**BASINGSTOKE CHESS CLUB NEWSLETTER (JULY 2023)**

**DELANCEY MEGAFINALS**

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**The Hampshire Mega finals were staged on Sunday 25th June 2023 at Winchester College. A record sell out entry of 204 took part in the various age groups and it turned out to be a very successful day for the Basingstoke youngsters.**

 **At *Under 18* Ralph Morley achieved a remarkable 5 out of 6 in a very tough section which was won by an extremely highly graded player. Megan Birch recorded an impressive 3 ½ points and we understand this has achieved the highest placed girl on the day award. Both Ralph and Megan progress to the Giga Finals (Southern England). In the same section Harry Smith recorded a respectable 2 ½ points and Ojas Dhall who was the lowest graded player managed 2 points.**

 **At *Under 14* Liam Durangparang had a good tournament and progressed through to the Giga Finals with a solid 4 points from 6 games. Jacob Goodchild who has only recently returned to playing chess scored a respectable 2 ½ points. This section was won by former Basingstoke junior Daniel Shek.**

 **At *Under 12* Edison Brown who usually does well in the various competitions gained the required 3 ½ points to secure a Giga Finals place.**

**At *Under 10*  Pradyumna Tripurari had an excellent Mega Finals finishing second with 4 ½ points and progressing to the Giga Finals.**

**At *Under 9*  Zachery Glass got off to a slow start losing his first two games. However he recovered well and won 3 out of his last 4 games to finish with a very respectable 3 points.**

**At *Under 8*  Reuben Jirgens had a solid tourney and qualified for the Giga Finals with 3 ½ out of 6. Probably the youngest player in the entire Mega Finals at 6 years was Dhruva Thota. He scored an amazing 3 points and just failed to qualify.**

**Elsewhere Jia Arn Yeung also qualified at the Oxford Mega Finals with 4 out of 6.**

**STEVEN JONES COACHING**

 **The next Steven jones Coaching session will take place on WEDNESDAY 19th JULY 2023 from 7.30pm. The fee is £5.00 inclusive of weekly board fee. The topic is the Sicilian Defence Dragon variation. The previous Coaching sessions from Steven have all been very good and instructive. Please advise if you wish to attend.**

 **Members who do not wish to participate in the coaching session can play club night chess in the two smaller rooms.**

**PRIZEGIVING EVENING**

 **The Presentation of the season’s awards will take place on 14th June. A huge attendance of over 40 saw former Basingstoke Gazette Sports editor Graham Merry present the various trophies.**

 **A list of the awards is given below. .**

**2022 Awards; Joe French Cup**

**Winner Steven Jones Finalist Jamie Chilton**

**Charles Henshaw Shield**

**Winner Charles Oluwadare Finalist Ralph Morley**

**2023 Awards:**

**Southampton League Division 2 Winners (8)**

**Jamie Chilton (captain), Steven Jones, Raja Pentakota, Graham Phillips,**

**Ivan Stipcevic, Richard Thurstans, Colin Knight, Mo Negargar**

**Southampton League Division 3 Runners Up (7)**

**Charles Oluwadare, Harry Smith, Ralph Morley, Colin Knight, Megan Birch, Andrew Birch, Liam Durangparang.**

**Basingstoke Junior Chess Champion – Saksham Rana.**

**Two rapid play tourneys were held. In the Main competition Ivan Stipcevic was successful with Charles Oluwadare the losing Finalist. The Plate competition was won by Ralph Morley who won out against Graham Phillips.**

**CHESS LEAGUES**

 **For the forthcoming season the club have again entered 4 teams into the Southampton League. The A team will move up to Division 1 and the B,C and D teams will again enter Divisions 3,4 and 5.**

 **A consultation was conducted with members regarding possible re-entry into the Berkshire and also Borders League’s. In both cases there was some interest. The players wishing to play in the Berkshire League covered a wide range of playing strength. Probably not strong enough to compete in Division 1 but too strong for the bottom league Division 3.**

 **In the case of the Borders League a possible entry could be considered into one of the lower leagues. However before any entry can be considered then the teams will require team captains and members willing to take on the admin part of the above leagues. There is still some time before the respective AGM’s so anyone who wishes to take on the roles is welcome to get in touch.**

[**http://www.sotonchessleague.org.uk/**](http://www.sotonchessleague.org.uk/)

 **BASINGSTOKE JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP.**

 **The above competition was played on Sunday 4th June 2023 with 17 entries. The winner for the second year in a row was Saksham Rana with the maximum 6 out of 6. In second place was Aatmaja Ghosh who scored 4 ½ . Third place was shared between Edison Brown, Liam Durangparang and Garet Anderson each with 4 points. All entrants received a trophy. A huge thank you to Harry Smith for working out the Swiss pairings and to Gina Brown and Richard Thurstans for additional help.**

**JUNIOR SUMMER CAMPS:**

 **We have had a few enquiries about summer camps. Our club do not run summer camps. However Lucas Piecha at Winchester does run events in the summer and has provided the details below.**

**\*\*JUNIOR CHESS CLUB SCHEDULE\*\***

*Engage and Learn at Community Centre Badger Farm*
Welcome to our weekly Junior Chess Club sessions held at the friendly and warm community environment of the Badger Farm. These sessions offer more than just learning chess - they provide an excellent platform for social interaction, teamwork, critical thinking, and fun-filled engagement.

I host weekly meetups from 11am to 1pm. During these sessions, I cover various aspects of the game – from basics for our beginner members, to advanced strategies for our more experienced young minds.

calendars for the following dates:

- 2/7/23: 11am - 1pm
- 9/7/23: 11am - 1pm
- 16/7/23: 11am - 1pm
- 23/7/23: 11am - 1pm
- 30/7/23: 11am - 1pm
- 6/8/23: 11am - 1pm
- 13/8/23: 11am - 1pm
- 20/8/23: 11am - 1pm
- 27/8/23: 11am - 1pm

**\*\*ONLINE CLUB MEETINGS: Enhance Your Chess Acumen\*\***
Our Online Club Meetings offer an enriching avenue for chess enthusiasts to explore and enhance their understanding of the game. Join us for these hour-long, Zoom-based meetings and take a step forward in your chess journey on the following dates:

- 30/6/23: 11am - 1pm
- 7/7/23: 11am - 1pm
- 14/7/23: 11am - 1pm
- 21/7/23: 11am - 1pm

**\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE: Cancellation Date\*\***
Please note that the Junior Chess Club will be cancelled on the following date:

**- 18/6/23**
I regret any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding. The sessions will resume as scheduled after this date.

For any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me.

**\*\*PRIVATE 1 TO 1 LESSONS: Tailored Chess Instruction\*\***
Understanding that each chess player's journey is unique, I offer private 1 to 1 lessons tailored to your individual learning needs. Please reach out to check availability and schedule your private lesson.

**\*\*CHESS CAMP: An Immersive Learning Experience\*\***
Experience the joy of learning chess at our specially curated Chess Camp, set to take place from the 21st to the 25th of August.

Chess Camp Schedule:
- 21/8/23: 10am - 2pm
- 22/8/23: 10am - 2pm
- 23/8/23: 10am - 2pm
- 24/8/23: 10am - 2pm
- 25/8/23: 10am - 2pm

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Lukasz Piecha
FIDE Chess Instructor
[chesshood.com](http://chesshood.com/)

**BASINGSTOKE CHESS LEAGUE**

**Oakridge are the winners of the Alekhine Cup. The Basingstoke Chess League is the most informal of competitions and provided interest during Spring and early summer.**

**Final positions. Oakridge 32, Tadley 28, Basing 26 ½ , Central 24 ½, Kempshott 19 ½ , Popley 19.**

**Results attached.**

**STUART KNOX :**

**Please see interesting attachment kindly provided by Stuart Knox.**

**BASINGSTOKE COUNCIL: Basingstoke Council have invited Chess club members to participate in the August Friday Town centre events. These will include a giant chess set and the invitation email is below.**

Hope you had a lovely long weekend!

We are currently programming our summer FriYAY events which take place every Friday in August. The events run from 11am to 3pm and take place in Basingstoke Town Centre/ War Memorial Park.

The theme is Sport and Play and we were wondering if you would like to get involved? We have a giant chess set that has gone down brilliantly at other events and was thinking Basingstoke Chess Club could lead some sessions to get kids involved and teach them how to play. The events are free for people to take part but you are more than welcome to bring flyers and promotional material to raise the profile of the club in a town centre location

Let me know your thoughts

Thank you,

Olivia

Olivia Bone
Economy and Culture Assistant
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Olivia.Bone@basingstoke.gov.uk
www.basingstoke.gov.uk
 [**@BasingstokeGov**](https://twitter.com/BasingstokeGov)   [**@BasingstokeGov**](https://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeGov)

**ECF NOTIFICATION**

**Please see the ECF notification below. I am not aware of any of our members who fit into the category the ECF refers to. However no doubt we will soon find out from the ECF !!.**

**Dear Chess Club/League Secretary/Treasurer**

**This email is a friendly (and we hope timely) reminder to check the membership status of all members of your club or organisation before the end of June.**

**Game fee of £18.00 (£6.00 for juniors) applies once a player who is not an English Chess Federation (ECF) member at Bronze level or higher has played more than three games in a local league. It applies to all games played within a local league, regardless of division and including knock-out competitions, jamboree events etc. The ECF will recognise any ECF individual membership at Bronze level or higher taken out by a player on or before 30 June 2023 as covering them for game fee purposes for local league games as defined above for the season just ended (2022/23).**

**Local leagues (and therefore local clubs, on the basis that local leagues will doubtless pass on any game fee incurred) will be invoiced at the end of the 2022-2023 season at £18.00 (£6.00 junior) for each player who has played more than three games in a local league and is not an ECF member at Bronze level or higher as at 30 June 2023.**

**Please note that arrangements for club championships and club internal tournaments follow the same principle as for leagues above.**

**This page on the ECF website gives more information (see sections 3 and 4 in particular):**[**https://www.englishchess.org.uk/pay-to-play-and-game-fee-new/**](https://65jr2.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/rALH-6L5S2RggYRrm2XVlgDMI25nTweP9BqeKHCQLYV58hbhUjo7jCf1rI3qF_K1M-WEuJaWj9tRmRTju58S0Bczv7oFv3J0STyNRZ0tzbanCvHDZUkg9rS2nvIye2FixU-MHiUB9ha4su7G9ceREXoWKJsIJ3hJJZdx1BAGpnFVw0UP_-RZOrc0JSFIxiE9a-K8lf0ArRq3xNF9_4lLSpU3DJCytu0QzMmjkrqRVNn9snBK8kcN3bI9TiN0kDIhZb8)**.**

**Kind regards**

**Rob Willmoth, Director of Membership**

**CLUB WEBSITE**: **Keep up to date with Basingstoke Chess Club news from the** **club’s website.** <https://www.basingstokechessclub.co.uk/>

***Best Regards, DAVID***