



## Welcome to Newsletter No 14.

Looking back 2021 has been a very strange year but despite all the difficulties, chess has not only survived but flourished. This newsletter looks back and celebrates some fantastic Dorset Junior chess highlights in 2021, along with some updates and chess fun time. **Here's to 2022!**

## ★ Dorset Junior chess highlights in 2021 ★

### 1. Recent Dorset Junior Christmas tournaments

#### ✚ Southbourne Chess Club Christmas Fun Handicap Tournament

This traditional fun tournament run by **Southbourne Chess Club** on 17<sup>th</sup> December was split into two sections this year: the main Christmas Handicap tournament where 20 local players, including 3 brave juniors, took part plus a junior tournament for the less experienced Southbourne juniors.

Very well done to two of the juniors, **Florence Spirling** and **Finn Schell**, who came equal 6<sup>th</sup> in the main tournament. Florence and Finn are seen here with their prizes.



In the **Junior Christmas Chess Tournament**, **Cyrus Piao** was outstanding coming **1st** with a score of **4 points out of 4!**

**Krushmiga Jeyasiri** and **Smyan Sripirasanna** came equal **2nd** with **2.5 points**. Other players were **Theo Toma**, **Sharvika Jeyasiri**, and **Thuran Kumar** who all enjoyed the matches.

#### ✚ Junior chess tournament at Elstead Hotel

On **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December**, **20 juniors** competed in a **Lightning 10 second buzzer competition** at the Elstead Hotel with three of the organisers dressed up as **Elves**. The tournament was great fun, and all the juniors were provided with certificates.



## 2. Bacchus League

It has been very exciting to see several Dorset junior chess players taking part in the **Bacchus League** matches. The Bacchus League was set up to encourage junior and inexperienced players, generally with a rating of 1450 or less, to build up experience of playing longer games under match conditions.

To date the following juniors have represented their local clubs: **Zander Booth**, **Leo Camopy** and **Harry Mercer** for Poole Bishops; **Florence Spirling**, **Finn Schell** and **Ollie Welch** for Southbourne. Bournemouth Pretenders have fielded some university and college students amongst their players.



**Zander** currently has an 83.3% success rate with 2.5 points from 3 matches, with many other junior players not far behind with a 50% success rate. **Well done to all of you.**

We would encourage more juniors to take part in the Bacchus League. Matches take place on chess club nights usually starting at 7pm with a 60 minute each time control.

## 3. Dorset junior participation in other tournaments

There have been some fantastic achievements by Dorset juniors in tournaments across the country this year.

### 🏆 2021 British Junior Rapid & Blitz Championship

Four Dorset juniors - **Jamie Doyle**, **Larissa Cuthbert**, **Florence Spirling** and **Zander Booth** all performed very well in the **British Junior Rapid & Blitz Championship** on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November, playing, on average, between 18 and 20 games over the course of the weekend!

Special **congratulations** to **Jamie Doyle**, (on the right in the photo collecting his trophy) who performed 300 points above his own rating to come **3rd** in the **British Under 16 Open Rapid Championship**.



### 🏆 Hampshire Junior Open Chess Tournament

Three young Dorset junior chess players took part in the Hampshire Junior Open Chess Tournament on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November**: **Leo Camopy** in the **U10** section, with **Harry Mercer** and **Zander Booth** in the **U12** section. All played very well and special **congratulations** to **Leo** and **Zander** who won their respective sections with a fantastic **maximum score of 6 out of 6!**

### 🏆 4NCL: Wessex team

**Larissa Cuthbert** has been representing Wessex in the **4NCL (Four Nations Chess League)**, playing for the Wessex C Team. Players play two rounds, one on Saturday and one on Sunday with a much longer time control. Larissa games have averaged 3.5 hours per game.

Larissa has played in several tournaments recently; in the Oxted tournament on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December, she performed well above her rating.



### 🏆 Online successes

Several juniors took part in the weekly Wessex online tournaments, with **Florence Spirling** a regular player and high performer: she did so well that she had the **second highest** best performance relative to grade for 2021 (**2113 vs 1682**); a fantastic achievement, outperforming many adults!

**Florence** also performed exceptionally well to come **equal 6th** at the 4NCL 2nd Autumn Online Congress and **17th** out of 116 in the England Juniors 2021 New Year Blitz Marathon Arena. **Jamie Doyle, Florence** and **Harry Mercer** also notched up excellent performances in the ECF England Juniors competitions in March 2021.



## 4. Delancey UK Chess Challenge

Dorset juniors (**Zander, Jamie, Florence, Merlin, Larissa, Max, Leo** and **Jack**) all excelled in the 2021 Delancey UK Chess Challenge earlier in 2021.

In July, **Zander Booth (Boys U10)**, **Jamie Doyle (Mixed U14)** and **Merlin Cork (Mixed U18)** all achieved the qualifying scores in their respective **Gigafinals** plus **Larissa Cuthbert (Girls U12)** also qualified as one of the top 3 U12 girls whilst Florence narrowly missed out on tie break. All reached the online **Preliminary Terafinal** stage, the next stage of the Delancey UK Chess Challenge competition, which took place in early **September**.

Despite their best efforts against many higher rated and exceptional junior players from across the country, the competition at the preliminary Terafinal was just a bit too tough. Nevertheless, **excellent performances** by all **Dorset** juniors.

### *2022 Delancey UK Chess challenge*

Details of the 2022 Delancey UK Chess Challenge have yet to be confirmed. Whilst the schools stage remains, individual players will be able to directly enter the Megafinal stage of the competition which may be both online and regional OTB competitions. We will keep you posted as and when further details are announced. In the meantime, updates can be subscribed for on the Delancey UK chess Challenge at [About the Challenge | Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge \(delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com\)](https://delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com)

## 5. Inter-county junior team battles



The **two Inter-County Online Junior Chess Team Battles** were great fun, there being a phenomenal average of **60 juniors** at these events!

In the **first** and **inaugural Inter-County event** in **May**, the **Dorset junior chess team** took on the might of junior chess players from **Hampshire, Devon** and **Berkshire**. **Dorset** juniors, with an average rating of 1475 and only one player over 12 years, were very definitely the underdogs. Despite this, the team battled hard and put in a great effort and at the halfway mark were challenging in third place, with Jamie Doyle in second place individually. Sadly, the final result did not go **Dorset's** way but nevertheless **Dorset's** average score was a **whopping 19 points**, the second highest.

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The **second** Inter-county junior chess team battle took place in **July** and the **Dorset junior chess team** certainly did itself **proud!** With a somewhat depleted team (due to a few other players not being available), the team improved upon its previous performance, coming **third** overall. Overall, Dorset had the **highest average performance** across all four county teams and the **second highest average score** per player. With a team of just eight players, this was a **fantastic team effort!**

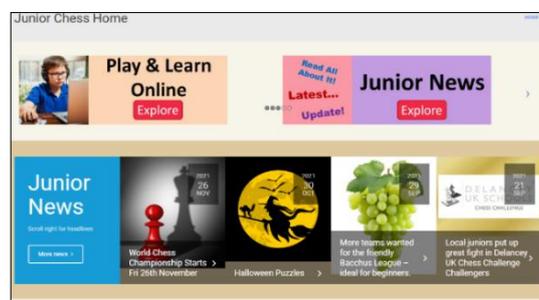
### *Future Inter-county team battles in 2022*

We are considering participating in further Inter-County team battles in 2022, so watch out for news on this.

## Dorset Chess website: Dorset Junior Chess Section!

The Dorset Junior Chess Section has had a major revamp in 2021 with new **exciting sharper sections, pages and rolling images**. The sections are split into ...

- **Tournaments** for Juniors
- Junior Chess - **How to Improve**
- Junior Chess - **Play & Learn Online**
- Junior Chess **Puzzles**
- Junior Chess **News**



This should be your **'go-to'** place for all things Dorset Junior Chess: go to <https://www.dorsetchess.co.uk/junior-chess/> to make use of the valuable information available.

## Chess Fun Time

### Fancy testing your chess knowledge with a Kahoot Quiz?



Chess in schools and Communities have some fun Kahoot Quizzes available to test not only your chess knowledge but also your speed at answering!



Why not try these:

Queen checkmates: [Play Kahoot! - Enter game PIN here!](#)

King and queen checkmates: [Play Kahoot! - Enter game PIN here!](#)

King and Rook checkmates: [Play Kahoot! - Enter game PIN here!](#)

### Chess jokes:

**Q: What's the name of the film about playing chess in a lift A: The Dark Knight rises!**

**Q: What do you call it when a beginner moves the castle very early on? A: A Rookie error!**

## Upcoming Chess Activities and Tournaments

Currently the following chess events are still scheduled to go ahead but please check with the organisers:

**South of England Junior Chess Congress, Yateley Manor School, Reading Road, Yateley. January 29<sup>th</sup> 2022 9.00am – Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm.** Annual junior chess tournament, sections from U7 up to U15. Counts towards ECF Youth Grand Prix. Open event – all welcome! Details on Web: [South of England Junior Chess Congress - Home](#)

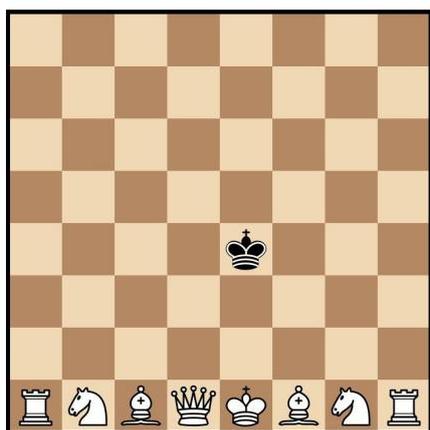
**Sussex Junior Horsham Rapidplay, Millais School, Depot Rd, Horsham RH13 5HR. February 6<sup>th</sup> all day.** 6 round Swiss rapidplay in 4 sections; U11 Minor, U11 Major, U18 Minor, U18 Major. Minor sections are suitable for those new, or relatively new, to playing tournament chess. Details on web: <https://sussexjuniorchess.org>

Other events both online and over the board can be found on the ECF calendar: [Calendar – English Chess Federation](#)

### **Dorset Junior Chess Championships 2022**

The **Dorset Junior Chess Championships** were last held in February 2020. Unfortunately, Covid prevented us from holding these in 2021 but we are hopeful that it will be possible to hold these at some point in 2022, although not in February.

## More Chess Fun Time



And, to finish this edition: **can you find the mate in two?**

**Hint:** The challenge here is to find mate in two moves for white! White plays first, black replies and then white checkmates with their 2nd move.

(Answer available in the next newsletter or from [nikkiforster2015@gmail.com](mailto:nikkiforster2015@gmail.com))

(Thanks to Delancey UK Chess Challenge for this puzzle)

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](mailto: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>