

WORCESTERSHIRE

U1850 COUNTY TEAM

PLAYER WELCOME PACK

2026-27 SEASON

A BRAND-NEW TEAM.
A NEW CAMPAIGN.
REPRESENT THE COUNTY.

-
- 12 boards in the regional group stage • 16 boards at the national knockout stage
 - Designated Saturdays at 1330
 - Time control = 110 + 10

JOIN THE ROSTER. PLAY FOR WORCESTERSHIRE. ENJOY THE DRAMA.



By Alex P Nicholls
Worcestershire U1850 Captain
For Worcestershire Chess Association

Welcome to the U1850 Team



Welcome

This is a brand-new Worcestershire U1850 county team. For many players, this will be your first experience of county chess, so, this pack is here to explain what to expect, how match days work and how we can make the most of the season together.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT COUNTY CHESS?

"The spectating, the cinema, the tension, and with all 12 boards finishing at different times – the drama following the changing match score"

1

A first for Worcestershire

We have not entered an U1850 team in previous seasons. We are building this squad from the ground up.

2

New to county chess?

You are very welcome. Established county players and first-time representatives are all part of the squad.

3

The team is the story

Your result matters - but so does supporting the other boards and staying involved until the match is decided.

Our Route Through the Competition



REGIONAL GROUP STAGE

12 boards per match

Three opponents. One group. Every board contributes to the score.

1

Herefordshire

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

@ THE HERDSMAN PUB, HR4 9HG
(AWAY)

2

Lincolnshire

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER

@ ST HILDA CHURCH, LE7 3XW
(NEUTRAL)

3

Leicestershire

SATURDAY 30 JANUARY

VENUE TBC
(HOME)

THE TOP TWO TEAMS QUALIFY FOR



NATIONAL STAGE

- May, June, July -
16 boards per match

How We Build a Strong Team

WHAT WE ASK FROM EVERY PLAYER

1

Availability

Reply promptly when availability is requested. You do not need to be available for every fixture to be part of the wider roster. Encourage your peers to be available for matches.

2

Commitment

Once selected, treat the fixture as a firm commitment. Tell the captain immediately if anything changes.

3

Match-day discipline

Aim to arrive 20–30 minutes before the start. Bring what you need for a long game.

4

Good etiquette

Touch-move, fair play and good chess etiquette apply. Phones should be switched off during play.

5

Team culture

Support teammates, welcome new players and avoid criticism after a loss. We win and lose as Worcestershire.

6

Travel

Car sharing and lifts will be coordinated where possible. Not driving should not prevent you joining the roster.

Selection will balance availability, current rating, recent form, reliability, board-order requirements and the needs of the particular fixture.

THE CURRENT ROSTER

Worcestershire Chess
Association



- 12 BOARDS FOR THE MIDLANDS GROUP STAGE
- 16 BOARDS FOR THE NATIONAL STAGE

#	Name	Rating	Club	Availability for next match
1	Mike Hadley	1840 K	Halesowen	Only available for national stage
2	Philip C Maybury	1806 K	Kinver	Unavailable
3	Rob Sutton	1781 K	Worcester City	Maybe
4	Scott Oxtoby	1780 A	Worcester City	Available
5	James Allsopp	1765 K	Malvern	Unknown
6	Philip N Austin	1765 K	Warndon	Maybe
7	Scott MacLean	1754 K	Worcester City	Unavailable
8	Alaric Stephen	1726 K	Worcester City	Unknown
9	Phil Maddocks	1724 A	Longbridge	Available
10	Alex P Nicholls	1722 A	Warndon	Available
11	Ray A Collett	1719 K	Worcester City	Available
12	David Close	1703 K	Kidderminster	Unavailable for R1 and R3
13	Ben S Fellows	1695 K	Worcester City	Only available for national stage
14	John Chester	1694 K	Malvern	Available

#	Name	Rating	Club	Availability for next match
15	Scott Russell	1680 K	Redditch	Available
16	Sri Venkata S. Saikalyan	1679 K	Worcester City	Available
17	Tony Shaw	1671 K	Warndon	Available
18	Daniel L Jones	1667 K	Stourbridge	Unavailable
19	Matt Clarke	1664 K	Longbridge	Available
20	David Waud	1663 K	Kidderminster	Unknown
21	Seamus Flynn	1659 K	Worcester City	Available
22	Brandon Wilkes	1654 K	Kidderminster	Available
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				

We are actively looking to recruit players rated between 1650 and 1850, please spread the word around your clubs – this would be much appreciated by the team. We have a list of over 40 players that we are looking to reach. The above have already registered their interest and the roster is shaping up.

Not all players will be available for every game, and with there being 16 boards at the national stage, we expect to need a roster of around 28 players.

HEREFORDSHIRE • 3 OCTOBER



12 boards. One team. One score.

This is where Worcestershire U1850 county chess begins.

- 1** NOW **Confirm your availability**
- 2** BEFORE MATCH **Selection, board order, venue and travel details**
- 3** 19 SEPT **Turn up, play hard, support the team**

Alex P Nicholls
Worcestershire U1850 Captain
For Worcestershire Chess Association
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