

## essexchess Makeover

08 July 2009

The Website is receiving a makeover.

The principal features are:

- New navigation structure with four main groupings: Activities, ECA Admin, History, Site Admin;
- Wider page;
- Printer-friendly and PDF versions available for principal items;

For the new wider page, your screen will need to be set to a resolution of at least 1024 x 768.

The new site design is being worked alongside a new style for Chessexonline so that the two are closer together in format, easing production time. A new issue of Chessexonline is already at an advanced stage of preparation.

If you would like to express your opinion of the new site, email me: [Webmaster@essexchess.org.uk](mailto:Webmaster@essexchess.org.uk)

You will notice new icons associated with articles in the new site:



indicates that a printer-friendly version of the article is available; click the icon and a window will open with the article configured for normal printing; use this if you want a printout of the article.



indicates that the article is available in a pdf document; click this icon if you want to save the article.



and this, believe it or not, is the new icon to draw attention to new items; it will be used sparingly and mostly to highlight additions to items already posted.

## Navigation

The new site effectively introduces a new layer of navigation above the menus you are used to, but groups pages of a similar theme.

**Activities** groups all the chess-playing activities such as League, Teams, Correspondence, Knockout, etc.

**ECA Admin** groups all the Association's administrative functions: Rules, Officers, Job Vacancies, etc., but also includes the Club Scene which may not at first seem a good fit, but the use of the entries in the Club section is viewed as administrative rather than chess-playing in nature.

**History** houses the current "History" branch of the Archive, holding the historical records, such as the lists of League Champions, individual Champions, etc., to which, in time, will be added further articles on the history of the Association.

**Site Office** deals with administration of the essexchess Website. This houses, among other things, the Links page, which is viewed as a resource of the site. However, the Links page is accessible from the footer panel on each page on the site.

The navigation bar for each of these groups is the main navigation feature and appears at the top of every page, above the page name masthead panel. This means that wherever you are on the site, you are only one click away from the index page for each group and that includes the Home page.

Within each of the above groups, the local navigation bar for pages accessible within that group will be available in a panel on the left of the page (except for the Home page which is a group of one and where the left panel is home to the Updates blog). These local navigation bars have the 'child' pages for the section you are in listed as sub-headings; for instance the Teams index in the Activities group lists each of the sub pages for the County's teams, Open, U175, U150 etc., (all of which change to new groupings next season).

## Bottom Panel

Every page has a new bottom panel which includes another navigation bar:

About | Clubs | Links | Site Map | Contact us

"Clubs", "Links" and "Site Map" are all of interest to the essexchess reader, the first two being pages with which you are already familiar, but the **Site Map** is new and gives the overall navigation tree all in one place - if you really can't find your way to the page you want, look for it here!

"About" and "Contact us" are designed for interface with the rest of the world; "About" gives (will give) a potted history of the Essex Chess Association and "Contact us" is to help outsiders make contact with the Association.

If you really get stuck and can't find what you want, I have added a 'site search' facility to the Google search bar (bottom left of the Home Page).