

ECF Newsletter May 2021

Director of Home Chess Report

Nigel Towers writes:

ECF Online - ECF online club memberships continue to increase on chess.com and lichess with the latest events schedule available here: <https://englishchessonline.org.uk/upcoming-club-events/> We continue with 6 online rated club events per week and a series of lichess Internationals including the regular Mega Team Battle on Friday afternoon, the Saturday Masters, the Intercontinental on Sunday, and the mid-week Champions League and Russia Team Battles. Many of the International events are now streamed on the Youtube Game Changer and/ or ECF Twitch Channels at the links here [Youtube Game Changer Chess](https://www.twitch.tv/ecf_commentary) and here https://www.twitch.tv/ecf_commentary, with some excellent commentary from GM Matthew Sadler, WIM Natasha Regan and guest presenters.

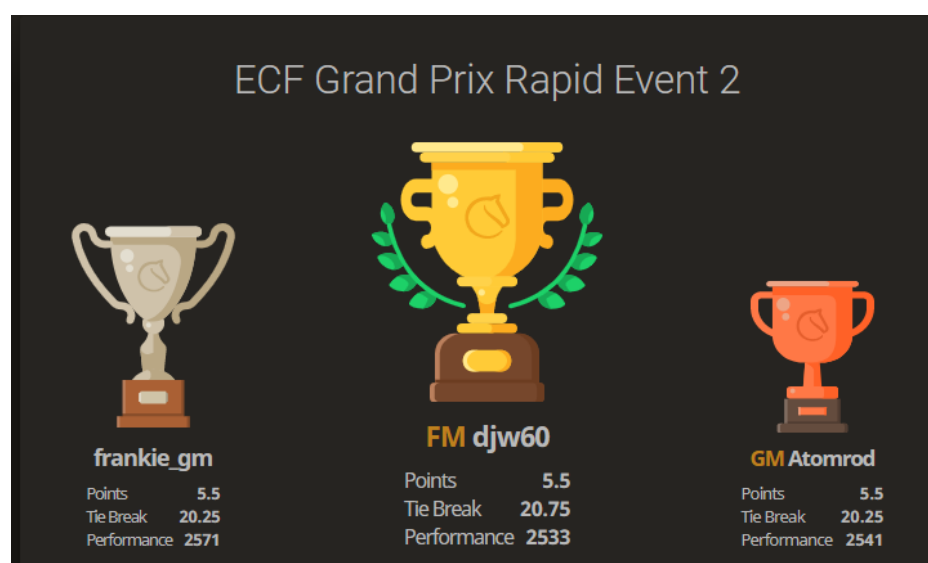


Saturday Masters - The Saturday Masters is becoming increasingly popular and competitive with another well subscribed set of events in April. We came first in the event at the beginning of April which was a fantastic result. These are now increasingly large team battles with 800 – 900 players and 50 International teams taking part on Saturday afternoons.

2021 Saturday Masters Team Battle			
1	English Chess Players	Fearless_Finlay 47 + 37 + 37 + 36 + 35 + 35 + 34 + 32 + 31 + 30	354
2	Guillon chess	samovich 41 + 38 + 36 + 36 + 36 + 34 + 34 + 32 + 30	351
3	VIT United	IM swimmerchess 75 + 57 + 33 + 26 + 24 + 24 + 23 + 22 + 22 + 21	327
4	ILOILO FRIENDLY CHESS	ivana1234 39 + 36 + 35 + 33 + 33 + 28 + 28 + 27 + 25 + 22	306
5	FEDERATA E SHAHUT E KOSOVËS	kadribudrika 47 + 40 + 33 + 32 + 25 + 24 + 24 + 23 + 21 + 21	290
6	ESPANA CHESS CLUB -PH INTERNATIONAL	jonyhabla_79 47 + 41 + 37 + 27 + 25 + 22 + 22 + 20 + 18 + 16	275
7	Maestro Chess	Kuan1981 39 + 35 + 34 + 28 + 24 + 24 + 22 + 17 + 17 + 17	257
8	Nkwe School of Chess	Schwarz1220 30 + 26 + 25 + 25 + 22 + 22 + 22 + 21 + 21 + 19	233
9	شاه مات افريجان	amin1369 30 + 28 + 27 + 24 + 20 + 20 + 20 + 17 + 17 + 17	220
10	Dajak	LJJEVCE 37 + 33 + 25 + 21 + 20 + 19 + 17 + 15 + 10 + 10	207
View all 50 teams			

English Chess Players		
Players	46	
Average rating	2052	
Average performance	2072	
Average score	18	
Team page		
1	👑 Fearless_Finlay 2416	47
2	👑 deenan2008 2411	37
3	👑 nazriz 2227	37
4	👑 GM gmmds2694 2640	36
5	👑 IM BigAl1 2430	35
6	👑 Woodpusher1971 2367	35
7	👑 NM fakenews1-0 2374	34
8	👑 DavidWilson1980 2232	32
9	👑 MouseSlip64 2242	31
10	👑 Wilsonia 2281	30
11	Checkmatealot 2342	30
12	moonmaker 1929	28
13	Henny_Penny 2006	27
14	iamletmethink 2231	26
15	natpaul 2239	25
16	boardinflame 2104	24
17	WriteOn 2111	22
18	smartcraft 1845	22
19	MartinBurrows 2188	20
20	howardst 2058	20

ECF Online Grand Prix – The ECF Online Blitz and Rapid Grand Prix Series continues with the second round of the Rapid and Blitz held on the first and third Sundays in April.



This is a series of weekend Blitz and Rapid events over 9 months from March to November with further details here: <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/2021-online-grand-prix-series/>

We are publishing a leader board which is updated following each event, with prizes for the winners in eight categories at the end of each series including Open, Women's, Senior, Junior, U2000 U1700, U1400, and U1100. GM Keith Arkell (Atomrod) is currently leading the pack on both events followed closely by FM Harry Grieve in the blitz, and Freddie Gordon and FM David Walker in the rapid.

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/2021-online-grand-prix-series-blitz-leaderboards/>

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/2021-online-grand-prix-series-rapid-leaderboards/>

Please see the links here to enter either Series.

Online Blitz Grand Prix - <https://britchess.wufoo.com/forms/m1umalxs00wt7hj/>

Rapid Grand Prix - <https://britchess.wufoo.com/forms/mn0wucv0iq3nkv/>

Online Events – 2021

We plan to continue with some major Online Events over the coming months. These can be found in the summary ECF Online calendar here:

<https://englishchessonline.org.uk/ecf-national-events/ecf-online-national-events-calendar-2021/>

Two events of particular note are as below.

ECF Chess for All - , The English Chess Federation is launching a Chess for All Festival to take place on chess.com from Sunday 30 May – Friday 4 June. This is an event targeted at players who are new to chess and/ or improving their playing strength – with the event including coaching sessions, tournaments, simulms and streaming. More details from organiser Danny Rosenbaum elsewhere in the Newsletter.

2021 British Online Championships II- 24 July - 8 August 2021

We are taking entries for the BOCC-2 which will follow much the same format as BOCC-1 over Christmas 2020 and will include Qualifiers and Finals for the 2021 British Online Open, Women, Seniors and Junior Championships. We will also be running Major Open and Rating Limited online competitions over the same period. The Entry Form will be available shortly.

Return to Over the Board

There have been a number of over the board events starting up as we continue through the steps of the Government's HMG Spring plan. These include:

- Watford Juniors Chess in the Park
- Sheffield Chess Milowners Arms outdoor event
- Various schools based events which are covered elsewhere in the Newsletter

These have mostly been submitted for rating and its great to see outdoor and schools based over the board events starting to appear in the rating lists once again.

The working group continues to look at supporting clubs and organisers in the wider return to over the board events, including publication of a set of precautions on the ECF web site, together with updated ECF tournament regulations including potential use of hybrid events and conditions under which these can be rated.

Over the Board Events – 2021

We are also planning a number of ECF organised Over the Board Events for 2021.

English Counties 2021 – We are looking to schedule some Friendly Counties events for August and September 2021 which will be open to all Counties and with the potential to use some new formats including hybrid team matches, dependant on feedback from County Associations and the progress of the opening up process. All being well we are planning for the 2021/2022 OTB Counties Season to start in earnest with regional stages starting in September 2021 and finals next year.

British Championships 2021 - 2 Oct - 10 Oct

The Over the Board Championships are now scheduled for 2nd to 10th October with separate venues in Hull and Milton Keynes. The Hull venue will host the British Open and Women's Championships, and Milton Keynes will host the British Seniors and Juniors Finals, with the juniors on the first weekend followed by the Seniors. The events will run daily during the week and weekends, with the junior finals over the opening weekend of 2nd and 3rd October. The venues will be linked via an internet connection with commentary from the top boards in the Championship and Women's Championship.

Qualifications for the Open, Women's and Junior events will be based on the 2021 Summer British Online competition (BOCC-2) with those who qualify for a final invited to play. The senior finals will be open to any player in the 50+ and/ or 65+ age groups.

There may also be a Major Open and rating limited competitions at an additional venue alongside the other events, or possibly in February 2022, and dependant on player feedback and level of interest.

New to Chess - We are also looking at how we can support new players who are looking to take up the game following the Queen's Gambit Netflix series and making online and over the board events more widely publicised and available. The latest version of our New to Chess Page now includes general advice, web and coaching/ educational resources and links to recent broadcast streams and can be found here:

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

Arbiters – We have another arbiters course scheduled for June covering Over the Board and Online arbiting and have published the new set of ECF Online Arbiter duties and levels which you can find on the web site here: <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/arbiters/ecf-arbiters/>

Registered Coaches – Last but by not least the ECF Coaches Scheme is continuing to progress thanks to IM Andrew Martin and supporting team, and is proving very popular with an increasing number of coaches now registered and listed on the ECF web site. You can find further details at the link here:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/list-of-ecf-registered-coaches/>