# BCET Awards 2018

**Goldstone Primary School.**

Goldstone School is a large 600-pupil primary school in Hove. The teaching of chess as a curriculum subject is now in its fifth year and the culture of chess at the school goes from strength to strength. Chess is taught to all Year 4 pupils at Goldstone and the after-school chess club is the most popular club at the school. It has been consistently over-subscribed in the last few years as more children are exposed to the game. Chess sets are also available to children to use at lunch or during wet breaks.

As a former Maths Specialist, Goldstone Head teacher Chris Pearson recognises both the social value and the cross-curricular benefits of chess: “The children have really taken to chess and the work our great chess teacher is doing. We can clearly see deep thinking in action in the lessons, club and when they are playing on line. We are very positive about having chess in our school and will continue with it for as long as possible.”

The UKCC tournament at the school saw a record 42 entrants this year and school chess teacher Andrew Wallace has been coaching a small group of promising players in preparation for the Sussex Megafinal in May.

The chess club, which is free to children, attracts a good mix of both boys and girls and at the Southern Area Gigafinal last year, one Year 4 Goldstone girl scored 3/6; no mean feat considering she had only learned to play in the school programme a few months earlier.

The children’s learning has been supplemented this year by the provision of a number of free subscriptions to the Chesskid website. These Gold Memberships, provided by Chess in Schools and Communities, have permitted the keenest pupils to complete literally thousands of chess puzzles and play live games out of school hours. It also enables their coach to track their progress and set specific tasks. It is hoped this will pay dividends in upcoming competition.

**Twickenham Preparatory School in Twickenham.**

Twickenham Preparatory School (TPS) has held lunchtime and after school clubs with GM Daniel King and FM Peter Sowray for twenty years or more, since David Malam, himself a strong club player, became deputy headmaster and then headmaster. The club has had a regular attendance of from twenty to forty keen and often strong young players from six to fourteen years of age.

TPS has regularly hosted numerous English Primary Schools Chess Association (EPSCA) events, both in the primary schools championship and in the Inter-association (county) championship. It has also hosted perhaps a score of London Junior Chess Championship qualification events over those two decades, alongside a number of International Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS) championship events and ECF Schools championship events.

The school encourages participation in Mindsports as part of its Thinking Skills curriculum,

and has won the National Mind Lab Olympics and has represented England in the

International Mind Lab Olympics returning with a team gold, a team silver and a team bronze from five attempts.

Grandmaster Daniel King writes:

When it came to David's attention that several pupils at the school had already made

a name for themselves in junior chess, he decided to capitalise on their success and

started a chess club at TPS around 1999. He had always been a keen chess-player, but with pressures of work and family, hadn't played for several years. The first year that the school entered the EPSCA championship, they came third.

After setting up the school chess club he decided to recruit a coach, and brought in

Julian Hodgson who was there for a couple of years. When Julian decided to move on, he recommended me. In January 2002 I started coaching a beginners' group, and

running an after-school chess club for older pupils. I am now in my sixteenth year at

TPS. There is a second after-school chess club for older pupils that is run by Peter

Sowray attesting to the popularity of the game in the school. David Malam also holds

occasional coaching sessions himself in the morning (before school starts) for

promising players, bringing in parents to help out.

The school has won numerous national titles and also competed internationally. A

team has twice competed in the 'Alsterufer' tournament in Hamburg - the largest

schools' tournament in the world taking place on a single day.

As the founder of the school chess club, and subsequently after his promotion to

headteacher, David Malam has been instrumental in promoting chess at TPS and

creating a positive environment for pupils to enjoy the game.

David Malam as headmaster of TPS has also supported Richmond Junior Chess Club with good advice and encouragement, as well as providing a small financial contribution when the club was at a low ebb. Furthermore a school minibus has made available on numerous occasions to support Richmond Juniors.

**King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford**

KEGS has a regular Chess Club on Tuesday lunchtimes. The first half of lunchtime is for younger players who participate in tournaments. They look at a game or some problems and tactics with a teacher or senior player. The second half is for playing, and all are welcome.

In the National Schools Chess Championships KEGS has entered two teams – both qualifying through the Eton Rapidplay tournament in September. KEGS has reached the final of the NSCC in 2016, 2017 and 2018, coming 5th in 2016 – a remarkable performance since we had qualified through the Eton Repechage.

KEGS has hosted a regional event the Team Chess Challenge and will host a similar event and the Junior Team Chess Challenge in November 2018.

There are currently 21 graded players at KEGS – up from just five in 2016 – and an impressive nine of them have ‘A’ ratings. Ratings range from 217 (ECF 3rd ranked U17 player) down to 55; KEGS has the full spectrum of talent and interest.

Friendly tournaments have been arranged with other schools in East Anglia, where players can be matched evenly. A home and away fixture against Woodbridge looks like a regular event for the future, and others are planned with Norwich and Forest.

25 players in 2017-18 have had the opportunity to play for their school in competitive games.

Robin Slade, a local chess coach and Old Chelmsfordian, provides KEGS with a tie in to a local club, and several players attend the Chelmsford Junior Chess Club and the adult club as well. A sixth former volunteers at the junior club assisting with coaching, and another is returning to his former primary school to give a simultaneous exhibition. The link to local junior chess has proven fruitful and staff have spoken to parents about chess before the boys arrive at the school, particularly with early events in September.

Two current players have represented England and have won national junior championships.

The Northumbria Junior CA, acting on behalf of the Northumberland CA, would like to propose that the **Forest Hall Junior Chess Club** should receive the BCET Schools Award this Year.

I cannot really write anything about the club without referring to Mike Smith whose brain child it has been from the start. Mike was a schoolteacher in Cramlington, Northumberland, where he established Killingworth chess Club and taught the game to many young chessplayers, among them the well known FM, Charlie Storey. He left the teaching profession to start his own business but very soon started up the Forest Hall Chess Club in an unused upstairs room at the Ex-Servicemens Club at Forest Hall in Newcastle. He then started the Junior Club to meet every Friday evening between 5.30 and 7.00pm, when the adult club took over. Over the years this has become a major influence in Junior chess in Northumberland.

At present the club has a thriving group of some 40 youngsters of all ages from about 4 to 18. The club offers a strong coaching element for beginners and as well as Mike, himself, FM Tim Wall, his father, John Wall, snr, and his son, John Wall, jnr, togerther with NJCA Chairman, Martin Seeber make a strong team of chess coaches. GM Danny Gormally, a member of the adult club, also gives a hand from time to time.

As the children improve, they graduate to the adult club and currently Forest Hall runs 7 teams in the Northumberland Chess League. Almost all these teams feature a strong junior element and three of the teams are juniors only. One of their juniors, Yichen Han is a prodigy – 9 years old and with grade 182 and rapidly approaching 200 – already playing succesfully in adult Open tournaments. Now aged 14, Zheming Zhang, has won the NCCU Junior Championship more than once. Forest Hall hosts many weekend events, among them the 2015 NCCU Under-16 Pennine Cup. This was last won by Northumberland and their team of 10 players included 7 from Forest Hall.

Though it is not strictly a school, we have noted that several other junior chess clubs and organisations have received the BCET schools awards in recent years and we feel they would be very deserving recipients of the award this time.