

Time: Thursday 18th October 2012 8pm

Venue: St Andrews School, Headington

Present: Sue Baker (St Andrews), Andrew Varney, Matt Heydon (for Jo Curtis, Wolvercote), Jenny Cooke (ECS), John Place (MCS), Joan Clanchy (SS Mary & John)

Apologies: David Lee (William Fletcher), Dave Dyer (Cherwell), Claire Soanes (Freeland), Gordon Lloyd (The Marlborough), Kevin Mosedale (Radley College), Jon D'Souza-Eva, Heather Lang

1. Notes from previous AGM and matters arising

- a. Merging of EPSCA and League accounts is still outstanding. Concern there may be significant funds therein. ACTION John Place (contact details possibly from Jon D'Souza-Eva)
- b. Harwell decided not join league last year because too late. On list as 'probable' for this year.
- c. Junior Congress as LJCC qualifier on 4 November. Entry form/flyer provided with paperwork.
- d. Oxon. were back on list for EPSCA individual girls' tournament last year.
- e. Idea of junior section on OCA website got a 'thumbs down' from Roger Thetford.
- f. Flyer re: Schools League was not produced but there was an announcement at UKCC Megafinal and additional schools from Megafinal list, etc, were emailed invite and minutes for AGM.
- g. Several small tournaments took place in summer term. Schools mentioned as believed to be hosting these events were William Fletcher, Cherwell and SS Mary & John.

2. Election of Officers

The current officers were willing to stand again and were duly elected unopposed/
Chair = Sue Baker; Secretary = Andrew Varney; Treasurer = John Place.

3. Extending Oxfordshire schools chess participation (primary and secondary schools):

- a. Contact list – an extended contact list has been produced with both primary and secondary schools. There was a response from some other contacts, with interest shown by a number not recently involved in the league, but no response from the schools contacted solely from the UKCC Megafinal list.
- b. Advertising –
 - i. Use Oxon state schools newsletter to make additional schools aware of chess league: ACTION Sue Baker
 - ii. Provide flyer at 4 November junior congress: ACTION Andrew Varney
 - iii. Consider contacting Matt Rose (Oxford Times): ACTION Andrew Varney
- c. Making U11 league more accessible – see 4a below
As well as schools already contacted and on a list, St Josephs, St Nicks and Rye St Anthony were mentioned as likely possibilities for either league or 'contact'

involvement. St Andrews already has contact with these schools and will reach out to ask at what level they may want to be involved. ACTION: Sue Baker

- d. Making secondary school league more accessible – see 4b below

4. Modification of Rules:

- a. Proposal for second division in U11 league

There was much discussion about what this really meant. The question was asked why we should have more than one division, and there was strong feeling expressed that schools should be encouraged to join the existing league rather than set up a second division. The league already splits into two pools if required due to numbers. There is a mix of abilities within the league; there can be strong teams from within the state school sector and weak teams from the private schools. And being able to lose as well as win is all part of the competition.

It was clarified that the idea was much as per last year's discussion, to introduce a much looser arrangement where schools could play each other in ungraded games and post the results on the OCA website. It was felt that this was not really a second division but a chess 'match making' resource for schools/matches outside of the league. The idea was unanimously supported but since it is not a new league, it does not require any changes to the rules.

This needs some follow-up with Roger Thetford to help set it up so that it can be given as an option to schools on the contact list: ACTION Andrew Varney.

Possibly a tournament could be arranged for these schools. Sue Baker offered to host this at St Andrews, but would need someone else to organise it.

- b. Proposal to change team size for secondary school league section(s)

There was discussion about both team sizes and the make-up of the age section(s) for the secondary school age group(s). If reducing the team size would allow more schools to take part, it should be encouraged. There are several secondary schools in the county that would be able to raise a team of 4 but not 6. The final proposal was for the U13 section to remain as-is (teams of 6), the U15 section to be abolished and the U18 (Open) section to require just teams of 4. This was proposed by Andrew Varney, seconded by John Place and carried unanimously. The League rules will be reworded appropriately (see attachment) to reflect these two changes. ACTION:

Andrew Varney

- c. Chess clocks and grading for U11 ~~first~~ division

The current description of the rules for length of matches under match organisation is inconsistent with the fact that the U11 division is graded. Clocks are described as optional, whereas since the games are sent for grading, play with clocks is required. While this happens in practice, the rules need to be updated to reflect this fact if we are to continue to have the U11 league games graded. It was agreed that we would continue to send the U11 games for grading (see 5b below), and so the rules require modification to reflect the use of clocks for these matches (see attachment).

ACTION: Andrew Varney

5. Financial

a. Accounts

The accounts were presented by John Place. It was noted that league entry fees for last season from Wolvercote appeared to be outstanding. Investigation/rectification is required (£20 to cover the two U11 teams). ACTION: Matt Heydon/John Place

Overall the balance is over £800, with a profit of about £50 from the season. This (possibly overly?) healthy balance is expected to be reduced significantly this season due to the likely provision of chess clocks on loan to schools joining the league for the first time and to cover an expected shortfall from league team fees not fully covering the new ECF graded game fees (see b and c below).

b. ECF membership and costs for grading

While there is some effort being made to persuade the ECF to grade inter-school matches free of charge (private communication from Neill Cooper), this is unlikely to happen any time soon. Current ECF grading fees for non-ECF members are 50p per result (i.e. half game) for Standard Play and 25p per result for Rapid Play. This equates to £3 per match for U11 and U13 leagues and £4 for U18 (Open). However, for the U18 section in particular it is believed likely that a significant proportion of the players may already be ECF members, for whom no fee is charged for grading.

c. League fees for next season

Based on the new charges for grading, it was decided to keep the league team entry fee the same (£10) for the U9 league, but to increase it to £12 for the graded leagues (U11, U13 and U18 (Open)). Any deficit will be covered by the league funds for this year and the situation will be reviewed again next year.

6. County junior teams

a. EPSCA U9 and U11

- i. Team manager(s) – No-one has come forward for either position, except Oscar Idle's dad who would be willing to help but not manage a team. Andrew Varney is unable to take this on due to the existing commitments for chess and implications for family. It was suggested that we write to parents of the U9 and U11 juniors to see if anyone would be willing to take on part of this. Workload could be shared between a team of people, and the managers need not be the same people as run the trials, but would have to organise the teams for the matches themselves. ACTION: Andrew Varney/John Place
- ii. Information

- iii. Trials – January again, if it happens (i.e. we get the volunteers we need to run the teams). If higher numbers than this year, we will probably need a new venue.

b. SCCU U14/U130

John Place has been running this team last season and this. Unfortunately the first match of this season was not played because Hants defaulted as they were unable to field a team.

c. Others

There are other chances to play as junior for the county. For the first time this year, included in this was a UKCC county "Supremi" team tournament. However, it was not

well advertised or organised and so flopped. Whether it will happen next year remains to be seen.

7. Oxfordshire junior chess events

- a. Witney Junior Rapidplay Saturday 29 September [past]
- b. Oxfordshire Junior LJCC qualifier Sunday 4 November
 Individual age-limited tournament. Typically quite competitive since
 qualifier for LJCC. Flyer provided.
- c. Junior team trials TBD (see above)
- d. Girls/women's event? TBD (to be discussed with Heather Lang)

8. AOB

The meeting and committee wanted to record many thanks to Jon (and Penny) D'Souza-Eva for all the years of junior county chess involvement, especially the running of the EPSCA teams.

Andrew Varney 24/10/12