

Dorset **Junior Chess Newsletter**

No. 10



Welcome to Newsletter No 10.

We start 2021 in another lockdown and, while face to face chess seems some time ago, online chess continues to flourish and many new initiatives are being developed all the time. In fact, helped by the popularity of 'The Queen's Gambit' series, chess is currently seeing a resurgence. **Now is a great time to be playing chess!**

Dorset Junior Chess Christmas Quiz results



Many **congratulations** to **Florence Spirling** and **Larissa Cuthbert** who came in joint first place in the **Dorset Junior Christmas quiz** with a fantastic score of **13** out of 15. Well done to both of you! Not far behind in joint third were **Harry and Poppy Mercer** with a very worthy 11 points. Small prizes will be on the way to you as soon as possible.



Answers can be found at [Dorset Junior Christmas Quiz – Answers | Dorset Chess](#)

Dorset Junior Chess – Highly popular Friday evening online Chess events

The Friday evening Dorset Junior Chess sessions are going from strength to strength. The sessions start at **5pm** with 30 minutes of coaching, followed at **5.30pm** by a tournament which lasts until around **6.15pm**. It has been great to see up to 18 keen junior players at one session and **more are always welcome**. **Please spread the word amongst your friends.**

To accommodate the different levels of experience, the online coaching has now been split into two groups in two virtual rooms; the extremely keen **Rookies**, who are learning the core chess concepts, in one room and the hard working **Improvers** who are learning slightly more advanced chess concepts in the other.

Tournaments are run on **Chesskid.com**, which is a great platform for junior chess. It's very safe as all the children have an anonymous **Chesskid** 'name'. The tournaments are run over 3 to 5 rounds with everyone taking part. There have been some interesting battles across the virtual board, including brother vs sister competitions, and a few losses on time such is the close competitiveness. **Jack, Harry, Matthew, Max** and **Florence** are some of the regular Friday winners. For full details of the weekly sessions and winners, take a look at [Junior Chess | Dorset Chess](#).



Coaches on hand are Andy Baskett, Martin Simons, and Nikki Forster. Any interested juniors should please contact nikkiforster2015@gmail.com. We welcome **all** junior chess players from across the Dorset and Bournemouth & District chess league catchment areas irrespective of your school or chess club affiliation.

Chesskid.com and Dorset Junior week day tournaments

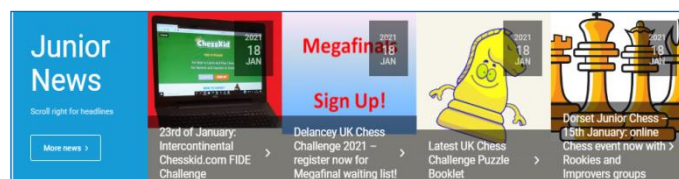
In addition to the flagship Friday evening junior chess club, there are also weekday Dorset Libraries Chesskid.com tournaments running at 12.00 noon. Please contact Andy Baskett - andy@baskett.co.uk

For those juniors who have not yet used Chesskid.com, there are lessons, videos and puzzles aimed at beginners through to more experienced junior chess players. Lessons and videos use friendly cartoon characters and it's very interactive. Check out <https://www.chesskid.com/>.

Dorset Chess / Dorset Junior Chess Website

Lots more information on chess in Dorset can be found on the Dorset Chess website, including weekly bulletins, tournaments, plus puzzles and quizzes and plenty of news.

[Dorset Chess](#) | [Dorset Chess League](#)



Other Dorset Junior chess players in action

Here are some of the notable recent performances by our local junior players. Please do share with us any junior chess activity news.

🏆 The Ringwood Lockdown Online Team Battle

Larissa Cuthbert, **Jamie Doyle** and **Jack Baskett** continue to take part in the highly popular fortnightly Ringwood Lockdown Online Team Battle and Ringwood Chess Tournaments - Blitz. Regular reports from this tournament can be found on the Dorset Chess website.

🏆 Caplin British Online Championships 2020: Junior Blitz Under 14

On Saturday 2nd January, **Jamie Doyle** played in the U14 Blitz section of the Caplin BOCC. Despite a starting rank of 16 out of 17 and the second lowest rating in the section, Jamie did extremely well achieving a score of 4 points and a final ranking of 12th.

🏆 Intercontinental Chesskid.com FIDE Challenge

Congratulations to **Max Teverson** who played in the international tournament on Chesskid.com last weekend and came 52nd out of 524 under 8s - in the top 10%! The Intercontinental ChessKid.com FIDE Challenge took place on Saturday, January 23rd, 2021 and included more than 1,900 players from 86 countries and six continents.

🏆 Sarah Longson (UK chess Challenge) talk to Talbot Heath school

On Friday 22nd January as part of the sports scholars programme, Sarah Longson held an interesting talk for pupils on Zoom. She shared her chess experiences and allowed students to ask questions.

Chess Facts : Initially the pawn was allowed to advance only one square on its first move but the new pawn move introduced in 1280 allowed it to move two squares on the first move.

But the first chessboard with alternating light and dark squares was made in 1090.

Delancey UK Chess Challenge 2021

It has been confirmed that the UK Chess Challenge will be going ahead in 2021 for its 26th consecutive year, again sponsored by Delancey and will take place online. For 2021 there will be a team competition in addition to the traditional individual competition. Entries for the schools and team competition are now open.



Pre-registration for individuals to the Megafinals is now open with young players requested to put their name on the waiting list; for 2021 pre-qualification for the Megafinals will no longer be required which is new this year.

Further details can be found at:

[Delancey UK Chess Challenge 2021 – register now for Megafinal waiting list! | Dorset Chess](#) or on the UK Chess Challenge website [Megafinal Waiting List 2021 | Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge](#)

For more information on the history of this junior tournament, the following article from a few years ago is interesting reading. [The world's largest chess competition | ChessBase](#)

UK Chess Challenge Activity books

The weekly UK Chess Challenge Activity Booklets are available for junior players of **all abilities and levels** on the junior page of the Dorset Chess website. [UK Chess Challenge Activity Booklet – This Week Checkmate Puzzles | Dorset Chess](#)

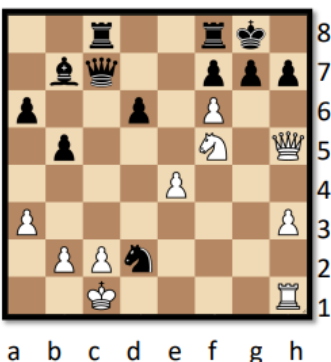
These are an excellent collection of puzzles and chess challenges and highly recommended for those juniors wanting some additional practice.



Each week includes a weekly prize and answers are available the following week.

Here are a few examples from last week's booklet.

<= Mega: White to play and checkmate in one. Look out for the pins!



<= Exa: White to play and checkmate black in four moves (four moves for white, three for black)

Ability Levels		
Club	Description	Approximate ECF Grade *
DECA – Club	Complete beginners and those with an incomplete grasp of the rules	Ungraded
MEGA – Club	Know the rules but little grasp of planning what to do beyond capturing and quick checkmates. Little to no tournament experience	0 – 59
GIGA – Club	Players with some tournament experience looking to "level up"	60 – 99
TERA – Club	More experienced players who have won or placed highly in local competitions	100 – 129
EXA - Club	Very experienced players with success at National Level events	130 – 159

Get to know famous chess players: Garry Kasparov

The famous chess player featured in this newsletter is **Garry Kasparov**, one of the greatest players

**Some Garry Kasparov quotes**

"If you wish to succeed, you must brave the risk of failure."

"Attackers may sometimes regret bad moves, but it is much worse to forever regret an opportunity you allowed to pass you by."

Garry Kasparov was born in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 1963. At age 10 he began training at Mikhail Botvinnik's chess school.

He became the under-18 chess champion of the USSR at the age of 12, the world under-20 champion at 17 and **the youngest world chess champion in history in 1985 at the age of 22** defeating then-champion Anatoly Karpov.

He defended his title **five times**, including a legendary series of matches against arch-rival Anatoly Karpov, and was undisputed **World Champion from 1985 until 1993**, and **Classical World Champion from 1993 until 2000**.

From 1984 until his retirement in 2005, Kasparov was ranked world No. 1 for 255 months overall for his career. His peak FIDE rating of 2851, achieved in 1999, was the highest recorded until being surpassed by Magnus Carlsen in 2013.

His matches against the IBM super-computer Deep Blue in 1996-97 were famous.

Garry Kasparov founded the **Kasparov Chess Foundation (KCF)** non-profit organisation which promotes the teaching of chess in education systems around the world. Its program is in use in schools across the United States, plus KCF also has centres in Johannesburg, Singapore, Mexico City and Brussels. KCF's mission is to promote the educational benefits of chess to children worldwide.

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We hope you enjoyed this newsletter. We always welcome new juniors of all levels and volunteers, so please contact the B&DCL and DCCA junior chess coordinator, Nikki Forster at nikkiforster2015@gmail.com if you wish to find out more on any junior chess matters or check out the Dorset Junior chess webpage <https://www.dorsetchess.co.uk/junior-chess/>