

## Nottinghamshire Juniors

At the May 2015 Rules Revision Meeting, it was pointed out that the ECF under 13 and under 18 team junior championships were to be held at nearby King's Grantham in June 2015 and the meeting agreed that we should enter, if possible. Notts entered both competitions with a team of twelve under 18s, who finished third, and six under 13s, who came seventh. The organiser at King's, Phill Beckett, proposed a twelve board under 130 junior event involving Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and ourselves and this resulted in two events hosted by Lincolnshire at Witham Hall in November 2015 and by Yorkshire at Ecclesall Junior School in April 2016 where Notts finished second (narrowly) and third respectively (see the NCA website for reports). The proposal is that these Quadrangular events continue in 2016-17, this time hosted by Leicestershire and ourselves.

The rationale for this initiative is that whilst the Notts Primary Schools Chess Association has been active and successful for many years, players frequently give up chess on moving to secondary school where chess clubs are rarely found. Some children continue to play, especially at clubs like West Notts and West Bridgford, but many do not. What has been encouraging is that we have been able to offer three standard play graded games at each event and twenty-three juniors, most aged between 12 and 16, have played for the county (three juniors played at both events). Nine of these twenty-three juniors were girls. A number of players and parents asked about other events in which they could participate; we were able to advertise our county championships, rapidplay and congress where several played, as well as neighbouring junior events in Leicestershire.

Lincolnshire and Yorkshire fielded the costs of the two events this season (mainly the venue, but also grading of games of non-ECF members, including some from Notts). The proposal is that next season we ask the Notts parents/players for a contribution of £5 each, with the NCA fielding the remaining costs (somewhere in the region of £100 for the venue). This could be viewed as £50 per annum, given that we paid nothing in 2015-16.

Given the importance of safeguarding issues, and for greater clarity for parents and players, we also feel that the NCA should elect officials responsible for delivering this junior under 130 event in Notts and also for organising the team which will play at a venue presumably in Leicestershire.

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