

**Lancashire Chess Association – Bulletin 7 – 28/6/2025 – LCA Clubs Championship – new date 14 September**

Hi Everyone. Welcome to the latest LCA Bulletin.

**Last week I reviewed progress on entries for the LCA club championships with Carl. We have had few entries and several teams have said the date is not good due to summer holidays and clash with another event etc.**

**My intention on moving it from September to July was to give us more preparation time for getting team line ups for county chess although we are in a much better place than we were last year given our current e-mail contact lists. Given all this we have decided to revert to September and the new date will be Sunday 14 September. Thanks again to Gordon Glover for sorting this out.**

The clubs who have currently paid their subscriptions for 2024/2025 are (in no particular order) – Burnley, Lytham, Rochdale, Clitheroe, Heywood, Leyland, Bare Village, Preston, Lancaster, Crusaders (Blackburn), Rossendale, Morecambe, Great Harwood and Poulton. There is a new club in Garstang and we are waiving their fee for the current season so they are also eligible for the club championships. All of these clubs are eligible to enter teams. Individuals not in such teams are welcome to join together to form a team and enter provided they will either be playing for Lancashire next season or not playing for a different county.

Apart from the change of date all the arrangements for the LCA championships remain the same. I will put out the form again nearer the time for team details but I have left the original material, amended with the new date, at the bottom of this bulletin.

I attended a zoom call with Alex at the ECF and they are looking at having an individual championship in the autumn of 2026 comprising the best players in each county. This is still work in progress. If it happens we will need to decide the selection process for our best player. It is possible they will put some money towards it.

**Because of the postponement of the club championships we need to work before the LCA club championships on getting team members and captains for County matches next season. I will be working with Richard Smith, our acting Secretary and U1650 captain on this. We will be in touch separately. In the meantime here are my initial thoughts:**

- **We should once again aim for teams in the U1650 and U2050 sections – we will need a new team captain for the U2050 section. The alternative would be an U1850 team but that would only give higher players one match a year – see next paragraph**
- **We should consider entering a team into the Open section. This is a one day jamboree so little effort involved and maybe the new U2050 captain could take it on. Many will be the same players but it is not good that our previous set up excluded over 2050s from playing chess at county level for Lancashire.**
- **We should consider entering an under 1450 team which would mainly draw on our advanced group of Lancashire juniors, Cleveleys Junior Chess Club and other club juniors who are U1450. Maybe one of our junior organisers could captain that one.**

If you fancy a team captain role do contact me.

**Nigel Short simultaneous match – Lancaster – 21 June**

This event was a great success. Nigel played 25 people at once. Although mainly local players, we had many from across Lancashire too including some of the advanced group of our juniors. Many brought along Nigel's latest book "Winning" which he signed for them and we had good local media coverage. Nigel won 23 and drew three. The two draws were against Om Reddy Jayar (the current Lancashire Junior Champion) and myself. We used duplicate score sheets to record the games and those that could be deciphered can be found on Britbase via the following link - <https://www.saund.co.uk/britbase/pgn/202506shortsimul-viewer.html>

### **Upcoming events**

#### **Third Lancaster Standard Play Congress 15-17 August**

It will take place at The Storey in central Lancaster and has a much bigger prize fund than usual - £2,600 plus, thanks to some additional last minute sponsorship, three diversity prizes of £50 each for best score by a female player, an over 65 year old player, and an under 16 year old player. This brings the total to £2,750. There are four sections – Open, Major, Intermediate and Minor. Maximum capacity 120 entrants. The whole congress is ECF and FIDE rated. Here is the direct link to the website - <https://lancasterchessclub.co.uk/congress/20250815.html>

#### **17th Leyland Standard Play Congress 23-25 August**

6 rounds. Three sections. All ECF rated and the Open and Major are FIDE rated. Venue is South Ribble Borough Council Civic Centre. Here is the direct link to the website –

<https://congress.org.uk/congress/501/home>

#### **Lancashire Clubs Rapid Play Competition and Lancashire individual Champion – Sunday 14 September 2025 - ECF rated**

**Entry Fee - £20 per team - £250 in prizes – please bring your £20 for each team in cash so we can distribute prizes.**

#### **Venue and parking**

The competition will take place at St Paul's Working Men's Club, 104 Montague Street, Blackburn, BB2 1EE. Free parking spaces are available at the venue but in very limited numbers. If that car park is full drive through it and you will reach the College car park through two bollards. The cost is £4 per day – card only. Alternatively there is 90 minutes free parking on ALDI car park and also limited all day free parking on the side road on the left of ALDI. The venue is 15 minutes walk from the rail station or taxis are available.

A massive thank you to Gordon Glover and the Crusaders Chess club for hosting this competition again. In case of problems on the day Gordon can be contacted on 0770 7516321 and the venue number is 01254 53325.

No sandwiches will be provided so please bring your own packed lunch. The bar does sell pies.

I have moved the championship back from August as this gives us more time to consider which teams we enter for county chess next season and recruit captains.

#### **How it will work**

We have space for 20 teams or 22 at a squeeze ie up to 88 players absolute maximum.

Each team shall comprise 4 members. Every club which has paid their 24/25 LCA subscription fee may enter one or two teams subject to not exceeding 22 teams. Any excess funding will be used for LCA purposes.

There will be five rapid play rounds with 20 mins plus ten second increments each. As there will be no arbiter there will be no time penalties.

The pairings for the championship will operate on an individual and not a team basis in one section using a standard Swiss system which Carl Tillotson will manage. If possible, he will try to avoid players from the same club playing against each other. Scores per game will be as normal. No byes. July original rapid play ratings will be used unless they are P ratings in which case standard play ratings will apply. Any that are unclear will be decided by me. In the case of team members who do not have an ECF rating screenshots of chess.com and/or lichess will be taken into account.

The Lancashire individual champion will be the player with the highest score. If anyone knows where the cup for this is please let me know. Tie Splits for the individual championship will be by: -

- 1) Direct encounter
- 2) Sum of opponents scores
- 3) Play-off with 5 minutes + 5 seconds per move

**All team members must be up to date members of the ECF and the games will be ECF rated.** The schedule for the day will be as follows:

- Opening of competition and set up – 10 am.
- Round 1 – 10.30 and start of clocks – 10 minutes default – no re-pairings.
- Round 2 – 11.50
- Round 3 – 1.20 pm
- Round 4 – 3.00 pm
- Round 5 – 4.20 pm
- Close and presentation of cash prizes – latest 6 pm. Pack up and leave. Those who wish to stay on at the bar for a chat etc are of course welcome to do so.

### **How to enter**

Please complete the entry form below to enter the competition and send it to me [richardsami@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:richardsami@hotmail.co.uk) . I have also attached a word version of the entry form which some clubs may find easier to fill in etc. Some clubs have already indicated they will be entering. Details of individuals will be used to communicate between them and the LCA on County matches and LCA activity in general. The form also includes space for players who will not be playing in this event but wish to be considered for county chess to be included. Those completing the forms will let individuals listed on it know that data will be used in this way and not shared with any third parties. All comms from me about LCA will be bcc as now but individual team captains may vary from this to ensure each team knows which players are

playing in any given match etc. **Last date for entries – Tuesday 9 September. On Wednesday 10 September I will contact clubs to confirm teams which will be playing.**

**Prizes**

There will be 7 prizes:

- The club championship chess board to be held for one year – highest score by any team in the championship.
- Lancashire individual champion - £50
- Open - 1650 and over winners – cash prizes for teams with an aggregate rating 6,600 or over:
  - First - £50
  - Second - £30
  - Third - £20
- The 1649 and under winners – cash prizes for teams with an aggregate rating of 6,599 or under:
  - First - £50
  - Second - £30
  - Third - £20

In the event of a significant difference between the numbers of teams in each prize winning group we may alter the aggregate grading limit in the interests of fairness. Prize money will be subject to entries.

**Entry form – you can either use this or you can send me a word version whichever is easier for you. If I cannot find a player on the ECF grading database I will be in touch.**

Club	Team 1 details	
Name	E mail address	County chess – yes/no
Club	Team 2 details	County chess – yes/no

County chess players not in team		
Name	e-mail address	

Richard Walsh

28 June 2025

LCA President