

NCA: REPORTS TO THE AGM 7 JULY 2026: PART 2

Junior Committee (Tim Walker, Mike Swanwick, Chris Spolton)

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. 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 again made the National final of the EPSCA counties team tournament. The national championship was won by Kent. For the first time in a few years, we revived a U1450 team in the Midlands County championship. In January the predominantly Junior team won the Midlands U1450 Championship by beating Staffordshire. Dylan Griffiths, Shaheer Khorrurum and Samyuktha Vijaendra (the reigning Under-12 girls National Youth champion at the time of writing) all won their games, with Brian Ng drawing on debut. A big thanks to Neil Graham for organising the venue and being captain across all of the County teams this season – a giant task.

Full results: https://www.mccu.org.uk/cm25-26/u1450_notts_staffs24jan26.htm

The Nottinghamshire Junior Committee and Ed Jones of NPSCA were again involved organising and managing a big Under-16 Midlands team to play Wales in November in Shropshire. On a cold and rainy afternoon (outside), 12 Nottinghamshire players were involved of the return standard play matches, helping the combined Midlands team win both the Under-16 and Under-12 sections. Wales sent a strong team pulled from all corners of the country so the players had to be at their best and well done to all the them. A successful event, and a return match is planned for November.

We will enter an Under-18 team into the Midlands Under-18 Teams jamboree later this year, to follow up our narrow victory in the Under-18 2024 event in Nottingham when players from four counties participated. At the moment the host county and venue is to be confirmed. 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 3rd -5th 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 defending champions in two of these age sections. The sections from Under-20 down to Under-8. Thanks to the Nottinghamshire chess Foundation for their support with this junior event.

Lithuanian Chess Challenge: Members of Radcliffe & Bingham CC organised the second annual event at a school in Bingham in May. A team of young Lithuanians hailing from an RBCC member's former school visited for the weekend and took part in an informal Rapidplay Swiss tournament. They competed against teams from several schools and clubs in the South-East area of the county. Individual medals were awarded for best performance in each age group and the team trophy was awarded to Carnarvon School, Bingham, with best individual performance by Harry Stanley (7/7).

44 players from 7 teams took part. Notts Chess Foundation provided financial support.

We continued to produce the **Nottinghamshire Junior Newsletter** – the latest edition is available over email and on the website, and through this link (if works in this document!) –

<https://us16.campaign-archive.com/?u=0b20c04204943302a227a7c3a&id=d40f338642>

A few individual event highlights:

- Senith Gunarathne played the tough British Championship in Liverpool, scoring 2.5 and finishing above 3 FMs.
- Benjamin Humphreys was Champion of National Youth Under-14 section hosted at Nottingham in mid-July 2025.
- Samyuktha Vijayendra won the National Youth Girls Under-12 section.
- Adam Amirthanarhan & Harry Stanley qualified for and attended the EPSCA England trials in Liverpool, both narrowly missing out on selection for the England squad

MCCU Report (John Swain)

As representatives, we are in an unusual position in that the MCCU AGM usually precedes the NCA's, but not this year. Last year's MCCU AGM was held just over a week before the NCA's AGM, but the meeting in Derby was inquorate, with seven attending from four counties, including ourselves, when a minimum of eight from five counties was required. The intention was to hold a further online meeting in the autumn to ratify (or not) decisions taken but sadly the acting CEO and Finance Director Paul Sharratt passed away. Stephen Woodhouse, formerly of West Bridgford CC and now living in Worcestershire and non-executive ECF Chairman has stepped forward as acting CEO and Alex Nicholls is acting Finance Director. The 2026 AGM is to be held via Zoom on 11 July, when things should become clearer.

Paul Sharratt and now Stephen Woodhouse have been in prolonged discussions with Santander about the MCCU's bank account which has been frozen since the tragic death of Finance Director Andrew Leadbetter in September 2022. It seems that progress is being made.

One of the problems with having a frozen bank account is that the MCCU has been unable to provide financial assistance for its nominated person playing in the British Championship. In 2025, this place was awarded to Senith Gunarathne (West Notts) as the highest-placed candidate in the Nottingham Congress Open; the Nottinghamshire Chess Foundation paid his £225 entry fee. This year, the place was determined by discussion amongst the MCCU Directors who asked each county to suggest a candidate, if appropriate. The place without financial assistance was awarded to Joe Friar (Worcs).

The MCCU has continued to publicise events via its website, run by Ray Collett, and organise county matches (Stephen Smithson in charge). Junior activities have been managed by Tim Walker as Director for Junior Development.