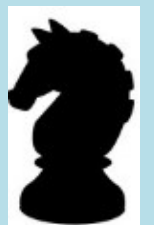


Shropshire Junior Chess Club

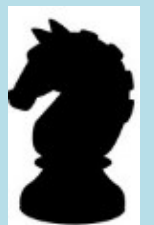


Welcome Pack



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Welcome

On behalf of Shropshire Junior Chess, welcome to the club. Shropshire Chess Association was founded in 1894 and for over 100 years we have a proud record of tutoring aspiring chess players.

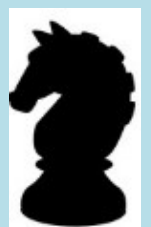
In 2021 we re-launched Shropshire Junior Chess Club. All of our tutors are highly experienced club players and our aim is to impart our knowledge to the next generation.

We welcome all children aged 6-13. All standards are welcome as we plan to start with teaching the basics of the game before quickly tackling more challenging concepts. We are limited on space and so we restrict our membership to 20 members and operate a waiting list.

We meet on Saturday's during term times 11am-1pm at the Nerdy Cafe located at 49 Mardol, Shrewsbury, ST1 1PP.

Our calendar can be found on our website:

<https://www.shropshirechess.org/junior-chess/junior-chess-calendar/>



Our Volunteers

Our volunteers all compete for their clubs in the Shropshire League. Every one of them is keen to impart their knowledge to the next generation.

Christopher Lewis - County Head of Junior Chess and captain of Newport A in the Shropshire League.

Francis Best – A former Shropshire president and captain of Shrewsbury A.

Dan Hilditch-Love – A junior himself not too long ago, Dan now plays for Telepost in the first division

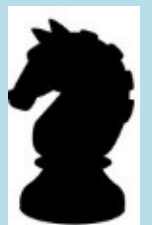
Rob Green – Rob started competitive chess relatively late in life. However his passion meant after just one season he established himself as a regular in Shrewsbury's A team and finished 2nd in the county minor individual tournament.

If any parent wishes to volunteer please contact the county junior organiser:

christopher.d.lewis44@gmail.com

01630 801860 or 07508 487092

No knowledge of chess is required to volunteer as we also need adults to watch the children. A full DBS check will be required.



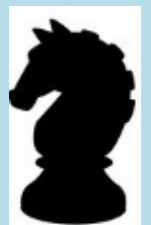
Tuition Plan

Our aim is to not only provide a safe space for children to play chess against their friends but deliver weekly lessons and over time develop our members into club-level players or beyond.

During play our volunteers will aim to provide 1 to 1 training with your child covering concepts that suit their ability.

This tuition will follow the internationally recognized step-by-step method. For those children with no knowledge of the game our first lessons will teach the basics of how the pieces move. As your child progresses we will tackle more challenging concepts building on that earlier knowledge.

All of our tutors are highly experienced club players who have volunteered to pass their knowledge to the next generation.



Tuition Plan - Beginners

Lesson 1

Children will be taught how to correctly set up the board, how all the different pieces move, how to attack/capture an enemy piece and how to name a square on a chess board.

Lesson 2

The class will learn the points value of the different pieces. Children will also be introduced to the different concepts of defending their piece including moving away/ protecting/ capturing/ blocking and line clearing.

Lesson 3

Children will be taught how to evade check and attempt some simple mate in 1 puzzles. We will then teach how to mate queen and king vs king.

Lesson 4

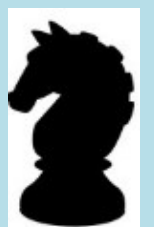
We will demonstrate how pieces co-operate together to deliver mate. We will attempt some mate in 2 puzzles before teaching how to mate with king and 2 rooks vs a king.

Lesson 5

Children will be shown how to castle, the advantages of casting, when castling is illegal and we will drive home that they should always castle early in their games.

Lesson 6

This lesson will focus on when to exchange a piece and when not to exchange a piece. We will demonstrate how to count the value of different pieces before exchanging those pieces in order to make the most profitable exchange. We will also teach how to mate with king and rook vs a king.



What about the parents?

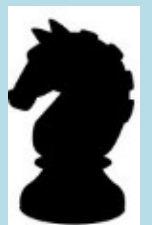
Whilst your child is enjoying an intellectually challenging game of chess parents are encouraged to relax in the café.

There is excellent range of high-quality coffees, teas, shakes and snacks on offer and an extensive library of board games to enjoy.

For those parents that want a table, remember to check Nerdy's facebook page to see if booking is required.



Please note it is not permitted to bring your own food and drink!



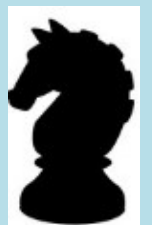
Membership Fees



Membership fees are £2/week. We accept cash or can take card payments on the day.

Alternatively payments can be made online into the Shropshire Bank Account:

Shropshire Chess Association
20-77-85
60809748
Barclays



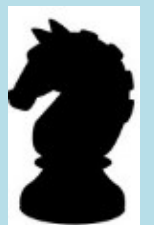
Other Junior Chess Events

Alongside the club we run a number of junior chess events including:

- Annual Shropshire Junior Chess Congress
<https://tinyurl.com/4kxv9wfb>
- Shropshire UK Schools Chess Challenge Megafinal (held in spring)
- Shropshire Junior 4NCL Online Team
<https://www.shropshirechess.org/junior-chess/junior-4ncl/>
- Matches against other local clubs/bordering counties



We have further ambitions in the future to start an inter-schools league.



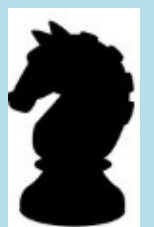
How does my child improve?

There are no shortcuts to improving one's chess ability. Most top players took year's of practise to reach their goal and even then there is still plenty further to go. But where to start?

The most crucial element on your child's chess journey is that they are having fun. If they enjoy the game they will be receptive to new ideas and then their understanding will improve over time. They will start researching new moves and ideas on their own initiative and this is when you will see them improve.

For this reason the primary aim of our club will be to encourage the children to have fun. And whilst having fun we will attempt to kick-start their learning with our 1-1 tuition.

The best way for your child to improve is to play more and more chess, and not just at our club. There are numerous other opportunities to get more playtime and over the page we have provided a list of useful websites that allow you to seek out the right amount of chess for your child.



Chess Resources

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-membership-rates-and-joining-details/>

The English Chess Federation is the governing chess organisation in England. Membership offers many benefits including increased access to ECF tournaments and the ability to obtain a grade.

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/event-calendar/>

Use the ECF calendar to find Junior Tournaments and events across the country or online.

<https://www.shropshirechess.org/about/club-secretaries/>

For older children you may wish to take the next step and compete in the Shropshire Chess League. Use this link to find a club near you!

Online Chess Online:

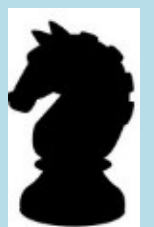
<https://www.chesskid.com/>

A chess website designed specifically for kids.

<https://lichess.org/>

<https://www.chess.com/home>

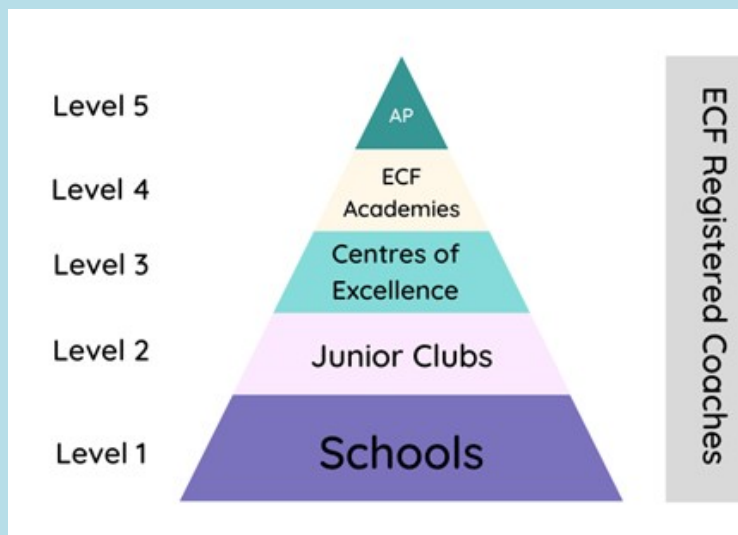
The 2 main online chess platforms. Play against players from right across the world or challenge your friends to a game. Get access to a huge library of chess training videos and other content.



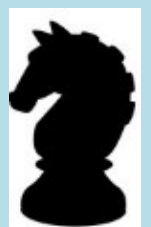
ECF Recognition

The club is proud to be one of only a handful of clubs in the country officially recognised by the English Chess Federation via the ECF development pathway.

The pathway is a 5-level system with majority of players at the base of the pyramid and only a handful of places available for the very top players on the Accelerator Programme.



The club has been recognised as a level 2 club due to our positive parent testimonials and detailed safeguarding policies.

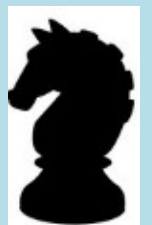


Children's Behaviour Code

Purpose

This behaviour code outlines the conduct Shropshire Junior Chess Club expects from all our members. This code of behaviour aims to:

- identify acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- encourage cooperation, honesty, fairness and respect
- create an environment where your self-esteem, self-respect and self-confidence will grow
- encourage you to recognise and respect the rights of others
- encourage you to take responsibility for your own behaviour
- help resolve conflicts and make it clear what will happen if you decide not to follow the code.



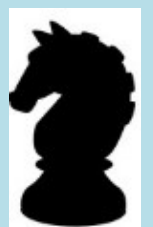
Children's Behaviour Code

You should:

- cooperate with others
- be friendly
- listen to others
- be helpful
- have good manners
- treat everyone with respect
- take responsibility for your own behaviour
- talk to a volunteer about anything that worries or concerns you
- follow this code of behaviour and other rules (including the law)
- join in and have fun!

You shouldn't:

- be disrespectful to anyone else
- bully other people (online or offline)
- behave in a way that could be intimidating
- be abusive towards anyone.



Children's Behaviour Code

What happens if I decide not to follow the code of behaviour?

Minor or first-time incident

If you behave in a way that doesn't follow our behaviour code, our volunteers will remind you about it and ask you to comply with it. They will give you an opportunity to change your behaviour. This gives you the chance to think and to plan how you could behave differently, with support from our volunteers.

Formal warning

If you continue not to follow the code of behaviour after your first reminder, or if your behaviour is more serious, you will be given a formal warning by the person running your activity.

They will make a record about what happened and inform your parents or carers if this is appropriate. They will also talk with you about what happened and agree what support you need to improve your behaviour in the future.

We may also decide that a sanction is appropriate such as restricting you from taking part in some activities

Final warning

If the support we have put in place isn't helping you to change your behaviour, we may need to give you a final warning. Again this will be recorded and we'll inform your parents or carers as appropriate.

At this point, we may need to talk with you and your parents or carers about other services that might be more able to give you the support you need.



Child Protection and Safeguarding

Shropshire Junior Chess Club recognises our obligations to protect children in our care and keep them safe.

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.



Full details of our child protection policies and procedures can be viewed on our website.

<https://www.shropshirechess.org/junior-chess/child-protection-policies/>

