

A Brief History of Knights United Chess Club

Knights United Chess Club was formed towards the end of 2007 with the primary objective of enabling junior players (under 18) to enjoy playing and learning about the game. The club also welcomes adult members providing that they are prepared to pitch in to encourage and help the youngsters. The early motivation for the club came from Dave Gaston, aided and abetted by Stave Fanning, and the first meeting held on 21st November 2007 attracted junior players from different parts of Lancashire.

Club meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. at the clubhouse of Old Blackburnians Football Club, Lammack Road, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 8LA. Coaching is provided by Dave Gaston, Lancashire's Chief Junior Coach, assisted by Steve Fanning and Colin Greenwood.

Although no formal record has been retained of those who attended the club's first meeting, the following junior players were regulars during the club's early months: Sikander Ali, Alex Derbyshire, Matthew Fanning, Joe Greenwood, Rachel Greenwood, Chris Grimshaw, Dayna Grimshaw, Lothian Innes, Joe Longbottom, Zaan Malik, Aidan McCormack, Aaron Mitchell, Michael Mitchell, Lauren Petrie, Nathan Redman, Adam Tempest, Bethan Tempest, Joe Wood.

During the remaining months of the 2007 chess season an inaugural club championship was held. This was run as a single Swiss tournament but the players were organised in three sections for the award of prizes. The winners were Lothian Innes ('A' Section), Joe Wood ('B' Section) and Rachel Greenwood ('C' Section).

The club's first Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 2nd July 2008 and during this meeting the club's constitution was formally adopted. The first elected officers of the club became Steve Fanning (Chairman), Dave Gaston (Secretary), Yasmeen Akhtar (Treasurer) and Colin Greenwood (Records Officer). Immediately after this AGM the Internet domain name www.knights-united.org.uk was purchased and Knights United had a presence on the Web.