

Starts

Brilliant Jessica wins gold medal at European Schools Chess Championships



Jessica Mellor of Guildford has won the Girls' Gold Medal Under 11s category at the European Schools Chess Championships held in Krakow, Poland which finished on Sunday 8 July 2018. Jessica scored a brilliant 7.5/9 to claim clear first ahead of players from Russia, Turkey and Slovakia.

A pupil at Guildford High Junior School, 10 year-old Jessica learned to play chess at the age of seven. Her first British Junior Championships was in Bournemouth in 2016. She was top Under 10 Girl in the London Junior Championships in December 2017.

Says ECF Academy Coach and tournament delegation lead International Master (IM) Andrew Martin: "Jessica's gold medal is the most unexpected and amazing performance I have seen in 25 years of working on these trips. Congratulations to Jessica, her family and tournament coach FIDE Master (FM) Adam Taylor who worked tremendously well with her throughout the event."

Jessica's regular coaches are Woman FIDE Master (WFM) Sarah Longson and school coach Grandmaster (GM) Nick Pert.

Says Jessica: "My coaches' passion and commitment to my training have really helped my development and confidence over the last year. I would also like to thank Naz Rizvi, Tony Stewart and Omeet Atara who have been so generous in the time they have given me at tournaments by analysing my games. And of course, a big thank you to my mum and dad who run a great taxi service! I am so proud to play for England - what an honour!"

For further information on England junior chess, including the Academy, please contact English Chess Federation as follows:

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Ends

Notes for editors:

Jessica's final round game is here:

Mellor, Jessica
Kapicakova, Lucia
2018.07.08



1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Bc5 3. f4 d6 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. Bc4 Nf6 6. d3 h6 7. Na4 Bb6
8. Nb6 ab6 9. a3 ef4 10. Bf4 Nh5 11. Be3 Nf6 12. O-O O-O 13. Nd4 Ng4
14. Nc6 bc6 15. Qf3 Ne5 16. Qg3 Kh7 17. Bb3 Be6 18. Be6 fe6 19. Bd4 Ng6
20. Rf8 Qf8 21. Rf1 Qe7 22. Rf2 Rf8 23. Rf8 Qf8 24. Qf3 Qf3 25. gf3 e5
26. Be3 Nf4 27. Bf4 ef4 28. a4 c5 29. c3 Kg6 30. b4 cb4 31. cb4 c5
32. a5 cb4 33. ab6 b3 34. b7

The ECF is the governing chess organisation in England and is affiliated to FIDE (the governing body of world chess). Its mission is to promote the game of chess in all its forms as an attractive means of cultural and personal advancement to the widest possible public. In addition, the ECF exists to develop chess by creating the means to enable the highest forms of chess excellence to be achieved, and to expand the game as a social and sporting activity.

Annual competitions run by the ECF include:

- the British Championships, featuring events for all ages from Under 8s to veteran chess players (over 50s, over 65s);
- the Counties Championships;
- the English Women's Championships;
- the ECF Grand Prix;
- the National Schools Chess Championships.

Other activities include:

- selecting English teams and individual representatives to all FIDE events, including the European and World Team Championships, Chess Olympiads, and European and World Junior Championships;
- working with the Chess Trust and the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust to support young players;
- running the ECF Chess Academy for our most promising junior players;
- maintaining the National Grading System, with an online database available throughout the year, and bi-annual online publication of ECF grades (January and July);
- training and refresher courses for arbiters.

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