

# Plymouth Chess Club Championship



## The Champions

Plymouth Chess Club was formed in October 1888 and at its founding meeting it was agreed that there should be a competition in November and December for the 'Captaincy of the Club'. It is recorded that 30 players took part that year but sadly not who the winner was. The name of winner in the following season has also been lost.

The title of club champion was won in 1890/91 by the Club's first President, Thomas Winter-Wood and he became the first of 40 players to date to claim the title (full list attached). Those who have won the title more than once are:

Player	Title wins	First & last year won title
R M Bruce	37	1925 - 1972
T Taylor	15	1893 - 1924
N Crickmore	8	1983 - 2018
G Wheeler	7	1973 - 1980
C F Cooper	4	1894 - 1905
J B Goodman	4	1935 - 1969
P Sivrev	4	2012 - 2015
P Motley	3	1912 - 1923
G F H Packer	3	1914 - 1918
H A Adamson	2	1897 - 1898
R Dunstan	2	1908 - 1909
A Starkie	2	1988 - 1989
L Guard	2	1990 - 1991
R Luffman	2	1997 - 2000
W Moffatt	2	1999 - 2001
R Barnes	2	2002 - 2003
R Pollock	2	2004 - 2009
M Stinton-Brownbridge	2	2006 - 2007
D Twine	2	2010 - 2019

Ron Bruce and Thomas Taylor are the two dominant figures in the history of the Club Championship and their biographies are on-line at:

<https://www.keverelchess.com/bios/703/>

<https://www.keverelchess.com/bios/306/>

## Competition format

The first tournament was referred to as a 'places' tournament. A handicapping committee assessed the strength of the players in the new club and put them into three sections. The winner (presumably of the top group) became Captain of the Club. Between 1902 and 1907 it appears the club experimented with a system of playing at odds. Quiet how that worked I am not sure but in 1907 it reverted back to the three sections format. In 1912 it was decided that the top three players (presumably from the top group) played off to become Club Champion. Again it's not clear how long this change lasted but the system of promotion and relegation between 'leagues' was introduced in 1933/34. This has continued to this day except for a brief but doomed experiment in the 1988/89 and 1989/90 seasons when the championship was run as a Swiss competition.

## Championship Trophies

The original Championship Trophy was a Silver Rook donated in 1891 by the Club President's eldest son Edward J. Winter-Wood and as mentioned above, the trophy was won that season by Thomas Winter-Wood (Dad!). As well as the trophy there appears to have been a generous prize list that year. 1<sup>st</sup> prize was 'a painting executed and presented by Carslake Winter-Wood' (another son!), 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> places received cash prizes whilst 5<sup>th</sup> place received a copy of the book 'Chess exemplified'.

In 1901 after he had won the championship for three years in succession, the trophy was awarded permanently to Thomas Taylor. However in 1947 Taylor's niece, Mrs Paul, gave the trophy back to the club and from 1948 until quite recently it was awarded to the winner of the club's third level league.

A replacement championship trophy was donated by Carslake Winter-Wood which went to winners from 1902 to 1930. In October 1930, Mr S Ward who had been one of the club's founding members presented a Cup to the club in memory of his son and the Ward Cup immediately became the championship trophy.

Thirty seven times Club Champion Rob Bruce died in 1991 and in the 1992/93 season the club purchased a Challenge Cup with a silver plinth band engraved 'The Ron Bruce Trophy'. This became the trophy awarded to the club champion and the Ward Cup became the trophy for the second level league. Neil Crickmore became the first winner of this new trophy in the summer before he left Plymouth to go the university.

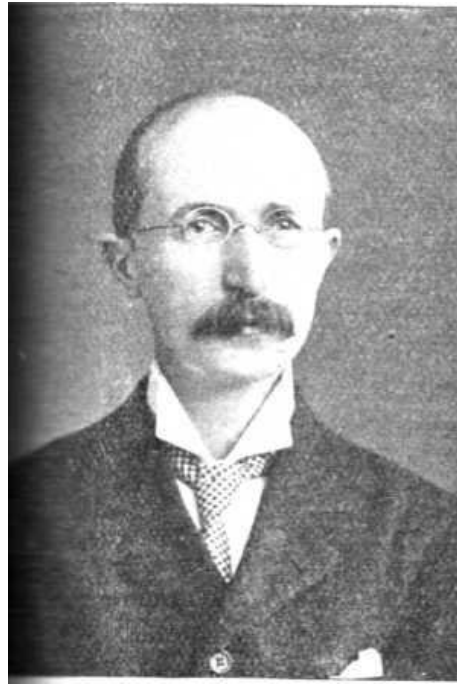
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**Note:** There are some places where the records are unclear and there are also a few discrepancies between the documents I have and names engraved on the championship cup. I will not bore readers with details of these. I have used my judgement to present what seems most likely to be the accurate record. I am happy to receive corrections.



**Ron Bruce – 37 Club champion titles**



**Thomas Taylor – 15 Club champion titles**



**The Ward Cup – Club Championship Trophy  
1931 to 1992**



**The Ron Bruce Cup – Club Championship Trophy  
1993 to present**

## Club Champions

Year of title	Club Champion	Year of title	Club Champion	Year of title	Club Champion
1891	T J Winter-Wood	1935	J B Goodman	1979	G Wheeler
1892	T G Pearse	1936	J B Goodman	1980	G Wheeler
1893	T Taylor	1937	R M Bruce	1981	S Dilleigh
1894	C F Cooper	1938	R M Bruce	1982	R Evans
1895	C F Cooper	1939	R M Bruce	1983	N Crickmore <sup>5</sup>
1896	T Taylor	1940	R M Bruce	1984	N Crickmore
1897	H A Adamson	1941	No Championship played	1985	R M Bruce
1898	H A Adamson	1942	No Championship played	1986	S Scarboro
1899	T Taylor	1943	No Championship played	1987	J Anson <sup>6</sup>
1900	T Taylor	1944	No Championship played	1988	N Crickmore & A Starkie
1901	T Taylor	1945	R M Bruce	1989	A Starkie
1902	T Taylor	1946	R M Bruce	1990	L Guard
1903	T Taylor	1947	R M Bruce	1991	L Guard
1904	C F Cooper	1948	R M Bruce	1992	N Crickmore
1905	C F Cooper	1949	R M Bruce	1993	N Crickmore
1906	T Taylor	1950	R M Bruce	1994	D Jackson
1907	N A Prettejohn	1951	J B Goodman	1995	S Greely
1908	R Dunstan	1952	R M Bruce	1996	P Pelton
1909	R Dunstan	1953	R M Bruce	1997	R Luffman
1910	T Taylor	1954	R M Bruce	1998	A Wright
1911	T Taylor	1955	R M Bruce	1999	K Willcocks & W Moffatt
1912	P Motley	1956	R M Bruce & Mrs R M Bruce <sup>3</sup>	2000	R Luffman
1913	P Motley	1957	R M Bruce	2001	W Moffatt
1914	G F H Packer <sup>1</sup>	1958	R M Bruce	2002	R Barnes
1915	G F H Packer	1959	R M Bruce	2003	R Barnes
1916	T Taylor	1960	R M Bruce	2004	R Pollock
1917	T Taylor	1961	R M Bruce	2005	G Fowles
1918	G F H Packer	1962	R M Bruce	2006	M Stinton-Brownbridge
1919	T Taylor	1963	H R Pearce	2007	M Stinton-Brownbridge
1920	T Taylor	1964	R M Bruce	2008	N Crickmore
1921	T Taylor	1965	R M Bruce	2009	R Pollock
1922	T Taylor	1966	R M Bruce	2010	D Twine
1923	P Motley	1967	R M Bruce	2011	P Medina
1924	T Taylor	1968	R M Bruce	2012	P Sivrev
1925	R M Bruce	1969	J B Goodman	2013	P Sivrev
1926	R Roper	1970	S J Hutchings <sup>4</sup>	2014	P Sivrev
1927	W Kent	1971	R M Bruce	2015	P Sivrev
1928	R M Bruce	1972	R M Bruce	2016	J Stephens
1929	R M Bruce	1973	G Wheeler	2017	N Crickmore
1930	R M Bruce	1974	G Wheeler	2018	N Crickmore
1931	R M Bruce	1975	G Wheeler	2019	D Twine
1932	R M Bruce	1976	G Wheeler		
1933	R M Bruce	1977	G Wheeler		
1934	R M Bruce	1978	S Arnold		
1935	J B Goodman <sup>2</sup>	1979	G Wheeler		

See notes next page

### Some of the notable achievements by Club Champions

1. Three times club champion George Frederick Harold Packer won county chess champion titles in three counties; Devon, Sussex and Hertfordshire. There cannot be too many chess players who have equalled this feat. There is a biography of George Packer on the Hastings Chess Club website at: <http://www.hastingschess.club/g-f-h-packer/>
2. Four times club champion John (Jack) Bertram Goodman took second place in the 1969 Scottish chess championship.
3. Extract from the Wikipedia page for Rowena Mary Bruce: *From the end of the 1930s to the end of the 1960s, she was one of England's strongest women chess players. In 1935, she won the FIDE World Girls Championship. Rowena Mary Bruce won the British Women's Chess Championship eleven times: 1937, 1950, 1951, 1954, 1955, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1967 and 1969. In 1952, in Moscow, she participated in the Women's Candidates Tournament where she took 12th place. In 1951, she was awarded the FIDE Woman International Master (WIM) title.*  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rowena\\_Mary\\_Bruce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rowena_Mary_Bruce)
4. 1970 club champion Stuart James Hutchings holds the title of FIDE Master and has twice finished in joint first place in the Welsh chess championship – in 1973 and 1990. His draw against GM Boris Gulko (who has won both USSR and US chess championships) from the 1978 Buenos Aires Olympiad can be viewed at:  
<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1053419>
5. Eight times club champion Neil Crickmore was joint winner of the under 18 British chess championship in 1984 (shared with Neil McDonald, now GM).
6. 1987 club champion Jane Anson had previously won the Girls under 18 British chess championship (1974) and tied for first place in the Women's Welsh chess championship (1982).