

Junior Committee report 2025

Tim Walker and Mike Swanwick

Local and Leagues

We had over twenty juniors playing in the Nottinghamshire league last season, all the way from Division 1 through to the continuing Minor League.

As well as gaining experience juniors are excelling in the league. They contributed to West Nottingham winning the Minor League on points difference, and West Bridgford winning Division 4 by nearly as tight a margin, and Gambit winning Division 3 (also on points difference).

We would like to thank all the NPSCA helpers for all the work done coaching and running teams, and all coaches and helpers for teaching in schools, and running junior clubs - teaching chess to the players of tomorrow.

Junior teams

The Nottinghamshire Under-11 team made the National final of the EPSCA counties team tournament. The national championship was won by and the Midlands championship won by Oxfordshire.

The Nottinghamshire JC and Ed Jones of NPSCA were involved organising and selecting a big Under-16 Midlands team to play Wales in January in Shropshire. 12 Nottinghamshire players were involved of the return standard play matches, helping the combined Midlands team win a competitive match 25-16. A successful event, and a return match is planned for November.

Benji Humphreys, Senith Gunarathne, Robin Sykes and Joshua Phoah all scored 100% in their games.

We have a long term aim to organise a team pentagonal (or more) for the Under-18 team in 2025-26, to follow up the Under-18 2024 event in Nottingham when players from four counties participated. League players from neighbouring counties ... please remind your junior organisers! :)

We have a big event coming up in the Midlands for juniors to look forward to next month with the

The National Youth Junior finals on July 11th-13th returns to Nottingham with 5 rounds of top competition in various age sections, and inter-round coaching included from a string of titled

coaches. We have around 20 juniors playing in the Finals, in sections from Under-20 down to Under-8. (We have the oldest player in the overall tournament).

Thanks to the NCF (and Chess and Bridge) for their support with this junior event.

A few individual event highlights:

Senith Gunarathne has qualified for the British Championship next month in Liverpool, by scoring 3.5/5 at the Nottingham Congress, so winning the Midlands place. We wish him well and best of luck in the event.

Last season, Eldars Gulijevs (of Nottinghamshire (west Nottingham club)) won the National Youth Under-14's with 4.5/5, with Elis Dicen (Warwickshire), Daniel Pitts (Nottinghamshire (Newark club)) and Amanthika Anbalagan (Lincolnshire) equal 2nd.

In the combined Under-16 section of National Youth hosted at Nottingham 2024, Sebastian Griffin-Young (West Nottingham) finished equal 3rd. The highest placed Midlands under-18 was fifteen year old Furkan Bahtiyar (West Bridgford) in 5th. 40 played in the combined Under-20, Under-18 and Under-16 section.

Some more planned team events for 2025-26 :

Enter a team tournament- Nottingham Under-18's and Under 11's/12's.

Junior team matches for all age groups against other adjacent Unions or within the British Isles; (see also the England Midlands v Wales match above).

Tim Walker and Mike Swanwick