

West Nottingham Chess Club

The chess club for Stapleford, Bramcote, Beeston and all points west of the city centre
<http://www.westnottinghamchess.org/> secretary@westnottinghamchess.org

THE PASSED PAWN

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Nottinghamshire County Championship: 21–22 October

This year, West Nottingham Chess Club is running the Nottinghamshire County Championship on behalf of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association. We have re-vamped the competition, increasing the number of sections and the number of prizes, making it suitable for players of all standards – first team or seventh team, everyone now has a chance of becoming a County Champion.

This means that we have a great opportunity to make a big contribution to chess in Nottinghamshire by both organising and competing in the competition. If you've never played in a weekend tournament before, now's your chance to gain valuable experience in a local competition run by people you know. Low entry fee, minimal travel, no hotel bills – what more could you want?

Club events

Club Championship

The 2006 Club Championship, played from 22 May to 17 July, was won by Guy Hinton with 4½/5, ahead of six players who all scored 3½. The Under 16 prize goes to Eric Williamson (3½) whose sum of progressive scores placed him ahead of Daniel Lin and Aarav Gupta-Kaistha on tie-break. The Under 11 prize was won by Andrew Garside with 2 points, beating Oliver Williamson on tie-break. Full details are on the web site.

Lightning Championship

The Lightning Championship (10 seconds per move) took place on 10 July. The winners were:

- ♙ **Overall:** John Collins 5½/6
- ♙ **Under 16:** Eamonn Lim 3½/6
- ♙ **Under 11:** Andrew Garside 3½/6

Blitz tournament

A five-minute blitz tournament, held on 26 June, was won by Ian Kingston with 6/6. Daniel Lin was second with 5/6, and Guy Hinton, Michael Zhang and John Crawley shared third place with 4/6.

AGM

The AGM on 31 July was a quiet affair. The club's constitution was approved. All existing committee members were re-elected to their existing positions:

- ♙ **President:** John Crawley
- ♙ **Secretary:** Ian Kingston
- ♙ **Treasurer:** Robert Willoughby
- ♙ **Deputy President:** David Levens
- ♙ **Deputy Secretary:** John Collins
- ♙ **Deputy Treasurer:** Phillip Burley

Closure

Owing to a double booking beyond our control, the *club will be closed on 18 September*.

Other events

British Championship

The British Championships, held at the University of Swansea from 6–19 August, proved a huge success for Lateefah Messam-Sparks, who walked off with not one but two titles: Girls Under 16 Champion and Joint Girls Under 14 Champion.

Two other WNCC members were playing: Billy Grewal scored 5½/11 in the Major

Open, while Ian Kingston scored 3/5 in both the 5 Day Morning and Afternoon Opens.

UK Chess Challenge

Gigafinal

Most of West Nottingham's qualifiers from the Trent Megafinal travelled to Manchester on the weekend of 7–8 July to compete in the penultimate stage of the UK Chess Challenge. Here's how they fared (* = qualified for Terafinal; ** = Section winner; all scores out of six points):

- ♟️ **U9 Boys:** Graham Garside 4
- ♟️ **U9 Girls:** Catherine Keetley 4
- ♟️ **U10 Boys:** Andrew Garside* 5; Arun Maini 4; Ross Mackay 3½
- ♟️ **U10 Girls:** Ella Macleod* 4½; Joanne Bevan 2
- ♟️ **U11 Boys:** Michael Zhang 4; Yash Gupta 4; Matthew Bevan 3½
- ♟️ **U11 Girls:** Heather Garside 2
- ♟️ **U12 Boys:** Toby Thurgood* 5; Aarav Gupta-Kaistha 4; Eamonn Lim 3½; Michael Gathercole 2
- ♟️ **U13 Boys:** Daniel Lin* 5; Ashton Alfred 3
- ♟️ **U14 Girls:** Lateefah Messam-Sparks** 6
- ♟️ **U16 Boys:** Thomas Quinn-Gregson 2
- ♟️ **U18 Boys:** Billy Grewal* 4

Terafinal

The final stage of the UK Chess Challenge – the Terafinal – took place in Sheffield on 19–20 August. West Nottingham's qualifiers all performed well, especially when you bear in mind that players of all ages competed together, so the younger players were up against some of the best juniors in the country. In the Terafinal itself, Lateefah Messam-Sparks scored 3½/6 to finish =15th of 56 competitors. In the Challengers A tournament, Daniel Lin scored 4½ to finish =6th of 60 competitors and Andrew Garside scored 3 (=25th). In the Challengers B (a tournament of similar strength to Challengers A), Billy Grewal scored 5 (=3rd of 61 players), Toby Thurgood 4 (=7th) and Ella Macleod 2½ (=39th).

National Schools Championship

Nottingham High School retained the National Schools Championship on 7 July,

beating Dulwich College 5–1. The winning team members were the same as last year and included four WNCC members: Billy Grewal, Michael Keetley, Ian Harris and Dominic Heining.

New season

Once again, the club has added an extra team to both of the leagues in which we play. We now have seven teams in the Notts League and three teams in the Derby & District League, making us by far the largest club in the area. No other club has more than five teams in total. Details of team captains and fixture lists can be found on the web site.

The disappointment of the summer was that restructuring in the Notts League meant a reduction in the size of Division 1, denying WN2 promotion. WN1 and WN2 must therefore battle each other in Division 2 this year.

Other competitions: the club will once again enter four teams in the Notts Handicap KO and two teams in the D&DL Cup and Plate.

Home matches in the Derby & District League will be played on Friday nights to avoid clashes with Notts League matches.

County Associations

At the Notts Chess Association AGM, David Levens was elected President and Ian Kingston became League Secretary and Records Officer. The club will also organise the Nottinghamshire County Championship and the NCA's special events, including the NCA Blitz Championship.

The Derby & District League merged with the Derbyshire County Chess Association to form the Derbyshire Chess Association.

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