

Secretary's Report, 2020-21

The corona virus continued to prevent over the board (otb) chess for the entire 2020-21 season. Some clubs appeared to shut down completely whilst others were particularly active online, taking advantage of the powerful and user-friendly platforms offering free chess on demand. Whilst online chess opponents are easy to find at blitz rates of play, slow play games – typically 45 mins + 15 secs per player – are perhaps best provided within a competition. New online members joined our clubs although it remains to be seen whether they will stay for otb chess.

EACU Online Club Championship

Enfield, Hertford, Watford Juniors and Watford entered teams in this graded competition which ran from December 2020 to January 2021. The ECF League Management System (LMS) supported the pairing, results etc, whilst the games were played on lichess.org. The results follow below.

OPEN

Linton Elephants	10
Broadland	6.5
Hertford	6.5
Linton Lemmings	6
Milton Keynes	5
Wymondham	2 (2 matches)
Norwich Dons	0 (1 match)

U1600

Hertford	8
Watford Juniors	7.5
Linton Lorikeets	6
Watford	4.5
St Neots	4

U1800

Norwich Dons	7.5 **
St John's, Norwich	7.5
St Neots	7.5
Watford	7
Linton Limpets	6.5 **
Enfield	5.5
Milton Keynes	5.5
New England A	5
Saxmundham	5
New England B	3

U1400

Broadland Swallowtails	8.5
Hertford	6.5
Enfield	6
Broadland Harriers	5.5
Milton Keynes	5.5
Linton Ostriches	5
Watford Juniors	5

4NCL Online

After its success last season, two more graded competitions were held with more clubs and players participating. The results can be found on the 4NCL website but special mention to:

Season 2

Enfield 1 finished 12th out of 68 teams in division 6

Hertford 1 won division 4

Season 3

Hertford 1 were group runners up in division 3

Hertford 2 were group runners up in division 6

Herts Chess Online

Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell, with support from Alan Brewis, organised 3 of these 'friendly' events, each held over 6 rounds. They proved popular and successful with about 80 players taking part.

Alan Brewis – August 2021