

The English Chess Federation Rapidplay Grades

Every six months the ECF publishes a list of some 15000 players indicating how they have done in the preceding season. The latest list, published at the end of August, contains almost 100 of our NJCA members. In addition to the full list they publish further lists showing the top players in the country in each age-group and also the most improved players

In the list for the top 100 U-9s, Zheming Zhang, still only 7 had the highest grading (114) in the country. Manav Gupta(102) came 8th in the same list. Aidan Byrne (82) was 20th ; William Wilkinson(64) was 45th ;Peter Owen (63) 47th ; Anthony Lai (62) 48th.and Mark Broughton (39) 76th. Zheming, Manav and Aidan did well enough to feature in the Under-10 list as well. Parth Mannikar (82) came 70th and Louis McBride(56) 81st in the top U-10s list. Apart from Zheming and Manav who still featured, Andrew Gatenby (95) and 95th was our sole U-11. We had no under-12s and only George Wyatt (127) at 78th in the U-13 list.

I was quite amazed to find no fewer than 18 of our youngsters featuring among the 100 most improved Rapidplay players in the country. And this includes adult players as well as juniors of all ages. Here is the list of the 18 – ages in brackets and the increase in grade given

Zheming Zhang (7)	40 ;	Manav Gupta (8)	29 ;	Jack Ford (10)	25
James Schofield (13)	37 ;	Tom Aldridge (12)	29 ;	Uche Obonna (12)	24
Peter Owen (8)	37 ;	Aidan Byrne (8)	28 ;	Sophie Gatenby (12)	24
Anthony Lai (8)	34 ;	Benjamin Cull (13)	27 ;	Angus Clarke (10)	24
Tom Cleminson (13)	34 ;	Parth Mannikar (9)	26 ;	Louis McBride (9)	22
Daniel Bell (9)	31 ;	Sukhdeep Singh (10)	26 ;	Nicholas Byrne (11)	22

Follow the link to the ECF and go to 'online grading database' for the full lists.