

Linking with the ECF Membership Spreadsheet

The ECF Membership spreadsheet is published daily. However,

- club names are inconsistent (e.g. Chard & Ilminster, chard & ilminster, chard&ilminster and Chard/Ilminster)
- grading codes are typed by the member so are prone to inaccuracy
- names may not match the names used on the grading database — or the names declared on the oxfordfusion site
- several different formats are used for the expiry date, e.g.

Paid Bronze (expires 31 Aug 2013)	
Paid 3-yr Bronze (expires 31 Aug 2015)	
4. Platinum Membership	01-Jan-15
3. Gold Membership	01-Feb-15
Paid 3-yr Jnr Gold (expires 31 Aug '15)	
Paid Bronze (expires 31 Aug 2013); Paid Silver (expires 31 Aug 2013)	

The oxfordfusion site runs a nightly process to download the spreadsheet and save the results in a 'full ECF database'. It searches for an expiry date, either in the category or in the Due Date field. If no date can be found then expiry is assumed to be 31 Aug in the current chess year.

Because the entry of the text fields for names and clubs is uncontrolled and leads to variations, players are matched to the database using only the **grade code**. The nightly process scans the grade codes for all the active oxfordfusion players. Any that are present in the ECF spreadsheet are noted in a local ECF table, along with the relevant chess year (1 Sep - 31 Aug). Any previous grade-code matches are removed, thus capturing membership upgrades and extensions.

For new players, the full ECF database is then searched for a match on either grade code (if given) or ECF number (if given).

If no matches are found then no further information is saved.

If a single match is found then grade code (if present) and ECF number are logged, along with the year and the player's name as stated on the form (i.e. their 'oxfordfusion' name), in a database of ECF numbers for local players. Any newly inferred grade code will be added to the player's permanent record.

If a multiple match is found (e.g. different rows in the spreadsheet matching on grade code and ECF number) then all the matches are displayed, along with a message advising that grade code and ECF number appear to be inconsistent. No entry is made in the local database.

The local database is used to find and display ECF data for the current year or for the year in which a match was played. It will first be searched on grade code; if that finds no hits (possibly because the grade code is absent) then it will be searched on the player's oxfordfusion name. The database holds no membership data that pre-dates 2012, so this facility applies only to matches from 2012–13 onwards.

ECF membership numbers are shown in the league summary (e.g. <http://www.oxfordfusion.com/oca/GetLeagueSummaryResults.cfm?LeagueID=101> for a whole

league, or the screenshot below for a particular team. This enables the teams (and the league treasurer) to calculate how much game fee is payable at the end of the season.

2012-13 OCDL Division 3: Summary of player results

	points	from	percent	ECF Grade Code	Grading	ECF Member No.
Didcot 2						
Blackmore, Paul	1.5	4	37.5%	163980J		
Duck, Mike J	2.5	6	41.67%	109889F	114	B19463
Harkins, Sam	4.5	6	75%	287675K	116	S19356
Moon, Jonathan	3	3	100%	280278J	82	B20819
Reynolds, Gary	2.5	6	41.67%	145343K	122	S19070
Richardson, Alan W	3	5	60%	117885E	134	B19895
Robins, Andrew S	2	3	66.67%	118070J	155	B20520
Thetford, Roger	3.5	6	58.33%	251406A	124	B19017
Vincent, Jim	2.5	3	83.33%	292469K		

Back to [league table for 2012-13 OCDL Division 3](#)

The current membership number is also quoted on the player's history.

This process is not fool-proof but it makes best use of the available data and provides sensible validation checks. A player who enters the wrong grade code when registering with the ECF will either appear to be ungraded in match results or will almost certainly have the wrong grading published in his results; team managers, opposition players and even perhaps the player himself would soon notice this, and the team manager has the power to correct it.