

The New Grading List, July 2010

The new English Chess Federation Grading list was published at the end of July. As usual a large number of NJCA members receive new gradings – the full list can be seen on the ECF website – click on the online grading database.

I find the “top 100” lists among the most interesting, in particular that of the ‘Most improved rapidplay gradings’. No fewer than 20 of our NJCA members feature in the top 100 – this is a new record for us beating the 18 who featured last year. The NJCA must be doing something right!

Here are the new ratings for our top 20 improvers

3. Chidera Obonna 57 (up +52 from January); 6. Peter Wilson 74 (+49); 7. Aaranya Nodiyal 80 (+48); 8. Keshav Krishnan 62 (+48); 10. Hisham Nasser 49 (+47); 22. Akhil Gupta 100 (+37); 23. Owen Bell 41 (+37); 24. Hugo Meecham 122 (+36); 25. Manav Gupta 112 (+36); 29. Darina Andryichenko 49 (+36); 30. Anthony Lai 109 (+34); 42. Christopher Ferrier 57 (+31); 43. Gus Coningham 39 (+31); 47. Omkar Dixit 80 (+30); 66. Hamish Burnett 48 (+27); 68. Adam Clark 146 (+26); 71. Ismail Essa 92 (+26); 81. James Ferrier 74 (+25); 82. Peter Owen 72 (+25); 84. Tabitha Burnett 55 (+25);

Everybody on this list deserves our wholehearted congratulations.

Then we come to the “top 100 lists”, rapidplay, for juniors in a particular age-group. Zheming Zhang is the top Under-9, but Keshav Krishnan (62); Peter Baker (56) and Arif Alam (38) also feature in the U-9 list. Zheming remains top at Under-10, but now William Wilkinson (112), Manav Gupta (112), Anthony Lai (109), Joseph Dalton (86) and Aaranya Nodiyal (80) are also there. Zheming drops to 10th in the U-11 list, but William, Manav and Anthony are still there and we add in Hugo Meecham (122). Zheming, Hugo, William, Manav and Anthony are still there in the U-12 list. Zheming remains in the U-13 and U-14 lists, though he is joined by Adam Clark (146) in the U-14s. Finally in the U-17s Amarvansh Singh Wadhwa (162) appears in the top 100.

However, by this time, we should start looking at the standard play lists, rather than just at rapidplay. Because all of our NJCA events are rapidplay, we have far fewer children graded at standard play. As far as I am aware only five members of Jesmond Pawns have achieved standard play grades this year. They are Amarvansh Singh (age 16; grade 168), Zheming Zhang (age 8; grade 126), Christopher Wilson (age 12, grade 108), Adam Clark (age 13, grade 94) and George Wyatt (age 13, grade 79). It is hoped that more of our youngsters will take part in standard play events, but at present Jesmond Pawns seems to be all there is.