

Progress your chess



If you want to play chess regularly, you can join a club or simply turn up to the same regular social chess meetup. Indeed, you can play several days each week by visiting different places.

All clubs and meetups offer social chess: games with or without a clock, arranged in advance or with whoever turns up on the day.

Colchester Chess Club and E2-E4 Colchester Chess Club also offer league chess: teams of four representing the club play evening-long games against other clubs in the North Essex Chess League.

Each club or meetup is different in terms cost, location, membership and 'how it all happens'; you can generally visit for free to see if it suits you.

While most clubs/meetups welcome juniors, Colchester Junior Chess Club specialises and has historically been a stepping stone to league chess at Colchester Chess Club. E2-E4 Colchester Chess Club offers both juniors and adults social and league chess opportunities. Meeting during some school holidays, Wivenhoe Family Chess welcomes all new to chess.

The ColCHESster.org.uk website has an up-to-date list at:



<https://colchesster.org.uk/docs-category/clubsmeetups>

Colchester Chess Club



Colchester Chess Club meets on Wednesdays from 7.30 pm at the Belle Vue Social Club, 1 Colne Bank Ave, Colchester CO1 1UU.

The club runs internal competitions and fun nights and has a WhatsApp group for members.

Affiliated to the English Chess Federation, the club has three teams playing in the North Essex Chess League.

After a trial period, members pay an annual fee and must also become members of the Belle Vue Social Club. New members welcome. Contact Clive Bellinger (Club Secretary) on 01206 729 706 or simply turn up.

Website



<https://www.colchesterchess.org/>

Colchester Junior Chess Club



Colchester Junior Chess Club meets in person for 'over the board' games and a lesson from Coach Catabay on Tuesdays from 4.30 to 6.30 pm term-time. There are events and tournaments taking place year-round (including online).

'Simply put, we enjoy helping kids who love to play chess improve whilst having fun.'

New members welcome: under 16, both beginners and more advanced players. Please contact the club first (see website).

Website



<https://www.colchesterjrchess.org/>

E2-E4 Colchester Chess Club



Organised by Jay Rusecki, E2-E4 Colchester Chess Club meets 4.30 to 8.00 pm every Tuesday at the Spiritualist Centre, Fennings Chase, Colchester CO1 2QG.

Chess for everyone – beginner to expert. Fun – team games – coaching. There is a lively WhatsApp group for members.

Affiliated to the English Chess Federation, the club has four teams playing in the North Essex Chess League.

All equipment provided. Small one-off joining fee and suggested minimum donation to venue costs weekly.

There is also a Sunday morning meetup (not just for members) at The Commons at the Minories.

Website



<https://www.e2e4colchester.uk/>

Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558848695128>

Mersea Island Chess Group



Mersea Island Chess Group plays social chess at The Victory, 92 Coast Road, West Mersea, CO5 8LS on Monday evenings (7.00 to 9.00 pm).

The group started in 2024 and is keen to attract more players who enjoy chess in a lively atmosphere. Juniors are most welcome.

Players should bring their own board if possible.

Existing members use WhatsApp to notify eg cancellations if the venue is booked out for an event.

No separate online presence or social media but occasional mentions on the Facebook group: Mersea Locals all things local

Contact organiser Phil by phone or txt: 07886 424 366

The Stanway u3a Chess Group



The Stanway u3a Chess Group meets from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month in the Conference Suite, upstairs in the Village Hall of the Stanway Community Centre, Villa Road, Colchester CO3 0RH.

The u3a movement is a collection of groups that run local and online member-led learning for those not in full time work. In Colchester, there is both a Colchester u3a and a Stanway u3a. Members have access to each other's groups.

Membership fees for u3a are of the order of £12 per annum and each chess session currently costs £2. Before attending this friendly, mixed ability group you must register your interest with the group leader.

Use an enquiry form on the u3a Stanway website



https://stanway.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/chess/

Wivenhoe Chess Club



Wivenhoe Chess Club plays social chess on Monday evenings from 8.00 pm, with typically three or four boards in play. The club has run (in various venues – mainly pubs) for over six years and is currently at The Rose and Crown, The Quay, Wivenhoe, CO7 9BX.

Club members bring their own boards and games tend to be timed – typically 15 to 25 minutes per player. Existing members use WhatsApp to notify eg cancellations. New members welcome; strength from keen beginner upwards.

The club also runs family chess sessions during school holidays.

Contact the club by email:



mailto:wivenhoechess@gmail.com

Wivenhoe Family Chess Club



Family chess sessions at the Wivenhoe Town Council Offices, 77 High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9AB run by members of the Wivenhoe Chess Club.

All ages and abilities welcome, with a particularly warm welcome for juniors and retirement-age players. Please make sure children are joined by a supervising adult.

You are welcome to bring your own drinks and snacks.

Sessions are typically Thursday afternoons in the holidays between school terms and are announced in advance.

See the family club's Facebook page (or the ColCHESSter calendar)



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565689517616>