

Information for Potential New Members of Bristol & Clifton Chess Club



Where we play:

Bristol Bridge Club, 99 Oldfield Road, Hotwells, Bristol BS8 4QQ ([Map](#))

Parking is free around the club after 7pm.

When we play:

We encourage potential new members to come along on Friday evenings from 7pm. Someone from the club will be there to welcome you, show you round, and explain how things work.

Friday nights are reserved for casual and social games. Just come along, play anyone, any length of game, with or without clocks.

Tuesdays are our traditional club nights. From September through to April it is most likely that one of our league teams will be playing a competitive league match – if so, casual games are played in the bar.

Who can play?

We welcome everyone and encourage you to come along to the club and play. We have players of all strengths – from International Masters, through to people learning the game, so you are sure to find fellow players of a similar strength to yourself.

Under 16s – we have plenty of young players in the club, and several of them are competing in the league (see below). Many younger junior players who want to learn the game, start out by joining the Knights of Bristol, [Knights of Bristol Chess Club](#) which offers coaching and games for junior players, and with whom we have a close association.

Membership

We generally suggest that players interested in joining the club come along for up to three “taster sessions”, which are free to attend. After that we would ask you to join the club.

Membership fees for the 2024/25

Fees:

Over 25 year of age - £40 per season.

Under 25 years of age – £15 per season

The season runs from 1st September 2024 through to 31st August 2025.



Competitive chess

You can play casual and social games at the club, as often, and for as long as, you wish – there is no pressure to do anything else.

However if you wish, and once you have played a few social games so we can get a feel for your playing strength (or you may already have a grading for on-line or over the board games) you can also join one of our league teams.

In the 2024/25 season we have eight teams playing in the Bristol & District League. We have two teams playing in Division 1, which has very strong players competing. We have a team competing in Division 3, and two teams in Division 4. In the lower divisions we have a team in Division 5 and two teams in Division 6. Our eight teams include two junior teams, that play in Divisions 4 and 6.

We also play an internal ladder competition where club members can challenge each other to a competitive graded game.

To play in the league and / or the ladder you need to not only join our club, but also the English Chess Federation, as they grade all players competing in these competitions. You will require Bronze membership of the ECF as a minimum [ECF membership and joining rates](#)

More information

Visit our website to find out more about our club: [Bristol & Clifton Chess Club](#)

The Bristol & District Chess League website [Bristol & District Chess League](#) has more information about the league and other clubs in and around Bristol.

