



NEWTON ABBOT CHESS CLUB



SEASON 2018-19

Dear member/new member/potential member,

I am pleased to welcome you to the new season at **Newton Abbot Chess Club**, our fourteenth since the re-founding of the club in 2005.

*The club's **OPENING NIGHT** will be **THURSDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2018 (7 p.m.)**. In line with tradition we shall start the season on a light-hearted note with a time-handicap quick-play tournament in which all members can take part. It should make for a lively, friendly start. **New members will be particularly welcome to take part.***

Looking ahead, **the final club session** of 2017 will be **Thursday 20th December** and the club will re-open after Christmas on **Thursday 3rd January 2019**. The last club evening of the 2017-18 season will be on **Thursday 9th May 2018** with the AGM following shortly afterwards.

As ever we are looking to foster the progress of our **junior members** this year. Last year's juniors made great strides and we are hoping to recruit some new youngsters this season.

Grades August 2018: most of you will already have seen the new grades for the season. If not, they are available on the **ECF website** (www.englishchess.org). Congratulations to those of you whose grade has gone up and good luck to all for this year. A reminder that the **August 2018 grade** is the one which applies **throughout the season** for league matches even though new grades will be published in January. (For those unaware of the basis on which grades are calculated, the graders take your last 30 graded games – this may involve using results from before the beginning of the latest season).

It is worth my mentioning one facility which may be an attraction to members looking to play more graded games: you can agree at any time to play a graded game against another member (or, in fact against players from other clubs) even if it is not in an internal club championship section). Results of such games should be entered in the special book which will be made available for this purpose and will be submitted for grading by the club secretary. This means that if you come to a club session without having a club tournament game arranged you can still play a serious graded game at that session if you so wish.

Following the two successful coaching sessions held during the summer the committee is intending to run more regular **coaching sessions** this season, probably on a monthly basis. We also hope to host a simultaneous display by local Grandmaster Keith Arkell.

Subject to confirmation at the pre-season meetings of the Torbay League and DCCA we shall be competing in the following divisions of the leagues this year (team captains listed in brackets):

Torbay League: Div 1 (Paul Brooks) Div 2 (Andrew Kinder) Div 3 (Jacquie Barber-Lafon) Div 4 (Mike Hussey) Rapidplay (Andrew Kinder) Knock-out (Paul Brooks).

DCCA: Div 1 Bremridge (Trefor Thynne) Div 2 Mamhead (Paul Brooks) Div 3 Schofield (Wilf Taylor) Div 4 Moyle (Jacquie Barber-Lafon) Knock-Out Rooke (Trefor Thynne) Junior Bloodworth (tbc)

Club Committee: The committee consists of the following members – Andrew Kinder (President/Chairman/Competitions' Secretary), Trefor Thynne (Secretary), Jacquie Barber-Lafon (Treasurer), Paul Brooks, Mike Hussey, Prabhu Kashap, Philip Coaker, Wilf Taylor, Evan McMullan (junior representative)

The committee will organise a rota so that on each club night there will be a senior member responsible for various aspects of the club on that night e.g. supervision of juniors, welcome to new members, setting out and putting away of equipment etc. Members can help enormously to reduce the workload of committee members by putting sets and boards etc away after their games have finished at the end of a session.

Club website: www.newtonabbotchessclub.org.uk

We are grateful to Paul Brooks for the work he has put in to create the new club website – please visit it as often as possible so that Google directs all enquiries straight to the site! Paul will be explaining to us all what we can hope to find on the site during the season.

We are also maintaining a presence on the **ChessDevon** website (www.chessdevon.org.uk)

Subscriptions for this year are unchanged at £65 for adults (discounted rate £35) **and £30 for juniors**. We recognize that this level of subscription is higher than in some other Devon clubs but the room hire charge has risen to £40 per session this year and the committee feels that the excellent facilities at the Courtenay Centre together with the range of chess activities on offer make membership of the club a good deal. The committee has the discretion to vary these rates in individual cases where appropriate, for example for students or unwaged players or for those who wish to take part in only one aspect of the club's activity e.g. DCCA league matches.

The match fee rate for Saturday fixtures is still £3 per match to cover the costs of additional room hire.

Our treasurer, Jacquie Barber-Lafon, will be delighted to receive **subscriptions** at any time from now on and **early payment would be very helpful** as the club has a number of major financial commitments to meet in September and October.

The treasurer's address is: 19 Southey Crescent, Kingskerswell. **Potential new members are invited to attend for two free sessions before paying a subscription.**

ECF MEMBERSHIP: club members are reminded that they need to **renew their English Chess Federation memberships from 1st September**. The ECF has outsourced its membership scheme to a private company this year so that the best way to renew or upgrade an existing membership or to take out a new one is to visit the ECF Home page and follow the detailed instructions using the new log-in details that you should have received from the ECF in your renewal reminder. If any member is having trouble with this system please speak to the secretary (though it seems to be working as far as I can tell).

Any junior member who has not previously been an ECF member can have one year's free Silver Level membership (ask the club secretary for details). ECF Bronze membership is a necessary precondition for playing in external matches for the club. Silver Level is required for congress play.

DCCA TEAM QUICK-PLAY: We shall again be hosting this popular event at the Courtenay Centre . Confirmation of the date will be given when the season gets under way.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019: it has just been announced that next year's British Championships will be held in Torquay at the Riviera Centre –an excellent opportunity for local players to pit their skills against players of their own level from all over the country.

INTERNAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS: ENTRY - this is important!!

We have again retained the All-Play-All format for the club's internal championships. There will be three sections: Championship, Challengers, Minor. Players will be allocated to sections according to grading and last season's results. If you wish to enter the club's internal championship it is essential to inform **Paul Brooks, the Competitions' Secretary, by Thursday 11th October, the deadline for entry**. Paul's e mail address is: pauljbrooks13@gmail.com

(**Rapidplay tournament:** the committee will decide shortly on the format of any other tournaments to be run including a Rapidplay tournament).

More experienced junior members are encouraged to apply to enter the championship tournaments. There will also be a junior championship tournament for which **all** juniors will be automatically included

I look forward to welcoming you all at the first club night on 27th September and hope that you will have an enjoyable and successful chess season with Newton Abbot.

Trefor Thynne (Club Secretary)

12th September 2018

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