

## **MCCU County Championships Controllers Report 2021/22**

This report concludes my ninth season as MCCU County Championship Controller.

There were no over the board fixtures in the 2020/21 season due to Covid although an online event was organised using Lichess as the platform. Greater Manchester, Worcestershire and Shropshire competed in a round robin event with Greater Manchester being crowned champions, winning all their matches.

In the 2021/22 season an over-the-board competition was run using the new rating bands brought in by the ECF. These being Open, Minor, U2050, U1850, U1650 and U1450.

In the combined Open/Minor section Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire entered although Shropshire later withdrew with Warwickshire winning the only match played. Both teams went forward to the National Minor section.

Greater Manchester elected to enter a team directly in the National Open competition.

No matches were played in the U2050 with Nottinghamshire being the only entry going forward to the national stages.

In the U1850 section Leicestershire, Greater Manchester and Derbyshire entered although Derbyshire later withdrew. Leicestershire won the match against Greater Manchester but then declined the nomination to go forward to the national stages.

The U1650 section saw only 2 entries Warwickshire and Worcestershire with the match between them being drawn 6-6 with Warwickshire winning on board count.

Finally, in the U1450 section there were 4 entries Nottinghamshire, Notts Juniors, Leicestershire and Warwickshire although Warwickshire withdrew before any matches were played. Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire went forward to the national stages.

The number of entries is clearly a lot less than in the 2019/20 season with players still feeling uneasy about playing over-the-board chess. Hopefully, they will have more confidence in the coming season.

Peter Sherlock  
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