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BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT CHESS LEAGUE

SEASON 2025-26

President: Dan Lambourne
Immediate Past President: Paul Sharratt

Vice-Presidents:

M Biddle	D Green	AP Ruffle
D Brelsforth	RJ Hancox	P Sharratt
B Cafferty	PJD Hughes	D Short
S Campbell	M Hunt	P Staley
G Christie	KR Ingram	J Summerfield
LE Collier	TA Lane	AJ Szatanik
JE Crump	KJ Langston	DR Thomas
C Evans	J Mildenhall	TW Walker
D Fellows	RC Reynolds	GF Windows
SK Fishburne		Mrs PM Woodward

President:

Dan Lambourne, 5 Woodland Piece, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 1BJ
Mobile: 07985 473 174; Email: redditchchess@gmail.com

Honorary General Secretary:

TA Lane, 70 Eastern Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B73 5NX
Tel: 0121 354 3539; Mobile: 07973 268 730
Email: tim.a.lane@btinternet.com

Honorary Treasurer:

Richard Collett, 8 Somerdale Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2EG
Tel: 0121 458 7617; Mobile: 07874 216 935
Email: richcollett47@gmail.com

Assistant Treasurer:

Dipal Patel

Honorary Records Secretary:

Alan Woollaston, 81 Maas Rd, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2PP
Tel: 0121 475 0735; Email: BDCLRecords@hotmail.co.uk

Assistants to the Hon. General Secretary:

Fixtures/Rating Officer:

DR Thomas, Flat 9 Normid Court, 35 Woodstock Road, Moseley,
Birmingham, B13 9BD
Tel: 0121 449 8024; Mobile: 07793 118 628; Email: drt21@gmx.co.uk

Bulletin:

Alan Woollaston, 81 Maas Rd, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2PP
Tel: 0121 475 0735; Email: BDCLRecords@hotmail.co.uk

Webmaster:

Richard Reynolds
Tel: 0121 603 1698; Email: webmaster@birminghamchess.org.uk

ECF Representative: C Lewis

Warwickshire Chess Association representative: TA Lane

Worcestershire Chess Association representative: D Lambourne

Staffordshire Chess Association representative: P Nixon

Safeguarding Lead: *Honorary General Secretary*

Safeguarding Officer: Paul Sharratt, 10 Foley Street, Kinver, Stourbridge,
DY7 6EP

Mobile: 07515 688 795; Email: JasperS270551@outlook.com

Trustees: KR Ingram

Hon Reporting Accountant: SK Fishburne, B. Com

COMPOSITION OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Match Committee:

Chairman: TW Walker, 17 Silverbirch Road, Solihull, B91 2PJ
Tel: 0121 705 7030; Email: terry.harewalker118@btinternet.com
M Biddle, G Christie, D Green, DR Thomas

Team Lightning Tournament Committee:

Chairman: TBC
M Biddle, L Collier, RC Reynolds

Summer Tournament Committee:

Chairman: Alan Woollaston, 81 Maas Rd, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2PP
Tel: 0121 475 0735; Email: BDCLRecords@hotmail.co.uk
P Bull, G Christie, DR Thomas

Rules Committee:

Chairman: M Biddle, 295 Perry Wood Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 2BN; Tel: 0121 358 2174; Email: mike.biddle295@gmail.com
P Bull, JE Crump, SK Fishburne, D Green, M Groombridge, A Holowczak, P Hughes, P Sharratt, DR Thomas

Individual Tournament Committee:

Chairman: R Glass, 4 Mem Way, Birmingham, B11 3NG
Tel: 0121 706 5306; Mobile: 07421 479 010
Email: rob.glass@blueyonder.co.uk
M Biddle, RC Reynolds

Rapidplay Tournament Committee:

Chairman: A Holowczak, 48 St Brades Close, Oldbury, Worcestershire, B69 1NX; Tel: 0121 544 7560; Mobile: 07913 976 768
Email: alexholowczak@gmail.com
Dipal Patel, Margarita Nasibova, DR Thomas

Morry-Wood Memorial Committee:

Chairman: P Maddocks
Email: morrywood@birminghamchess.org.uk
G Cartwright, L Collier, JE Crump, RC Reynolds, MD Smyth

Online Committee:

Chairman: Chris Evans, 30 Drew Crescent, Stourbridge, DY9 0UX.
Tel: 01384 827 640; Mobile: 07931 022 762; Email: chriscieux@virginmedia.com
P Maybury, J Moore, J Wilson

Eligibility Committee:

Chairman: Des Green, 93 Elmdon Lane, Marston Green, Birmingham, B37 7DN
Tel: 0121 246 2295; Mobile: 07736 066 825
Email: desgreen63@virginmedia.com
T Benson, G Christie, DR Thomas

Finance and General Purposes Committee:

By custom and practice the Committee is formed of the Chairmen of the above committees and is chaired by the League President. It has also been agreed *pro tem* that the Webmaster be co-opted as a member.

By custom and practice, the President, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. General Secretary and Hon. Records Secretary are ex-officio members of all sub-committees.

HONOURS LIST 2024-25

All-Play-All Competitions

Division One	Champions: Central Birmingham Runners-up: South Birmingham A
Division Two	Champions: Central Birmingham Runners-up: Wolverhampton
Division Three	Champions: Stourbridge Runners-up: South Birmingham A
Division Four	Champions: University of Birmingham Runners-up: Longbridge
Division Five	Champions: Sutton Coldfield A Runners-up: South Birmingham
Minor Division	Champions: Lichfield Runners-up: Coleshill

Knock-Out Trophies

Frank H Terrill Memorial Trophy

Winners: Central Birmingham 2
Runners-up: South Birmingham 3A

Gerald Homer Memorial Trophy

Winners: South Birmingham 1A
Runners-up: Shirley & Wythall 3

Dudley M Townshend Memorial Trophy

Winners: Birmingham St. George's 4
Runners-up: Kynoch 4

Jim Barrington Memorial Trophy

Winners: Mercia 4
Runners-up: South Birmingham 5

HONOURS LIST 2024-25

League Individual Tournament

Open	Champion: Cory Hazlehurst (South Birmingham) Runner-up: Ian Emery (Warley Quinborne)
Max 1900	Champion: David Smith (Redditch) Runner-up: Ben Attwell (Redditch)
Max 1750	Shared: Joe Kadar (South Birmingham) Tayeb Kazemi (Olton)
Max 1600	Champion: Rory Lynas (Olton) Runner-up: Daniel Jones (Stourbridge)
Max 1450	Champion: Louis Maciel (South Birmingham) Runner-up: Goran Stepanovic (Central Birmingham)
Max 1300	Champion: William Durrant-Jones (Kynoch) Runner-up: Tony Plackowski (Solihull)

Team Lightning Tournament 2025

Section A	Winners: South Birmingham A	19½/24
	Runners-up: Solihull A	16½/24
Section B	Winners: South Birmingham C	13/20
	Runners-up: Central Birmingham A	11½/20
	Olton B	11½/20

Summer League 2024

Open:	Central Birmingham
Max 7400:	South Birmingham A
Max 6600:	South Birmingham
Max 5800:	South Birmingham

BH Wood Memorial – Best Game Prize

Sathya Vaidyanathan (South Birmingham)

W Ritson Morry Memorial – Junior Prize

Tom Junde He (Central Birmingham)

ANNUAL REPORT

Once again I am delighted to be able to report that the BDCL's season has drawn to a close without any major administrative troubles. The all-play-all events commenced with 72 teams scheduled to compete, but a few of these failed to complete (or, in one case, start) the course: Warley Quinborne withdrew from Division 3 before a pawn was pushed, South Birmingham's Division 4B side dropped out after playing less than half their fixtures, and Sutton Coldfield's Division 5B side defaulted three matches and were therefore deemed under Rule 14.4 to have retired from the event. They appear in the Division 5 league table on the following pages because (see Rule 14.2) they completed half their fixtures.

Pride of place among those who stayed the course must go to Central Birmingham, who managed an impressive treble: the first team topped Division 1 with just a single loss, while the second team was unbeaten in winning both Division 2 and the Terrill Trophy. You have to go back to the 1951-52 season for the last time Central Birmingham (known at the time as Mutual Circle) won Division 1 – a gap of 73 years.

At the other end of the table I was saddened to see Olton relegated from Division 1 after a stay of, I think, 31 years (this figure is from a hasty scan of Alan Woollaston's history pages on the BDCL website – let me know if you think I've got it wrong). Olton have been sorely hit by the deaths of long-serving members, old and not-so-old, strong and no-so-strong, in recent years, and it would be good to see the end of this sad litany.

All four knock-out finals were held on a single evening at Olton in April. In addition to Central Birmingham's success in the Terrill Trophy, there were wins of silverware for South Birmingham 1A in the Homer Plate, for Birmingham St. George's 4 in the Townshend Trophy, and for Mercia 4 in the Barrington plate. Our thanks go to Olton for hosting the finals and to Alan Woollaston for arranging them. Alan also arranged play-offs at both ends of Division 3, where Stourbridge beat South Birmingham A to win the title (both sides being promoted) and Shirley & Wythall beat Coleshill to avoid relegation. A further relegation play-off, in Division 4, was conceded by one of the teams involved.

The 2024 Summer League consisted of four sections: Central Birmingham won the Open, and South Birmingham won the other three. The 2025 event, which is coming to a conclusion as I write these words, saw too few entries to run an Open section, and is therefore a three-section event. It

would be good to see a fully-subscribed Open in the summer of 2026, as this event is a lot of fun and deserves your support.

The final nod in this review of the year goes to Sutton Coldfield A, who joined the “100% club” by winning Division 5 without dropping a point (though two of their wins were walkovers)

I’m not in the habit of using this report to list the names of members of the League who have died during the year, but it would be remiss to omit a mention of Brian Whitehouse. In addition to serving as President of the BDCL in 2008-9 and as one of our Honorary Reporting Accountants for many years, Brian was a talented musician and a strong member of Warley Quinborne. Take a trip to Quinborne’s website and you’ll be rewarded by a great photo of former World Championship candidate Mark Taimanov with Brian and other members of the club.

A couple of current members of the BDCL deserve our congratulations. Nigel Towers (Redditch) and Dave Thomas (Shirley & Wythall) have recently been awarded the titles of Honorary Life Vice President and Honorary Life Member respectively after their work for the ECF over many years.

The League’s Constitution and Competition Rules remain unchanged for the coming season, and the only administrative change is the introduction of a subscription of £12 per team for clubs competing in the Minor Division. This sum is in line with subscriptions in the other divisions, which work out at £3 per board. Rushall, despite a mid-table finish in Division 2, have decided not to compete in the BDCL in 2025-26; we hope they make a speedy return. Team numbers remain roughly stable for the season ahead, with 64 teams due to compete in the promotion-and-relegation divisions and seven more in the Minor Division.

Wherever you find yourself playing, I hope you have an enjoyable and competitive season of BDCL chess.

Tim Lane
Hon. General Secretary

LEAGUE TABLES 2024-25

Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Central Birmingham	11	10	0	1	41	25	20
South Birmingham A	11	8	1	2	42	24	17
Solihull A	11	7	1	3	41½	24½	15
Sutton Coldfield	11	7	1	3	41	24	15
Solihull B	11	5	2	4	32	33	12
South Birmingham C	11	4	2	5	30½	35½	10
Lichfield	11	4	2	5	30	36	10
Shirley & Wythall	11	5	0	6	29½	36½	10
South Birmingham B	11	4	1	6	33½	32½	9
Redditch	11	4	0	7	32	34	8
Warley Quinborne	11	2	2	7	22½	43½	6
Olton	11	0	0	11	19½	46½	0

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Central Birmingham	11	9	2	0	43½	22½	20
Wolverhampton	11	8	2	1	46	20	18
Tamworth	11	7	1	3	43	23	15
Sutton Coldfield	11	7	1	3	34½	31½	15
Solihull	11	5	0	6	32	34	10
Halesowen	11	4	2	5	31½	34½	10
Rushall	11	3	3	5	31½	34½	9
Longbridge	11	3	3	5	31½	34½	9
Shirley & Wythall	11	3	3	5	28	38	9
South Birmingham	11	4	1	6	27½	38½	9
Walsall Kipping	11	1	4	6	26	40	6
Oscott	11	0	2	9	21	45	2

LEAGUE TABLES 2024-25

Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stourbridge	10	8	0	2	38	22	16
South Birmingham A	10	7	2	1	34½	25½	16
Olton A	10	6	2	2	34	26	14
Mercia	10	5	2	3	33	27	12
Lichfield	10	5	1	4	32½	27½	11
South Birmingham B	10	5	0	5	30½	29½	10
Olton B	10	3	2	5	23	37	8
Sutton Coldfield	10	4	0	6	22	38	8
Shirley & Wythall	10	3	1	6	30½	29½	7
Coleshill	10	3	1	6	29	31	7
Redditch	10	0	1	9	23	37	1

Championship play-off: Stourbridge 4½ South Birmingham A 1½

Relegation play-off: Shirley & Wythall 4 Coleshill 2

Division Four

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham University	12	10	1	1	44	16	21
Longbridge	12	7	3	2	33½	26½	17
Stourbridge	12	6	3	3	32	27	15
South Birmingham	12	7	0	5	35½	24½	14
Birmingham St George's	12	7	0	5	28	32	14
Solihull	12	4	4	4	32	28	12
Oscott	12	5	2	5	29	31	12
Central Birmingham	12	4	3	5	31½	28½	11
Kynoch	12	4	2	6	28	32	10
Halesowen	12	4	2	6	26	34	10
Mercia	12	3	3	6	26	34	9
Shirley & Wythall	12	4	1	7	26½	33½	9
Coleshill	12	0	2	10	17	42	2

Relegation play-off conceded by Shirley & Wythall

LEAGUE TABLES 2024-25

Division Five

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sutton Coldfield A	13	13	0	0	41½	10½	26
South Birmingham	13	10	1	2	39	13	21
Longbridge	13	9	1	3	33	19	19
Lichfield	13	9	1	3	31½	20½	19
Solihull A	13	6	4	3	30	22	16
Walsall Kipping	13	7	1	5	29½	22½	15
Redditch	13	6	1	6	24½	27½	13
Kynoch B	13	5	3	5	23½	24½	13
Kynoch A	13	5	1	7	22½	29½	11
Solihull B	13	4	1	8	25½	26½	9
Ward End Social	13	4	1	8	20½	31½	9
Shirley & Wythall	13	1	1	11	13½	38½	3
Coleshill	13	0	2	11	11½	36½	2
Sutton Coldfield B	13	2	0	11	14	38	0

Kynoch B vs Coleshill was a double-default (scored as a loss by both teams)

Sutton Coldfield B defaulted three matches and were therefore deemed under Rule 14.4 to have retired from the event. They appear in the league table because (Rule 14.2) they completed half their fixtures.

Minor Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lichfield	14	11	1	2	28½	13½	23
Coleshill	14	8	2	4	22½	19½	18
Solihull A	14	8	1	5	24	18	17
Solihull B	14	7	2	5	24½	17½	16
Kynoch	14	4	4	6	20	22	12
Solihull C	14	5	2	7	17	24	12
Longbridge	14	3	3	8	15	26	9
Ward End Social	14	2	1	11	15½	26½	5

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT CHESS LEAGUE

CONSTITUTION

Name

1. The League shall be called "The Birmingham and District Chess League".

Objects

2. The objects of the League shall be to run team and individual chess championships amongst its members and any other chess contests (including matches against other leagues and organisations) which the Management Committee may consider likely to be of benefit or interest to members of the League, to publish handbooks and news bulletins recording the League's activities, to run social functions for the participation of the League's members and their friends, and generally to encourage the study and playing of chess and the organisation of chess clubs within the area covered by its activities. The League shall be affiliated to the English Chess Federation.

Membership Classes

3. Membership of the League shall be open to:

(a) **Affiliated Clubs:** Any chess club whose club-room is within 12 miles of Stephenson Place, Birmingham. Clubs in membership on 1st November, 1977 and whose club-rooms are more than 12 miles radius from Stephenson Place shall have the right to retain membership, provided that if they move club-rooms, the venue shall lie no further from Stephenson Place than the venue of 1st November, 1977, excepting if the Management Committee should deem the proposed new venue more convenient.

(b) **Individual Members:** Any individual who shall be currently registered by an affiliated club as a playing member or shall be serving as an elected President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or other officer of the League as hereinafter provided.

Entrance Fees and Subscriptions

4. An application by any club for membership of the League, made in writing to the Honorary General Secretary of the League, shall be accompanied by an entrance fee of £2, and shall be considered as soon as possible after its receipt by the Management Committee which shall have the absolute discretion to grant or refuse it.

5. The Annual General Meeting shall, in each year, settle the League fees (which may include team, individual and registration fees due to the League) to be paid in the ensuing season. All such subscriptions and fees shall be paid to the Honorary Treasurer of the League on or before October 31st in each year.

If a team that has been entered in the League for a particular season is withdrawn on or before the date of the Fixtures Meeting for that season no team fee shall be payable in respect of the entry; if it is withdrawn after the Fixtures Meeting and on or before the following 31st August the team fee payable shall be 50% of the full amount; and if it is withdrawn after 31st August no reduction in team fee payable shall be allowed.

6. The Annual General Meeting shall authorise the Game Fee to be paid to the English Chess Federation. The Honorary Treasurer shall request payment from individual clubs, as and when the ECF charges arise, and give 30 days' notice for such payment to be made by the club. Failure to pay by the due date will result in the penalties specified in clause 8a and 8c of the constitution.

7. Each affiliated club shall be entitled to receive one free copy of the League's current Handbook for each player registered by it. Each officer of the League shall also be entitled to a free copy thereof.

Payment of Fees

8. (a) Any affiliated club whose subscription, fees, or other dues contained in this Constitution or the Competition Rules are not received by their due date shall be fined ten per cent of the monies outstanding, such amount to be added to the monies outstanding and become part thereof.

(b) If payment of the arrears is not received by the Honorary Treasurer within seven days, each of the club's teams shall incur a deduction of two points in the All-Play-All Championship.

(c) If payment is still not received within a further seven days the club and its members shall be suspended from the relevant competitions until such time as the arrears are paid. Any matches due to be played by the club's teams or individual members during the period of suspension shall be scored as lost by the suspended club or individual. No postponements of matches due to be played by the club's teams during the period of suspension shall be permitted, but games due to be played in the League Individual Tournament may be postponed provided the Tournament Rules are not thereby breached.

(d) Any club whose dues continue to remain outstanding shall be liable to expulsion from the League by the Management Committee.

Officers

9. (i) The Officers of the League shall be: -
- (a) a President;
 - (b) Vice-Presidents as provided under (ii);
 - (c) an Honorary Treasurer;
 - (d) an Honorary General Secretary;
 - (e) an Honorary Records Secretary;
 - (f) a Rating Officer;
 - (g) a Safeguarding Officer; and
 - (h) such additional Honorary Treasurers or Honorary Secretaries as it may deem requisite;

who shall, with the exception of (b), be elected at the Annual General Meeting with all retiring officers being eligible for re-election.

(ii) Vice-Presidents shall consist of those having held the office of President, on retiring from such office, plus any other person the League wishes to honour. They shall nominally be elected for life with the proviso that anyone deemed to have brought discredit to the League may be removed on a resolution passed at a General Meeting by a two-thirds majority, provided that the same notice has been given of such resolution as is required by clause 22 for an amendment to the constitution.

10. The Management Committee shall have power to appoint additional Vice-Presidents (if authorised so to do by the Annual General Meeting), to appoint assistants to the Honorary Secretaries or Honorary Treasurer in such cases as it may deem desirable, and to fill any vacancy arising by reason of death or resignation of any officer until the holding of the next Annual General Meeting.

11. Nominations for the various offices of the League may be submitted in writing by any individual member or affiliated club and shall be received by the Honorary General Secretary not later than April 30th preceding the Annual General Meeting at which they are to be proposed. A nomination shall be invalid unless accompanied by a statement signed by the nominee that he is willing to be so nominated. If no nomination has been received for any office by April 30th as aforesaid the Annual General Meeting may proceed to elect a willing nominee, failing which the Management Committee shall have power to appoint a person to fill the vacancy as though it had arisen under Clause 10 above.

Honorary Reporting Accountant

12. At each Annual General Meeting of the League an Honorary Reporting Accountant shall be appointed for the purpose of examining the League's books and accounts prior to their presentation at the next Annual General Meeting or any Special General Meeting called in the intervening period at which consideration of the accounts is part of the agenda.

Trustees

13. Three trustees shall be appointed by the League. The powers and duties of such Trustees shall be defined in a trust deed the terms of which shall be settled by the League in a general meeting. The power to appoint new Trustees shall be exercised by any general meeting of the League as vacancies arise.

Management Committee

14. All business of the League (other than such business as this Constitution requires to be transacted at a general meeting) shall be conducted by a Management Committee consisting of:

- (a) the Officers (other than Vice-Presidents) appointed by virtue of Clause 9 hereof;
- (b) the immediate past President of the League;
- (c) one representative of each club which shall be a member, for the time being, of the League;
- (d) Representatives of the League on outside bodies;
- (e) Chairmen of the subcommittees of the Management Committee together with the Webmaster;
- (f) any persons co-opted by the Management Committee in accordance with clause 16.

Only persons who are members of the Management Committee by virtue of sub-clauses (a), (b) and (c) above shall be entitled to vote at its meetings.

15. The Management Committee shall be responsible for all competitions run by the League and shall be empowered to make rules for the regulation of such events. Any proposal to adopt, amend or rescind any such rule may only be made by an affiliated Club, Officer or Sub-Committee of the League, and shall be sent in writing to the Honorary General Secretary by the proposer so as to reach him at least five weeks before the meeting at which it is to be submitted, and notice of such proposal shall be sent to all other members of the Management Committee by the Honorary General Secretary at least three weeks before the said meeting is due to take place. Amendments to such proposals which are within the scope of the original proposal may be made at the meeting by anyone present and

entitled to vote, and must be seconded by another such person. The decision of the Chairman of the meeting as to whether an amendment is within the scope of the original proposal is final and binding.

Notwithstanding anything contained in Clause 16 hereof, no sub-committee of the Management Committee shall have any power to effect any adoption, amendment or rescission of any competition rule, but may be requested to advise the Management Committee as to the effect of any such proposal and may itself initiate any such proposal for consideration by the Management Committee.

16. The Management Committee shall meet as frequently as it deems necessary, and at least three weeks' notice of each meeting (together with an agenda) shall be given by the Honorary General Secretary to all members. It shall also have power to appoint such sub-committees as it may deem convenient for the handling of any sections of its business (save only as provided in this constitution); to co-opt to itself or to any of its sub-committees such additional persons as it may think fit; and to adopt standing orders for the regulation of its business or that of its sub-committees. [*Standing Orders can be obtained from the Hon Gen Sec*]

General Meetings

17. The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held in the month of June, or at such other time as the Management Committee shall deem to be convenient, in each year for the purpose of receiving reports from the various officers of the League and the audited accounts of the Honorary Treasurer, electing the Officers for the ensuing year, effecting changes in this Constitution as hereinafter provided, and generally transacting such other business as the Management Committee shall deem proper to be transacted at an Annual General Meeting. The Honorary General Secretary shall give notice to each of the League's Officers and affiliated clubs at least eight weeks before the date of the said meeting and shall circulate the agenda at least three weeks before the meeting.

18. A Special General Meeting of the League may be convened at any time by the Management Committee or upon a requisition signed by the secretaries of at least one third of the clubs which shall be affiliated members of the League at that time. Such requisition shall state the business required to be transacted at the meeting and, within three weeks after receiving the same and not less than two weeks before the date of the meeting, the Honorary General Secretary shall notify each of the League's Officers and affiliated clubs as to the place and date appointed by the Management Committee for such Special Meeting and shall state the purpose for which the meeting has been summoned.

Voting

19. All individual members of the League shall be entitled to attend and speak at any Annual or Special General Meeting. For both Management Committee and General Meetings the following procedure shall apply in respect of all proposals and elections of officers, etc.

- (a) Voting shall be by show of hands unless rule (b) is applied.
- (b) After a vote by show of hands any person entitled to vote may call for a full vote as set out under (e) below.
- (c) No proxy votes shall be allowed.
- (d) In the event of a full vote being tied the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
- (e) A full vote at a Management Committee or a General Meeting shall consist of the following:
 - (i) Each officer of the League (other than Vice-Presidents) shall have one vote, irrespective of the number of additional offices any such individual may hold.
 - (ii) Each member club shall have one vote for each of its teams taking part, for the time being, in the League competition and no other votes shall be allowed to be cast in respect thereof.

Quorums

20. At all general meetings of the League 16 persons present and entitled to vote thereat shall form a quorum. The Management Committee shall fix the size of a quorum for any sub-committee which it may appoint, and at all meetings of the Management Committee itself 8 voting members present shall form a quorum.

Notices

21. Any notice given to the secretary of an affiliated club shall be deemed to be a notice given to all registered playing members of such club and shall be sufficient if posted by ordinary pre-paid letter to the last known address of such secretary. With the consent of the recipient, e-mail notification shall also be considered sufficient.

Amendment of Constitution

22. No alteration or addition to this Constitution shall be made except at an Annual or Special General Meeting of the League and upon a resolution adopted by the votes of at least two-thirds of the persons present and entitled to vote. A motion for any such amendment or addition to be proposed at an Annual General Meeting shall reach the Honorary General Secretary at least five weeks before the meeting at which it is to be

proposed and may be initiated by the Management Committee or any of its sub-committees, or any Officer or affiliated club. The Honorary General Secretary shall thereafter notify the Officers and affiliated clubs, at least three weeks before the meeting, of the text of all such motions. A motion for such an amendment or addition to be proposed at a Special General Meeting shall be included in the requisition (if any) and agenda for the meeting.

Interpretation

23. Where a masculine pronoun appears in this Constitution it is to be taken to include the equivalent feminine pronoun.

Birmingham and District Chess League – Notices

Subscriptions

In accordance with the Constitution, subscriptions of £12 per team in the Minor Division, £16 per team in division five, £20 per team in division four, and £24 per team in any other division shall be paid to the Honorary Treasurer. There is no further fee payable to the League in respect of player registrations.

League Individual Tournament

The entry fee for the League Individual Tournament is £3.00 per player, payable with entries.

Guidelines for Captains and Players

The League's Competition Rules, which start on the next page, should be read in conjunction with the "Guidelines for Captains and Players" document to be found on the "Rules and Docs" tab of the BDCL website.

In loco parentis requirement

Clubs must ensure that a child or young person travelling to an away match or event is accompanied by a parent/carer or a person acting *in loco parentis*. The parent/carer or person acting *in loco parentis* shall be responsible for the welfare of the child or young person at all times whilst travelling or attending the match or event. The home club or organiser of the event shall be entitled to enquire who is acting *in loco parentis* before play commences or at any time whilst the child or young person is at the match or event.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT CHESS LEAGUE COMPETITION RULES

1. Incorporation of Laws of Chess

1.1 All the games in the BDCL competitions shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Chess of the International Chess Federation unless otherwise provided by these Rules.

1.2 These BDCL Rules shall apply to all competitions conducted by the League except in cases where the rules of a particular competition provide otherwise.

2. The League's Competitions

2.1 The League's Team Competitions shall be open annually to teams of all clubs for the time being affiliated to the League. The following team competitions shall be run in each season: (a) The All-Play-All Championships which shall be organised in divisions according to the estimated playing strength of the competing teams; (b) The Knock-Out Competitions for the Terrill, Homer, Townshend and Barrington Trophies; and (c) The Minor Division. There shall also be Knock-Out Individual Tournaments, organised in grade-banded sections as provided for in Rule 21.

2.2 The Frank H Terrill Memorial Trophy shall be open for annual competition to all teams for the time being affiliated to the League. The Gerald Homer Memorial Trophy shall be open for annual competition to those teams which are eliminated from the Terrill Trophy competition in the first round otherwise than by default. The Dudley M Townshend Memorial Trophy shall be open for annual competition to teams from the lower divisions of the League which are not currently competing for the Frank H Terrill Memorial Trophy. The Management Committee shall determine at the start of each season the highest division of the All-Play-All Competition from which teams shall be eligible to compete for the Dudley M Townshend Memorial Trophy. The Jim Barrington Memorial Trophy shall be open for annual competition to those teams which are eliminated from the Townshend Trophy Competition in the first round otherwise than by default. The Memorial Trophies shall be held by their respective winners for a period of one year and shall be suitably engraved to record the success of the winning team.

2.3 Any team winning the right to hold any trophy belonging to the League shall be responsible for its safe keeping whilst in possession of it and shall also return it to the Honorary General Secretary or designated assistant for presentation to its successors at the proper time.

3. Entries and Allocations to Divisions

3.1 Any affiliated club wishing to play in the Team Competitions for any season shall enter its teams in a written notice to the Honorary General Secretary or designated assistant to be received not later than May 31st preceding the start of the season. Late entries may be made provided that they are received by the Honorary General Secretary or designated assistant no later than the 31st August preceding the start of the season and are made in writing. The Management Committee shall have an absolute discretion to accept or refuse such late entries. Late entries accepted by the Management Committee shall be subject to a late entry fee to be decided by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Such fees shall not exceed £10.

3.2 Before each season begins the Management Committee shall (subject to the provisions of Rule 15.1) group entries for the Team Competition into such divisions as the size and strength of the entry shall necessitate, provided that no division shall contain more than 14 teams. The Committee's decisions concerning such groupings shall be final and binding on all affiliated clubs and teams.

4. Ratings of Players

4.1. Where the League's rules require discrimination between players based on order of strength the measure of strength used shall, where possible, be based on the official rating list published by the English Chess Federation at the beginning of August prior to the start of the season. Category P grades on that list are to be disregarded for this purpose, except as provided for in Rule 4.4.

4.2. If a player has an over-the-board Standard Play rating on the ECF list then this shall be taken as their rating for this purpose. If a player has no Standard Play rating then an over-the-board Rapid Play rating shall be used if available, and failing that an over-the-board Blitz rating if any.

4.3. If a player has no over-the-board rating on the ECF list but has a rating on the FIDE list that rating will be taken, with the order of priority of the different time limits being the same as specified for ECF ratings in Rule 4.2.

4.4. An unrated player shall be assigned an estimate by his club which is subject to confirmation by the league. The estimate may subsequently be revised by the League if it becomes apparent that it was seriously in error. Any official ECF online rating should be taken into account when assigning or revising this estimate, as may any category P ratings. The Management Committee shall establish a process for accepting these estimates.

4.5. Any player not having an official over-the-board Standard Play rating who acquires one during the season shall thereafter be regarded as being of that rating for the purposes of rule 8.2. In all other cases the player's rating as determined at the start of the season shall apply until the end of December. After the publication of the ECF official rating list at the start of January the ratings on that list shall be used for the purposes of Rule 8.2 and of Rule 5.5 for later registrations, but in no circumstances will amendment to existing registrations on account of changes in rating between August and January be permitted or required.

4.6. Where the rules specify that players are to be listed in approximate rating order this condition shall be regarded as satisfied if no player is rated more than 100 points below any player placed lower on the list.

5. Registration of Players

5.1 All players must be registered, as individual members of the League, for the team in the All-Play-All Competition for which they are to play before they are eligible to play in any of the competitions of the League. All appropriate registration fees must be paid by 31st October.

5.2. The Honorary General Secretary or designated assistant of the League must receive the stipulated number of copies of the initial registrations and additional registrations on forms to be supplied by the League (or suitable facsimiles thereof), at least five clear days

before the first match in which the player concerned is to play. No player may be registered after 1st March in any season.

5.3 Every player so registered must have, prior to the player's registration, become a subscribing member of the club requesting the player's registration.

5.4 Any player who has been registered in this league for the last two seasons shall not be accepted for registration as one of the minimum number of players required for a team under rule 5.5 unless that player played in this League at least four times in all in the last two seasons. However, should a player play for the fourth time within the current season, that player will then automatically be accepted as one of the minimum number of players required for a team under rule 5.5. If the four games are played prior to 31 December, players from the team shall be eligible to be re-registered to play for a lower team under the terms of Rule 5.13.

5.5 When a club has more than one team competing in the League's events it shall not be entitled to play any matches in any season until it shall have validly registered for each of such teams the number of players required by Rule 8.1 and shall, despite anything contained in Rules 5.11 and 5.12, contain this minimum number of validly registered players throughout the season. In such cases each club shall register its players so that all players are allocated to their respective teams in approximate rating order in accordance with Rule 4. Clubs wishing to apply for an exemption to this rule must state their reasons when registering the players. The Management Committee shall establish a process for accepting or declining such applications.

5.6 The Honorary General Secretary shall be empowered to refuse acceptance of any individual player's registration. Such decision shall be notified to the club concerned but the Honorary General Secretary shall not be required to give reasons for his decision.

5.7 No player may be simultaneously registered for more than one affiliated club, but any player who may desire to be transferred during the season from one club to another shall be entitled to be

registered with the new club under the additional registration procedure.

5.8 When a club has more than one team playing in any one division then the teams must be labelled A, B, C ... in strength order with the A team being the strongest team. These teams must correspond to the club's registered list of players submitted in accordance with Rule 5.5.

5.9 If any player shall be proved to have played in any event in the League's programme under any name other than his own in which some other player shall have been registered for play under Competition Rule 5.5 – excepting a name changed by marriage or a lawfully executed deed – the Rules Committee may, in addition to ordering the application of Rule 12.2b or any other appropriate Competition Rule, suspend such player and the team or club which included him in the event in question from participation in all match and individual tournament fixtures in the League's programme for the remainder of the season. In addition, the player and the team or club may be precluded from registering for the League's programmes for a period not exceeding five years.

During any period of suspension imposed under this rule no member of a suspended team or club may be transferred to or play for any other team or club in the League. All games scheduled to be played during any period of suspension shall be scored as lost by the offending player, team or club.

5.10 A player is deemed to have played in a match if the player's name is entered on the match card, unless the game is a default.

5.11 When a club has more than one team in the All-Play-All Championships, any player may play up to three times in any season for each of the club's higher teams than that in which the player is registered, including teams in the same division.

5.12 If, in the All-Play-All Championships, a player shall play for a fourth time in any season for any of his club's higher teams than that in which he is registered, or be re-registered in any such team, he shall be deemed to have become registered for play in that club's

higher team and shall, for the remainder of the season, be ineligible to play in any lower team of that club. Nevertheless, nothing in this rule shall affect such player's rights to continue to play for the team, for which he was originally registered, in any of the Knock-Out Competitions.

5.13 In the All-Play-All Championships a registered player may, before 31st December in any season, be re-registered to play for a lower team than that in which he is registered, provided that he shall thereafter be disqualified for the remainder of that season from playing for any higher team (save only the team, for which he was originally registered, in any of the Knock-Out Competitions.).

5.14 In the Knock-Out Competitions matches in the Terrill Memorial Trophy competition and matches in the plate competition for the Homer Memorial Trophy shall be regarded as matches in the same competition. Similarly matches in the Townshend Memorial Trophy Competition and matches in the plate competition for the Barrington Memorial Trophy shall be regarded as matches in the same competition. Nonetheless the Terrill Competition and its plate competition shall be regarded as a separate event from the Townshend Competition and its plate competition. A player may play in the Knock-Out Competition for the league team for which he is registered. The player may also play for a higher team taking part in a Knock-Out Competition than that in which he is registered provided that he shall not play for two teams in the same round of the same Knock-Out Competition.

For the purpose of this rule round two of the Terrill Competition shall be treated as the same as round one of the Homer plate and so on; and round two of the Townshend Competition shall be treated as the same as round one of the Barrington plate.

5.15 For penalties relating to the failure to comply with 5.1–5.14 refer to Rule 12.2

6. Arrangement of Fixtures

6.1 The Management Committee shall arrange all match fixtures in the All-Play-All Championships so that, as far as possible, (a) each team shall have not more than one match in each fortnight of the

season, and (b) each team's home and away matches shall alternate. All matches must be scheduled to be played before the first Saturday in May.

6.2 If any division of the All-Play-All Competition shall contain eight or fewer teams at the start of the season, each such team shall play one home and one away match with each other team therein; but in any division containing nine or more teams each team shall play one match with each other team therein at venues to be decided by the Management Committee.

6.3 When a club has more than one team in any division of the All-Play-All Championships the matches between such teams shall be played before any of them shall be permitted to play any match against other clubs in that division.

6.4 The Management Committee shall arrange the fixtures in the Knock-Out Competitions and shall conduct all draws for the various rounds subject to the following conditions:

(a) The first round of the Terrill and Townshend Competitions shall be played in the last week of September which shall be kept free of other fixtures. In the Homer and Barrington Competitions the necessary number of byes shall be drawn in the first round. In the Terrill and Townshend Competitions there shall be no more than one bye in the first round.

(b) Six weeks shall be allotted for completion of the first round and five weeks for subsequent rounds.

(c) In the week allotted for the second round of the Terrill and Townshend Competitions the first round of the Homer and Barrington Competitions shall be played and that week shall be kept free of other fixtures. Any necessary byes in the Terrill and Townshend Competitions shall be drawn in the second round. The draw shall be made so that, as far as possible, no team which received a bye, or won a match by walk-over, in the first round shall receive a bye in the second round.

(d) In the third and subsequent rounds, League matches coinciding must be re-arranged forthwith.

(e) The first drawn team in each pairing shall have the choice of venue in all rounds except the finals, which shall be at neutral venues arranged by the Management Committee.

(f) Clubs are instructed to contact one another to confirm the playing arrangements.

(g) The weeks occupied by Christmas and New Year's Day will not be considered as playing time.

7. Postponements

7.1 Any team wishing to alter the date of a fixture (other than one governed by Rules 6.3 and 6.4) shall be entitled to do so provided that it shall notify the opposing team not less than 21 days before the original date for the match. When a match is postponed it shall be the duty of both clubs to agree a new date for the fixture and to notify the Hon. Records Secretary thereof at least seven days before the original date of the match.

7.2 Whenever it may become necessary to request the alteration of a fixture date as a result of some unexpected emergency, bad weather conditions, or the breakdown of public travelling facilities, the team making the request shall seek the agreement of the opposing team. If such agreement be refused, it may apply to the Honorary General Secretary of the League for permission to alter the said date, whereupon the Honorary General Secretary may, after considering the circumstances of the case, either grant or refuse the application, such decision being final and binding on the teams affected thereby. If the Honorary General Secretary cannot be contacted then the club should contact, in the first place, the President, or secondly the Chairman of the Rules Committee. When a match is postponed it shall be the duty of both clubs to agree a new date and inform the Honorary Records Secretary within 21 days of the date of the original fixture.

7.3 Notwithstanding anything contained in Rule 7.1, any team having to play a match in any Knock-Out Competition shall have the right to postpone any other League fixture which it may be due to play in the week fixed for the Knock-Out match provided that at least seven days' clear notice of the intention to do so shall have been given to the Honorary Records Secretary and to the opponents in the match which is to be postponed. It shall then be the duty of both clubs to agree a new date for the fixture and to notify the Honorary Records Secretary thereof within 21 days of the date of the original fixture. For penalties refer to Rule 12.1.

7.4 Any game or match not completed by the first Saturday in May shall be regarded as void in compiling the match result and the final league tables, unless a dispute (including a claim for a win by default for a breach of rule 7.1) has been referred to the Rules Committee. In the latter case the Rules Committee shall determine what is recorded as the outcome of the game or match.

8. Composition and Playing Order of Teams

8.1 All matches in the League's competitions shall be played between teams of six players, except in the lowest division but one which shall have five players, and except in the lowest division where they shall consist of at least four players. The Match Committee shall decide the number of players in each team in the lowest division in each season. Teams in the lowest division which wish to enter the Knock-out Competition must have a minimum of six registered players available.

8.2 Before the start of each match the opposing captains shall list their players in descending approximate rating order in accordance with Rule 4 on a match card to be supplied by the League (or a suitable facsimile thereof). They shall then exchange cards and list their teams on the opposition's card, then returning this card to the opposition. If a captain be aware that any player in his list will be defaulting, the word **DEFAULT** shall be entered for the name on the lowest possible board and that game immediately recorded as lost by default.

8.3 No alteration or substitution of names in its list shall be made by any team after the commencement of play in any match.

8.4 Odd-numbered boards in the home team and even-numbered boards in the away team shall have the white pieces in all matches, each player playing one game with that player in the opposing team having the same number as himself.

9. Conduct of Play

9.1 All clubs shall include in their entry in the BDCL Handbook the club's designated start time. The start time must be one of 7.00pm,

7.15pm, or 7.30pm and will be the usual start time for all home matches in the League's competitions.

9.2 In all matches in the League's competitions play shall commence and white players' clocks shall be started at the home club's declared start time. However, the captains in any match may mutually agree to vary the starting time of any match provided that the amount of playing time required by Rule 9.3 shall not be shortened.

9.3 All games in any match shall be played in the home team's club-room on the date and at the time appointed therefore and shall be of sufficient length to meet the requirements of Rule 10.

9.4 Clocks shall be provided for all matches in the League's competitions, and they shall be started at all boards at the time fixed for the commencement of play. If the clocks are not started at the due time, any elapsed time must be deducted from the time allowance of the home players.

9.5 When recording moves in accordance with Article 8.1.1 of the Laws of Chess, a player may use descriptive notation. The offer of a draw shall be marked by =

9.6 With reference to Article 11.3.2 of the Laws of Chess, the taking of mobile phones into the playing area is permitted provided that they are switched off. If a player's mobile phone emits any noise during a game then that player loses his game.

10. Time Limit

10.1 In any match the home team may, provided suitable clocks are available, require that the rate of play shall be all moves in 80 minutes with 10 seconds per move added throughout ("incremental"). If the home team does not so require the rate of play shall be all moves in 90 minutes ("quickplay").

10.2 If the clocks have not already been started in any match the two players in any game may agree to play their game at either of the rates of play specified in 10.1

10.3 The captains shall indicate on the match card the nature of the time limit (incremental or quickplay) utilised in each individual game.

10.4 In all games where an incremental time limit is not adopted Guideline III of the Laws of Chess shall apply, with the exception of Article III.4. For the purposes of Article III.6 the designated arbiter shall be the Rules sub-Committee of the League.

11. Notification of Results

11.1 The result shall be sent to the Honorary Records Secretary by an official of the home club and also of the visiting club within three days of the date of the match. *For the purpose of this rule the result may be submitted by electronic means approved by the League.* When during a season a team fails to submit the results for the third time within three days, then that team shall have one match point deducted and subsequently one match point deducted for every failure thereafter. *When the results are submitted electronically, then the original Match Card shall be retained by a club official until fourteen days after the date of the match.*

12. Loss of Matches and Games by Default

12.1 A team shall lose a match by default: (a) if it shall fail to arrive at the venue within 75 minutes of the time fixed for the start of play; (b) if it shall fail to comply with the requirements of Rules 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 8.2, and 9.4; (c) if it shall neglect or refuse to comply with the requirements of any other of these rules, or shall agree with any other team to commit any breach thereof.

12.2 A game shall be lost by default: (a) if a player shall fail to arrive at the venue for any session of a game before his time allowance has expired; (b) by any player who is not validly registered, under Rules 5.1-5.14 hereof, for play in that particular game, and in the case of such a default the player's team shall also lose one penalty point from its score in the match.

12.3 If a team defaults an away match in the all-play-all championships and the two teams concerned are in the same Division the following season, then the defaulting team shall play away again in the corresponding fixture. This applies irrespective of

the number of home and away matches that the two teams play against other teams during that season.

13. Scoring of Game Points

13.1 A game won in any match in the League's competitions shall score 1 point (including a game won by default). Half a point shall be scored for a drawn game and no points for a lost game (including one lost by default).

13.2 Additional game points shall be scored by any team in the Knock-Out Competitions which shall be playing a team from a division in the All-Play-All Competition higher than its own, according to the following tables:

TERRILL AND HOMER TROPHIES					TOWNSHEND AND BARRINGTON TROPHIES	
Div	1	2	3	4		
		<i>versus</i>			<i>A team versus</i>	
Div 2	2½				a team 1 division higher	½
Div 3	3½	1½			a team 2 divisions higher	1½
Div 4	4½	2½	½		a team 3 divisions higher	2½
Divs 5-10	4½	3½	1½	½	a team 4 divisions higher	3½

14. Scoring of Match Points

14.1 In respect of all matches in the All-Play-All Competition a team shall score 2 points for a match won (including one won by default), 1 point for a match drawn, and 0 for a match lost (including one lost by default).

14.2 If a team shall retire from any division in the All-Play-All Competition during a season its results shall be ignored in calculating the table for that division if less than half of its fixtures have been played. If half or more of its fixtures have been played its unplayed fixtures shall be scored as won by default by its respective opponents therein.

14.3 The team scoring the greatest number of points in each division of the All-Play-All Competition shall hold the title of

Champions of its division for the ensuing 12 months together with a trophy provided by the League for that division.

14.4 If any team defaults three matches in the League competitions then that team will be deemed to have retired from the League competition and Rule 14.2 will then apply.

15. Promotion and Relegation

15.1 At the end of each season's All-Play-All Competition, teams shall be promoted and relegated in the following manner:

Division 1: bottom two teams relegated to next lower division;

Lowest Division: top two teams promoted to next higher division;

All Other Divisions: top two teams promoted to next higher division and bottom two teams relegated to next lower division.

16. Tie Splitting

16.1 In the event of a tie in match points between two or more teams for the championship of a division, runners-up in division one or for any place involving promotion or relegation, the teams concerned shall play a match or matches to resolve the tie on such dates and at such venues as the Management Committee shall appoint. Such matches shall be between teams composed of the number of players required by Rule 8.1., except in the case of a tie involving an odd number of teams within a Division with teams of five boards only, when a Jamboree match with four boards only from each team may be used. If any such tie-splitting match shall be drawn, the following procedure shall apply to it:

(a) each team shall add together the numbers of the boards at which it won games in the match and the team which shall have the smallest total shall be the winner, but if the tie shall not thereby be split; then

(b) games shall be eliminated from the match from the bottom board upwards until the respective team scores shall become unequal, when the team remaining with the higher total of game points shall be the winner, but if the tie shall still not thereby be split; then

(c) the match shall be replayed and the foregoing splitting procedure repeated (if necessary) until a decision shall be reached.

16.2 Where matches in the Knock-Out Competitions are drawn, the procedure as shown in Rule 16.1 (a), (b) and (c) of this Rule shall apply.

17. The Minor Division

17.1 The Minor Division shall consist of teams of three players, who are registered for any division of the All-Play-All Competition. Players must not be rated higher than 1350K on the August Standard Play rating list (or, in the absence of a full Standard Play rating, on the August Rapid Play rating list). Players without a rating or having a Category P rating will be given an E or X rating by the Eligibility Committee and shall be eligible if that rating is no more than 1350. In either case, a player deemed eligible at any point in the season shall be considered eligible for the Minor Division for the remainder of the season.

17.2 Except where provided in the remainder of this rule, the rules of the All-Play-All Competition will apply to the Minor Division.

17.3 When a club has more than one team playing in the Minor Division then the teams must be labelled A, B, C etc in strength order with the A team being the strongest. Any player may play once for each of the club's other Minor Division teams than that in which the player is registered. If a player shall play for a second time for any of the club's Minor Division teams than that originally registered, the player shall be deemed to have become registered for play in that club's Minor Division team and shall, for the remainder of the season, be ineligible to play in any other Minor Division team of that club.

17.4 Players may play any number of games in the All-Play-All and Knock-Out Competitions, without affecting their eligibility for the Minor Division. Should a player play for more than one such team, rules 5.11 and 5.12 shall apply.

17.5 In the Minor Division even- numbered boards in the home team and odd numbered boards in the away team shall have the white pieces in all matches.

17.6 The Minor Division rate of play shall be all moves in 60 minutes (quickplay finish).

17.7 Promotion and relegation does not apply to the Minor Division.

18. Individual Tournament Arrangements

18.1 There shall be a separate Individual Tournament of six banded sections open to anyone eligible for ordinary League play on 1st October. Any player may enter either the banded section he/she qualifies for or; provided the Tournament sub-Committee has a place available for him/her; any higher band. The banded sections shall be determined by players' gradings as follows:

Individual One: Open

Individual Two: 1900 max

Individual Three: 1750 max

Individual Four: 1600 max

Individual Five: 1450 max

Individual Six: 1300 max

Eligibility will be determined using the ratings arrived at by the application of Rule 4. Ungraded players who cannot demonstrate a playing strength appropriate for their section will be allocated to Individual One.

18.2 Two members of each team may be nominated. Any other players may enter; if the total entry exceeds 32 players the Tournament Sub-Committee shall determine by lot which of the additional players shall be admitted. Players not admitted shall have their entry fees returned. The Management Committee shall, at the start of each season, fix the entry fee for the competition. These fees shall form the basis of a prize fund to be administered at the discretion of the Management Committee.

18.3 Each affiliated club shall forward the names, addresses and, if applicable, telephone numbers of the players entering the competition, together with the entry fees, to the Chairman of the Individual Tournament Sub-Committee not later than October 1st.

18.4 The default rate of play shall be all moves in 90 minutes or, if a suitable digital clock is available, and both players agree, the rate of play shall be all moves in 80 minutes with 10 seconds per move added throughout.

18.5 It shall be the duty of the player to whom choice of venue is given by the Tournament Sub-Committee in any game to communicate with his opponent offering alternative dates and informing him of the venue he has chosen.

18.6 The draw for each round shall be made by the Chairman of the Tournament Committee, and results must be reported to him by such dates as he shall stipulate in notifying the players of their pairings. Any application for an extension of time shall be made to the Chairman of the Committee who shall have power to grant or refuse it in his absolute discretion.

18.7 The final round of each of the divisional tournaments shall be played on such date and at such venue as the Tournament Sub-Committee shall appoint. An arbiter shall be appointed by the Tournament Sub-Committee to act thereat.

18.8 The Chairman of the Tournament Committee shall have the power to declare any game in the Individual Tournaments lost to any player who neglects or refuses to comply with these rules in any way.

18.9 Prizes and Trophies (to be held in each case for a period of one year) shall be awarded to winners of the divisional tournaments in the Tournament Sub-Committee's absolute discretion.

19. Disputes

19.1 If any dispute shall arise in a match or game, particulars must be sent in writing by the complainant club to the Chairman of the Rules Sub-Committee and a copy of the complaint shall at the same time be sent to the Honorary Records Secretary. All details relating to any dispute must be sent within seven days.

19.2 If a League Official shall have reason to believe that there has been a breach of the foregoing rules in connection with any match

he shall, as soon as possible, notify the secretaries of the clubs involved. Any complaint arising shall then be sent in writing by the complainant club to the Chairman of the Rules Committee within seven days of this notification. A copy of the complaint shall at the same time be sent to the Honorary Records Secretary.

19.3 The Chairman of the Rules Committee shall notify the Secretary of the Club of the player(s) against which the complaint is made, setting out details of the complaint and asking for confirmation or rebuttal of the complaint.

19.4 The Chairman of the Rules Committee shall endeavour to settle the dispute amicably, failing which the dispute will be placed before the next meeting of his Committee.

19.5 The chairman of the Rules Committee has the right to request any original match card from the holder.

19.6 Any club or individual found by the Rules Committee to be bringing the game into disrepute by misconduct shall be subject to a penalty to be fixed by the Committee.

19.7 The decision of the Rules Committee shall be final.

20. Interpretation

20.1 When the responsibilities of the Honorary Records Secretary are divided between or amongst two or more people any reference in these Rules to the Honorary Records Secretary is to be taken as a reference to the Secretary responsible for the division or knock-out competition in question.

20.2 Where a masculine pronoun appears in these Rules it is to be taken to include the equivalent feminine pronoun.

20.3 Notification in writing required by these Competition Rules may, with the consent of the recipient, be given by e-mail.

FIDE Laws of Chess – Guidelines III – Games without increment including Quickplay Finishes

III.1 A 'quickplay finish' is the phase of a game when all the remaining moves must be completed in a finite time.

III.2.1 The Guidelines below concerning the final period of the game including Quickplay Finishes, shall only be used at an event if their use has been announced beforehand.

III.2.2 These Guidelines shall apply only to standard play and rapidplay games without increment and not to blitz games.

III.3.1 If both flags have fallen and it is impossible to establish which flag fell first then:

III.3.1.1 the game shall continue if this occurs in any period of the game except the last period.

III.3.1.2 the game is drawn if this occurs in the period of a game in which all remaining moves must be completed.

[III.4 omitted – does not apply in the BDCL]

III.5 If Article III.4 does not apply and the player having the move has less than two minutes left on his clock, he may claim a draw before his flag falls. He shall summon the arbiter and may stop the chess clock (see Article 6.12.2). He may claim on the basis that his opponent cannot win by normal means, and/or that his opponent has been making no effort to win by normal means:

III.5.1 If the arbiter agrees that the opponent cannot win by normal means, or that the opponent has been making no effort to win the game by normal means, he shall declare the game drawn. Otherwise he shall postpone his decision or reject the claim.

III.5.2 If the arbiter postpones his decision, the opponent may be awarded two extra minutes and the game shall continue, if possible, in the presence of an arbiter. The arbiter shall declare the final result later in the game or as soon as possible after the flag of either player has fallen. He shall declare the game drawn if he agrees that the opponent of the player whose flag has fallen cannot win by normal means, or that he was not making sufficient attempts to win by normal means.

III.5.3 If the arbiter has rejected the claim, the opponent shall be awarded two extra minutes.

III.6 The following shall apply when the competition is not supervised by an arbiter:

III.6.1 A player may claim a draw when he has less than two minutes left on his clock and before his flag falls. This concludes the game. He may claim on the basis:

III.6.1.1 that his opponent cannot win by normal means, and/or

III.6.1.2 that his opponent has been making no effort to win by normal means.

In III.6.1.1 the player must write down the final position and his opponent must verify it.

In III.6.1.2 the player must write down the final position and submit an up-to-date scoresheet. The opponent shall verify both the scoresheet and the final position.

III.6.2 The claim shall be referred to the designated arbiter

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT CHESS LEAGUE

Safeguarding

Statement

The Birmingham & District Chess League (BDCL) organises team and individual chess competitions in Birmingham and the surrounding district. The BDCL seeks to promote and develop chess. It recognises the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people aged up to 18 years and of vulnerable adults. It is committed to ensuring that safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, as well as government and ECF guidance, and complies with best practice. The BDCL recognises that the welfare and interests of children and young people and vulnerable adults are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or identity, or socioeconomic background, all children, young people and vulnerable adults:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of chess in a safe and sociable environment;
- are protected from harm and abuse whilst travelling to and from, and participating in chess events.

It also aims to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding. The BDCL acknowledges that some children, young people and vulnerable adults can be subject to abuse and recognises the need to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare at stand-alone BDCL-organised events. With respect to safeguarding at such events, the BDCL will seek to:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- value, listen to and respect children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- ensure that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- make clear who the designated Lead for Safeguarding and the Safeguarding Officer are, and explain their respective roles;
- ensure that appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse, and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern;
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored;

- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals;
- ensure that robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation;
- share concerns with relevant agencies, involving parents and children appropriately.

This approach will be followed as far as is practicable for everyone involved in stand-alone BDCL-organised events, including its officers. It will also be promoted to all member clubs of the BDCL. Failure to comply will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal or exclusion from the organisation, as appropriate.

BDCL Safeguarding Personnel

The BDCL will appoint a Lead for Safeguarding and a Safeguarding Officer (SO). The responsibilities of the Safeguarding Officer (SO) will be in accordance with the role description for the Safeguarding Officer in Appendix 1.

The BDCL will reimburse any reasonable expenses for the SO in respect of safeguarding training.

BDCL Guidance for member clubs

Caveat: The responsibility for any incident/concern during club meetings/club matches (including those played at neutral venues) lies with the Safeguarding Officer(s) of the participating club(s), and not with the BDCL Safeguarding Officer.

The BDCL recommends that each member club:

- has a Safeguarding Policy, based on the relevant legislative and ECF guidance as far as practicable; but which also takes account of the policies of the management of the premises in which it meets;
- appoints a Lead for Safeguarding and a Safeguarding Officer. They should read and be familiar with relevant legal and ECF guidance and this BDCL Statement;
- informs the BDCL Secretary of the identity of its SO and any subsequent change, together with contact information;
- notifies its members of the requirement promptly to report any relevant incident to the Club's SO (or to the police, in the event of an emergency or imminent threat to a child, young person or vulnerable adult). If the SO is unavailable on the day the incident occurs, reporting shall be either to a previously designated alternative, or to the SO as soon as practicable;
- makes available, within the clubroom, a copy of its Safeguarding Policy and the contact details of its SO;
- ensures that a child or young person travelling to an away match or event is accompanied by a parent/carer or person acting in loco

parentis. The parent/carer or person acting in loco parentis shall be responsible for the welfare of the child or young person at all times whilst travelling or at the match or event. The home club or organiser of the event shall be entitled to enquire who is acting as the parent/carer or person acting in loco parentis before play commences or at any time whilst the child or young person is at the match or event.

Legal framework

This statement has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

and relevant government guidance on safeguarding children including:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015).

Monitoring

The statement will be reviewed annually, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government or ECF guidance
- if required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board or the BDCL
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

The BDCL Safeguarding statement is approved by the Annual General Meeting of the BDCL

Appendix 1 – Role description for the BDCL safeguarding officer

Organisation: Birmingham and District Chess League (BDCL)

Reports to: BDCL Lead for Safeguarding

Requirement: Appointment is subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check and references. Legal background/safeguarding experience is desirable.

Purpose: To ensure that the BDCL has appropriate arrangements for keeping children, young people and vulnerable adults safe when they attend any stand-alone BDCL-organised event. Also, to promote their safety and welfare at all times.

Responsibilities:

The safeguarding officer will use their best endeavours to:

- i. ensure that all issues concerning the safety and welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults who attend stand-alone BDCL-organised events are properly dealt with;
- ii. ensure that everyone involved with BDCL-organised events has access to the BDCL Safeguarding Statement and is aware of what they should do if they have issues/concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult;
- iii. receive, record and report information from anyone who attends a BDCL event and has such issues/concerns;
- iv. advise and support BDCL staff and volunteers on safeguarding and protection;
- v. take the lead on dealing with information that may constitute a protection issue/concern around a child, young person or vulnerable adult OR an allegation about a member of staff or volunteer. This includes assessing and clarifying the information, and taking decisions in consultation with the Lead for Safeguarding, and statutory Child and/or Adult Protection Agencies/ Services as required, whilst handling all information sensitively and confidentially;
- vi. consult with, pass information to and receive information from statutory Protection Agencies/Services such as the Local Authority Child and/or Adult Services and/or the Police. This includes making formal referrals to those agencies if required;
- vii. be familiar with how the local safeguarding board works and how to contact them;
- viii. be familiar with issues relating to child protection and keep up to date with developments;
- ix. attend training on issues relevant to child protection from and share knowledge from that with other members of the BDCL;
- x. encourage and advise all chess clubs affiliated to the BDCL to appoint a Safeguarding Officer and publish their Safeguarding Policy on children, young persons and vulnerable adults;
- xi. undertake risk assessments, as required, of venues proposed for stand-alone BDCL-organised events;
- xii. report to board/committee meetings as required, but at least once per year, at the AGM, on the level of risk management being achieved;
- xiii. undertake annual monitoring and review of the policy;
- xiv. assist with updating the policy in consultation with the Lead for Safeguarding.

CLUB DIRECTORY

BIRMINGHAM ST. GEORGE'S (7.15pm Monday)

Ken Wise – Email: k_j_yy@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 0121 705 8770. Mobile: 07847 326 578

Church Hall, St. George's Church Centre, Bridge St. West,
Newtown, Birmingham, B19 2YX

The church centre has a car park and is outside the Birmingham Clean Air Zone. Use the ring road to avoid entering the CAZ.

Tea and coffee provided. The usual playing area and toilets are accessible only by a flight of stairs. Step-free access can be arranged but please notify us in advance if possible, otherwise the start of matches may be delayed. No disability-adapted toilet.

CENTRAL BIRMINGHAM ex Mutual Circle (7.30pm Tuesday)

Chris Evans – Email: chriscieux@virginmedia.com

Tel: 01384 827 640. Mobile: 07931 022 762

The Jewellers Arms, 23 Hockley Street, Birmingham, B18 6BW
Clubroom: 0121 269 4110

Membership Secretary & alternative contact: Bruce Baer – Email: bruce@erasearch.com; Mobile: 07974 714 727

Please note that this venue is inside the Birmingham Clean Air Zone so non-compliant vehicles will incur a charge of £8 or more. The ring-road marks the boundary of the Clear Air Zone, so motorists wishing to avoid the CAZ could park in the half of Pitsford Street that is outside the ring road (B18 6PT). This is about a half-mile from the venue.

Cobs are sometimes on sale. Alcohol, coffee and soft drinks are available. Please do not bring your own bottles or flasks on to the premises unless absolutely necessary. It would be appreciated if visitors would make a purchase at the bar or, if this is problematic, allow one of the home players to buy them a drink. The Clubroom is up steep stairs so there is no access for wheelchair users or those with serious walking difficulties.

Web: mutualcircle-moseley.weebly.com

COLESHILL (7.30pm Wednesday)

Des Green – Email: desgreen63@virginmedia.com

Tel: 0121 246 2295. Mobile: 07395 291 643

Coleshill and District Social Club, Ivy Lodge, Parkfield Road, Coleshill, B46 3LD. Clubroom: 01675 462 170

Motorists must enter their vehicle registration details into the machine inside the club on the bar or at the bottom of the stairs leading to the playing area to avoid a parking charge. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages can be purchased from the bar downstairs; no other beverages can be brought into the club.

Disabled players may be able to play in the lounge downstairs if there is no other activity in that room.

Web: coleshill.chessclub.cloud

HALESOWEN (7.30pm Monday)

Club secretary position is vacant. Please contact team captains for fixture-related matters. For other matters please contact

Stewart Fishburne – skf@globalnet.co.uk

Division 2: Adrian Priest – priest.130@btinternet.com

Division 4: Pete Banks – pbanks@banks-software.co.uk

The Townsend Club, 2 Stourbridge Road, Halesowen. B63 3US

Clubroom: 0121 550 1258

Normal bar service. Tea and coffee are also available. Visitors are asked not to bring drinks onto the premises (other than in accord with BDCL guidelines).

Web: halesowenchessclub.org.uk

KYNOCH (7.30pm Monday)

Reg Jones – Email: regkynochchess@outlook.com

Tel: 0121 353 9926. Mobile: 07970 841 276

Old Oscott Working Mens Club, 1196 Aldridge Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, B44 8PE. Clubroom: 0121 550 1258

Wheelchair access. Refreshments are available.

Web: kynoch-chess-club.com

LICHFIELD (7.15pm Thursday)

Stephen Smithson – Email: Stephen_Smithson@hotmail.com
Mobile: 07817 946 740

Alternative contacts: David Fone (chair) 07703 438 726; Brian Homewood (Fixture Secretary): 01543 255 909

[Guild Room, The Guildhall, Bore Street, Lichfield, WS13 6LU](#)

It is no longer permitted to drive through the very centre of Lichfield so it is suggested that you use Bird Street (WS13 6AB) or University West (WS13 6QG) car parks. Tea and coffee are available. Wheelchair access. Adjustments for partially sighted if notified in advance.

Web: lichfieldchess.org.uk

LONGBRIDGE (7.30pm Tuesday & Thursday)

Gavin Cartwright – Email: longbridgechessclub@hotmail.com
Mobile: 07853 357 395

[The Oak Tree; Lickey Rd, Rednal, Cofton Hackett, Birmingham B45 8UX](#)

Bus 20A from QE Hospital to Longbridge and to The Oak Tree at Rednal Island is hourly throughout the day until late (Bus 20 does not go to The Oak Tree). The Oak Tree is a Pub/Restaurant serving a wide range of food and drink, including vegetarian and vegan options. The management have a relaxed policy toward players providing their own drink requirements. Access for wheelchairs directly into the playing room at the rear of the building! Staff are helpful in serving disabled people when asked.

Web: longbridgechess.wordpress.com

MERCIA (7.30pm Tuesday)

Barry Smith – Email: checkmatebaz@aol.com
Tel: 01922 413 309. Mobile: 07518 540 659

[Hurst Hill Labour Club and Institute, 22 Clifton Street, Bilston WV14 9EY](#). Clubroom: 01902 882 527

Bar refreshments, disabled access.

Fixture Secretary: andrew.mccumiskey@mac.com

Web: merciamchessclub.cloud

OLTON (7.15pm Tuesday)

Robert Reynolds – Email: robrldcl@blueyonder.co.uk

Mobile: 07552 366 104

Tyseley & District Working Men's Club, Warwick Road, Tyseley, Birmingham. B11 2EX

Refreshments available at bar, including soft drinks, tea, coffee and water. Crisps, peanuts and other snacks may also be purchased. Please do not bring your own drinks or snacks into the premises. Ramp access suitable for wheelchair users and individuals finding steps difficult. Lift to upstairs playing area.

Web: oltonchessclub.org.uk

Alternative contact: Richard Reynolds (0121 603 1698)

OSCOTT (7.15pm Monday)

Mike Biddle – Email: mike.biddle295@gmail.com

Tel: 0121 358 2174. Mobile: 07798 644 355

Boldmere Sports & Social Club, 323 Boldmere Road, Birmingham B73 5HQ. Clubroom: 0121 350 2649

Please note that this venue is not the nearby Boldmere St.

Michael's FC. Bar refreshments available, including hot drinks.

Wheelchair access and disabled toilet.

Web: chessclub.cloud/club/oscott

REDDITCH (7.30pm Wednesday)

Dan Lambourne – Email: redditchchess@gmail.com

Mobile: 07985 473 174

Alvechurch and Hopwood Cricket Club, rear of 6 Birmingham Road, Alvechurch, Birmingham, Worcestershire, B48 7TA

Clubroom: 0121 445 1023

The turn off Birmingham Road is quite hard to spot in the dark, especially coming from the centre of Alvechurch, but the turn off is right by the school signs, between numbers 4 and 6. The bar is unlikely to be open, so players can bring their own refreshments to the cricket club, but tea, coffee and water is available. There is one step into the venue, but the landlords can provide a ramp if warning is given before arrival.

For Summer League matches the club meets from May to August at the Meadow Farm Public House, Dagnell End Lane, Beoley,

B98 9BJ (phone: 01527 585639). This is a pub, serving food and drink; visitors are therefore discouraged from bringing their own. For disabled access, best to use disabled parking by hotel side, if possible, as access is easier from that side. The club uses one of the barn rooms between the pub's rear entrance and the hotel.
Web: redditchchessclub.org

SHIRLEY & WYTHALL (7.30pm Thursday)

Gordon Christie – Email: gsgchrist@gmail.com

Tel: 01564 826 354. Mobile: 07915 006 484

Wythall Community Club, Wythall House, 52 Silver Street,
Wythall, B47 6LZ

Clubroom: 01564 823 281

Parking charges are in force 24/7. Guests and visitors should register on arrival (or at least before departure) in order to gain exemption from the charges. Refreshments available at the bar include hot and cold drinks, and snacks. Wheelchair access (one step only) from main car park. We occasionally use an upstairs room in case of multiple home matches.

Web: shirleychess.org.uk

SOLIHULL (7.30pm Wednesday)

Matt Allen – Email: matt926_uk@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07834 689 413

The Blossomfield Club, The Wardens, Widney Lane, Solihull,
B91 3JY. Clubroom (office, part-time): 0121 705 7432

Wheelchair access and disabled toilet. Refreshments are available.

Web: solihull.chessclub.cloud

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM (7.30pm Thursday)

Tim Lane – Email: tim.a.lane@btinternet.com

Tel: 0121 354 3539. Mobile: 07973 268 730

Stirchley United WMC, Hazelwell Lane, Stirchley, Birmingham,
B30 2PR Clubroom: 0121 458 3383

Car drivers – to avoid exorbitant parking charges, please enter your number plate at one of the terminals inside the building.

First floor playing room with lift. Bar refreshments are available.

Web: southbirminghamchess.club

STOURBRIDGE (7.30pm Tuesday)

Dan Billingham – Email: danielbillingham73@gmail.com

Mobile: 07752 046 656

The Queens Head, 111 Enville Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 3TQ

There is adequate parking opposite and near the venue, all within a five-minute walk. The Queens Head has a selection of real ales, beers, and soft beverages. The venue is fully accessible with no stairs, allowing for full wheelchair access throughout.

Web: stourbridgechess.force9.co.uk

SUTTON COLDFIELD (7.30pm Monday)

Golam Ali – Email: golam_pervez@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07765 041 449

Minworth Club & Lodge, 39 Robinsons Way, Minworth, Sutton Coldfield, B76 9BB. Clubroom: 0121 351 3531

The venue has all types of refreshments available for purchase from the bar – please do not bring your own refreshments to the club. Ground floor playing area with wheelchair access.

Web: suttonchess.org.uk

TAMWORTH (7.30pm Thursday)

Peter Oliver – Email: pjroliver@gmail.com

Tel: 01827 830337. Mobile: 07794 170 324

Tamworth RUFC, Wigginton Lodge, Wigginton Park, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 8ED Clubroom: 01827 68794

Large car park on site. Refreshments available at the bar. Club room is on ground floor and fully accessible

Web: tamworthchess.co.uk

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM (7.00pm Thursday)

Adithya Phanish – Email: chess-club@guild.bham.ac.uk

Mobile: 07504 520 028

Guild of Students, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham, B15 2TU.

On arrival for matches please wait in the Guild of Students reception to be escorted to the club room. Wheelchair access.

WALSALL KIPPING (7.15pm Thursday)

Peter Nixon – Email: petenix1965@gmail.com

Mobile: 07846 318 496

St. Martin's Church, Daffodil Road, Walsall, WS5 3DQ

Clubroom: 01922 277 695

Disabled access. Please bring your own refreshments.

Web: walsallchess.com

WARD END SOCIAL (7.30pm Monday)

Terence Benson – Email: tbenson50@me.com

Mobile: 07904 101 556

Ward End Social Club, 10 St. Margaret's Road, Ward End,
Birmingham, B8 2BA. Clubroom: 0121 327 0123

If the car park gates are closed, please press call button to request access. Pedestrians can gain entry by the side gate, situated just before the call button; push the gate to open. The clubroom is in the Beauchamp Suite on the first floor of the main building. Access is via the main entrance on the left hand side of the building, please press the right hand bell to gain entry. Only refreshments purchased from the bar are allowed. Please note we are cash only, and cannot accept card payments!

WARLEY QUINBORNE (7.30pm Thursday)

John Fahy – Email: warleyquinborne@outlook.com

Mobile: 07837 880 472

The Stag & Three Horseshoes, Halesowen Road, Birmingham
B62 9BB.

Parking at front and rear of the pub. Upstairs room with no wheelchair access. Please don't bring your own refreshments.

Web: warleyquinborne.co.uk

WOLVERHAMPTON (7.30pm Monday)

Phil Bull – Email: wolvchess@gmail.com

Mobile: 07721 979 719

Forty Four Club, Spring Road, Wolverhampton, WV4 6LQ

Refreshments are available and are to be consumed in playing area only. Please refrain from bringing own refreshments.

Ground floor room, wheelchair accessible.

Web: wolverhamptonchess.club

FIXTURES 2025-26

Key to abbreviations of Club names

BSG	–	Birmingham St. George's	S&W	–	Shirley & Wythall
CB	–	Central Birmingham	Sol	–	Solihull
Col	–	Coleshill	SB	–	South Birmingham
Hal	–	Halesowen	Sto	–	Stourbridge
Ky	–	Kynoch	SC	–	Sutton Coldfield
Lch	–	Lichfield	Tam	–	Tamworth
Lon	–	Longbridge	UoB	–	Univ. of Birmingham
Mer	–	Mercia	WsK	–	Walsall Kipping
Olt	–	Olton	WE	–	Ward End Social
Osc	–	Oscott	WQ	–	Warley Quinborne
Red	–	Redditch	Wtn	–	Wolverhampton

Division One

September

101	Tue 2	CB B v CB A
102	Thu 4	SB C v SB B
103	Wed 10	CB B v SC
104	Thu 11	S&W v Red
105	Tue 16	CB A v Lch
106	Wed 17	Sol A v Sol B
107	Thu 18	SB A v SB B
108	Thu 25	SB A v SB C
	29-3/10	Trophy Rd One

October

109	Thu 9	SB C v S&W
110		Lch v Sol A
111	Mon 13	Wtn v SB A
112	Wed 15	Sol B v Lch
113	Tue 21	CB B v SB B
114	Wed 22	Sol A v SC
115	Mon 27	Wtn v CB B
116	Thu 30	SB A v Sol A
117		Lch v S&W

November

118	Mon 3	SC v Wtn
119	Wed 5	Red v SB A
120	Thu 6	SB B v CB A
121	Mon 10	SC v Sol B
122	Tue 11	CB A v Wtn
123	Wed 12	Red v Lch
124		Sol A v SB B
125	Thu 13	SB C v SC
	17-21	Trophy Rd Two
126	Thu 27	SB A v CB B

December

127	Mon 1	Wtn v Sol A
128		SC v CB A
129	Thu 4	SB A v S&W
130		Lch v SB C
131	Wed 10	Sol A v CB B
132	Thu 11	SB B v Wtn
133	Mon 15	SC v Red

Division One

January

134	Tue 6	CB A v SB A
135	Wed 7	Red v SB C
136		Sol B v Wtn
137	Mon 12	Wtn v S&W
138	Tue 13	CB A v Sol A
139	Wed 14	Sol B v SB C
140	Thu 15	SB B v Red
	19-23	Trophy Rd Three
141	Thu 22	Lch v CB B
142	Thu 29	S&W v CB B
143		SB A v Sol B
144		Lch v SC

February

145	Wed 4	Red v Wtn
146		Sol B v CB A
147	Mon 9	Wtn v SB C
148	Tue 10	CB A v S&W
149	Thu 12	SB B v Sol B
150	Tue 17	CB B v Sol B
151	Thu 19	S&W v SB B
	23-27	Trophy Rd Four
152	Thu 26	SB C v CB B
153		SB A v Lch

March

154	Wed 4	Red v CB A
155	Thu 5	S&W v Sol A
156	Mon 9	Wtn v Lch
	Tue 10	League Ltng Tnt
157	Wed 11	Sol B v S&W
158	Thu 12	SB B v SC
159	Mon 16	SC v SB A
160	Tue 17	CB A v SB C
161	Wed 18	Sol A v Red
162	Tue 24	CB B v Red
163	Thu 26	SB C v Sol A
164		S&W v SC

April

165	Wed 1	Red v Sol B
	13-17	Trophy Rd Five
166	Thu 16	Lch v SB B

Division Two

September

201	Tue 9	Olt v SC
202		Sto v Tam
203	Thu 11	SB A v SB B
204		Lon v Hal
205	Thu 18	Tam v WQ
206	Wed 24	Sol v Sto
207	Thu 25	S&W v Lon
	29-3/10	Trophy Rd One

October

208	Mon 6	SC v SB A
209	Tue 7	Sto v Hal
210	Thu 9	SB B v WsK
211	Tue 21	Olt v SB B
212	Thu 23	WsK v Tam
213		WQ v Sol
214	Thu 30	WsK v SB A
215		Tam v Olt

November

216	Mon 3	Hal v WQ
217	Tue 4	S&W v Sto
218	Thu 6	SB B v SC
219	Thu 13	WsK v Hal
	17-21	Trophy Rd Two
220	Tue 25	Sto v Lon
221	Thu 27	SB A v WQ
222		Tam v SC

December

223	Thu 4	SB B v Tam
224	Mon 8	Hal v Olt
225	Thu 11	Lon v WQ
226		S&W v WsK
227		Tam v SB A
228	Tue 16	Olt v S&W
229	Wed 17	Sol v SC

Division Two

January

230	Mon 5	SC v Hal
231	Thu 8	SB A v Sol
232		WsK v Lon
233	Tue 13	Sto v WQ
234	Thu 15	Lon v Olt
235		Tam v S&W
	19-23	Trophy Rd Three
236	Mon 19	Hal v SB A
237	Wed 21	Sol v SB B
238	Mon 26	SC v Lon
239	Thu 29	SB A v Olt
240		WsK v Sto

February

241	Thu 5	SB A v S&W
242		Tam v Sol
243	Tue 10	Olt v Sol
244	Thu 12	WQ v WsK
245		S&W v SB B
246	Mon 16	Hal v Tam
247	Tue 17	Sto v Olt
248	Thu 19	Lon v SB A
	23-27	Trophy Rd Four
249	Mon 23	SC v Sto
250	Wed 25	Sol v Hal
251	Thu 26	WQ v S&W

March

252	Mon 2	SC v WsK
253	Tue 3	Olt v WQ
254	Thu 5	SB B v Lon
	Tue 10	League Ltng Tnt
255	Thu 12	Lon v Tam
256		S&W v SC
257	Thu 19	SB B v Sto
258		WsK v Olt
259		WQ v SC
260		S&W v Sol
261	Tue 24	Sto v SB A
262	Wed 25	Sol v WsK
263	Thu 26	WQ v SB B
264	Mon 30	Hal v S&W

April

265	Wed 8	Sol v Lon
	13-17	Trophy Rd Five
266	Thu 16	SB B v Hal

Division Three

September

301	Tue 2	Olt B v Olt A
302	Tue 9	Olt B v Mer
303	Thu 11	WQ v Lch
304	Mon 15	Osc v CB
305	Tue 16	Olt A v S&W
306	Wed 17	Red v WQ
307	Thu 18	Lch v SC
308	Mon 22	SC v Lon
309	Tue 23	CB v Red
310	Thu 25	SB v Lch
	29-3/10	Trophy Rd One

October

311	Tue 7	Mer v Olt A
312	Wed 8	Red v Olt B
313	Tue 14	Olt A v UoB
314		Lon v WQ
315	Thu 16	S&W v Mer
316		Lch v CB
317		SB v Osc
318	Tue 21	Olt B v SC
319		Lon v UoB
320	Wed 22	Red v SB
321	Thu 23	S&W v Lch
322	Thu 30	WQ v Olt B

November

323	Mon 3	Osc v Red
324		SC v Olt A
325	Tue 4	Mer v SB
326		CB v Lon
327	Thu 6	S&W v SC
328	Tue 11	Mer v UoB
329		Olt B v CB
	17-21	Trophy Rd Two
330	Tue 25	Olt A v WQ
331	Thu 27	UoB v Olt B
332		Lon v SB
333		Lch v Osc

December

334	Mon 1	Osc v Lon
335	Wed 3	Red v Lch
336	Thu 4	UoB v SC
337		S&W v CB
338	Tue 9	Mer v WQ
339		CB v Olt A
340	Thu 11	SB v Olt B
341	Tue 16	Olt B v Osc

Division Three

January

342	Mon 5	Osc v Mer
343	Tue 6	Lon v Red
344	Thu 8	SB v S&W
345	Mon 12	Osc v Olt A
346	Tue 13	CB v Mer
347	Thu 15	Lch v Lon
348		WQ v UoB
	19-23	Trophy Rd Three
349	Mon 26	SC v WQ
350	Tue 27	Olt B v Lch
351	Thu 29	S&W v Osc

February

352	Tue 3	Mer v SC
353		Olt A v Red
354	Thu 5	UoB v CB
355		SB v WQ
356	Tue 10	CB v SC
357	Wed 11	Red v S&W
358	Mon 16	UoB v S&W
359	Tue 17	Mer v Red
360		Lon v Olt B
361	Thu 19	Lch v Olt A
362		SB v UoB
	23-27	Trophy Rd Four

March

363	Mon 2	SC v SB
364	Thu 5	UoB v Osc
365		WQ v CB
366	Mon 9	Osc v SC
	Tue 10	League Ltng Tnt
367	Wed 11	Red v UoB
368	Tue 17	Olt A v SB
369		Lon v S&W
370	Thu 19	Lch v Mer
371	Tue 24	Mer v Lon
372		CB v SB
373	Thu 26	UoB v Lch
374		S&W v Olt B
375		WQ v Osc
376	Tue 31	Olt A v Lon

April

377	Thu 2	WQ v S&W
	13-17	Trophy Rd Five
378	Mon 13	SC v Red

Division Four

September

401	Tue 2	Mer v Sto
402	Mon 8	SC v Lon
403	Wed 10	Col v BSG
404	Thu 11	SB A v SB B
405	Mon 15	BSG v Mer
406	Wed 17	Sol v Sto
407	Thu 18	Lon v Mer
408	Mon 22	Ky v SC
409		Hal v Sol
410	Tue 23	Sto v Col
411	Thu 25	SB B v Osc
	29-3/10	Trophy Rd One

November

424	Tue 4	Sto v Ky
425	Wed 5	Sol v Col
426	Mon 10	SC v BSG
427		Osc v Hal
428	Thu 13	SB A v Ky
	17-21	Trophy Rd Two
429	Tue 25	Lon v SB B
430		CB v Sto
431		Mer v Sol

October

412	Thu 9	SB A v CB
413	Mon 13	Osc v BSG
414	Wed 15	Sol v Osc
415	Thu 16	SB B v SC
416	Mon 20	SC v SB A
417	Tue 21	CB v SB B
418	Wed 22	Col v Hal
419	Thu 23	Lon v Ky
420	Mon 27	Hal v Mer
421	Tue 28	CB v BSG
422		Sto v Osc
423	Thu 30	SB A v Lon

December

432	Mon 1	Hal v CB
433		BSG v Lon
434	Tue 2	Sto v SC
435	Thu 4	SB B v Ky
436	Mon 8	Osc v SB A
437	Wed 10	Col v Mer
438	Mon 15	Ky v BSG
439		SC v Hal
440		Osc v Col
441	Thu 18	Lon v Sto

Division Four

January

442	Tue 6	CB v Sol
443		Mer v SB B
444	Mon 12	Hal v Lon
445		BSG v SB A
446	Tue 13	Mer v Osc
447	Wed 14	Sol v SC
	19-23	Trophy Rd Three
448	Mon 26	Ky v Hal
449	Tue 27	CB v Mer
450	Thu 29	SB A v Sto

February

451	Mon 2	SC v Col
452		Hal v SB A
453	Tue 3	Lon v Sol
454	Tue 10	Sto v SB B
455	Wed 11	Sol v Ky
456	Thu 12	SB A v Mer
457	Mon 16	Osc v CB
458	Wed 18	Col v Lon
459	Thu 19	SB B v BSG
	23-27	Trophy Rd Four
460	Tue 24	Mer v SC
461	Wed 25	Col v CB
462	Thu 26	SB B v Hal

March

463	Mon 2	Ky v Col
464		SC v Osc
465		BSG v Sto
466	Thu 5	SB A v Sol
	Tue 10	League Ltng Tnt
467	Wed 11	Col v SB A
468	Mon 16	Osc v Lon
469		Hal v BSG
470	Tue 17	CB v SC
471		Mer v Ky
472	Wed 18	Sol v SB B
473	Mon 23	Ky v Osc
474		BSG v Sol
475	Tue 24	Sto v Hal
476	Thu 26	SB B v Col

April

477	Thu 2	Lon v CB
478	Tue 7	CB v Ky
	13-17	Trophy Rd Five

Division Five

September

501	Wed 3	Col A v Col B
502	Mon 8	Ky B v Ky A
503	Wed 10	Sol B v Sol A
504		Red B v Red A
505	Mon 15	WE v Red B
506		Ky A v WsK
507	Wed 17	Sol C v Sol B
508	Thu 18	Lch v Lon
509	Wed 24	Sol A v Sol C
510	Thu 25	S&W v Col A
511		WsK v Ky B
	29-3/10	Trophy Rd One

October

512	Wed 1	Red B v Lch
513	Mon 6	Ky A v Sol A
514	Wed 8	Sol B v WE
515	Thu 9	S&W v Sol C
516	Mon 13	WE v Sol A
517	Tue 14	Lon v Red B
518	Wed 15	Sol B v Ky A
519		Col B v Red A
520	Mon 20	Ky B v S&W
521	Wed 22	Col A v Sol A
522	Thu 23	Lch v Sol B
523	Wed 29	Sol A v Lch
524		Sol C v Red B
525	Thu 30	S&W v Ky A
526		WsK v Col B

November

527	Wed 5	Col A v Ky B
528		Red A v WE
529	Mon 10	WE v WsK
530		Ky B v Sol C
531	Wed 12	Red B v Sol B
532		Col B v S&W
533	Thu 13	Lon v Sol A
534		Lch v Red A
	17-21	Trophy Rd Two
535	Wed 19	Sol C v Lon
536	Mon 24	Ky B v Red A
537	Wed 26	Col A v WsK
538	Thu 27	S&W v WE

December

539	Wed 3	Col A v Sol C
540		Sol A v Red B
541	Thu 4	WsK v Lch
542	Mon 8	Ky A v Col A
543	Wed 10	Col B v Sol B
544		Red A v Lon
545	Thu 11	Lch v S&W
546	Wed 17	Col B v Ky B

Division Five

January

547	Mon 5	WE v Col A
548	Tue 6	Lon v WsK
549	Wed 7	Red A v Ky A
550	Mon 12	Ky B v WE
551	Wed 14	Col A v Lch
552		Red A v Sol B
553	Thu 15	S&W v Lon
554		WsK v Red B
	19-23	Trophy Rd Three
555	Thu 29	Lon v Col A
556		Lch v Ky B

February

557	Mon 2	Ky A v Red B
558	Wed 4	Col B v WE
559		Sol A v Red A
560	Mon 9	Ky B v Lon
561	Wed 11	Col A v Red B
562		Sol C v WE
563	Thu 12	S&W v Sol B
564	Mon 16	Ky A v Lch
565	Wed 18	Red A v Sol C
566	Thu 19	WsK v Sol A
	23-27	Trophy Rd Four
567	Mon 23	WE v Ky A
568	Thu 26	Lch v Col B

March

569	Wed 4	Red A v WsK
570		Sol A v S&W
571		Sol C v Col B
	Tue 10	League Ltng Tnt
572		Lon v Ky A
573	Thu 12	WsK v S&W
574	Mon 16	WE v Lch
575		Ky B v Sol B
576	Wed 18	Col B v Lon
577	Thu 19	S&W v Red A
578		WsK v Sol C
579	Tue 24	Lon v WE
580	Wed 25	Red B v Col B
581		Sol A v Ky B
582		Sol C v Lch
583	Mon 30	Ky A v Col B

April

584	Wed 1	Sol B v WsK
585		Red A v Col A
586	Wed 8	Sol B v Lon
	13-17	Trophy Rd Five
587	Wed 15	Red B v S&W
588		Sol A v Col B
589		Sol C v Ky A
590	Wed 22	Sol B v Col A
591		Red B v Ky B

Minor Division

September

601 Mon 8 WE v Lon
602 Wed 10 Sol A v Sol B
603 Wed 17 Col v Ky
604 Thu 18 SB v Lon
605 Tue 23 Lon v Col
606 Wed 24 Sol B v Ky

October

607 Wed 1 Sol B v SB
608 Mon 6 WE v Sol A
609 Ky v Lon
610 Wed 15 Sol A v SB
611 Wed 22 Sol B v Lon
612 Mon 27 WE v Sol B

November

613 Mon 3 Ky v Sol A
614 Thu 6 SB v Col
615 Wed 12 Sol A v Lon
616 Tue 18 Lon v SB
617 Mon 24 WE v Col

December

618 Mon 1 Ky v WE
619 Wed 3 Col v Sol B
620 Mon 8 WE v SB
621 Mon 22 Ky v Col

January

622 Mon 5 Ky v SB
623 Wed 14 Sol A v Col
624 Wed 21 Sol B v Sol A
625 Mon 26 Ky v Sol B
626 Wed 28 Col v Lon
627 Thu 29 SB v WE

February

628 Thu 5 Lon v Ky
629 Tue 10 Lon v Sol B
630 Wed 11 Col v SB
631 Tue 24 Lon v WE
632 Wed 25 Col v Sol A

March

633 Wed 4 Sol B v WE
Tue 10 League Ltng Tnt
634 Wed 11 Sol A v Ky
635 Col v WE
636 Tue 17 Lon v Sol A
637 Mon 30 WE v Ky

April

638 Wed 8 Sol A v WE
639 Thu 9 SB v Ky
640 Thu 16 SB v Sol B
641 Thu 23 SB v Sol A
642 Wed 29 Sol B v Col

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT CHESS LEAGUE

2026 TEAM LIGHTNING TOURNAMENT

Tuesday 10 March 2026 at Olton Chess Club
Commencing at 7.15pm

Entry Fee: £6 per team

At least 80% of entry fees will be returned in prizes.

Entry forms will be available from www.birminghamchess.org.uk or from the chairman of the Team Lightning Committee.

ORGANIZATION OF EVENTS

1. All players shall be registered in the BDCL for the current season.
2. Teams shall consist of four or five players, four playing in each match.
3. Teams must play in order of strength in all matches.
4. The committee will group entries into sections of between four and eight teams based on average grades of the four strongest players nominated.
5. In each section each team shall play every other team once, colours being decided by reference to the pairing tables displayed in the playing hall.
6. All captains must report to the controller at least 15 minutes before the start of the event.
7. At the end of each match the captain of the team having the white pieces on top board shall complete a result card which shall be signed by both captains and immediately handed to the controller.
8. Teams shall score one point for each game won and half a point for each drawn game. The team with the greatest number of *game* points shall win the section.
9. The Individual prize will go to the player that gives the best performance, decided by the committee.
10. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning Teams of each section and the best Individual performance from *all* of the sections, not each section. The League Lightning Team Trophy will be awarded to the winners of the highest graded section.
11. Tie splitting will be done in the case of teams by the result of the match they played in their section. If still unresolved, then by Board Count in this match. If still unresolved, by elimination of the bottom board in this match. Should it still be unresolved a tie will be declared.

RULES OF PLAY

1. The FIDE Laws of Chess and the ECF Tournament Rules shall be applied in full except where modified below.
2. The time limit shall be ten seconds per move.
3. Each player in turn shall move when the buzzer sounds and neither before nor after.
4. Any player making an illegal move immediately loses the game.
5. Check will be called when checking your opponent. Failure to do so will void your right to claim the game under rule 4.
6. Methods of obtaining a result which imply the existence of a game score (e.g. draw by repetition or 50 move rule) cannot be applied.
7. All games shall be played to a finish unless the controller is satisfied that neither player is attempting to win, when he may declare the game drawn.
8. The controller's decision shall be final.

TEAM PAIRING TABLES FOR AMERICAN OR ALL-PLAY-ALL TOURNAMENTS

5 or 6 teams

Round	Pairings		
1	1-6	2-5	3-4
2	6-4	5-3	1-2
3	2-6	3-1	4-5
4	6-5	1-4	2-3
5	3-6	4-2	5-1

7 or 8 teams

Round	Pairings			
1	1-8	2-7	3-6	4-5
2	8-5	6-4	7-3	1-2
3	2-8	3-1	4-7	5-6
4	8-6	7-5	1-4	2-3
5	3-8	4-2	5-1	6-7
6	8-7	1-6	2-5	3-4
7	4-8	5-3	6-2	7-1

Teams must draw numbers before the tournament starts.

The first number in each pairing gives the team White on top board, and then Black, White, and Black on succeeding boards.

When the number of teams is odd, the highest number in each table represents the bye.

MORRY-WOOD MEMORIAL

To commemorate the lives of two men who played such a large part in chess, both as players and organisers, you are invited to enter the following competitions. Entry is free and open to all members of the BDCL, their families and players in the Junior Chess League. The current value of the awards is (a) £50 for the Best Game; and (b) a choice of £50 cash or free entry to the following season's BDCL rapidplays for the Youth Sponsorship award. In each case there is a trophy to be held for a year and a small keepsake for each winner.

Best Game

Any game played under competition rules at normal time limits, and considered by the player (who must submit the game personally) to be outstanding. The score sheet or a copy thereof to be submitted. Games are not restricted to BDCL competitions.

Youth Sponsorship

Presented to a young player (below the age of 16 at the closing date of the competition) for outstanding achievement(s) in chess. This can be a single event or over a period of time (limited to the current and previous seasons).

Juniors over the age of 11 at the closing date of the competition can also self nominate.

Closing date for entries: 31 March annually

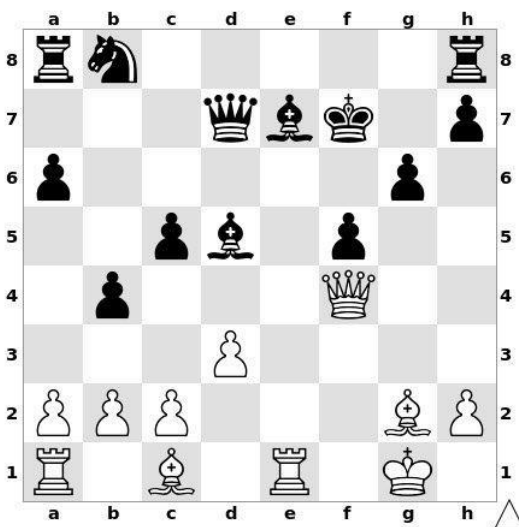
To nominate a young player download an entry form and a copy of the rules from our website at birminghamchess.org.uk.

Or contact Phil Maddocks on 0121 742 1879

Entries for both competitions may be handed to any member of the committee or emailed to Phil Maddocks:
morrywood@birminghamchess.org.uk

Winner of the B.H. Wood “Best Game” Trophy 2025

Sathya Vaidyanathan (South Birmingham)



Position after Black's 20th move

White: Sathya Vaidyanathan

Black: NN

- | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|-------|------|
| 1. | e4 | c5 | 17. | Qf3 | g6 |
| 2. | Nc3 | e6 | 18. | Nxd5 | Ne6 |
| 3. | f4 | a6 | 19. | Nhf4 | Nxf4 |
| 4. | g3 | b5 | 20. | Qxf4 | Bxd5 |
| 5. | Bg2 | Bb7 | 21. | Rxe7+ | Kxe7 |
| 6. | Nh3 | Nf6 | 22. | Qe5+ | Qe6 |
| 7. | d3 | d5 | 23. | Qg7+ | Qf7 |
| 8. | e5 | Nfd7 | 24. | Bg5+ | Kd6 |
| 9. | O-O | b4 | 25. | Bf4+ | Kd7 |
| 10. | Ne2 | Be7 | 26. | Qxh8 | Bxg2 |
| 11. | f5 | exf5 | 27. | Kxg2 | Kc6 |
| 12. | e6 | fxe6 | 28. | Qc8+ | Kb5 |
| 13. | Nef4 | Nf8 | 29. | Bxb8 | Qd5+ |
| 14. | Re1 | Kf7 | 30. | Kf2 | Ra7 |
| 15. | g4 | Qd7 | 31. | a4+ | 1-0 |
| 16. | gxf5 | exf5 | | | |

ROLL OF HONOUR

AJ Mackenzie

Member of founding Committee 1897

JW Wilder

Secretary 1903-1915

HW Clark

Joint Secretary 1914-1945

WH Dry

Joint Secretary 1919-1949

BH Wood

Records Secretary 1951-1961

HK Bailey

Match Committee 1951-1963

I Boodson

Treasurer 1953-1965

WG Powell

Match Committee 1963-1973

HW Stanley

General Secretary 1953-1975

AE Utton

Treasurer 1968-1983

JA Nurcombe

Tournament Committee 1950-1987

L Arculus

Records Secretary 1980-1987

WR Morry

Rules Committee 1977-1988

JH Baines

Rules & Match Committees 1972-1989

JB Jones

Rules Committee 1951-1972;
Grading Committee 1982-1990

DR Thomas

General Secretary 1987-2003

JA Crump

Finance & General Purpose Committee
1969-2005

D Rowe

General Secretary 1981-87, 2003-5,
2007-8

MJ Rees

Webmaster 1999 -2011

KG Humphreys

Assistant General Secretary 1993-2012

KJ Langston

Treasurer 1983-2015