

Chess in Schools and Communities Newsletter No. 4, Nov 2016

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London Chess Classic filling up quickly!

London Chess Classic filling up quickly! Spectator and player tickets are quickly selling out for the 8th London Chess Classic, which takes place from 9th – 18th December.

Ten of the world's leading Grandmasters will contest the concluding leg of the Grand Chess Tour, whilst there are tournaments for players of all ages and abilities, free school activity days that have been oversubscribed with record-breaking speed, and the London Chess Conference.

[Buy Tickets](#) | [London Chess & Education Conference](#)



The ECF National Schools Championship

We were delighted to see two schools working with CSC reach the final stage of the ECF National Schools Championship in July: The Dell (*pictured*) from Chepstow and Sacred Heart RC Primary from Liverpool. They both achieved some superb results.

This was made possible by generous support from the Angus Lawson Memorial Trust, which has also enabled The Dell and Sacred Heart to attend the finals.

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CSC in the J4NCL

The 2016-17 season sees the debut of teams representing CSC in the Junior Four Nations Chess League (J4NCL), a national team competition for under-18s. David Hardy has news from the first weekend last month.

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Chess at Peasedown St. John Primary School

Thanks to funding from Councillor Sarah Bevan and the Peasedown Party in the Park, we have been able to start teaching curriculum-time chess at Peasedown St. John's Primary in Somerset.

The Bath Echo were there for the first lesson.

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CSC Newham at the Lord Mayor's Show

CSC were represented at the Newham Lord Mayor's Show in July, running a chess tent as part of the 'Every Child a Chessplayer' partnership.

The star of the show was 10-year-old Shahjahon Saidmurodov, who achieved a perfect score in a simultaneous display against members of the public services.

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The ECF National Schools Championship

One of CSC's founding aims was to give children in the state education sector the same opportunities that are enjoyed in the private sector.

So we were delighted that two schools in the CSC programme – The Dell from [Chepstow](#), and Sacred Heart RC Primary from [Liverpool](#) - reached the final stage of the 2015-16 ECF National Schools Championship, a competition that has historically been dominated by private schools.



The finals took place at Uppingham School in July. Both The Dell and Sacred Heart were there, with some travel assistance from CSC. Malcolm Pein attended as team coach. Both schools managed a very respectable result of two match wins out of five, with The Dell finishing 5th and Sacred Heart 8th out of ten teams. There was an outstanding individual success for Joshua Roque of Sacred Heart, who beat a 145-graded England international from Heathside Preparatory School.



The Dell in action, with a Classical Dutch on board 1. Black's aggressive intentions are clear!

We would like to thank the Angus Lawson Memorial Trust for their support of the most gifted children in the CSC scheme, which enabled The Dell and Sacred Heart to attend the finals.

LATE NEWS: Sacred Heart have just qualified again for the 2016-17 finals, having won the North-West regional final with the very last game of the tournament! Well done to the whole team. Below, the children enjoy their day relaxing between games and receive helpful coaching tips from CSC CEO Malcolm Pein.





CSC at the Junior 4NCL

The first J4NCL weekend of the season took place on 1st & 2nd October at Wokefield Park, Reading.



CSC entered 2 teams - one team made up of children from Newham, East London which played in Div 1 and a team made up of children from Bristol, Manchester, Wales and Birmingham which played in Div 2.



Both teams did extremely well on their debut's with CSC Newham coming 8th/11 and CSC 2's coming 12th/18. All the players did themselves and their parents proud with their play and the way they conducted themselves.

[More images here](#)

Whilst it was a team effort, Toby Kan deserves a special mention as he scored 4½/5 over the weekend which was a brilliant effort considering he played on Board 1 in each game.

As well as a hectic playing schedule the children also took part in some coaching sessions which myself and Jerzy Dybowski supplemented by going through the children's games with them.

As Team Manager I would like to thank all the children and parents for attending the weekend and I hope to see most if not all of you again over the next J4NCL weekends in Birmingham in January and April next year.

[More information available on the 4NCL website](#) [J4NCL tab].

- David Hardy, CSC Team Manager & Manchester Co-ordinator



Chess at Peasedown St. John

This article first appeared in the [Bath Echo](#) on 27th September 2016.

Year 5 children at Peasedown St John Primary School can now enjoy chess each week as part of their Maths curriculum, thanks to some recent funding.



Chess in Schools and Communities, who run chess lessons and workshops across the country, have secured £1,500 from local sources to fund a fully qualified and experienced chess tutor to visit the school each week.



Headteacher Damian Knollys said: "Ours is a school serving a diverse community, with varying levels of opportunity and disadvantage.

"Having recently joined the Dragonfly Education Trust, we are seeking to build on a strong track record in curricular enrichment, with a view to offering as broad a

range of opportunities to our children as we can. Chess fits very well into this programme.

"Having personally run a chess club at my previous school, I know very well the benefits that it can bring for children such as developing children's capacity for strategic thinking and tactical skills, improving children's mathematical understanding, and supporting children's social interactions, turn-taking, responsiveness and interpretation of others' thinking. And it's fun!"



£1,000 was secured through Cllr Sarah Bevan's Ward Councillors' Initiative Fund, which is set aside for B&NES Councillors to allocate to projects in their communities. [More images here.](#)

The other £500 was provided by Peasedown Party in the Park, who give away funding each year through their grant fund.

Cllr Sarah Bevan (Independent, Peasedown St John) said: "Talking to headteachers and teachers who already include chess as part of the school timetable it's evident that children really benefit and make progress in other aspects of their education too.



"A game of chess enables children to engage in healthy competition, learning how to win and how to lose gracefully. "It establishes children's confidence independently to consider and make decisions for themselves. And, it provides real enjoyment in learning, in the context of a game with a genuinely global following.

"I was only too pleased, therefore, to allocate £1,000 from my Initiative Fund for this worthwhile educational initiative."

Joy Fraser, Peasedown Party in the Park Treasurer, added: "We were only too pleased to award £500 this year to Chess in Schools and Communities so they could run these new weekly educational classes with year 5 pupils.

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



"The Party in the Park Grant Fund was set up in 2010 to support local initiatives that can make a difference to people's lives.

"So far, we've given almost £10,000 to projects across the community, ranging from lunch clubs to football equipment for teenagers, and from resources for the Peasedown Toy Library to transport costs for the award-winning Bath All-Starz cheerleaders."

Newham Lord Mayor's Show



On Sunday 10th July, Chess in Schools and Communities Newham supported the Newham Lord Mayor's Show with a chess tent, where all comers could play throughout the day.



One of the stars of the Newham junior squad, Shahjahon Saidmurodov, made a big impression on everyone by giving a simultaneous display against members of the police force, fire and ambulance services, as well as council leader Ken Clark and Lord Mayor Sir Robin Wales who, we discovered at the [inaugural event](#) in Newham ([see video](#)), and then again in an [online match](#) with the Mayor of Sunrise in California, is an accomplished player himself.



I to r: Sir Robin Wales, Councillor Ken Clark, Richard Harding and Shahjahon

In an impressive display, 10-year old Shahjahon defeated all his opponents, with the Mayor putting up the longest resistance in a close game. [More images here.](#)

Photo by Gulbahor Hamdamova