

Director of Home Chess Report – December 2020

ECF Online continues to be very popular with 6 ECF online rated members club events on chess.com and lichess running each week. These are a mix of 90 minute rapid and blitz tournaments and are now very well subscribed.

Internationals - We also played in a number of International Events during the month on lichess including:

- A friendly international against South Africa on 29/11 – The event was played on lichess at the link here: <https://lichess.org/tournament/C9kMOYAa> We were joined by GM John Nunn who achieved the top score in the tournament with some more winning chess. GM Matthew Sadler and IM Natasha Regan provided their usual excellent commentary which you can follow on their gamechanger channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIZCvRju5mM>
- The December lichess Nations Cup on 05/12 - We finished third in our group behind Armenia and France and just missed qualifying for the December final. We will be back next month.

ECF Online Club Memberships have continued to increase with more than 1,100 players in the chess.com members club and over 900 in the lichess English Chess Players Club. The November list was issued during the month with around 4,500 players with online ratings from ECF club and affiliated events.

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/november-online-ratings-are-out/>

We've also seen a continuing increase in the number of affiliated online leagues and clubs which are now ECF online rated.

You can find full details of how to join the clubs, together with upcoming National and International events on the ECF Online web site:

<https://englishchessonline.org.uk/>

We also have well supported Junior and England Women's Clubs at the links here:

<https://lichess.org/team/england-juniors>

<https://lichess.org/team/england-women>

Daily Chess - Our Daily Chess programme continues to develop with Manager of Daily Chess Andrew Caswell scheduling a series of Daily Chess Championships for 2021 for members of the ECF member club. Team England have also beaten the Russian Team in the World League finals in a 665 board match with a report from Andy in the Newsletter below.



**CAPLIN BRITISH ONLINE
CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS**



Caplin British Chess Championships Online – The main Online Event for December will be the British Online which will take place over 2 weeks from 18 December 2020 to 3 January 2021 on the chess.com platform. This will be the first British Online Championships in 106 years since the tournament started in 1904 and means the British continues in a different format without a gap (the previous one being during the war years).

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/british-online-chess-championships/>

Entry levels are looking very good with two weeks to go. We are hoping the BCC Online will provide members with an opportunity to play in a competitive National Event over the holiday period and will be part of a wider series of online events.

We are running the main British Online Championships with separate Women's, Seniors (50+ and 65+) and Juniors (U18, U16, U14, U12, U10 and U8). Each Championship will include separate Events at Standardplay and Rapid time controls, and a number of Championships also include Blitz and Bullet time controls.

ECF Members or supporters can register for the qualifiers via the Online Entry form here:

<https://britchess.wufoo.com/forms/british-online-chess-championships-2020/>

The winners of the finals will become the British Online Champions in the relevant categories. The prize fund includes trophies and various items of merchandise.

The top 2 finishers in the Standardplay finals will be offered direct entry places to the 12 round Hastings all play all tournament on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th January 2021, with details as shown at the link below.

<http://www.hastingschess.com/caplin-hastings-online-all-play-all-tournament/>

We are also running a number of 'new player' events alongside the British Championships as part of the Queen's Gambit Initiative. These will include two rating limited events and some online coaching sessions targeted at new players.

Player Ratings and Titles

The ECF Master Points system and National Title qualifications have been relaunched to be based on 4 digit ratings rather than 3 digit grades together with performance across the monthly lists. You can find full details here:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/master-points-system/>

As the new rating system beds in we have extended the eligibility periods for having an ECF rating by 12 months to avoid players dropping off the lists – this will be in place until there is a return to OTB play. You can find further details here:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/rating-category-extensions/>

Accessible Chess

We now have an accessible chess web page with links to organisations working to support those with different types of disability, details of how visually impaired players can play on lichess, and details of the arrangements the ECF will be making for its OTB events to ensure that everyone can take part.

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/accessible-chess/>

Return to OTB Play

The latest lockdown and Winter Plan mean that OTB club and league competitions are back on hold again and it seems likely this will continue for a while. We will continue to run and expand ECF

online to provide continuing opportunities for competitive chess and expect this to continue alongside OTB chess when a return becomes possible.