

ECF Secondary School Chess News

September 2018

Neill Cooper

ECF National Secondary Schools Co-ordinator

manager.secondary@englishchess.org.uk

<http://englishchess.org.uk/NSCC/>

Welcome to the 2018/19 Season of ECF School Chess Tournaments

U19 Open National School Chess Championships

Do consider entering the Championships for 2018/19. It is not just for strong teams, indeed they normally gain automatic qualification to the Regional stage in the spring term. This means that the “qualifying events” and leagues in the Autumn term are normally enjoyable for all. Some qualification event dates are already fixed (see below)

You can find further details and a link to the entry form [here](#).

	Host	Date
Eton Rapidplay (see below)	Eton College	Sunday 23rd September
West London Qualifier	KCJS Wimbledon	Wed 3rd October
South London Qualifier	Wilson's School	Tues 9th October
North West Qualifier	Bolton School	Date tbc
Devon Qualifier	Torquay Boys	Date tbc
Kent Qualifier	Tonbridge	Date tbc
Hampshire Qualifier	Winchester	Date in November tbc
North East Qualifier	Yarm	Tues 13th November
Midlands Qualifier	Nottingham High School	Wednesday 14 November
Bristol Qualifier	Bristol GS	Monday 19th November
Surrey/Hampshire Qualifier	RGS Guildford	Wednesday 21st November
North London Qualifier	Highgate	Wednesday 29th November
Berks/Bucks Qualifier	Reading Bluecoat	Date tbc
Repechage Qualifier	University College, London	Saturday 1st December

If there is not a qualifying event near to you, please do consider offering to host one and we would hope to be able to find someone run the event. Alternatively, you can enter a local league.

U19 Blitz

The Second National Schools Individual and Team Blitz will take place at The King's School Grantham on Sunday 7th October 2018 from 10.45am to 4.00pm. This is free to all secondary schools and sixth form colleges in the UK. Teams of four (plus an optional reserve) will compete in the Team Blitz from in the afternoon. All may also participate in the Individual Blitz in the morning. Schools who do not have sufficient players for the team

event are encouraged to enter up to three players in the Individual Blitz and scratch teams will be formed for those who wish in the afternoon Team Event. Click [here](#) for more details and the entry form.

Eton College Rapidplay

This year the popular Eton College Rapidplay will be taking place on Sunday 23rd September. Last year over 300 players from 40 schools took part and we are preparing for even more this year. You can see photos of the 2016 event [here](#). If you would like to enter this year there is still time - please visit the [schools website](#) for details and [click here for online entry](#) or email me for more information. Teams cover a wide range of ability but the Swiss system using game points means that most of the matches are close.

More details in the next newsletter on:

- U19 Girls National School Chess Championships
- Team Chess Challenge
- Junior Team Chess Challenge
- Team Problem Solving Challenge

ECF News

The new [ECF grades](#) are out. Remember if you wish to you can grade internal school games – if you are interested contact me for more details.

ECF Junior membership is now only £5 for Bronze or Silver membership – so do encourage you regular players to join [here](#). Junior Silver membership is available FREE to players who have not previously been members of the Federation in any category.

Results of 2017/18 tournaments

U19 Open National School Chess Championships

Congratulations to Reading School on winning the 2018 National School Chess Championships. This is the third time they have been champions in the past 5 years. Runners up were last year's champions RGS Guildford, who receive the Richard Haddrell Memorial Trophy for the coming year. You can read all about the finals [here](#).

Other winners

U19 Girls National School Chess Championships: Fernwood School, Nottingham

Team Chess Challenge: Royal Grammar School, Newcastle

Junior Team Chess Challenge: King's College Junior School, Wimbledon

Team Problem Solving Challenge: The Judd School

Many thanks to our NSCC sponsors, Winchester College and St Catherine's, Bramley