

Bucks Juniors Report September 2026

Introduction

Please see attached my Juniors Report for tomorrow. PLEASE NOTE some of it will read like criticism (as it is noting some things that are absent in the way ECF does Juniors). Please don't take it that way. You guys told me a year ago that the role had been unfilled for many years and ECF didn't have expectations, so all I've really done is have a dig around to understand what's going on, and now coming back to confirm what you guys already knew!!!

There's a lot that COULD be done, but it would need ECF to be energetic in relation to Juniors (ie help from above) and it would also need a Junior Officer who is likewise energised / motivated to put this all in place. I'm pretty sure I'm not that guy!!

There is a ton of stuff going on, sometimes connected with Bucks Clubs, but often totally unconnected (some motivated adults can make a bit of money doing Juniors stuff). ECF can either let that be, or try to give reasons why doing such things affiliated with ECF or Bucks or the Clubs would be worthwhile. Again, effort, structure etc.

Anyhow, there are my observations for discussion.

	Observation	Issue	Potential Actions
1	No Connection between Bucks Juniors and Higher Echelons of ECF	Tried to get connected "upward" via a couple of avenues. No responses.	Next Junior Officer is formally introduced to whoever is his equivalent higher up the ECF chain, ideally at a face-to-face meeting.
2	Largely as a result of Item 1, no briefing as to what ECF has for Juniors at all. Materials? Programmes? Best practices? Objectives? Nothing.	If Bucks Junior Officer did anything it would be totally independent, which is not how a structure should be.	Just getting a connection to ECF would be a start!!
3	No Junior Officer has been in place for (I believe) many years.	No Club expectations that such a role exists. No club Junior Officers to coordinate with (in a formal way). Clubs are doing their own thing and in many cases doing it extremely well but no connection "upward" into the ECF org that I can see.	Ask each Club to nominate a Junior Officer who coordinates with the Bucks Junior Officer.

Bucks Juniors Report September 2026

4	Not all Clubs have a Junior Club associated.	There are geographical "gaps" where parents want to send their kids to a chess club but there's nothing close.	Can ECF / Bucks encourage / reward clubs for running a Juniors Club? (Financial? Other?). Can ECF make it easy by providing structure "on a plate" (lessons, puzzles, advice Eg CSC)?
5	There is no "funnel" to bring kids in, get them to become ECF members, get them to improve, stay, represent, get involved, etc etc.	Whatever the kids are doing bears no relation to ECF, meaning they'll only join ECF when it becomes of value independent of any Juniors activities.	Can ECF / Bucks give incentives for kids to become ECF members? (eg point 6???)
6	There is no inter-club Juniors activity.	Clubs run juniors tournaments of various kinds. There is no "Ux Juniors vs GX Juniors" or a "Bucks Juniors all play a Swiss as a qualifier to higher levels" type of tournament.	Bucks could pay someone to run such a tournament, sponsor it as a proper ECF event, and use it as a qualifier for higher ECF Juniors participation. (All other sports funnel upward in this fashion). This kind of thing is going on somewhat, but is disconnected from ECF. The people currently organising may be happy to have ECF endorsement / connection as it gives extra validity)

Bucks Juniors Report September 2026

7	No mechanism to identify talented kids of give them ECF assistance to improve.	All other sports identify talent structurally, and invest in funnelling upward. ECF seems ad hoc at this (at least as far as Bucks is concerned).	Item 6 could be the mechanism. Once identified, talented kids could get things like "Masterclasses" from strong players (either Bucks players, or some strong titled player that we pay), invitations to higher-level junior activities, representative opportunities, etc.
---	--	---	---