

Chess Strategy

v04.2

AIMS:

1. *To make Nottinghamshire one of the best places to play Chess in the UK.*
2. *To provide one of the most forward thinking and vibrant Chess environments in the UK.*
3. *To promote the county, so that people will recognise Nottinghamshire as a good place to play chess and want to come to Nottingham/Nottinghamshire and play Chess.*
4. *To develop Chess throughout the area covered by the Nottinghamshire Chess Association,*
5. *To develop a vibrant Junior/Schools chess environment .*
6. *To be professional in everything we do.*
7. *To promote and facilitate online chess as and when beneficial.*

OBJECTIVES:

To encourage, support and assist activities that will:

Local players and clubs

- Significantly increase the number of:
 - active players;
 - teams and clubs;
 - female and junior players.
- Provide training/development weekends for players of all levels.
- Promote strong(er) schools, college and university involvement.
- Help develop strong(er) players.
- Increase the number of players in the UK top 100 (currently grade 213 and above; 176 for seniors; 160 U18's; 116 for U13's).
- Increase the number of:
 - ECF trainers/coaches;
 - FIDE trainers/ FIDE senior trainers;
 - ECF and FIDE international Arbiters
 - ECF and FIDE international organisers
- Provide regular 1-2-1 coaching sessions by a very strong player.
- Increase the strength of county chess, so that we reach an open semi-final or minor final.
- Improve the chess playing environment / equipment for clubs and county teams.

Local Junior and School Chess

- Training and support of junior chess:
 - offer coaching / structured coaching for children aged 11+
 - offer group weekend coaching
 - support development or expansion of a Nottingham and District Junior club;
 - support juniors in all local clubs;
 - provide training sessions in local venues such as libraries or leisure centres;
 - enable juniors to attend ECF training days;
 - develop a junior chess 'summer school'.

- Promoting and encouraging chess in primary and secondary schools:
 - increase the number of school children who play and enjoy chess;
 - support the development of school chess clubs
 - promote and advocate it as a part of the school curriculum

 - assisting with equipment purchases;
 - holding annual or biannual school chess days;
 - encourage schools to take part in local and national tournaments e.g. Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge, Local and Nationals schools championships (ECF one) etc.

- Beyond schools :
 - enhance national success for junior teams and young individuals;
 - Supporting a Nottingham Junior standard/rapid play tournament;
 - encourage a competitive individual and team environment e.g. develop local junior league;
 - perform a baseline study / maintain a register of chess played in local school;
 - encourage improved links between schools and clubs.

Local Chess Events

- Enhance a major Congress every year. Especially proposals that could:
 - develop a different and more attractive formula to other circuit chess congresses, with best players wanting to play, but with opportunities for players of all strengths;
 - encourage more local players to participate in their own congress;
 - strengthen all sections.
- Bring important national and international chess events to Nottingham on a regular basis, especially the British Chess championships in 2036.
- Bring junior and disabled tournaments to Nottingham.
- Establish a prestigious single or regular annual:
 - simultaneous with a UK GM or similar;
 - coaching event to improve local players.

Outreach

- Robert mentions "NCA employment of a part-time 'Development Officer', to promote the game in Nottinghamshire"
- Ensure wider external profile, including, but not limited to:
 - local media articles;
 - high quality web sites for NCA and affiliated clubs (e.g. on Facebook);
 - high quality leaflets and other publicity material;
- Raise awareness, by means of individual events – e.g. World Chess Day, popular simul's etc.
- Improve public presence/profile, by providing chess playing equipment, in non-chess environments such as chess café initiatives.
- Have an academic study, on the 'Educational benefits of chess'. Preferably based in Nottinghamshire and/or involving Nottinghamshire chess.

Appendices :

- 1) It is advised that trustees work through a priority list of these initiatives.

2) Under local chess events, the congress and any other major events could be further enhanced by adding some of the following:

- Relaying of the top boards in real time to a viewing room (Electronic relaying is best);
- Commentary room by a strong player;
- As part of the above commentary, chess/move quizzes with prizes
- Chess puzzles, lectures during the congress. (could possibly make it/them a mini-chess-festival)
- Other chess related breakout room - off to top of our heads- films, mini-exhibition, etc. This could also be a Friday or Saturday evening where it didn't interfere with the schedule.
- Other diversions - reading room, table football , mini-table-tennis, games.