

Members' Guidance for Online Chess

Setting Up a Free Account on chess.com

If you don't already have an account on chess.com, it is very easy to set one up - and a free account gives you everything you need to play online chess. Go to www.chess.com, and click on the "Sign Up" button on the left-hand side. You will then need to choose a username for yourself (we suggest a username which makes it easy for other club members to recognise that it is you), your email address, choose a password (make sure it is memorable!), and indicate your playing level (most Newton Abbot players are probably "Intermediate" or "Advanced"). It's as easy as that!

Joining Newton Abbot Chess online

When you have your username, let Paul Brooks (pauljbrooks13@gmail.com) know that you have joined chess.com. He will then issue a chess.com invitation for you to join the online 'Newton Abbot Chess' (we are called 'Newton Abbot Chess' because there is already a dormant Newton Abbot Chess Club on the chess.com site set up many years ago). When you receive this invitation, you should of course accept it.

Once you have become a member of the online Newton Abbot Chess club, from the chess.com menu on the left-hand side go to Connect->Clubs and click on 'Newton Abbot Chess'. Then click on the word "Members" under the heading at the top. You will then get a list of members, and for each member there will be a set of icons. You can hover over any of these icons to see its meaning. For each member, click on the "Add Friend" icon - this will result in the member receiving a message inviting them to accept you as a friend.

Arranging an Online Game

Contact your opponent directly to arrange a game - you may do this in any way you like, for example phone or email. You and your opponent should make sure you are both clear in advance which club competition (if any) the game will be played under. If it is in a standard play club competition, the time control must be 75 minutes + 30 seconds per move. If it is in a RapidPlay club competition, the time control must be 25 minutes + 10 seconds per move. If it is not in a club competition, you and your opponent may agree on any time control you like.

Playing the Game

As a courtesy, 2 or three minutes before the game is due to start please contact your opponent (e.g. by phone) to make sure you are both ready.

It should go without saying that during the game you should use no form of computer assistance. Not only would this make the game completely pointless, it will also be pretty obvious to your opponent, and to other club members, if you consistently make "computer moves".

Viewing Club Games in Real Time

If you want to watch an online game while it is being played by other club members, it is easy to do this on the chess.com website. Go to Play->Live Chess. On the right hand side, there will be a row of icons on a grey background. One of them will be the "Friends" icon (two people in silhouette). Click on this icon, and you will get a list of your friends who are currently online. If they are currently playing, you can click on the name of either player followed by the "Observe Game" icon (which looks like a pair of binoculars) and you will then be viewing their game in real time. The resultant display shows the pieces on the board, the moves, and the state of the clocks; you can click on a move, or use the left and right arrow keys on your keyboard, to move backwards or forwards through the game.

After the Game

After the game, if it is in a club competition one of you should email the result to Paul Brooks (pauljbrooks13@gmail.com). Paul will then post the result on the club website.