

LISBURN CHESS CLUB



Reregistered Charity No NIC 108811

Lisburn Chess Club annual and public benefit trustees report.

To July 2025

The purpose of the charity

Lisburn Chess Club shall promote the game of chess as an Amateur Sport in the Lisburn area and further afield.

The Club shall endeavour to improve the skill of individual members in particular and the Club in general.

The Club will provide an atmosphere of friendly play.

Discussion "over the board" is to be encouraged (except during tournaments). This will create an atmosphere of friendship and comradery. This club will endeavour to become a focal point in the community for all ages.

The Club shall engage with the community and join in appropriate community events.

The Club shall provide teaching/instruction in a suitable format, as necessary, and as often as possible.

Playing chess has well documented mental and cognitive benefits to both older players and young people who have concentration, behavioural, and learning issues. The club will encourage attendance by this group for the benefit of all concerned.

Activities carried out during the year to fulfil the purpose of the Charity.

The club became a charity to facilitate the opening and maintenance of the club rooms this is one of the main way we are able to fulfil our mission statement above.

The business rates on the club rooms were quoted as £6,500, and as a charity we are now rates exempt.

We are now open 4 times a week –

Tuesday, 6:30pm – 8:30pm beginners and teaching,

We have about 20 young people on Tuesday nights.

Wednesday, 1:pm – 4:00pm casual games.

We have 8-15 older members who take advantage of the earlier time on Wednesdays they are joined by regular shift workers and students, the teenagers who are becoming very keen also call in when the schools are off.

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Thursday, 7.15pm – end.

This is our main tournament practice night, this would be our more serious night, there are fewer kids and longer time formats. *(It must be noted, that if we are open, we are open to anyone who wants to call in for a casual game regardless of what the weekly timetable says).*

We can have 15-20 people on Thursday nights.

Saturday, 10.30 – 13.30 Casual games.

This is our main club day and busiest, having a full house of 30-40 people.

Activities

We have held small club tournaments *(these are usually short time format and popular with the children)* and done a lot of teaching, we bought a number of the teaching exercise books that we intend to use to keep coaching consistent.

We again hosted the Ulster Masters in November which was a huge success.

We again entered a team in the Belfast and District League.

This is a team event running from October to April, with home and away games.

There are two divisions 1&2 we had team in division 2.

We used some grant money and club fee to support a team that entered the 4NCL (4 NATION CHESS LEAGUE), this time hosted by English Chess in Peterborough, we performed far better than expected as we expected high level players from England, Scotland and Wales

I must mention here that we need to recognise the effort of the team captains who sent a lot of free time looking after the teams, making sure that all the players young and older were at the respective venues on time.

We also had 3 international master one of these a Woman's International Master doing coaching session via zoom. We had some of the kids who were away on holiday joining via their phones, so they did not miss out.

We went to the Mayor's show again in Lisburn to promote the game. Setting up a stand with sets, this was very popular despite the awful weather, this is the second time we have attended and are always asked back by the council organisers.

We also met in Lisburn city centre on World Chess Day 20th July, to advertise our activities, and promote the game, (20 July World Chess Day is the foundation of FIDE annually, our world governing body).

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There have been no instances where there has been harm flowing from our activities

There have been no instances of private benefit from our activities, other than professional services, such as international coaching via zoom.

TRUSTEES STATEMENT

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide benefit to the beneficiaries.

MARTIN JOHNSTON

TRUSTEE / SECRETARY

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NEIL GARDNER

TRUSTEE / DIRECTOR

A black ink signature of Neil Gardner, written over a dotted line.

STEVEN EACHUS

TRUSTEE

A black ink signature of Steven Eachus, written over a dotted line.