

## U3A National Chess by Email

*'I'm thoroughly enjoying my games of email chess. It's almost addictive!'* Victor Allt, Barnsley U3A.

Just two years into the formation of the U3A National Chess by email, there are 57 members from 54 different UK U3As playing chess with one another by email.

**How does it work?** It operates via a page in the members' area of the national website ([www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)) and holds the following information about each member: name, grade, U3A, short chess profile, preferred speed of play and email address. Any member can request a game and moves are exchanged by email; as simple as that. There is no limit to the number of members that can join; the more the merrier!

Chess is a serious game and can become stressful. However, U3A chess by email has all the ingredients to make for enjoyable, stress-free chess. How can it be done?

- ❖ By playing someone of the **same ability** who plays at a compatible speed (e. g. 1 or 2 moves a day; or 3 + according to desire/ agreement).
- ❖ By remembering it is **non-competitive** (no championships, league tables or matches).
- ❖ By picturing those **wonderfully complicated board positions** that arise in every game for you to try and **untangle at leisure**
- ❖ By **resigning** if you make a **serious mistake** (and simply start another game).
- ❖ By **making friends with your opponent**. 'I've met some very interesting people.'
- ❖ By **not getting too excited** at the thought of **what your next email post brings!**

The wide range of grades of player on the 'Players List' means that anyone from a recent learner to a county player can find someone of their own level to play.

For full information, including how you might decide on your grade, email Dick Chapman, of Watford and District U3A, at [dick.chapman@ntlworld.com](mailto:dick.chapman@ntlworld.com)