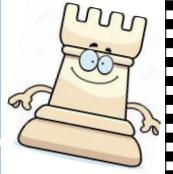


Dorset Junior Chess Newsletter

No. 16



Welcome to Newsletter No 16.

It's been a while since the previous Dorset Junior Chess newsletter so welcome back. In this newsletter, we **reflect** on **highlights** of some great junior chess from the last few months including the B&DCL league matches, the Bacchus League, plus many other events.

And then, news of the 2023 Dorset Junior Chess Championships!

Here's to a great chess 2023!

Juniors in action in B&DCL and DCCA League matches

Several juniors have been in action across the Bournemouth & District Chess League (B&DCL) teams plus the Bacchus League.

To date there have been notable performances in the **B&DCL** from several juniors.

Name	Performance	Team	Score	Games	Including Defaults	Excluding Defaults
Schell, Finn	1845	Southbourne D	3	3	100%	100%
Booth, Zander	1891	Poole C	2.5	3	83.33%	83.33%
Camopy, Leo	1629	Poole D	2	3	66.67%	66.67%

Also, in action have been Harry Mercer (Poole) in the B&DCL and Florence Spirling (Purbeck) in the DCCA.

The **Bacchus League** is aimed at junior and inexperienced players. It has been wonderful to see so many young players taking part in the first round of Bacchus League matches including: Oliver Bradbury, Jason Wang, Jackson Vann, Joshua Richards and Zhongyuan Sun (Southbourne Seagulls), Daniel Liubchenko (Poole Bishops) and Matthew Butcher (Ringwood Waifs and Strays).



Bacchus League players in action at **Poole Bishops vs Southbourne Seagulls**

And **Southbourne Seagulls vs Ringwood Waifs and Strays**.



Strong performances by Dorset Juniors at Hampshire Junior Open 2022

Several local **Dorset Juniors** took part in the **Hampshire Junior Open** on **Sunday 13th November** and there were some fine performances against tough opposition across 6 rounds.



Starting with the **U8** section, young **Nathaniel Pua** (Poole Juniors) played well and scored 3 points coming 8th overall.

Whilst there were no Dorset players in the U10 section, we were well represented in the **U12** section, with **Zander Booth**, **Leo Camopy** and **Herry Mercer** (all from Poole), along with **Tristan Alford** (Bournemouth Junior Chess Club) and **Joey Li** (Bournemouth). Well done to **Zander** for an excellent **joint second place**, with a score of 4.5 out of 6, closely followed by Leo and Harry on 3.5 points.

In the **U18**, Dorset were well represented by **Finn Schell** (Southbourne), **Florence Spirling** (Southbourne & Purbeck) and **Woody Whiting-Manby** (Bournemouth Juniors).

Finn Schell had a fantastic performance coming **second** with **5 points** out of 6, losing only to the winner of this section, who with a national rating of 1905, scored a perfect 6. Finn rated 1574, had a performance rating of 1716. Well done, **Finn!** **Florence Spirling** scored 3 points, ending in a final position several places above her starting ranking.



Inter-school chess matches

It is very exciting that 8 schools have entered the secondary schools inter-school chess competition.



In **group A** are **Ringwood**, **Twynham**, **Highcliffe**, and **Avonbourne** Schools whilst in **group B** are **Bournemouth**, **Bournemouth School for Girls**, **Lytchett Minster** and **Poole Grammar**.

With the first round due to complete by **20th January 2023**, the first match between **Lytchett Minster** and **Poole Grammar Schools**, was played in early December. Twelve eager chess players from each school met across the boards at Poole Grammar. The games were all very well contested with a lot of excellent chess being played. Poole Grammar came out as overall winners, this time. 12 per team is amazing to see and shows just how much chess is beginning to flourish again in schools in the area.

On completion of the group A and group B games, teams will progress to a semi-final and then a final.



Junior participation at local Christmas Tournaments

Several junior chess players took part in the traditional annual **Southbourne Chess Club Christmas Handicap Tournament** on Friday 23rd December. Here are many of those juniors with their prizes.



Congratulations to **Zander Booth** (Poole) for his tied third place, seen below with players from Poole and Highcliffe.



In the **Wimborne Christmas tournament** on Wednesday 21st December, **Florence Spirling** (Southbourne & Purbeck) played well coming third.



Chess Fun Fact: **Rookies**

First-year chess players are called 'rookies', which is also what we call now new recruits to the military, police force, sports teams, etc.

The name was derived from the last pawns to move in a chess game known as 'rooks'.



Dorset Junior Chess Championships. Hold the date: Sunday 26th February 2023!

This prestigious annual local junior championship was last played in February 2020 in Bournemouth when over 50 young players competed in this all-day event.

I am **very excited** to announce that **The Dorset Junior Championships** will return in 2023 on **Sunday 26th February!**



The Championship will be held over 6 or 7 rounds across age categories of **U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, U14, U16 and U18**. **Trophies and medals** will be awarded, and everyone will receive a **certificate**.

Merley Community Centre has been booked for what is planned to be an amazing chess event. Many of you will remember the fantastic Dorset Junior Chess Festival held at Merley Community Centre on 8th May 2022. We hope to attract an even bigger field of players than in 2020 and at least equal the number of juniors at the Dorset Junior Chess Festival.

Full details including how to register, and timings will be circulated very soon. Watch your emails and the junior page of the Dorset Chess website!

Junior Online 4NCL

We're always looking for junior chess opportunities for our young **Dorset junior chess players** to get involved and gain experience. The next season - **season 7** of the **Online Junior 4 Nations Chess League (4NCL)** is about to start this could be a **great opportunity for us**.



And as it is online, there's no need to travel. Matches are played over several weeks usually on a weekday evening on the Lichess platform which is an easy user-friendly platform. Matches are played over 4 boards, with a time control of 10 minutes plus 5 second increments. It's principally a team event with a squad of up to 8.

ECF membership at some level is required but silver membership is free for juniors in their first year. Players will ideally have an ECF rating in some format, but we can apply for a rating to be assigned if a junior doesn't currently have an ECF rating.

Please let me know on (nikkiforster2015@gmail.com) if you are interested.

*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>*

