

THE FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB

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PRESS RELEASE

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FRAMINGHAM TO HOST THREE NEW ENGLAND TITLE TOURNAMENTS IN 1986

The Framingham Chess Club's bids to host the 1986 New England Junior Open, New England Women's Championship, and New England Amateur Team Championship were accepted at the New England Chess Association board meeting on September 1 at the New England Open in Lowell. The New England Junior Open, hosted in 1985 by the Boylston Chess Club in Boston, will be held on Saturday, January 25, 1986 at the Framingham State College Center. The format, as in 1985, will be a four-round Swiss in three sections: Open, Reserve (Under 1800), and Novice (Under 1400). The Metrowest area had been an active region for scholastic chess in the early 1980s, especially during the ascendancy of the powerhouse Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High team, but much of this activity has dissipated in recent years. The Framingham Chess Club, which has a scholastic organizing committee chaired by Paul McClanahan, hopes that the Fall Foliage Festival in Sudbury on October 27 and the New England Junior Open in Framingham on January 25 will spark a renewed burst of scholastic activity in this area.

The New England Women's Championship will be held concurrently with the New England Junior Open on January 25 in a separate room at the Framingham State College Center. It will be run as a three-round Swiss in Open and Reserve (Under 1500) sections. No women's championship event was held in 1985, though an invitational women's speed tournament was held concurrently with the US-UK Match of Champions in Foxboro in January. The most recent New England Women's Championship was hosted by the Framingham Chess Club in May 1984.

The New England Amateur Team Championship, revived successfully last March by the Framingham Chess Club, will be held again at The Forum of Framingham State College on March 22-23, 1986. The format will again be a four-round Swiss among four-player teams with an average rating under 2200. The surprising strength of the teams fielded in 1985 convinced the Framingham organizers that this event can be developed into a New England tradition.

The major New England title tournament decided upon at the NECA meeting was the 1986 New England Open, which will be held in Cromwell CT on August 30-September 1, and organized again by Stephen Dann.