



MetroWest Chess Club

Largest Chess Club in New England

Serving Boston's MetroWest Chess Community Since 1983

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Monthly Recap:

Our December event had 43 players which contributes to maintain our average of 45 players per month.

Changes to Sections:

For our January event we have removed the U1400 section to leave us with an Open section and an U1700 section.

As our current average of monthly players is in the mid-forties, we are adjusting our sections to reflect that. If our average rises to the mid-sixties, we will closely watch for the opportunity to add a third section.

Background on how we decide on the number of sections:

When we re-opened the club after 3 years we were unsure what our attendance might be. Prior to closing our attendance had been an average of 60 players over the previous 12 months, significantly less from a few years earlier when we had an

average of 84 players. We could see that Scholastic chess had grown significantly during the past three years during Covid, but being a weeknight chess club, we knew from experience that the number of Scholastic players at our relatively long time control playing on a school night would not see much if any increase above typical levels. As most clubs were just coming out of their own quiet periods, it was hard to see what the trend for Adult players returning to chess would be. We did expect and have seen an increase of new to USCF players attending club, we believe, due to the increase of Online play during that period.

Our rule of thumb, derived from the most recent 30 years of our 40 years of operation is:

- For every 20 players you have regularly attending, you can generally support one section.
 - In the past:
 - When we had 60 + players we had three healthy sections
 - When we had 80 + players we had four healthy sections.

For our first six months we have had seen:

- The U1700 section average 11 players
- The U1400 section average 10 players

The pool of players being so small for these two sections results in the same players facing each other almost every month and provides less variety player strength and openings they will face. It also creates problems in pairings and greater imbalance in side games due to pair-outs. Players tend to play up more to avoid these aspects but then face the prospect of playing much higher rated players.

December Results:

Congratulations to our 1st place finishers in November.

- **Open:** Clear First:
 - Sergey Malinin
- **U1700:** Clear 1st:
 - Dave Martin
- **U1400:** Clear 1st:
 - Marielle Murphy
 - Brett Baker

Registration for our next event is open and play will begin the night of **Wednesday, January 3rd.**

Register early so you won't forget!

News:

Helping parents get their children started in chess:

The club often gets requests from parents on how to get their children started in chess. The questions are usually some variation of the following:

- My child is interested in chess, is your club a good place to get them started?
- My child can now beat me in chess, is the club a good next step?
- How do I get my child started in chess?
- Where can I get lessons for my child?

Our club is best suited for players who are ready to learn and improve from participating in competitive chess. We have no programs geared towards getting youth started and learning the game itself.

While we have several FAQs on the club website regarding playing at the club and a guide for parents of young players playing at the club, we currently do not have any guidelines on the broader topic of how to get started in chess, for either adults or youth. To help fill in this information gap we are now running two informational blocks in our newsletter; namely, the **RSM** (Russian School of Math) and **FMCA** (Future Masters Chess Academy). These can be found at the end of this newsletter.

We provide these informational blocks as a convenience to you should someone ask you, or you wish to advise someone about how to get their young players started in chess. The MACA website, linked from our page footers on our website, provides a comprehensive list of Scholastic tournaments along with regional events open to all USCF players.

Upcoming Regional Tournaments:

12th annual Boston Chess Congress

- January 5-7 or 6-7, 2024
- Hyatt Regency, Boston Harbor, Boston MA.
- 5SS, 40/80, SD/30, d30
- <https://www.chesstour.com/bcc24.htm>

Registering to play:

The **MCC home page** has links to all the things you need to know to start playing at the club. Please read the materials on the home page carefully.

If you forget the link or name of the online registration site, you can find it quickly by clicking the **Register Now** icon on the club home page.

- Remember to rejoin the **USCF** if you have expired
 - Do not leave it to the last minute as there have been multiple reports of **renewal issues** and needing several **days** to resolve them.
- Remember to **join the club before you enter the event** to get the member discount.
 - If you forget, you will only be offered the non-member entry fees.

<https://www.MetroWestChess.org>

Standings and Projected Pairings:

You can follow along each week by looking at the standings and projected pairings on the NACHessHub site.

- Go to [NACHessHub.com](https://www.NACHessHub.com)
- Find the clubs event.
 - The **January** event is named: **MCC - 2024-01**
- Click on the **Pairing** Button to see the standings and projected pairings for each section.

Generally the standings and projected pairings will be posted on the site at the end of the night; If not, check back later the next day.

Byes: How to Request or Change them

Once you are entered in an event you can Request or alter you Bye requests.

- Log into NACHessHub
- Find the event that you need to adjust your Byes for
- Go to the Roster page
- Find your name and click on the link in the Byes column for your name.
 - It will say either "Request" or have the round numbers that you have previously requested Byes for.

[Future Masters](#)



Classes for Youth - at Future Masters Chess Academy

- **Lexington**
- **Ashland**
- **Online**

We offer a Transformative, Educational and Fun approach to Chess.

Future Masters Chess Academy uses chess to promote better decision making in order to help youths become future masters not only on the chessboard, but more importantly in life.

Visit our site at: <https://futurechessmasters.com/programs/>

RSM Chess Classes



Chess Classes - at RSM-MetroWest in

Framingham

2023 - 2024 Chess Classes are now enrolling.

Please visit

<https://metrowestschool.com/chess/> for more information and background of our Master.

Contact us at info@metrowestschool.com for questions and inquiries.

Phone **508-283-1355**
