is obviously something to be celebrated and club member, Eddie Czechkovski, knew exactly how. Apart from organising a speed chess tournament he persuaded the local paper to publish an April Fool article which reported the anniversary (true) and told

is no K.O. blow with 14 Ne6.

14. c3

{14 Ne6 Qxb2 15 Rd1 Nbd5 is excellent for Black.} Qf4
 15. Qe3 Nbd5 16. Qxf4 Nxf4 17. Bc2 e6 18. Rg1 Bd6 19.
 Rd1 Bc7 20. Ne4 Nxe4 21. Bxe4 g6 22. Rg3 Ke7 23. c4
 f5 {I think this was a small mistake. There was no need
 to try to force matters as my position was already
 completely sound.} 24. Bg2 Rh8 25. Kf1 Nxe2 {Again
 trying to force matters too much.} 26. Rxe6 Nf4 27.
 Rg7+ Kf6 28. Rxc7 Rxh3 29. Ke1 b5 {I had intended
 29...Nd3+ here, but on closer inspection didn't like the
 Rook ending after 30 Rxd3.} 30. cxb5 cxb5 31. Rxa7
 Nd3+ {I think I am just about alright here, but had to
 play accurately for many moves.} 32. Ke2 Nxb2 33. Rb1
 Na4 34. Rb3 Nc3+ 35. Kf1 Rh1+ 36. Kg2 Rc1 37. Ra6
 Nd5 38. a3 Rc4 39. Kf3 b4 \$1 40. a4 Rc2 41. a5 Ra2 42.
 Kg2 Ke5 43. Ra8 Nf4+ 44. Kg1 Ra1+ 45. Kh2 Nd5 46. a6
 Nc7 47. Ra7 Nxa6 48. Rxb4 Nxb4 49. Rxa1 Nd3 50. Kg3
 Kf6 51. Ra6 Nc5 52. Ra2 Ne4+ 53. Kf4 Ng5 54. Ke3 e5
 55. Ra6+

1/2-1/2

Chess Humour

If you have a funny chess story to tell, a chess related joke, or a cartoon or any other chessy thing that might amuse, send it to manager.publicity@englishchess.org.uk and you may well see it here!

Steve Martin, based in Sidmouth, sends us this amusing anecdote from his youth involving a lift and a witty GM:



"As a 20 year old I was in Leningrad in the early 1970's when it came to my attention that the hotel I was staying in had a strong chess tournament on the following day featuring a string of GMs. Being a keen player, at very close to the 2.00pm first round commencement time the next day, I left my room to get the lift to the top floor where the tournament was to take place. When the lift arrived I was got on and pressed for the 5th floor. At the next floor the lift stopped and in walked no less than five GMs all wearing identifiable name badges with GM on. I felt I was in the presence of the Gods! As the last one entered the lift buzzer went off indicating overload and, as a suitably deferent youngster, I insisted that I got out and used the stairs for the remaining 3 floors. The doors closed and in my excitement I raced up the remaining floors to arrive on the fifth floor just before the lift! As the doors opened one of the GM's joked "You must be the only chess player around who has beaten five GM's in under one minute!"

readers that the Council had agreed to replace a much loved local landmark with a 60 foot high Knight chess piece (false). We don't know how many people fell for it but Eddie reports that the publicity resulted in an influx of new club members and some inactive players returning to the fold. Club members are the life-blood of chess in England and any country and it's great to here of such an enterprising scheme to get local news footage and, through the publicity new members. We would be delighted to hear about any similar initiatives and, if you have any good ideas for publicity drives in the future, it could be that ECF can give you a hand. Let us know at manager.publicity@englishchess.org.uk. Below is a link to the newspaper article. <http://www.shieldsgazette.com/news/local-news/groyne-lighthouse-to-be-replaced-with-60ft-knight-to-mark-chess-club-anniversary-1-7827220>
 --- Eddie Czestochowski

As a mere 184 grade and now over 60, I so wish I could recapture that form!"

With a nose for an even better story, your editor quizzed Steve on exactly who this GM might have been. He is not absolutely certain but he believes it was none other than Leonid Stein! We sincerely hope he's right!

Stein has been somewhat neglected by chess history, probably because he missed out on competing in the Candidates due to restrictions placed on the number of competitors from each Federation. This was to avoid collusion and was with some justification aimed squarely at the USSR, but had unjust consequences for players, such as Stein, who really deserved the opportunity. His top flight career began late in life and ended tragically early with his death just before he was to fly to the UK with the USSR team but, at his zenith, he was certainly among the top 10 players in the world. His huge talent and aggressive playing style were viewed with tremendous respect, and not a little trepidation, by his GM colleagues, most of whom had found themselves victim to his blistering attacks at one time or another. He also had a reputation as something of a hard drinking, free-spirit, not that he allowed that to interfere with his brilliance at the chessboard, and it is thought that his excesses may have contributed to his early death.

You can follow the links to find out more about Stein. The first is a short but informative post on chess.com, the second a real tactical battle in the Najdorf: Stein v Tal (1961) ---

<https://www.chess.com/article/view/the-meteor-called-leonid-stein>

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1132194>

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 ...

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



Whilst the premier domestic event, the British has received criticism in recent years due to its failure to attract enough of our strongest players. This is set to change this year with the news that the top England player and world class GM, Michael Adams, has agreed to play. Watch out for news of further GM entries in the coming weeks.

The British is not all about the main tournament - as well as having junior championships for various age-groups it also has a number of great subsidiary tournaments for the chess enthusiast. Entries for all events are gradually building and if you are thinking of entering you are well advised to do so soon as, if you leave it too late, hotel rooms will certainly be at a premium!

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 from the 15th - 17th July in Birmingham - 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.

THE GLORNEY GILBERT INTERNATIONAL

The Glorney Gilbert International is being held in Daventry 18-20 July 2016. This year France is joining England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. This is a long running junior tournament in which many future stars have competed, now also a memorial for Jessie Gilbert and, this year with a French contingent on the way, it'll be particularly competitive and will provide extra good playing experience. Further details can be found on the website - www.glorneycupchess.org

9th 4NCL CONGRESS

The 9th 4NCL FIDE Rated Congress will be held over the weekend of Friday 8th - Sunday 10th July 2016 at the Park Inn, Birmingham West, West Bromwich, B70 6RS

THE 16th IPCA WORLD INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The IPCA World Individual Championships for 2016 will be held at Novi Sad between 21-30 July and is open to men and women who are physically disabled (min. 50% disability).

The Regulations of the tournament and the Entry form can be downloaded from the website at <http://ipca.sweb.cz>. Completed entry forms should be emailed to the organisers at zpilimon@interia.pl and sinisadrazic@sbb.rs

The IPCA President, Zbigniew Pilimon, would much appreciate this information being passed on by readers to anyone you think might be interested.

Music and chess!

A blitz tournament with a gig featuring GM Danny King on double bass! Being both a chess and music fanatic, your editor is quite taken by this event. Here's hoping there's more of the same!

WAY OUT WEST *presents* "a very fine singer, very accurate, very emotional"
BBC Radio 3

NETTE ROBINSON'S MUSIC & CHESS

Nette Robinson Vocals
Dominic Ashworth Guitar
Dan King Double Bass
Andy Trim Drums

"Nette Robinson has a lovely clear, unfussy vocal sound" (The Telegraph)

Preceding the performance and during the interval there will be a *Blitz Tournament*.

There is a maximum of 24 places available, so it will be on a strictly first-come-first-served basis.

Entry for participants is £10 in advance.

It is sure to be a fantastic evening of music and of course, chess!

All those interested in participating in the *Blitz Tournament* should email:

nette@netterobinson.com for more information and details of how to pay.



Friday 6 May 2016

Bar 7.30pm Tickets on the door £8, Students £5

238-246 King Street W6 0RF

07415 892 436



LEYLAND FRIDAY EVENING BLITZ

20th May, 9 round FIDE rated blitz. It's an open event with rating prizes at all levels. Further details and entry form - <http://congress.popmalc.org.uk/congress/1/home>

PIMLICO SUMMER TOURNAMENT

Starting May 26 - Steve Sonnis writes --- "There are just a few spaces left in the popular Pimlico Summer Tournament. This is a 5 round Swiss event held on Thursday evenings, starting 26 May. Open, u150 and u120 sections. Grand Prix qualifier. Silver members and above. £25 to enter. For more details see www.pimlicochessclub.com or email pimlicochess@aol.com "

This kind of thing seems like a good idea that clubs should consider doing over the summer months ...

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

Bits & pieces

MILTON KEYNES CHESS CLUB MEMBER ALAN HEATH WINS MASTERMIND!





Picture: BBC

GM Jim Plaskett won 250k on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" a few years ago and the now perhaps the greatest television quiz prize of all, the BBC Mastermind crystal bowl, has gone to Milton Keynes Chess Club stalwart, Alan Heath. Just like the finale of the Candidates, where Karjakin won the right to challenge Carlsen at the expense of Caruana, this was something of a nail-biter.

At the end of the specialist round, when Alan had answered questions on "Thunderbirds", he found himself in a tie, on 27 points, with Jim McGuinness from Northern Ireland. This necessitated a 5 question general knowledge play-off; the first one ever in the finals. Twitter was alight with tweets from Mastermind fans and the nation was clearly on the edge of its seat! Would Alan now regret choosing "Thunderbirds" over questions on the Najdorf Sicilian when he would, no doubt, have scored that extra, elusive point? There were just a few minutes before he found out!

Happily for Alan his general knowledge was more than enough for the challenge and he won the play-off by a two-point margin. So the only question remaining is whether his chess career will suffer from the inevitable frenzied attempts by pub quiz teams nationwide to secure his services with promises or large wads of cash or numerous beers. I'm sure it won't!

Congratulations Alan, and if you want to play for a quiz team.....

KIERAN SMALLBONE OF URMSTON CC TO RUN A MARATHION BETWEEN PHONE BOXES FOR CHARITY!

Kieran Smallbone who Played for Urmston Chess Club & 4NCL Oxfordshire is doing 250 Miles over five days between the 28/4/16 to 2/5/16 to raised money for Chinley Buxworth & Brownside Community Association to put a defibrillator in an old red telephone box by running from Wiltshire to Derbyshire.

Event details - Running from phone-box to phone-box

My local community association are installing a defibrillator in each of our six red telephone boxes, at a cost of £1500 apiece.

A defibrillator was first installed in a former phone box in Stourton in Wiltshire in 2010. I'm running from there back home to my phone box, on Western Lane in Buxworth, Derbyshire, stopping at a different red-box-defib village each night.

It's 250 miles in 5 days. Please sponsor this madness.

For more info, including details of the route, see <http://defib.run>

Note: we are a newly-registered charity, and not yet able to claim Gift Aid automatically via the site. However, we will be able to retrospectively reclaim the extra 25% on your donation.

Contact

Website

Forward