

Chess in Schools and Communities Newsletter No. 3, May 2016

It's been a busy few months for CSC – read on for the highlights and our future plans...

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CSC Wales

CSC continues to go from strength to strength in Wales.

The charity is active in 25 schools across Cardiff, Chepstow, Merthyr Tydfil and Torfaen, with children from these schools now forming a substantial part of Welsh junior chess, including 85 of the 200 participants at the recent UK Chess Challenge Megafinal for South Wales.

Sarah and Tim Kett, [review](#) a busy year.



Yes2Chess

The 2015-16 Yes2Chess international online tournament for schools was completed last week.

Thanks must go to Heathside Prep School for hosting face-to-face quarter-finals and semi-finals, providing IT equipment and a fast wireless connection. Congratulations to Mission San Jose Elementary School, who [retained their title](#).



London Classic 2016

Reach for your diaries! The 8th London Chess Classic will take place at Olympia from 9th - 18th December 2016. As well as the final leg of the Grand Chess Tour, the event will also feature a festival and free school activities once again.

Further details will be published soon on the [London Chess Classic website](#).



The Brian Kerr Girls' Award

We received an excellent response to the Brian Kerr Award, for girls in the CSC programme who demonstrate exceptional enthusiasm and achievement. There have been many deserving nominations from across the country, but we can now announce this year's winners.

They are: Hannah Hodgson (Netherton Moss School), Loise Estrada (Sacred Heart RC Primary School, Liverpool), Fiona Thet (Oldfield Park Junior School, Bath), Anna Boyle and Madeleine Smith (both from The Dell, Monmouthshire). All five will receive a £250 bursary towards teaching, learning and tournament costs. [Their nominations can be read here.](#)



We are pleased to also give support to two highly commended nominations, Daisy Price (Whitchurch Primary School, Cardiff) and Geeya Joy (Sacred Heart RC Primary School, Liverpool), and to Yael Braunstein (Brodetsky Primary School), Sarah Rysbekova, Lizzie Evans, Megan Childs and Maddie Reis (all from St Margaret's CoE Primary School, Leeds).

Newham Community Tournament

The inaugural Newham Community Chess Tournament, a partnership between CSC and the London Borough of Newham, took place on Saturday 18th June. There were four sections for all ages and abilities, attracting over 160 entries. Prizewinners and a report are available here.



A Training Marathon and Barclaycard Volunteers: The CSC Teesside Blog

Once again, the team of volunteers from tournament sponsor Barclaycard has made a big contribution in schools across the country.

Sean Marsh has been reporting on their progress, students' comments, event reports, his recent challenge to train every member of staff at Park End Primary School in Middlesbrough how to teach chess, on the CSC Teesside Blog.



Charitable Support

CSC would like to acknowledge all of the charitable support that has been received this year. In particular, we have recently been awarded £35,000 by John Lyon's Charity and £30,000 by The Alan & Babette Sainsbury Charitable Trust.

Welsh CSC Chess Success in 2016

It's been another busy year for Welsh Chess with the usual round of tournaments, matches and Championships. In the past these events were dominated by the children from a handful of independent schools. Seven or eight years ago when we got started teaching here, and before CSC arrived in Wales, the Welsh Under 10 Championships had just 20 entrants of which only 2 came from a state funded school. The numbers of juniors participating in chess has increased dramatically since then and the standard has shot up. In the annual Glorney Cup, Wales usually came last but are now regularly in second place behind England.

Welsh Primary School Chess Teams-of-10 Event, Cardiff City Stadium, November 2015

The biggest event of the Autumn term. 44 Schools took part each bringing 10 players plus reserves (therefore nearly 500 children take part in total). This makes for a spectacular sight with all 22 matches stretching the full length of the pitch at this excellent venue.



Of the 44 teams entered, 15 were CSC schools, from Cardiff, The Vale of Glamorgan, Chepstow, West Wales, and Merthyr Tydfil. The tournament is held on a school day, and for the majority of those taking part this is the only time they will play chess outside their school.

We are very grateful to the support that the schools give their pupils by bringing them to this tournament, and we are especially proud of the following CSC schools that did so well:-



1st - The Dell, Chepstow
(coach Richard Stevenson)



3rd - Ysgol-Y-Wern, Cardiff - a Welsh-medium school taking part for the first time! (coach Tim Kett)

We look forward to the results of the Welsh Primary Schools Teams-of-4 Tournament being held in Merthyr Tydfil at the end of June. I have no doubt that these teams will be in the medals at the very least.

Welsh Chess Championships 2016

These were held over two weekends at the very end of January and early February, with each age-group from u8 to u14 having its own separate Swiss tournament. The following CSC students achieved the following:

U9	-	5th=	Jonathan Davies	(Ysgol Y Wern, Cardiff)
U10	-	4th=	Rhys Matthews	(Ysgol Y Wern, Cardiff)
U11	-	5th	Neil Stevenson	(The Dell, Chepstow)
U11	-	3rd	Madeleine Smith	(The Dell, Chepstow)
U12	-	1st=	David McIntosh	(formerly of St Mary's, Chepstow)
U13	-	5th	David McIntosh	(formerly of St Mary's, Chepstow)
U8	Major	1st=	Alex Ball	(The Dell, Chepstow)
U8	Major	3rd=	Finlay Britton	(Whitchurch, Cardiff)
U8	Major	3rd=	William Truckle	(The Dell, Chepstow)

Selected for County Matches

South Wales put forward two county teams to each of the national (EPSCA) competitions. County sides for these competition range between 12 and 20 players.

The Glamorgan Team included the following from CSC schools in the Cardiff and Swansea areas:-

Under 9

Rhys Matthews (Ysgol Y Wern, Cardiff)
Jonathan Davies (Ysgol Y Wern, Cardiff)
Iestyn Moynihan (Ysgol Y Wern, Cardiff)
Fraser Britton (Whitchurch, Cardiff)
Finlay Britton (Whitchurch, Cardiff)
Ed Maguire (Whitchurch, Cardiff)
Ethan McCafferty (Whitchurch, Cardiff)
Yuxuan Wu (Rhydypenau, Cardiff)

Under 11

Mabon Melbourne (Ysgol Y Wern, Cardiff)
Dafydd Richards (Ysgol Y Wern, Cardiff)
Ethan Isaac (Ysgol Y Wern, Cardiff)
Jolyon Knagg (Whitchurch, Cardiff)
Tycho Twohig (Peter Lea, Cardiff)
Alastair Hamblin (Whitchurch, Cardiff)
Ellison Smith (Whitchurch, Cardiff)



The Gwent Teams included the following from CSC schools in Chepstow:-

Under 9

Jacob Wynn (St Mary's, Chepstow)
Lewis Wynn (St Mary's, Chepstow)
Fay Russell (The Dell, Chepstow)
Osian Jessop (The Dell, Chepstow)
Nia Rathkey (The Dell, Chepstow)
Oliver Sapsford (The Dell, Chepstow)
Alex Ball (The Dell, Chepstow)

Under 11

Neil Stevenson (The Dell, Chepstow)
Madeleine Smith (The Dell, Chepstow)
Anna Boyle (The Dell, Chepstow)
Harrison Postans (The Dell, Chepstow)
Steffan Griffiths (The Dell, Chepstow)
Luca Hodgkinson (The Dell, Chepstow)
Kingsley Brown (The Dell, Chepstow)
Isabelle Briggs (St Mary's, Chepstow)
Connor Watkins (St Mary's, Chepstow)
Jacob Wynn (St Mary's, Chepstow)
Thomas Davies (The Dell, Chepstow)

Represented Wales

The following CSC pupils went even further and received invitations to play for full Welsh teams in matches against regional English sides, and for the forthcoming 2016 Glorney Cup.

Neil Stevenson (The Dell, Chepstow)
 Madeleine Smith (The Dell, Chepstow)
 Anna Boyle (The Dell, Chepstow)
 Harrison Postans (The Dell, Chepstow)
 Oliver Sapsford (The Dell, Chepstow)
 Steffan Griffiths (The Dell, Chepstow)
 Jacob Wynn (St Mary's, Chepstow)
 Rhys Matthews (Ysgol Y Wern, Cardiff)
 George Smith (formerly of The Dell, Chepstow)
 Rachel McIntosh (formerly of St Mary's, Chepstow)
 David McIntosh (formerly of St Mary's Chepstow)
 Anlan Qiu (formerly of Lakeside, Cardiff)



Congratulations also to CSC Coach Tim Kett for winning the Welsh Championship for the third time this year and for being selected to represent Wales for the fourteenth year in a row – Good luck at the Olympiad in Azerbaijan in September.

South Wales Mega Final

As usual a large number of Welsh Schools took part in the Delancey UK Chess Challenge this year and on Saturday 21 May the South Wales MegaFinal took place with 250 children entering, of which 150 were from current or former CSC schools.

Pupils from CSC schools won 7 of the 15 sections contested which is a wonderful achievement. Congratulations to the following CSC pupils who qualified for the Northern Giga Final:-

U7 Girls		Lilian Sapsford (The Dell, Chepstow)
U8 Girls	2nd place	Fay Russell (The Dell, Chepstow)
U9 Girls	3rd place	Daisy Price (Whitchurch, Cardiff)
U10 Girls	1st place	Anna Boyle (The Dell, Chepstow)
	3rd place	Carys Davies (Ysgol Y Wern, Cardiff)
U11 Girls	1st place	Madeleine Smith (The Dell, Chepstow)
U7 Boys	1st place	Finlay Britton (Whitchurch, Cardiff)
U8 Boys	1st place	Reggie Burgess (Ysgol Y Wern, Cardiff) Yuxuan Wu (Rhydypenau, Cardiff) Oliver Tregear (Peterston Super Ely, The Vale of Glamorgan) Anshul Swamy (St Mary's, Merthyr) Zac Moss (Peterston Super Ely, The Vale of Glamorgan) Osian Jessop (The Dell, Chepstow) Lewis Wynn (St Mary's, Chepstow)
U9 Boys	2nd place	Rhys Matthews (Ysgol Y Wern, Cardiff) Jonathan Davies (Ysgol Y Wern, Cardiff) Fraser Britton (Whitchurch, Cardiff) Thomas Hurle (Rhydypenau, Cardiff) Jacob Wynn (St Mary's, Chepstow) Oliver Sapsford (The Dell, Chepstow)
U10 Boys	1st place	Harrison Postans (The Dell, Chepstow) Steffan Griffiths (The Dell, Chepstow) Kingsley Brown (St Mary's, Chepstow)
U11 Boys	1st place	Neil Stevenson (The Dell, Chepstow) Tycho Twohig (Peter Lea, Cardiff)

U12 Boys 1st place Cian Grattidge (formerly of Peterston Super Ely, The Vale)

U13 Boys Anlan Qiu (formerly of Lakeside, Cardiff)

Good luck in Manchester in July.

English Chess Federation Under 11 Open

The Welsh are doing well over the border as well – The Dell, Chepstow, are one of only 14 schools to get to the finals of the ECF Under 11 Open being held over two days in July – Good luck in Uppingham !

Welsh Primary School Chess Teams-of-4 Event, Merthyr Tydfil, July 2016

28 teams entered from all over Wales; the strongest eight in the Championship section and the remainder in the Plate section. Three of the eight teams in the Championship Section were CSC schools, with The Dell A coming 2nd despite missing one of their top players. Ysgol y Wern came 6th and Whitchurch A 7th.

In the Plate Section The Dell B came 3rd showing the strength in numbers in this school. Overall six CSC schools (including 2 CSC schools in Merthyr itself) entered 12 teams – nearly half the total number of teams entered which shows the impact CSC is having on overall chess participation in Wales, and the difference in numbers and strength is acknowledged by the Welsh Chess Union.

There was also an Individual Section for reserves or those schools who could not make up a full team. 23 played with eight from CSC schools. We are so pleased that Richard Menzies from Hawthorn in Cardiff came 4th.

Congratulations to all those who participated, and to the organisers for ensuring that the tournament finished on time so everyone could get back home in time to see Wales beat Belgium in the European Football Championships !

Conclusion

The main business of CSC may be about bringing the benefits of learning chess to the masses of primary school children in the UK, but a good many in Wales are going much further – playing regularly in tournaments and breaking through to the very top levels of the junior game. The Welsh CSC coaches love working with our pupils at all levels, right from their first game of "Capture the Flag" up to specialist opening preparation as they make their debuts for Wales !

Sarah and Tim Kett
Regional Co-ordinators, CSC South Wales
July 2016

Yes2Chess Prizewinners 2016

Germany

Winner Werner-von-Siemens-Gymnasium Magdeburg
Runner Up Gymnasium Remigianum Borken
3rd place Friedrich-Desauer Gymnasium Aschaffenburg
4th place BIP Grundschule Berlin Pankow

Portugal

Winner Escola Filipa de Lencastre A
Runner Up Escola 31 de Janeiro E
Semi Finalists Escola 31 de Janeiro B, Escola Filipa de Lencastre C

Spain

Winner Ricardo Mallen
Runner Up CEIP Rosario Pereda A
Semi Finalists Les Savines, CEPR Victor de la Serna

Sweden

Winner Essingeskolan Lag 1
Runner Up Noleredsskolan Lag 1
3rd place Stavby skola Lag 1
4th place Stordammen Lag 1

United States

Winner Mission San Jose Elementary A
Runner Up Columbia Grammar Preparatory A
Semi Finalists Mission San Jose Elementary B, Columbia Grammar Preparatory B

United Kingdom

Winner Heathside Preparatory A
Runner Up William Patten Primary A
Semi Finalists Flora Stevenson Primary A; St. Bridget's CofE Primary A

International Finals

Mission San Jose Elementary A	5-0	CEIP Rosario Pereda A
Heathside Preparatory A	1-4	Ricardo Mallen A
Escola Filipa de Lencastre A	4-1	Werner-von-Siemens-Gymnasium Magdeburg
Essingeskolan Lag 1	4-1	William Patten Primary A

Mission San Jose Elementary A	5-0	Ricardo Mallen A
Escola Filipa de Lencastre	5-0	Essingeskolan Lag 1

Mission San Jose Elementary 2½-2½ Escola Filipa de Lencastre
(Mission San Jose Elementary win on tiebreak)



London Classic 2016

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Brian Kerr Award Nominations

Hannah Hodgson, Netherton Moss School (nominated by Robert Clark & Andrew Legge)

'Hannah is a Y5 player, and she has been receiving CSC coaching since the start of Y4.

This year her chess has really come on, and she is one of the top two best players in her school.

She has entered several tournaments and competitions this year with good results: 3.5/6 in the Manchester CSC congress, and scoring 4 pts at the Megafinal to qualify for the Gigafinal.

She is the top board for her school's Yes2Chess team, and has joined Liverpool Chess Club this season, playing for their junior team in the Merseyside chess league.

Polite and well-mannered, Hannah is always enthusiastic in the chess lessons and is a delight to teach.'

Loise Estrada, Sacred Heart RC Primary (nominated by John Gorman)

Loise is ranked 3 in a strong Year 6 class and has been receiving CSC tuition since Year 2. She has had a brilliant season. She is a member of the school team which has reached the final of the ECF National Schools U11 Championship. She scored 5/5 in the North-West Regional Final of this event.

In the Zonal tournament of the EPSCA U11 Schools Championship, she again scored 5/5 as her team qualified for the Regional semi-final. She has represented Merseyside in the U11 County Championships in each of the last two seasons.

She is polite and enthusiastic and a pleasure to teach.

Fiona Thet, Oldfield Park Junior School (nominated by Ferdo Dizdarevic)

Not only is Fiona a talented chess player but she displays all the qualities of a good sportsman. She is polite, a hard worker (learner) and more than anything never gives up. She is constantly trying to improve her game, makes an effort to learn outside the class. Her greatest quality is her tenacity, when she is paired up against a player much better than herself, she embraces the challenge and tries her very best. She does not shy away or give up. She is a great example to the other children and a good ambassador for the sport.



She started playing chess at age of 6 (as part of CSC) and is constantly improving her tactics and strategy. Recently she played at EPSCA semifinals for Oldfield Park Junior School U11 Team even though she is 9 years old. She is successfully playing for Somerset U11G Squad . Finally, for the third time Fiona qualified to the UK Schools Chess Challenge Gigafinals . In previous 2 years at Somerset Megafinals she won the title Suprima.

Anna Boyle, The Dell (nominated by Richard Stevenson)

Anna Boyle, the current British Under 9 Girls' Joint Champion, is a year 5 pupil at The Dell, a CSC school in Monmouthshire, Wales.

Taught by her father at home, Anna caught the eye of CSC Chess Tutor Richard Stevenson when, in year one, she played in the school round of the UK Land Chess Challenge. In year two she joined the chess puzzle's club at The Dell, increased in strength, and started to do very well in junior chess competitions. In year 3 she won the Welsh Girls' Under 8 title and represented Wales in the girls under 8 section of the World Youth and Cadets Chess Championships in South Africa.

More success followed in year 4, including joint winner of the Welsh Girls' Under 8 title, joint winner of the South Wales mega-final, joint winner of the northern giga-final and winner of the Welsh Under 9 title. Now in year 5, Anna continues to excel, most recently winning the South Wales mega-final. Anna has also made a massive contribution to the success of the school team. At the finals of the ECF under 11 Open she won all five games on board three, giving her an ECF rapidplay rating of 114. She also helped The Dell to twice win the Cardiff Stadium event (a tournament for teams of 10 that has entries from over 40 schools), and to come joint second in the Welsh Primary School Championships.

Qualities of Anna include a competitive spirit, fairness, and great enthusiasm for chess. She is able to analyse her own games and performance with rigour, openly admit her mistakes, which are consequently addressed, and encourage others to improve.

Anna is coached by Tim Kett, who comments: *Anna took to chess like a duck to water. The two things that strike you about her are: her fearlessness and positivity; and her superb match temperament. She always tackles her opponents head-on; she plays daring gambits as though they were the most natural and obvious approach – even against much higherrated opponents. Unlike so many kids at her level, I don't think I've ever heard her offer a draw, and needs to be at least a rook down for nothing before she'll consider accepting one! The biggest factor of all, though, is her fierce concentration and determination. I have rarely before known a player so young who stays so focused at the board. When she does go wrong and makes mistakes she never lets her head go down but simply re-doubles her effort and starts the fightback. Of course, to have achieved what she has so far, she has worked at her openings, her tactics and endgame technique etc but at other times I feel she wins games through sheer willpower and the force of her personality!*

Anna will play in The British Under 10s this year, and represent Wales in the European Union Youth Chess Championship in Mureck, Austria. If she is awarded a bursary, this will help to pay for coaching and game preparation in Mureck.

Madeleine Smith, The Dell (nominated by Richard Stevenson)

Madeleine Smith is a year 6 pupil at The Dell, a CSC school in Monmouthshire, Wales. Madeleine started to learn the game in year 3, along with many of the girls in her class. She showed more promise than most, and soon cut her teeth in competitive chess by playing and winning the B-section of qualifying events for the junior Welsh championships.

Following further rapid progress, she started to excel in national competitions: she won the Welsh Under 10 rapidplay in 2014; came second in the Welsh Girls Under 10s in 2015; joint second in the Welsh Under 12 rapidplay in 2015; and second in the Welsh Girls Under 11s in 2016. Most recently, she won the South Wales under 11 mega-final. In the autumn of 2015, Madeleine made her international debut, representing Wales in the World Youth and Cadets Championships.



Madeleine has also made a tremendous contribution to the success of the team at The Dell. Playing on board two at the semi-finals of the ESPCA under 11 school tournament, she won four out of five games, including a great victory against Aman Gogna, a player from Haberdasher Askes with an ECF rating of 134. Coach for that school, IM Lorin D'Costa, was particularly impressed with Madeleine's play, commenting that she had clearly outplayed her much stronger-rated opponent. Madeleine has also been a key player for the Welsh Dragons, helping this team win trophies in division two of the junior 4NCL. Great attributes shown by Madeleine include a love for chess, a willingness to address the weaker aspects of her game, and great determination.

Madeleine is coached by Tim Kett, who comments: *Wales seems currently to have a 'golden generation' of strong girl players between the ages of 8 or 9 and early teens and when you look at Madeleine's record, the number 2 seems to stand out. Look how many times has she finished 2nd in strong events, played on board 2 etc. etc. In the face of very strong competition she has battled and persevered where many might have been intimidated – and often had little luck in the final rounds. I think though that Madeleine personifies the saying 'Chess rewards persistence', and she is now challenging and looking set to overtake many of her higher-rated rivals. She has always worked hard in training, developed a fine positional intuition, improved her endgames – and never backs away from a challenge. Her future is bright and with Madeleine's mature attitude to training I know she would make more use than almost anyone else of any bursary award.*

This autumn, Madeleine will leave The Dell and move to Chepstow School, where she will support a growing chess scene – this comprehensive school has just entered the Eton Rapidplay, and Madeleine will be a key member of the team. If Madeleine is awarded a bursary, she will use the funding to attend competitions throughout the summer and beyond, including congresses away from Wales that will enable her to play against new opposition.

The charity established the Brian Kerr Girls' Award, funded by a £25,000 bequest. The bequest includes a £1,000 award each year for ten years, to fund four girls on CSC courses who demonstrate exceptional enthusiasm and achievement. The remainder of the funds is used to promote girls' chess within CSC.

Brian Kerr (1944-2014) was an Irish international, Cambridge maths graduate and successful problem-solver. He was also a sharp attacking player.



The 1st Newham Community Chess Tournament

Newham is a special place for CSC. Since March 2013, we have been part of a Charity-Public-Private Partnership with the Borough Council and East Village E20, providing chess lessons to primary schools across Newham as part of the 'Every Child A Chessplayer' scheme.



There is also a thriving network of library clubs at Beckton Globe, Custom House, East Ham, Forest Gate, Green Street, Plaistow and Stratford, as well as the Newham Grand Prix tournaments organised by Richard Harding and Alan Bright. But on 18th June there was something new - the Newham Community Tournament.

This was a one-day tournament, open to all ages and abilities. Newham residents could play for free, and made up just over half of the field. There was an excellent entry to the Challengers section - 96 people took part, many of them children who were totally new to tournament-level chess. There were 65 entries to the other three sections, including three International Masters, two FIDE Masters and two Woman FIDE Masters in the Open.



After six gruelling rounds, prizes were presented by Ken Clarke of Newham Council, who spoke generously about the importance of the 'Every Child A Chessplayer' scheme to Newham's offering to young people. Prizes were won by the following. Particularly noteworthy results came from Lakshan Siddharth, the only player to score 6/6, and Adam Bukojemski, a CSC tutor who won the Open ahead of six titled players.

Open

1st - Adam Bukojemski (5½/6)

2nd - FM Peter Sowray (5/6)

3rd - IM Richard Pert, IM Sophie Milliet, IM Lawrence Cooper, WFM Kanwal Bhatia and John Merriman (5/6)

Best Junior - Andrew Ng (2½/6)

Major

1st - Gary Cook (5/6)

2nd - Oliver Finnegan and Jacques Tivillier (4½/6)

Minor

1st – Robert Mitchell (5/6)
2nd – Joshua John and Maximilian Renner (4½/6)

Challengers

1st – Lakshan Siddharth (6/6)
2nd – David John, Raghav Vaidya, Purba Audhora, Alexander Lee, Mahmud Mazed, Gautham Shenbagakumar and Zain Amjad (5/6)

So, a busy day for players and organisers alike, but – judging by the feedback received – a successful one. I'd like to thank all of the players and accompanying adults, and staff on the day, for making it happen.

Daniel Young

A Training Marathon and Barclaycard Volunteers: The CSC Teesside Blog

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The logo for CSC Teesside, featuring the text "CSC Teesside" in white serif font on a dark red rectangular background.

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