



## MetroWest Chess Club

Largest Chess Club in New England

Serving the Metrowest Boston chess community since 1983

### Index of Topics:

- [Participation](#)
- [Monthly Event](#)
- [Volunteering for Prison Chess](#)
- [Book Vendor](#)

### Participation:

Until this year the club has enjoyed what we believe to be an unprecedented sustained high turn-out of an average of 84 players per month for the last **twelve consecutive years**.

- [Yearly Graph](#)
- [Detailed Graph](#)

In that time we have had only two years where we fell below 80 players average for the year and had an average of 79 players. During that time all of our events were our traditional 40/90, SD/30; d5 "slow chess" format.

This year has been a difficult year for the club in terms of player participation in our events. In January, February and March of this year we had several rounds cancelled due to snow and participation clearly fell off due to the weather. In addition, beginning in February 2015, the club was faced with having to change the format of our traditional format to the much faster pace of G/60; d5. This was due to a strictly enforced rule of "10 pm must be out of the building" placed upon us by our facility. We anticipated a small drop off of some of our regular players but also anticipated this would be offset by an up tick in attendance by players who prefer a shorter time control. We did see the drop-off of about 10 players as we expected. We did not see the up-tick from those players who we have heard from for years express the desire that the club provide shorter time controls. A few of these players have shown for perhaps one or two months but none have turned into regular participants.

Recently many of our regular players have noticed and inquired about their observation that our two playing rooms seem a bit empty. With a closer look many people have noticed that our Open section seems particularly small and many of the masters absent. The general feeling of "not so packed" is generally explained by the general drop off due to the fast time control but it is aggravated by the very noticeable absence of the masters. The masters who regularly attend our events having been busy playing in the [United States Chess League](#) which this year conflicted with them playing at the club on Tuesday nights. We look forward to seeing them return to club play during November and December to make our Open section once again the very challenging section that it has traditionally been.

While many players are looking forward to our return to slow chess once we relocate, there has been one benefit that people seem to be enjoying to offset

the shorter time control; the 10 pm sharp exit from the club. This of course lets people get home a lot earlier in the evening than when our games ended at about 11:40 pm.

Our relocation is easily still six months out so we hope that you'll take advantage of the shorter time control with earlier return to home time to keep your games sharp and to challenge yourself to improve your game.

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### **Monthly Event:**

This month's event is a four week tournament.

Due to the constraints of our playing site, all events at our current location are:

G/60; d5 dual-rated

Registration closes at 7:20 pm. If you arrive after that you may not be paired. We will be more strict than usual in applying the deadline due to having to exit the building promptly at 10:00 pm.

Last month new fee structures and prizes went into effect:

- Members entry fee: \$35, Non-Members \$45
  - Club Membership: \$50 no special discounts
  - Prize fund increased to be \$730 for all events
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## **Volunteering for Prison Chess:**

A communication from Howard Goldowsky:

A few weeks ago I completed the MA Dept. of Corrections volunteer training, and I'm planning to visit the MCI Norfolk chess club a few times in 2016. These days, after the escape in upstate NY and some policy tightening, anyone thinking about volunteering at a MA prison must complete the training or accompany someone who has. (Without training, however, a person is limited to two chaperoned visits.)

My "ambitious" plan is to visit MCI Norfolk's chess club two times in 2016. By the end of 2015, I'd like to create a mailing list of people interested in going or in prison chess in general.

To create this mailing list, I'd like interested people to email me so I can add them to the list. Could I possibly get a few lines of advertising in the MCC newsletter, Chess Horizons, and the BCC blog? Just a few lines with the note that anyone interested in MA prison chess or in volunteering at the MCI Norfolk chess club in 2016 should email me (Howard Goldowsky, [w\\_rox@yahoo.com](mailto:w_rox@yahoo.com)) and make sure they get on my list. This will be my primary means of communication for the volunteer work.

Thanks,  
Howard

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## Book Vendor on site: Round 1:

New titles:

- Smerdon's Scandinavian (Everyman Chess)
- A World Champion's Guide to Chess by Susan Polgar and Paul Truong

For more information:

Email: [Chess@theAtsign.com](mailto:Chess@theAtsign.com) [BooksFromEurope.com](http://BooksFromEurope.com)

Fax / Toll Free: 1-866-328-1523

[Class Championships](#)

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