



Dorset Junior Chess Newsletter

No. 8



Welcome to Newsletter No 8.

Many of us had probably hoped that our juniors would be back playing chess across the board by now and junior chess clubs would have restarted. Unfortunately this cannot be the case and it continues to be important that everyone stays safe and well. Online chess continues and many new initiatives are being developed some of which are covered in this newsletter. We would love to hear your news on how you have continued to play chess over this time.

Dorset Juniors UK Chess Challenge success

Congratulations!

Dorset Chess was very proud to have two of its juniors, **Leo Camopy (U8 boys)** and **Larissa Cuthbert (U12 girls)**, taking part in the UK Chess Challenge final (also known as the Terafinal) at the beginning of September. Both played extremely well against exceptionally tough competition from across the UK with Leo scoring 4.5 points and coming 36th in U8's and Larissa scoring 6 points to come 33rd in the U12.

The Delancey UK Chess Challenge is the world's largest chess competition and is a four stage event across five age groups, open to children resident in the United Kingdom up to the age of 18 years old. The Challenge starts at school / local tournament qualifying level with some 30,000 juniors taking part across the UK. The **2020 Dorset Junior Chess Championships**, held way back in February 2020 in pre-lockdown times, served as the Dorset qualifying event with many Dorset juniors successfully qualifying for the next round, the Megafinals, a national event.



Larissa and **Leo** are seen here with their trophies back in February; signs of the success to come!

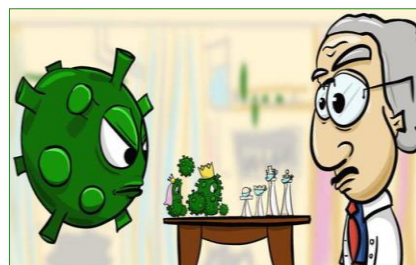
When Covid-19 disrupted the planned schedule, the UK Chess Challenge quickly moved from its usual over-the board tournament format to being entirely online in 2020, starting with the Megafinals, then the Gigafinals and finally on to the Terafinal, getting tougher with each round.

From the Megafinals, where over 2,000 UK juniors took part, a magnificent seven Dorset juniors qualified for the Gigafinals, a really fantastic achievement. The Dorset Gigafinal qualifiers were **Leo, Larissa, Max Teverson (Boys U8), Jack Baskett (U10), Harry Mercer (U10), Matthew Butcher (U10) and Florence Spirling (U12)**. In the Gigafinals, all played exceptionally well throughout the tournament and made Dorset Chess very proud of them. **Larissa** and **Leo** both scored the required level of points in the Gigafinal to become worthy qualifiers for the Terafinal, reaching the last 250.

Dorset Junior chess clubs update

➤ Current status of over the board chess

We are frequently receiving information requests from parents as to where their children can join a chess club. At this point in time it is unclear when the highly popular local junior chess clubs, operating in a number of libraries and clubs across Dorset, will be able to re-open. Similarly most school chess clubs are not operating.



We will keep parents updated through our regular emails and through notices on the Dorset Chess website as to when and where junior chess might re-open.

➤ Dorset Junior chess: [Chesskid.com](https://www.chesskid.com) online tournaments

Back in April 2020 in response to lockdown, Andy Baskett set up the Dorset Libraries (Ringwood and Castlepoint Libraries Junior Chess Clubs) "virtual" chess clubs using the [chesskid.com](https://www.chesskid.com) platform and ran a series of very successful week day and Saturday morning tournaments. Sadly after a few months, at about the time schools started re-opening and then summer holidays began, the numbers dwindled and the tournaments were discontinued.



We would be keen to hear if parents and juniors would be interested in these restarting again. We recently sent out a survey to our contact list of parents and encourage everyone to please respond.



Online chess options

One option is to learn and play online. As mentioned above, a really good website is [ChessKid.com](https://www.chesskid.com). It's very safe as all the children have an anonymous [Chesskid](https://www.chesskid.com) 'name'. 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/>.

A further online option is Lichess which also provides training. It's still entertaining but not quite as child centred as [Chesskid.com](https://www.chesskid.com). <https://lichess.org/>.

Chess Facts : The number of possible ways of playing the first four moves for both sides in game of chess is....

318,979,64,0000 WOW!

Message from UK Chess Challenge: **Free** classes and tournaments.



In the meantime, we also suggest that you check out the **FREE** classes being offered by the **UK Chess Challenge** team. There are also paying options which have even more benefits and are still good value for money.

Sarah and Alex Longson from Delancey UK Chess Challenge have issued a message to schools and local junior chess groups involved in the Delancey UK Chess Challenge.

*We are aware many school chess clubs will not be going ahead as usual in Autumn. We are hopeful though that we will see a return in Spring Term – or even the second half of Autumn. We have started to offer [online classes and tournaments](#) during Autumn term time following feedback from many parents and players. Our goal with this is to increase accessibility to chess for students during these difficult times which is why we have included a **FREE** membership tier as well as paid memberships.*

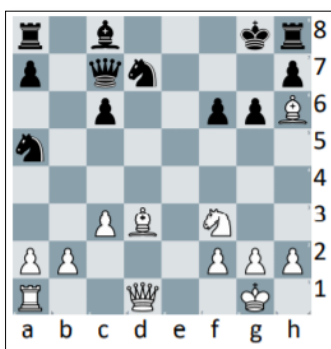
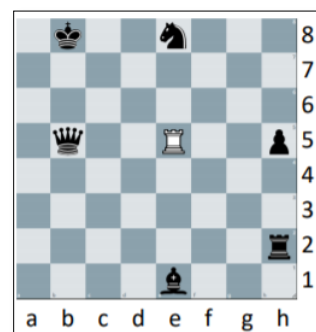
Check this out at <https://www.delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com/autumn-2020-club/>

UK Chess Challenge worksheets and puzzles

The UK chess Challenge is making available to junior chess clubs a series of weekly worksheets and puzzles. As a taster, here are a few puzzles to get you going.

Starter level

The Rook can move in straight lines as many squares as it likes. See if you can solve the ‘hungry rook’ puzzle by capturing all the pieces. Unlike in real chess, black does not get to take a move back.

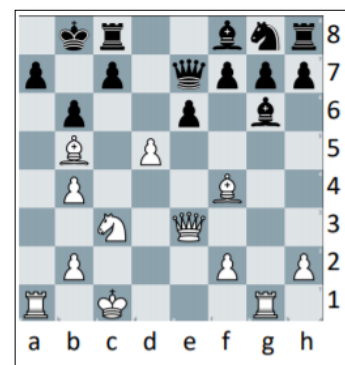


Moderate level

See if you can solve this checkmate in two puzzle.

Getting tough

This position is more common than a typical checkmate in one or two puzzle. Forcing checkmates will often arise in games but having the skill to spot them is the challenge. Can you spot the three move checkmate?



If you would be interested in receiving these worksheets, please email

Nikki Forster at nikkiforster2015@gmail.com and I will happily send these through. The answers come the following week – so no cheating!

Chess in Schools and Communities online resources

The UK's biggest chess educational charity, [Chess in Schools and Communities](#) is offering a range of teaching online resources to students, their parents and school chess tutors. There are YouTube videos, worksheets, and Kahoot quizzes to accompany many of the lessons. The course assumes no prior knowledge of chess and is suitable for complete beginners.

Here's a Youtube video on starting to play a game to try out

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMDHu0AWOVE&feature=youtu.be>

Get to know famous chess players: Mickey Adams (England)



Michael Adams

Mickey Adams was born in Cornwall on 17 November 1971 which makes him nearly 49 years old. He started playing tournaments at the age of 8 years old, left school after taking his GCSEs and became a full-time chess professional at 15, by which time he had already become the world's youngest International Master. and became a Grandmaster at the age of 17.

He is currently the **UK number 1** ranked player with a rating of 2716.

He has been a professional chess player for over 20 years and is frequently seen playing in the British Chess Championships including the 2016 Championships held at Bournemouth, where he came first and is seen opposite receiving his trophy.

His highest ranking is world No. 4 and he is currently ranked around number 30 in the world.

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/>