



Skerries Chess Club

Cumann Fichille na Sceirí



www.skerrieschess.com

Yearbook for 2015/16 Season

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- 22) Election of officers:
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Apologies

Paschal O'Shea (in USA), Mark Allidine (away).

Minutes of 2015

Will be read.

Matters Arising

AOB items noted for discussion at the end

Chair/Secretary's/Membership Officer's/PRO's Report – John Loughran

Progress since Foundation

Now near the end of our 4th season. Founded on 2/10/2012. Now we have 3 teams in the Leinster leagues.

Membership and Attendance

Gráinne Ryan took over as the membership officer. 44 fully paid up members (+1 compared to 2014/15).

13 Adults (+1) and 31 juniors (no change) including 3 girls (-1) and 27 boys (no change).

Higher turnover of members – 18 new members replaced those leaving this season (10 last season).

Average attendance on Tuesday nights is 24 (-7) – down from last year but still good.

Team Competitions – (will read full reports later)

First team (captain John Loughran) were Runners Up in Div. 4 (O'Hanlon Cup) of Leinster Leagues and will be promoted to Div. 3 (Ennis Shield) next season. This team was promoted from Div. 5 two seasons ago and from Div. 6 the season before but missed out on promotion by one place last year.

Second team (captain Enda Joyce) came 4th in Div. 7A (O'Sullivan Cup), missing out on play-offs.

Third team (captain Dermot Murphy) composed mainly of juniors, came 8th in Div. 7B (O'Sullivan Cup).

Killane Shield 2015. We lost both matches against Bray/Greystones and Blanchardstown.

Novices league – May 2015. 3 teams did well.

Mick Germaine Cup – Oct 2014. 1 team did well.

Community Games – In summer 2015 U16s came second in Leinster finals. In 2016 U16s came 3rd behind Foxrock and Malahide. U13s came 2nd of 4.

Last year we came 1st in U16 and 2nd in U13. In 2014 we came 2nd in U16 and U12. In 2013 we came 3rd in both.

Novices league – may be played in May.

Knockout cups to be played on June 11th & 12th, 4 games over 2 days in ALSAA.

Participation in national tournaments

John Loughran played in Malahide Senior (May '15, 1.5/6 points, -6 ICU rating), Drogheda (June, 2.5/6, +6), Killane Shield (0/2, -12), City of Dublin (2.5/6, +2), O'Hanlon (10/11, +36 est.), Kilkenny (Nov, 2.5/6, +5), Elm Mount (Jan '16, 1/5. -37).

Tadeusz, Paschal (?)

No juniors competed in external tournaments e.g. Leinster or Irish Championships.

ICU Rating gains (incl. most of leagues etc., top few): Enda Joyce +30, Tadeusz Szczeńiak +9.

Provisional ICU rating gains: points, Cathal Joyce +67, Alan Joyce +33, Nikolai Dimitrov +28.

Attendance

We will note the attendance so notices, yearbooks, certificates and prizes can be relayed to those not present.

Calendar of Events for 2015/16 Season - and Team Results

Tuesday		What else is For	Fixtures & Results, See also leinsterchess.com
Date	Event	Day Date who?	R Div 4 O'Hanlon Cup Div 4 Div 7A Div 7B Div 7A O'Sullivan Cup Score Score Score Div 7B O'Sullivan Cup Sk-Op Sk-Op Sk-Op
25-Aug	Committee meeting		
01-Sep	Opens for new season, Friendlies, Coaching for Adults		
08-Sep	Aut Seag R1, Masterclass, Op R1	fss 11-13 Sep	City of Dublin tmt
15-Sep	Aut Seag R2, Open R2 7:30 pm.	20-Sep Junior	Leinster Schools Leagues begin
22-Sep	Aut Seag R3. Home Match	Tu 22-Sep Div 4	1 Skerries1-Celbridge 5 - 1
29-Sep	Seag R4, Open R3		
06-Oct	Seag R5, Open R4	Tu 06-Oct Div7A	1 SkerriesA-Gonzaga 1 - 4
		Sa 10-Oct Div7B	1 SkerriesB-KilkennyB Postponed until 24/10/15
		Mo 12-Oct Div 4	2 Elm Mount-Skerries1 3 - 3
13-Oct	Seag R6, Masterclass	fss 16-18 Oct Junior	LCU Junior Weekend Team Tmt
20-Oct	Seagulls R7 & Open R5	Tu 20-Oct Div7A	2 SkerriesA have a bye bye
		Tu 20-Oct Div7B	2 NaomhBarrógB-SkerriesB 0 - 5
		Sa 24-Oct Div7B	1 SkerriesB-KilkennyB 0 - 5
27-Oct	Mid-term, Masterclass, friendlies		
		Sa 31-Oct Div 4	3 Skerries1-Gorey 1 - 5
03-Nov	Comm Games & Turkey tmt		
10-Nov	Turk tmt	Tu 10-Nov Div7A	3 SkerriesA-St.Benildus 4 - 1
		Tu 10-Nov Div7B	3 SkerriesB-Rathmines 0 - 5
		Mo 16-Nov Div 4	4 Royal Lopez-Skerries1 4½-1½
17-Nov	Comm Games & Turk tmt		
24-Nov	Comm Games & Turk tmt		
		W 25-Nov Div7A	4 Bray/Greyst.-SkerriesA 2½-2½
		fss 27-29 Nov	Kilkenny Congress
01-Dec	Comm Games	Tu 01-Dec Div 4	5 Skerries1-St.Benildus 5 - 1
		Sa 05-Dec Div7B	4 Gorey - SkerriesB 0 - 5 Def
08-Dec	Comm Games & Turk tmt		
		Sa 12-Dec Junior	Mick Germaine Cup (U16s) Drumcondra
15-Dec	Comm Games & Turk tmt		
22-Dec	CLOSED to cook Turkey!		
29-Dec	CLOSED	1-6 Jan Junior	Leinster Junior Chs see http://www.icu.ie/events
05-Jan	2016 Endgame tmt. begins		
		Sa 09-Jan Div7A	5 SkerriesA-KilkennyA 1 - 4
12-Jan	Endgame tmt. O:R1,2 D&S:R1	Tu 12-Jan Div7B	5 SkerriesB-Malahide 0 - 5
		We 13-Jan Div 4	6 BrayGrey-Skerries1 5½-½
19-Jan	Endgame tmt.		
		Sa 23-Jan Div7A	6 Ballinasloe-SkerriesA 4 - 1
26-Jan	Endgame tmt.		
02-Feb	Endgame tmt.		
		We 03-Feb Div7A	7 Blanchardst.-SkerriesA 3½-1½
		Sa 06-Feb Div 4	7 Skerries1-Drogheda 3 - 3
		Sa 06-Feb Div7B	6 Curragh - SkerriesB 0 - 5 Def
09-Feb	Club Champs R1		
16-Feb	(Mid-term) CC Adjournments	Tu 16-Feb Div7B	7 Dublin-SkerriesB 1 - 4
		fss 19-21 Feb	Bunratty Festival
23-Feb	Club Champs R2		
		Sa 27-Feb Div 4	8 Gonzaga-Skerries1 1 - 5
01-Mar	Club Champs R3		
08-Mar	CC Adjournments	Tu 08-Mar Div 4	9 Skerries1-Inchicore 5 - 1
15-Mar	Club Champs R4		
		Junior	Comm Games Dublin Finals Jobstown around now
22-Mar	(Easter) CC Adjournments		
		fss 27-29 Mar	Cork Congress around now
29-Mar	(Easter) CC Adjournments		
		Mo 04-Apr Div 4	10 AerLingus-Skerries1 3½-2½
05-Apr	Club Champs R5, final round	FS Junior	Irish Junior Champs around now, see icu.ie
12-Apr	Club Champs R5, final round		
		Su 17-Apr Div 4	11 B'sloe-Skerries1(in Dublin) 6 - 0
19-Apr	CC Adjournments/Swap chess games		Promoted!
26-Apr	Annual General Meeting	Apr KOC	Knockout cups begin around now
		ssm 30/4-2/5 All	Malahide Mill. & Leinster Ch.
03-May	Swap chess tmt R1&2		

Tournament Controller's Report - Internal tmt's - Alan O'Kelly, John Loughran

Autumn Selection Tournament 2015

Sept. – Oct 2015. Held to select teams based on ratings after the tournament.

Autumn Open 2015

1st: Dan Aldridge 4.5/5
 = 2nd - 4th: John Loughran, Fred Harte, Joe Dunne 3.5
 Grading Prizes (U 1300)
 1st: Nikolai Dimitrov 3
 = 2nd - 3rd: Enda, Joyce, Paschal O`Shea 2

Autumn Seagulls 2015

1st: Fionn Reid-Kelly 5.5/7
 = 2nd - 3rd: Tiernan Ryan, Sam Zomer 5
 Grading Prizes (U 700)
 = 1st - 2nd: Eoin O`Kelly, Owen Johnston 3.5
 3rd: Finn Woodlock 3

Turkey 14

Oct – Dec 2015. 1st John Loughran 5/5
 =2nd-3rd Fred Harte 3.5
 =2nd-3rd Paschal O`Shea 3.5
 Grading Prize (U1200) Mark Allidine 3, Nikolai Dimitrov 2

Skerries Community Games 2015/16

Oct – Dec 2015. Concurrent with Turkey 15. To select teams to represent Skerries in Dublin finals. Teams finally selected on ratings from those available are listed below in Team Reports.

Skerries Community Games - U16				Skerries Community Games - U13					
Place	Name	Rating	Pts	Age	Place	Name	Rating	Pts	Age
1st	Fionn Reid-Kelly	905	6	U16	1st	Éanna Keogan u13	605	4	U13
2nd	Tiernan Ryan	906	4	U16	2nd	Sam Zomer u13	685	3	U13
3rd	Alan Joyce	1118	3	U16	3rd	Karl Johnston u13	0	3	U13
	Daniel Stefan	1052	3	U16		Moses O Brien u13	645	2.5	U13
	Alexander Unguryan	985	3	U16		Eoin O'Kelly u13	640	2	U13
	Owen Johnston	681	3	U16		Charlie Dunne u13	255	2	U13
	Ryan Stauntan	636	3	U16		Tadhg McCaughey u13	0	1	U13
	Finn Woodlock	630	3	U16		Ben Hogan u13	385	0	U13
	Joseph McSweeney	0	0	U16					
Also played in tournament but not from Skerries									
						Eoghan McArdle (Don)	0 *	2	Donabate
						Luke Doyle (Lusk)	683 *	2	Lusk

Endgame Tournament Spring 2015

Players played through six endgame positions both as black and as white, to improve our technique.

Endgame Tmt. Spring 2016 - Open

Place	Name	Rating	Score
1st	Dan Aldridge	2050 *	4.5/6
2nd	Marco Mancosu	1166 *	3.5
=3rd	John Loughran	1652 *	3
=3rd	Fred Harte	1606 *	3

Endgame Tmt. Spring 2016 - Dolphins

Place	Name	Rating	Score
1st	Fionn Reid-Kelly	949 *	3.5/4
=2nd	Dermot Murphy	995 *	2.5
=2nd	Tiernan Ryan	905 *	2.5

Endgame Tmt. Spring 2016 - Seagulls

Place	Name	Rating	Score
1st	Luke Doyle	677 *	3.5/4
2nd	Sam Zomer	672 *	3
=3rd	Owen Johnston	692 *	2.5
=3rd	Ryan Stauntan	636 *	2.5

Club championships – see below in Prize Giving

Team Reports: First Team: Leinster League Division 4, the O'Hanlon Cup

Our first team finished second behind Gonzaga, winning promotion to Div. 3, the Ennis Shield next season. In 2014/15 we came fourth in Div. 6. 2013/14 promoted from Div 5. 2012/13 promoted from Div. 6.

Div 4 O'Hanlon Cup 2015 - 2016

	MP	GW	GD	GL	Def	Pts
1 Gonzaga	11	47	12	7	0	53
2 Skerries	11	37	11	18	0	42 ½
3 Gorey	11	31	18	17	0	40
4 Ballinasloe	11	24	15	27	0	31 ½
5 Drogheda	11	19	23	24	0	30 ½
6 St Benildus	11	22	16	28	0	30
7 Inchicore	11	24	12	30	0	30
8 Royal Lopez	11	20	18	28	0	29
9 Elm Mount	11	24	12	30	1	29
10 Bray / Greystones	11	19	18	29	0	28
11 Aer Lingus	11	14	26	26	0	27
12 Celbridge	11	17	15	34	0	24 ½

Board order was generally
 1. Dan,
 2. John (captain),
 3. Fred,
 4. Joe,
 5. Tadeusz or Paschal,
 6. Nikolai, Enda or Brendan.

John was our top scorer on 10/11 winning a board prize from the LCU and SCC.

Board	Player	Code	Rating	Won	Drew	Lost	Score
1	Aldridge, Dan	17653	1830	6	2	0	7 / 8
2	Loughran, John	795	1718	9	2	0	10 / 11
3	Harte, Fred	552	1539	6	2	3	7 / 11
4	Dunne, Joseph	381	1483	5	2	4	6 / 11
5	Szczeńiak, Tadeusz	13453	1393	4	1	0	4½ / 5
6	O'Shea, Paschal	13386	1158	2	0	6	2 / 8
7	Dimitrov, Nikolai	17485	1035	3	0	2	3 / 5
8	Joyce, Enda	13405	937	0	2	2	1 / 4
9	Morrissey, Brendan	13448	1175	1	0	1	1 / 2
10	Stefan, Daniel	13475	731	1	0	0	1 / 1

Again this season we used our second team players as subs no more than three times so they could continue to play on the 2nd team to keep it strong but we eventually played Paschal more often when it was clear the second team would not win promotion.

Skerries					
Round	Opposition	Date	Venue	Result	Score
1	Celbridge	Tue 22 Sep 15	Home	Won	5 - 1
2	Elm Mount	Mon 12 Oct 15	Away	Drew	3 - 3
3	Gorey	Sat 31 Oct 15	Home	Lost	1 - 5
4	Royal Lopez	Mon 16 Nov 15	Away	Won	4 ½ - 1 ½
5	St Benildus	Tue 01 Dec 15	Home	Won	5 - 1
6	Bray / Greystones	Wed 13 Jan 16	Away	Won	5 ½ - ½
7	Drogheda	Sat 06 Feb 16	Home	Drew	3 - 3
8	Gonzaga	Sat 27 Feb 16	Away	Lost	1 - 5
9	Inchicore	Tue 08 Mar 16	Home	Won	5 - 1
10	Aer Lingus	Mon 04 Apr 16	Away	Won	3 ½ - 2 ½
11	Ballinasloe	Sun 17 Apr 16	Away	Won	6 - 0

In spite of this strategy our subs added sufficiently to our total to gain promotion, though we were generally outrated on the lower boards. A big addition was Dan who moved to live in Skerries last summer, and Tadeusz who made a late comeback.

Team Reports: Second Team: Leinster League Div 7A, O'Sullivan Cup

Our second team finished fourth in Div. 7A this season, failing to make the play-offs. Last season they narrowly missed out on promotion by coming fourth in the play-offs. Maybe next year we will get lucky!

Div 7 O'Sullivan Cup Group A 2015 - 2016

Team	MP	GW	GD	GL	Reg	Pts
1 Kilkenny A	6	21	3	6	0	22 ½
2 Bray / Greystones	6	19	5	6	0	21 ½
3 Gonzaga	6	18	3	9	0	19 ½
4 Skerries A	6	15	2	13	0	16
5 St Benildus	6	11	2	17	0	12
6 Blanchardstown	6	8	2	20	9	0
7 Ballinasloe	6	4	1	25	4½	0

Despite losing Enda and Paschal to the first team Our second team was weakened by the loss of Gordon Roe and Alessio Roselli who moved away. While the juniors on the team did improve overall the team was weaker and Paschal and Enda were forced up the board order.

Skerries A						
Player	Code	Rating	Won	Drew	Lost	Score
1 Dimitrov, Nikolai	17485	1035	3	0	3	3 / 6
2 Joyce, Alan	13499	725	1	0	1	1 / 2
3 Joyce, Cathal	13493	527	4	0	1	4 / 5
4 Joyce, Enda	13405	937	2	2	2	3 / 6
5 O'Shea, Paschal	13386	1158	3	0	1	3 / 4
6 Stefan, Daniel	13475	731	2	0	4	2 / 6

Skerries A						
Round	Opposition	Date	Venue	Result	Score	Wov
1	Gonzaga	Tue 06 Oct 15	Home	Lost	1 - 4	
2	Bye					
3	St Benildus	Tue 10 Nov 15	Home	Won	4 - 1	
4	Bray / Greystones	Wed 25 Nov 15	Away	Drew	2 ½ - 2 ½	
5	Kilkenny A	Sat 09 Jan 16	Home	Lost	1 - 4	
6	Ballinasloe	Sat 23 Jan 16	Away	Won	4 - 1	
7	Blanchardstown	Wed 03 Feb 16	Away	Won	3 ½ - 1 ½	1

Board order was usually 1. Paschal, 2. Nikolai, 3. Enda (captain), 4. Daniel 5. Cathal or Alan.

Cathal was our top scorer on 4/5 winning a SCC board prize.

With a panel of only six players for a team of five it is a tribute to the players, especially the younger ones that they fielded a full team except for the last match when promotion was beyond reach. They only lost Paschal to the first team after this point.

Team Reports: Third Team: Leinster League Div 7B, O'Sullivan Cup

Our third team struggled again this season in Div. 7 (O'Sullivan Cup) section 7B, with a similar team to last season of one adult, the captain Dermot Murphy and four junior players. Nevertheless great experience was gained which should prove useful next season.

Div 7 O'Sullivan Cup Group B 2015 - 2016

Team	MP	GW	GD	GL	Pts
1 Rathmines	7	25	2	8	26
2 Malahide	7	23	4	8	25
3 Kilkenny B	7	19	4	12	21
4 Curragh	7	16	2	17	17
5 Naomh Barróg	7	15	3	17	16 ½
6 Gorey	7	13	6	16	16
7 Dublin	7	13	5	17	15 ½
8 Skerries B	7	1	0	34	1

Captain (and driver) Dermot Murphy did a great job in organising his team and maintaining motivation, while taking on the strongest opponents on board 1, and recovering from a broken leg. Board order was usually:

1. Dermot (captain),
2. Fionn,
3. Mark,
4. Owen,
5. Luke,

Ryan (sub).

Skerries B						
Player	Code	Rating	Won	Drew	Lost	Score
1 Allidine, Mark	17456	686	0	0	5	0 / 5
2 Corneille, Ryan	17473	332	0	0	2	0 / 2
3 Doyle, Luke	13529	459	0	0	5	0 / 5
4 Johnston, Owen	17685	0	1	0	3	1 / 4
5 Murphy, Dermot	13528	602	0	0	3	0 / 3
6 Reid-Kelly, Fionn	17472	520	0	0	4	0 / 4

Skerries B						
Round	Opposition	Date	Venue	Result	Score	Wov
1	Kilkenny B	Sat 10 Oct 15	Home	Lost	0 - 5	1
2	Naomh Barróg	Tue 20 Oct 15	Away	Lost	0 - 5	1
3	Rathmines	Tue 10 Nov 15	Home	Lost	0 - 5	
4	Gorey	Sat 05 Dec 15	Away	Lost	0 - 5	5
5	Malahide	Tue 12 Jan 16	Home	Lost	0 - 5	
6	Curragh	Sat 06 Feb 16	Away	Lost	0 - 5	5
7	Dublin	Tue 16 Feb 16	Home	Lost	1 - 4	

Owen Johnston won a Skerries board prize as top scorer.

We failed to play two of our matches due to the difficulty of fielding a team from such a small panel of players and the distances involved. Petrol money which we collected initially for these long trips was returned when it was not needed. Katherine Reid acted as captain until Dermot recovered and helped out after that also. The juniors on this team are improving rapidly as shown by the rating prizes below.

Team Reports: Knockout Cups: Killane Shield, summer 2015

We submitted a team of 6 for the Killane Shield which is open to all players who played in Division 3 and below of the Leinster leagues and to beginners. We lost two matches against Bray/Greystones and Blanchardstown and thus failed to qualify for the knockout phase.

We could not field a team in the National Club Championships as the average rating of those available was not over 1450. Maybe next year. Blanchardstown were doing well.

Junior Officer's Report – Enda Joyce and Clodagh Zomer

Community Games

Last year, after the AGM, the Skerries under-16 team came second in the Leinster Finals of the Community Games 2015, narrowly losing out 2 - 3 in their second match against Wexford who became Leinster champions and who played in the All-Ireland finals in August. Wexford had one player who is on the Irish national team. Skerries had beaten Longford 4½ - 1½ earlier that day, the 4th July 2015. The team were Alan Joyce (½/2), Daniel Stefan (1/2), Cathal Joyce (2/2), Mark Allidine (1/0) and Fionn Reid-Kelly (2/2) with sub Owen Johnston, exactly the same team that had won the Dublin finals. See Teams > Community Games for article and picture. They got walkovers against Wicklow in round 1 of the Leinster qualifiers and against Kildare in round 2. The team did well to get this far and were a little unlucky not to go the whole way. Great credit is due to the team and their bainisteoir Enda Joyce. Ballinasloe won the all-Ireland finals.

The 2016 Dublin Community Games Finals took place in Malahide on March 13th. We were able to enter a team into both the under 16s and the 13s, thanks to Enda Joyce, Junior Officer who organised the teams.

It was a long afternoon with matches allocated an hour each. Mostly our players were finished before this time and the players were able to socialise and rest. Most spent their break time playing more chess – sharpening up their sparring skills no doubt.

The under 16s team comprised Alan Joyce (½/2), Daniel Stefan (1/2), Cathal Joyce (0/2), Fionn Reid-Kelly (0/2) and Tiernan Ryan (0/2). They lost 1 – 4 to Malahide and ½ - 4½ to Foxrock. They performed very well against very tough competition, coming third. A round of applause for the team please....

The under 13s was made up of Éanna Keogan, Sam Zomer, Eoin O’Kelly, Moses O’Brien, Charlie Dunne and Eoghan McArdle and another(?). Again, they placed exceedingly well against Portmarnock, Iona and Malahide, coming second and returning home with silver medals. Round of applause.

The U13s drew 2½ – 2½ with Iona, lost 0 – 5 to Malahide and beat Portmarnock 3 – 2. Individual scores out of three matches, in approximate board order were Éanna (0), Eoin (1), Sam (1), Moses (2, board prize), Charlie (0.5 and 1 as sub), Tadgh (0) and Eoghan (0 and 2 as sub).

Other Junior Competitions

Novices /. One day in May 2015 in ALSAA with football at lunchtime. 3½ teams. O’Connell Cup (U900) 1st team came third. Cathal Joyce, Daniel Stefan, Alan Joyce, Mark Allidine. U700 Phillip Hogarty: 2nd team did well too: Alexander, Tiernan, Fionn and Sam (board prize) . 3rd team: Aliseo, Luke Doyle, Eoin O’Kelly and Gianmarco. Aliseo Mancosu, Moses and Reuben O’Brien formed a 4th team with players from other clubs.

Mick Germaine Cup – one day tournament in Oct 2015 for junior teams. One team of 4 finished mid table as they had to leave early: Luke Doyle (not Fionn Reid-Kelly), Alexander Unguryan, Tiernan Ryan, Ryan Corneille.

We did not enter the ChessZ Leinster finals this year.

Coaching Officer's Report – Clodagh Zomer

Coaching remains a regular feature of the chess club. It takes various forms – straight one on one coaching, where moves and alternatives are discussed as the game progresses or group coaching where several observers will all suggest good moves, better moves and counter moves.

We have also made great use of the services of FIDE Chess Master David Fitzsimons once again this year. He has spent three sessions with juniors and adults this year.

Coaching is optional and sometimes ad hoc but we encourage all to avail of coaching opportunities and when offered to take it up wherever possible. Coaching generally takes place first thing at 7 o'clock on a Tuesday night before matches are played.

Thanks are due to all the adult members who provide coaching to juniors. Thanks also to higher ranking juniors who, at times, play gentle matches with juniors giving them strategic advice on the go.

John Loughran was officially presented with the FIDE Instructor title and certificate in Kilkenny in November 2015 having completed a coaching seminar in Bunratty in February 2015 run by FIDE, the world chess federation.

Rating Officer's Report – Fred Harte

Ratings are updated after each club night, and the results put up on the website - www.skerrieschess.com. Winners will see their ratings rise while losers ...well, they'll have to try harder the next time. Your rating tells you how good you are. If it is still low, but increasing steadily, then you are on the right track, and chess will become more interesting for you. To help you to improve I can think of nothing better than to try to solve chess tactics puzzles. I attempt about 15 of these every day on the website www.365chess.com. The site is free although you will be limited in the number of puzzles that you can do each day. For about €10 you can do as many puzzles as you like for a year, plus other interesting options too. The site will give you a puzzle rating which you will find you always want to beat. The difficulty of puzzles range from extremely easy to very tricky, at least for me. For somebody fairly new to chess, an eye for tactics is more important than knowledge of opening systems. Only when your rating approaches the 1500 level will you need to develop an eye for opening patterns too. It is not necessary to train for chess through a website; a book will do just as well. But, do remember to do it somehow; nothing will bring you on quicker. And then when you play a game, make sure to think and play as hard as you can, and watch your rating go up. Thanks again to all volunteers who mark down the results of games, without which there would be no ratings at all.

Skerries and ICU ratings and predictions – John Loughran

Skerries ratings are updated weekly so are essentially “Live”. The following rating list shows a complete list of members in various age groups. Ratings in bold are established while those in regular font or italics are provisional, based on a small number of games and thus unreliable. The gain columns show how these ratings have changed since last April.

A system called Age Performance Ratio devised by Kevin O'Connell FM can be used to predict the rating young players may achieve aged 20, provided they continue to play chess seriously, compete in external tournaments, write down their moves, analyse games afterwards and do some chess study. In the table I have presented the top few predicted ratings among juniors in the club which suggests that if these juniors and many more not shown follow this advice they should be competing for places on the first team before long. We need to encourage all juniors to annotate and analyse games and compete in more ICU rated events.

Ratings: Skerries Ratings, Irish Chess Union Ratings and Some Predictions

Age Group	Player name	Live Rating	Gain since	Top Predicted Ratings	ICU Rating	Gain since
	MEMBERS	20th Apr	Apr-15	at age 20	Mar-16	May-15
	Dan Aldridge	2046			1805	
	Pat Hogan	1780			1792	-1
	John Loughran	1663	0		1722	2
	Tadeusz Szcześniak	1621	4		1402	9
	Fred Harte	1611	20		1523	-33
	Joe Dunne	1460	-40		1439	-63
	Enda Joyce	1273	-5		940	30
	Paschal O'Shea	1217	-10		1157	-1
	Nikolai Dimitrov	1171	63		1063	28
	Marco Mancosu	1171	12			
	Brendan Morrissey	1128	-13		1178	3
U15	Alan Joyce	1110	-25	1470	758	33
U17	Cathal Joyce	1049	-6	1329	594	67
U16	Daniel Stefan	1043	-16	1323	730	-1
U14	Alexander Unguryan	968	-20	1408		
	Dermot Murphy	961	-26		617	15
U15	Fionn Reid-Kelly	950	91	1390	514	-6
U14	Tiernan Ryan	913	6	1353		
U17	Mark Allidine	894	40		584	-102
U17	Ryan Corneille	865	41		337	5
	Alan O'Kelly	756				
U11	Aliseo Mancosu	742	3	1442		
U11	Éanna Keogan	704		1404		
U15	Owen Johnston	690	-4		719	
U14	Luke Doyle	672	-22		417	-42
U12	Eoin O'Kelly	663	28	1263		
U14	Ryan Staunton	651	12			
U12	Moses O'Brien	639	-4	1239		
U10	Sam Zomer	638	2	1538		
U15	Finn Woodlock	630	9			
U10	Lorcan Kelly	592		1392		
U8	Orla Kelly	571		1571		
U10	Tadhg McCaughey	511		1311		
U8	Eoghan McArdle	428		1428		
U10	Ruben O'Brien	423	15	1323		
U8	Conor Ferguson	419				
U11	Daniel O'Kelly	400	-65			
U9	Luke Murphy Walsh	400				
U12	Ben Hogan	400				
U12	Charlie Dunne	400				
U9	Jamie Staunton	400				
U7	Eimear Kelly	400				
U9	Bláithín Aldridge	400				
U10	Shane Clinton	500				

Notices: John Loughran

Knockout Cups – We will enter a team of 6 in Killane (all)/ Willie Brennan (U1500 ICU only) if someone will organise and captain the team. Weekender this year on Sat 11th – Sun 12th June, 4 games. Who would like to play?

No news of the Novices league / O'Connell Cup (ICU rating below 900) / Philip Hogarty Rising Stars (rating below 700) yet. Held in May last year.

Malahide Millennium Tmt./Leinster Championships – Sat 30th April – Mon 2nd May – ALSAA – Prizes total €3000 – Entry fee €35 (€25 for U18s) if paid by 27/4/14 – 2 games per day – 90 mins + 30 secs/move – 3 sections (Senior over 1800 ICU rating, Intermediate between 1400 and 1800, Junior U1400). John will play.

Drogheda Congress – Sat 4th – Mon 6th June – Boyne Valley Hotel – Prize fund €2000+ – Entry €40 before Mon. 30th May – 2 games per day – 90 mins + 30 secs/move – 3 sections (Section A over 1600 ICU rating, Sec B between 1100 and 1600, Sec C U1100). John, Tadeusz & Paschal(?) will play.

See www.icu.ie then click on Calendar to see the calendar of all upcoming events in Ireland. Or on our website www.skerrieschess.com click on Links > ICU then Calendar.

Club will run until 12th July, break for August (sets available), resume on 6th Sept. Committee meet 30th August. See upcoming events in Tournament and News > Calendar on website, current version reprinted below. The calendar also summarises the results of all league games.

We are planning a few fun events for the next few weeks starting with Swop chess next week. We hope to have a handicap tournament and an outdoor “Sprint Chess” challenge where the clock is placed 10 metres from the board.

Q: How many members would like us to order hoodies (about €15) for Skerries Chess Club which members could wear to team events etc.?

Q: Giant chess set? Premises to keep it in with key? Site? Notice on skerriesca.com?

Webmaster's report: John Loughran

www.skerrieschess.com was set up in November 2012 with over 29 000 visits to date (7 000 last year). Hosting costs less than €30 annually. The tournament controllers John Loughran and Alan O'Kelly uploaded the pairings and results for each tournament weekly. The ratings officer Fred Harte now updates the ratings on the website weekly, usually within a day or two. These live ratings have preceded the same thing implemented by the ICU! We also have a facebook page: f.skerrieschess updated mainly by Paula O'Neill though others may post too. Anyone else interested?

Parent's Representative Report – Paula O'Neill

The Junior section of the club is going from strength to strength with 31 junior members. They are very active and turn up week in week out. Special attendance recognition to the following members who have been present for 20 or more weeks since Sept 1st (28 weeks ago): Eoin O'Kelly, Charlie Dunne, Sam Zomer, Fionn Reid-Kelly, Éanna Keogan, Luke Doyle, Tiernan Ryan, Owen Johnston, Ryan Staunton, Mark Allidine.

All tournament and friendly games played have been recorded and contribute to each members rating. The more games that are played the better chance of improving skills and ratings. Our aim as a club is to facilitate this and ensure that the junior members gets as much exposure to coaching and game time as

possible. To do this we need the input of parents, firstly in getting the juniors members to turn up on time so that games can start promptly. This is happening and a word of thanks to parents for this. We also need 1-2 parents present every week to assist the junior members in getting games started and recording the results. We would ask that parents volunteer to the parents rota. No chess skills needed – just a willingness to be part of your child’s club and contribute to our kids enjoyment and reward that the chess club can give them.

The chess evenings are very sociable and great friendships have been made between the members. This year all junior members will receive a back pack with the Skerries chess Club logo. We wanted the kids to have something they can use and can show that they are part of a great club and the sense of comraderie and connection that that brings. As parents we can be part of this connection by volunteering on the parents rota. If you can volunteer to turn up even a couple of evenings during the year, it would be appreciated by your child and by the club. As part of the membership form we are asking that each parent can let us know their availability e.g. for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesday of each month, for 3 Tuesdays per year, or not at all.

Treasurer’s Report – Gráinne Ryan

See end of printed copy of yearbook.

Fees

Currently annual membership fees are €60 for adults and €50 for juniors with a flat rate of €10 extra for those wishing to play in the leagues to go towards the ICU fee paid by the club. Second family members get €10 off. Reductions apply for those joining after Christmas (€40 adult, €30 junior) and Easter (€20).

We could reduce fees or: Better prizes (books €15-€30, Hoodies €15), Giant Chess Set, Promote chess, Other ideas?

Teams for next year

We propose again fielding 3 teams in the leagues (adults and juniors), 1 – 2 teams in Mick Germaine Cup (juniors), U16 and U13 teams in Community Games, 1 – 4 teams in Novices/O’Connell Cup (juniors) and 1 team in the Knockout Cups (adults and juniors) after the leagues.

AGM of Leinster Chess Union, Tuesday 14th June 2016

With the club’s approval I will put forward motion to extend the Fischer mode option to all divisions and KO Cups. For example 1 hour and 15 mins plus 30 seconds added on per move instead of 1 h 45 mins for all moves. Two delegates from each club may attend and vote. Approve? Other motions regarding leagues etc? Delegates?

AGM of Irish Chess Union

Held in September. Motions must be submitted 1 month in advance. All may attend. Any motions?

AOB Items can be discussed now

Skerries Chess Team Promoted

(Uncut version of article sent to Skerries News, April 2016)

The Skerries Chess First Team won promotion from division 4 of the Leinster Leagues, the O'Hanlon Cup, on Sunday 17th April 2016 in the ALSAA sports complex. Legend has it that the club was founded in the sixties or seventies and reached the dizzy heights of division 1 before folding in the nineties. In 2012 some former members John Loughran, Fred Harte, Brian Leonard and many new members started the club again in Joe May's on Tuesday nights. We entered a team in the lowest division, then division 6, the Bodley Cup. We got promoted that season to division 5 (the BEA Cup) and the following season to division 4, only a half point ahead of Gorey thanks to Fred wresting a draw from the clutches of defeat after over three hours of play. Last season we gained another former member Joe Dunne who helped us stay in division 4. Our first team was strengthened this year by a new member, a strong player called Dan Aldridge who has moved to Skerries from Warwick. All of the above plus Tadeusz Szczęśniak, Paschal O'Shea, Enda Joyce, Nikolai Dimitrov, Brendan Morrissey and Daniel Stefan made up the six player team including subs, except for Brian.



The Skerries Chess Club first team who won promotion in the 2015/16 season. Standing, L-R: Dan Aldridge (Board 1, Scored 7/8), Enda Joyce (Sub, 1/4), Tadeusz Szczęśniak (5, 4.5/5), Nikolai Dimitrov (Sub, 3/5), Fred Harte (3, 7/11). Sitting, L-R: Joe Dunne (4, 6/11), John Loughran (Captain, 2, 10/11, board prize), Paschal O'Shea (6, 2/8). Not pictured are Brendan Morrissey (6, 1/2) and Daniel Stefan (Sub, 1/1).

Brian however, played an important role on Sunday. He kept an eye on another match where our rivals for promotion, Gorey, were playing Drogheda. Going into the last round we were a half point ahead of them and so needed to get at least as many points as Gorey to secure promotion. Paschal and Tadeusz had two quick wins scoring two points but then Brian told us that Gorey had got one and a half points with a win and a draw. The rest of us really felt the pressure as our games were fairly level and it was difficult to find winning ideas against Ballinasloe's solid defence. Then Joe won and Brian told us that Gorey could still overtake us so the pressure went up a notch. John's game oscillated between winning and losing until he managed to win

a rook for a bishop. When it was clear his pawn was going on to become a queen his opponent resigned. We all celebrated our promotion quietly so as not to disturb Fred and Dan who went on to win in style, giving a final score of 6 – 0 to Skerries, ending two and a half points ahead of Gorey. This promotion meant a lot to us especially as we had been languishing mid-table in January, and did not really think we had a realistic chance of promotion.

Since 2012 the club has gone from strength to strength with two more teams in the new division 7, the O’Sullivan Cup. The second team which includes adults and teenagers came third in the league, missing out on the playoffs for promotion while the second team consisting mainly of juniors struggled but gained valuable experience. Tuesday nights upstairs in Joe May’s are buzzing with an average attendance of 22 including 11 adults. Friendly games, tournaments and coaching ensure an enjoyable, stimulating and welcoming atmosphere for all. See www.skerrieschess.com for more information.

Election of new committee

Thanks to all current members of the committee for their efforts in making this such a vibrant and successful club. We would love to have 2 people for each job if possible, old and new, train in and in case child quits. Current incumbents after posts, number of new or extra people needed in brackets.

- a) Chair – John Loughran, (1)
- b) Secretary – John Loughran, (1)
- c) PR – John Loughran, Paula O’Neill, Clodagh Zomer (1)
- d) Webmasters – John Loughran, Alan O’Kelly, Fred Harte (2)
- e) Membership officer – Grainne Ryan, (1)
- f) Tournament controllers – (Alan O’Kelly stepping down), John Loughran (1-2)
- g) Pairings organiser and score keeper – Clodagh Zomer, (1), and some parents.
- h) Ratings officer – Fred Harte
- i) Prizes officer – Paula O’Neill, (Alan O’Kelly stepping down), (1)
- j) Equipment officer / librarian – ? (1)
- k) Treasurer – Gráinne Ryan
- l) Parent representative – (1), Paula O’Neill
- m) Junior officer – Enda Joyce, Clodagh Zomer(?) (1)
- n) Coaching officer – Clodagh Zomer (1)
- o) Coaches – John, Enda, Paschal, Fred, (also Dermot, Joe, Brendan) (1/2/3)
- p) Club captain – John Loughran (1)
- q) First team captain – John Loughran (1)
- r) Second team captain – Enda Joyce (1)
- s) Third team captain – Dermot Murphy (1)
- t) Cup team captain(s) – John Loughran (1)
- u) Novices team captain(s) – Enda Joyce (1)

Prize Giving Ceremony

	2015/16	Score
Skerries Board Prize		
Div 4 O'Hanlon Cup	John Loughran	10/11
Div 7A O'Sullivan Cup	Cathal Joyce	4/5
Div 7B O'Sullivan Cup	Owen Johnston	1/4
Community Games U16	Daniel Stefan	1/2
Community Games U13	Moses O'Brien	2/3
Leinster Comm. Games U16 2015	Cathal Joyce	2/2
Leinster Comm. Games U16 2015	Fionn Reid-Kelly	2/2
Novices Board Prize	Sam Zomer	
Leinster League	2015/16	
Div 4 O'Hanlon Cup	Brendan Morrissey	Runners Up
Div 4 O'Hanlon Cup	Daniel Stefan	Runners Up
Rating Prize	2015/16	Improvement
1st Adult	Nikolai Dimitrov	+63
2nd Adult	Fred Harte	+20
1st Junior	Fionn Reid-Kelly	+91
2nd Junior	Ryan Corneille	+41
3rd Junior	Mark Allidine	+40

Club Championships

Place	Name	Score		
Skerries Club Championships Section A				
1st	Daniel Aldridge	4.5		
2nd	John Loughran	4		
3rd	Fred Harte	3		
			Senior Cup	Daniel Aldridge
			Junior Boys' Cup	Daniel Stefan
			Junior Girls' Cup	Orla Kelly
Skerries Club Championship Section B				
1st	Nikolai Dimitrov	5		
2nd	Marco Mancosu	4		
3rd	Daniel Stefan	3		
Skerries Club Championship Section C				
1st	Mark Allidine	4		
2nd	Fionn Reid-Kelly	3		
3rd	Tiernan Ryan	2		
Skerries Club Championship Section D				
1st	Eoin O'Kelly	5		
2nd	Éanna Keogan	4		
3rd	Luke Doyle	3		
Skerries Club Championship Section E				
1st	Charlie Dunne	3.5		
2nd	Lorcan Kelly	3.5		
=3rd	Finn Woodlock	3		
=3rd	Jamie Staunton	3		
=3rd	Orla Kelly	3		