



Somerset Junior Chess

Somerset Autumn Under 18 - All Hallows School, November 26th, 2023
(South Bristol Chess Club Report, please excuse the bias!)

Venue

All Hallows School is a non-selective co-educational prep school that provides day and boarding facilities. A Christian School in the Catholic tradition the school accepts children from all faiths and none. The school is located a mile east of Cranmore village, near the town of Frome.

The Chess event had two rooms set aside for parents with an outside activity area offering chess & basketball. There were three separate rooms, under 18's: under 11's and under 8's, each incorporating the various Year Group categories.

Under 8's

This event was scheduled to finish earlier than the other sections and was won by Dimitri Zografos (from Wales I think) who also managed to hold his own against the older children on the playground board. I was mainly in the under 11 room, so I didn't get to see much – but I did catch the end of one of Seyon's games, still going after 40 minutes! Now that is amazing concentration for one so young (5).



Under 11's

Three big hitters in this group (Muiz, Carolus & Anny) with Anny taking the top spot after

flagging his two rivals from lost positions, his persistence prevailing. Nandika in her first tournament with only brief coaching by Olly at the club and Charlie at the event was outmatched but could easily have won two of her games.

Idris performed well but was often short of time. His rating performance was 919 almost 200 points above his rating!





Meanwhile the old hands were able to relax in the warm.

Whilst Spymaster Sheriff was lurking outside.

And our first timers also stayed warm and



entertained inside.

Under 18's

Many age groups here, and strong players too with no one going through the day without getting beaten by somebody. Some rivalry was settled, and scalps taken, but also everyone had good results. Charlie (4/6) ended the losing streak beating two of Redland's finest. Who in turn managed a win against Freddie. TJ (4/6) was as solid as usual but had to face Freddie (5/6) in the final round and was unable to get a result. Alexandra (3/6) and Walt (3/6) saved face by winning their last round games. But Olly (3½) has the bragging rights beating Ben (3/6) in the last round and finishing above regular league team members.



Overall, I think everyone had a good time. With new friends being made and a grand day out.

South Wales and South West Team Jamboree Tournament

January 13th, 2024 from 11am

ECF Rated Rapid played in teams (U9, U11, U14 & U18)
Chepstow Leisure Centre, Welsh St, Chepstow NP16 5LX

The leisure centre has a Café which will be open until 13.00pm, and there are places to get food about 10 minutes walk away. Packed lunches are recommended.

If possible, please arrive at least 15 minutes before the event starts at 11.00am as there will be a lot of children to muster.

This is the first post covid appearance of a Somerset Squad in a Junior event. The emphasis has been on building an overall squad for the future. Many thanks to all those players who accepted the challenge and especial thanks to their parents and guardians who through their support have got us off to such a great start.

We have 2 x U9 teams, an U11 team, 2 x U14 teams and 2 x U18 teams competing.

Contact numbers:

Chris Strong 07854 810 284

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Upcoming events

21st January 2024: 1st Portishead Rapid

The Folk Hall, 95 High St, Portishead, Bristol BS20 6PR

6 rounds, 15min + 5sec. ECF Rated

9.30-4.30 approx.

<https://www.portisheadchess.com/event-details/1st-portishead-junior-rapidplay>

March 16th 2024: 2nd South Bristol Junior Rapid

Whitchurch United Reform Church 24 Bristol Road, BS14 0PQ

6 Rounds, 15+10 ECF rated

10am to 5pm approx.

<https://www.southbristolchess.com/2nd-south-bristol-rapid-16-03-2024>

February 10th-11th 2024: Two Day Chess Congress

Bristol Bridge Club, 99 Oldfield Road Hotwells Bristol, BS8 4QQ

5 Rounds Under 1850, 60+30 ECF rated

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/event-calendar/#event=77265498;instance=20240210103000>

March 8th-10th 2024: Inaugural Wells Chess Congress

The Town Hall, Market Place, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2RB

5 Rounds, 90+30 Fide (Open) & ECF rated

<https://wellschess.co.uk/product/wells-chess-congress/>

April 26th-28th 2024: Bristol Centenary Congress






(including West of England Championship)

Bristol Grammar School, University Road, Bristol, BS8 1SR

5 Rounds, 90+30 Fide (Open) & ECF rated

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/event-calendar/#event=76821535;instance=20240426183000>

Meet the Team

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| <p>U18 Manager</p> <p>Sasha Matlak</p> |  | <p>Sasha is a highly respected coach from Ukraine and strong player in his own right; not only fostering a passion for the game but also providing valuable resources for those seeking Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC). He is the main coach at Wells Juniors.</p> |
| <p>U14 Manager</p> <p>Adam Hawkins</p> |  | <p>Ex Headteacher at Ash Primary School Adam was a major force behind Somerset Junior Chess for almost 30 years. Adam has been pivotal in starting the Grand Prix series and running county teams. Before that he was a coach in London and taught Rachel Reeves MP and former British U14 champion.</p> |
| <p>U11 Manager</p> <p>Pete Saunders</p> |  | <p>Pete played chess at school (1950/60s) onwards till 1977. In that time, he became a reasonable player; FIDE grade 1930. He played Nigel Short twice when he was a child. Losing both I might add. Pete now runs a highly successful junior club in Bristol where he is also an active league player and CSC tutor.</p> |
| <p>U9 Manager</p> <p>George Miller</p> |  | <p>George was Somerset Champion in 2019 and plays all over the country when he can. His enthusiasm knows no bounds. He is a CSC tutor and currently runs South Bristol Junior club and helps out at Portishead.</p> |
| <p>County Manager</p> <p>Chris Strong</p> |  | <p>Chris has been part of Somerset Junior Chess for over 15 years. A reasonable club player, his best results were joint 3rd in the British U1800 Championships in Aberystwyth many years ago. He was a school tutor for CSC for 10 years and ran many school clubs. He really enjoys the team elements and Blagdon School were national champions twice in the EPSCA competitions. Chris currently runs Wells Juniors with Sasha.</p> |