



Dorset Junior Chess Newsletter

No. 4



Welcome to Newsletter No 4. and 2020!



Since last summer, and in such a short space in time, Bournemouth & District Chess League (B&DCL) have achieved amazing things in creating a local friendly junior chess community within the libraries and at our adult chess clubs - there is now a great sense of belongingness and we really appreciate the support from all juniors and parents. **So thank you all so much.**

As the only official recognised organisers of Junior Chess within the local area, the hard working volunteers from B&DCL and Dorset County Chess Association (DCCA) will continue to reach out to all schools and families to offer as much fun chess as possible to all juniors on a free basis or at minimal charge (to cover essential costs). As B&DCL and DCCA are non-profit making bodies, all monies raised are directed back into Dorset Junior Chess. There are so many life skills to be learnt from chess and, with the full support from the B&DCL and DCCA, we endeavour to pass these on.

We have lots of **exciting new plans** for this coming year and we hope that you will continue to support us on our chess adventure. **Wishing you all fun and challenging chess in 2020!**

Dorset County Junior Chess Championships: Saturday 8 February 2020.

Dorset County Chess Association will be hosting this year's Dorset County Junior Chess Championships at Bournemouth School for Girls. Junior chess players in school years 3 to 13 are invited to come along for a fun & competitive day of chess, irrespective of whether a relative novice or more experienced player.

This is not a knockout competition so you are guaranteed to play 7 rounds of chess against children in your age groups. Doors open at **9.30a.m** and we intend to have a prompt start by **10.00am** at the latest. Prize-giving will be at around **4.30p.m**. Championship trophies and medals will be awarded to various age groups.



Full details and the entry form are available on the Dorset Chess website at <https://www.dorsetchess.co.uk/junior-chess-championships-19-20/>. Online entry is also available.

Please note the cut-off date for entries.

The tournament incorporates the qualifier for the **Delancey UK Chess Challenge** for year groups 3 to 6. This is the largest chess tournament held in the UK. For details of the competition can be found at: <https://www.delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com/>. We will assume that children in this age group would like to be considered for qualification for a place in the next round of this prestigious tournament unless parents indicate otherwise.

Countdown to Christmas puzzles: We have extended the deadline to **20 January 2020** so please keep your entries for the puzzles coming in. The highest score so far is 13 correct answers so why not see if you can beat this! **Special thanks to Martin Simons for his hard work in assisting Santa with these puzzles!**

B&DCL Senior Inter-School Championship: entries now open!

This annual Bournemouth & District Chess League (B&DCL) competition between senior school chess teams takes place in Term 2, with the first rounds in weeks commencing 2nd and 9th March and the final just before the Easter holiday break. We currently have Poole Grammar, Lytchett Minster School, Highcliffe School, Ringwood School and Bournemouth School registered but can accommodate one or two more senior schools. Schools should please register before **20 January 2020**.

Recent Dorset Junior results

At the beginning of December, **Larissa Cuthbert** represented **England** at the European Youth Rapidplay and Blitz Chess Championships in Tallinn, Estonia.

She took part in three tournaments, the U12 Girls Individual Rapidplay, the U14 Mixed Team Rapidplay and the U14 Girls Blitz and achieved an average performance rating of around 1200 across the three. During the tournaments she won/drew against players from Russia, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

Larissa herself reports "It was the best place and tournament I have been to. The tournament was excellent because it was a good experience. I had never played blitz games before and I loved trying it out. It was hard to play two Women Candidate Masters. I was also in a rapid team and it felt outstanding to be on board 1 with my team cheering me on."



Since returning, Larissa has played in the u12 Major Section of the London Junior Chess Championships Finals in Harrow at the University of Westminster from 28-30th December. She scored 4 points from 9 games which is a very creditable performance given a strong line-up. This was a big jump in standard for her from the u10 Minor section last year.



Jamie Doyle from Poole Chess Club came first in the U14 Minor section of the 2019 London Junior Chess Championships held on 14 and 15 December scoring a fantastic 5.5 out of 6.

At the recent, highly successful, Southbourne Christmas Handicap tournament, there were outstanding performances from the juniors: **Larissa Cuthbert** who was joint 3rd, **Jamie Doyle** who came joint 7th, **Florence Spirling** who came joint 10th and **Jake Doyle** who came 24th. Everyone had lots of fun and walked away with prizes.



Chess Quiz: how can you place 8 Queens on the Board without one threatening another?



News from the Junior Chess Clubs

Castlepoint Library

The **Castlepoint Library Junior Chess Club** finished off the year with a special guest coaching session from Santa which included a mammoth puzzle illustrating pins, forks, skewers and more. But was he the real Father Christmas? We think the juniors had the final say!



The mini knockout tournament was keenly competed amongst the juniors with a TITANIC FINAL between Lucas and Lohit, following well fought semi-finals against Edmund and Timothy, so much so that the library staff were almost locking up when this match was still going on! In the end, the match was declared a draw. All went home happy with their generous gift from Santa.

Ringwood Library

Look out for a new junior chess club starting at Ringwood Library on Saturday mornings from February 2020. For further information contact Martin Clancy at mjclancy@btconnect.com



Future Chess Tournaments for junior chess players

Dorset County Junior Chess Championships: Saturday 8 February 2020. Dorset County Chess Association will be hosting this year's Dorset County Junior Chess Championship. See page 1 of this newsletter for full details.

25th Dorset Rapidplay: 15 March 2020. To celebrate 25 years of this ever popular event to be held at Greyfriars Ringwood, this will be a very special Rapidplay with a bumper £1,000 in cash prizes. 6 rounds of 20 minutes plus 5 seconds per move. Entry fee is £18 and **only** £10 for juniors and includes a wonderful hot lunch. <https://www.dorsetchess.co.uk/rapidplay-2020/>

Slightly further afield.....

South of England Junior Chess Congress: 25 – 26 January 2020 Prestigious junior chess event for U7 to U15 years held over the last weekend in January each year at Yateley Manor School, Reading Road, Yateley in Hampshire. U11 section is England Junior Squad qualifier. <https://www.southofenglandjunior.com/>

Castle Chess 16th Fareham Congress: 28 February - 1 March 2020 6 round event. Open including Premier U175, Major U155 including Intermediate U135, Minor U115 including Challengers U95. Lysses House Hotel, 51 High Street, Fareham, Hampshire <http://www.castlechess.co.uk/>

Chess Facts : In 1999, chess Grandmaster Garry Kasparov played The World in a game that lasted over 4 months! Over 50,000 people from more than 75 countries took part in the game with moves being decided by majority vote. Garry ended up winning on move 62 when 51% of The World resigned!