

East Cheshire

CHESS Club

**NEWSLETTER #21, 31st August 2016**

1. **Season start-up**

We never really went away this summer given the fortnightly club nights starting in June and the Summer Rapidplay League (more on that below) but as communicated previously the club will re-open / revert to the usual weekly club evening as of **Wednesday 7th September**, when the Kellett Trophy competition will start as usual.

Note that before then, next Wednesday 31st August breaks the sequence of fortnightly openings – the club will **not** be open then.

We are planning the usual Social Evening, involving a Rapidplay with a break for nibbles, to properly kick off the new season on Wednesday 21st Septemberbut if you aren’t cheerfully sunning yourself abroad on either of the preceding weeks then do come along before the 21st! Please send me an email if you are unable to attend on 21st September: if a lot of people are away or unable to come, we could easily postpone the Social Evening a week or two.

1. **Membership for the coming season**

I very much hope that you’ll be rejoining East Cheshire Chess Club for the coming season – the annual subscription has been frozen at £20 for adults (£10 for juniors). Bill Tait, our Treasurer, will be sending information next week to enable you to pay by bank transfer, cash or cheque. If any members are planning not to rejoin it would be very helpful if they could let us know now, both for budgeting purposes and to let us know

1. **Summer Rapidplay League**

East Cheshire was represented by two teams in this new initiative, with Steve McCall leading the East Cheshire Tigers and David Taylor captaining the East Cheshire Eagles. Though an extra available player or two might have aided squad rotation, we have mostly fielded full teams and held our own…

David reports: *As the summer progressed the Eagles, headed by their two stalwarts (Geoff Brindle and Tudor Rickards who between them only missed one match), suffered three defeats, garnered three wins and fought hard to a couple of draws.  We expect to finish just above the middle of the 9-team table, having certainly outperformed both of Marple’s teams as well as Wilmslow, Sale and possibly our local rivals, the Tigers. The essence of the competition, from our point of view, was to treat it as a light-hearted way of keeping in practice and to enjoy chess over the summer.  Since the format for the competition involved two games against each opposing player, once as white and once as black,  and each game was time-limited to 30 min per player, these matches were generally over within just over two hours. All in all, the competition was very enjoyable, and those who took part would recommend it to other East Cheshire members if it is repeated next year.*

Steve notes also that captaining the Eagles has been a great introduction to the club for him as a relative newcomer, helping him get to know people in the club, and that the Rapidplay has proved a very enjoyable format by allowing more than one competitive game over an evening.

Thank you to both Steve and David for helping make this a success for us!

1. **Stockport League Fixtures Meeting**

As in previous seasons, we plan to enter 4 teams in the league this season. The fixtures meeting will be held at the Stockport Chess Club venue (Conservative Club, Mellor Road, Cheadle Hulme), on Thursday 22nd September, starting at 7.30 p.m. Team captains should attend, but all members are welcome.

1. **ECF Membership.**

We have to register our team players, with their up-to-date ECF membership number, at the League’s Fixtures Meeting in September. So, all those intending to play for one of our teams in the Stockport League are reminded that they must renew their ECF membership as soon as possible. To renew on-line just go to: <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/membership/joining/guide-to-renewing-your-ecf-membership/> and follow the instructions there. To renew by post send your cheque to The English Chess Federation, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, BATTLE, TN33 0YD or you can phone them on 01424 775222 and pay by card. Discount £1 if you renew on-line!

1. **Digital clocks**

The six digital clocks from this time last year became ten over the course of last season. This means that there are enough so that any two of our teams playing at home on the same evening could both use them. As agreed at the AGM, two further digital clocks will be acquired so that we have sets in reserve – this will be done once subscription monies for the year have been received.

There is a set of instructions with each clock and a copy on the notice-board but you can always ask for help setting them up, for example from myself or our resident Chief Horological Technician Paul Bamford ;)

1. **Grades for the new season**

The current ECF grades, listed in numerical descending order, for our existing team players are shown below – these are taken from the ECF website and reflect gradings as per the July update. We shall use them when we register our team players with Stockport League in mid-September, along with existing/ estimated grades for those new(ish) members we’ve drafted in during the summer transfer window.

1. **Publicity**

Further updates will follow in time from Tudor, our new Publicity guru!

Best wishes for what remains of the summer, and for a successful new season starting on 7th September.

Myles Heywood

Club Secretary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Standard ECF Grade** |
| Reed, John S | 181 |
| Tranter, Steve | 175 |
| Brindle, Geoffrey | 165 |
| Ramsey, Philip | 162 |
| Newell, David F | 160 |
| Newell, Kieran J | 150 |
| Holton, Keven R | 142 |
| Broadbent, David | 139 |
| Rickards, Tudor | 139 |
| Taylor, David R | 134 |
| Heywood, Myles | 132 |
| McKie, Jim M | 129 |
| Tait, Bill | 125 |
| Bamford, Paul | 123 |
| Flaherty, Nicholas C | 113 |
| Cooke, Edwin | 107 |
| Hodgson, Keith | 99 |
| Clarke, Geoffrey | 95 |
| Smith, Geoff M | 86 |
| Chandley, Duncan CW | 85 |
| Vaughan, Ian R | 84 |
| Pease, Arnold P | 69 |

NB If your name does not appear above, it is because you are not a current member of the ECF, or are currently regarded by the ECF as “ungraded” - but we can still register you to play in the Stockport League with an estimated grade provided that you are a paid-up member of the ECF.