Oxfordshire Chess Association AGM

7.30pm on Tuesday 15 September 2026

Held at Rose Hill Methodist Church

Present:
John Carter (Secretary)
Sara Sengenberger (Treasurer)
Keith Freshwater (Minutes Sec, *acting Chair)
Paul Bizzell (Didcot, Online Chess Officer),
Duncan Reith (Oxford City)
Peter Hemmings (Wantage)
Ben Sloman (Wantage)
Julian Kennedy (OJays' liaison officer)
Mike Truran (Witney, OCA Representative to ECF)

Abbreviations: OCA = Oxfordshire Chess Association, ECF = English Chess Federation, FWS = Frank Wood Shield

1. **Apologies:** Nalin Kadodwala, Steve Bennett, Gary Jackson, Ryan Pang, Tony Burcham, Roger Thetford.

2. Minutes of 2025 AGM:

No other issues were raised and the minutes were approved as the record of last year's AGM. – No Matters Arising.

3. Reports

A. Chair's Report (Nalin Kadodwala)
Nalin was not present at the meeting.

B. Secretary's Report (John Carter)
The league ran pretty smoothly this year. Thanks very much for those who stood in for the last AGM when I was ill. Divisional winners were as follows:

- Div 1 - Oxford University 1
- Div 2 - Oxford University 2
- Div 3 - Oxford University 3
- Div 4 - Bicester Ashton 2
- Frank Wood Shield (Bicester Phoenix)
- Div 1 winner – Stuart White (City 1)
- Div 2 winner – Owen Ngai (Abingdon)
- Div 3 winner – Andrey Tishkin (Bic/Ash)
- Div 4 winner – Bendek Varga, (Banbury)
- Junior Prize - Owen Ngai (Abingdon)

There was only one dispute on board order this year, down from four the previous year. In respect of entering divisional results, there was an improvement this year and in general the majority of the Secretary's role, in this respect, took care of itself.

C. Treasurer's Report (Sara Sengenberger)
Historically we have had a very big balance, which we have been slowly spending down, as our outgoings exceeded our income. We allocated £1800 for development, of which we have now spent £1,225 on clocks and £40 to sponsor local player Miroslawa Litviniec to take an arbiter's course, leaving £535 still earmarked for development. I suggest that once that development fund has been spent, we should aim for a balance of approximately £1,000 at the start of each season. This consists of £500 for cash flow purposes (money paid out by the OCA during the season and only reimbursed to it later), plus £500 for any emergency/unanticipated expenses. This tallies well with our current balance.
Expected regular net expenses are £140 trophies, £85 Oxford Fusion website, £60 hall hire, £40 miscellaneous. Total £325.
Our sole net income is £10 per team affiliation fees, so £300 in 2025-26.
Last year, mild concerns about the deficit had led me to propose an increase in affiliation fees at the 2025 AGM. The meeting voted against this increase on the grounds that we have substantial reserves we can spend down instead. My slight worries have been allayed by the increasing number of teams, which narrows the gap between our income and expenses. As a result, I now recommend keeping affiliation fees at £10 per team.

D. Ratings Officer's Report (Peter Hemmings)
All results from the end of the season were completed. One issue I would like to raise is that recently we were informed by Cumnor that one of their players, Andrew English, had died. When I learn of the death of a player I notify the ECF and a black cross is put against their name. I made a remark that it would be good to have a way of acknowledging such players players and Roger Thetford quickly setup a web page 'In Memoriam' and several players names have been added to that. Some of these the ECF were unaware that the player had died. It would be useful for clubs to inform the league when a player dies so that we can pass that information on.

Report from the May Committee Meeting

- ***See Appendix A for the report in full***

E. Juniors (Julian Kennedy)

Oxfordshire Junior Chess (OJC) – Annual Report 2025/26
Presented to the Oxfordshire Chess Association AGM
Covering Events, Activities, and Achievements from May 2025 to May 2026

Julian supplied a long and detailed report this is supplied in full in appendix B

F. County Teams Reports

Tony Burcham supplied a report read out by John Carter – Tony is standing down as A team captain as he is moving. He reported on the difficulty of getting higher rated players to turn out for the county matches. Fortunately they were able to come to an arrangement in the league where team captains can agree on reducing the number of boards.

For the B team Paul Bizzell - Paul echoed the comments from Tony about difficulties with getting players to turn out. He missed the Chiltern League AGM as there had been an issue with communication about the date. There is a significant anniversary coming up with plans to organise a one off event to mark this, to be advised.

G. Online Activities (Paul Bizzell)

Oxford are in three competitions where the format is 3 days a move. We play in the UK Championship, an Open and an u1600. There is an u1300 but we don't run a team in that. The third competition we play in as 'Oxford City Region' in the World City league.

(End of Reports)

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4. Notes From the May Committee Meeting

Two people were approached for the vacant post of A Team County Captain. Unfortunately both turned this down.*(***Note***: Since the AGM, Daniel Kidd has volunteered to become A team captain.)

5. Election and Confirmation of Officers for 2026-27

It was noted that the post of Chairman is only held for three years under the current Constitution. As such a new chairman needs to be appointed. As per the 2025 AGM minutes a new President needs to be appointed for a three-year term by the Committee. Gerard O'Reilly has withdrawn from the position of Vice-Chairman so the post is vacant. It was suggested that the position be offered to Nalin. This needs further discussion. All other officers are staying in post though John Carter advised he may be away for a large part of the year, but can still function in the role of secretary. Peter Hemmings advised he may not continue in his role as Ratings Officer for much longer.

Chairman: -	No candidates have so far appeared
Vice-Chairman: -	No candidates have so far appeared
League Secretary:	John Carter
Treasurer:	Sara Sengenberger
Ratings Officer:	Peter Hemmings
Fixtures Secretary:	Roger Thetford
Minutes Secretary:	Keith Freshwater
Online Chess Officer:	Paul Bizzell
OCA Representative to ECF:	Mike Truran
Webmaster:	Roger Thetford
County Individual Championship Organiser:	Keith Freshwater

6. Divisional Make-up for 2026-27 Season

The draft fixtures were circulated and Roger Thetford has done an excellent job in trying to incorporate any changes teams have fed back, producing what is now online. The structure of the divisions was originally teams of 8, 8, 7, 7. However, since then a team has dropped out and now the top three divisions will have 8 teams each and Division 4 will have 5 teams. In Division 4 Teams will play each other three times.

A vote of the clubs attending was taken and this structure was approved unanimously 6:0.

7. Proposal to bring forward the process involved in confirming divisional make-up

The proposal is a change to the confirmation and timing of league composition and fixtures for the coming season – ***see appendix C attached*** for full details.

The wording was heavily discussed and will be subject to some subtle but important changes before going forward to the committee meeting at the end of the season.

A vote of the clubs attending was taken on approving the timeline in the proposal and this was approved unanimously 6:0.

8. A.O.B.

Peter Hemmings called for a vote of appreciation for Gerard O'Reilly and all that he has done for the league over many years. This was roundly agreed.

Trophies were circulated to those present and to pass on to the winners.

There was a proposal to hold future meeting online as Zoom or other. This was generally agreed to be practical and worth further investigation.

With a number of committee posts being vacant, a possible EGM (Emergency General Meeting) may be needed to vote in candidates.

The meeting closed at 21:12.



Keith Freshwater

Appendix A

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Oxford and District Chess League

GRADERS REPORT 2024-2025

Results have been received and submitted to the ECF as shown. Feedback now only tells me about new players that were assigned ECF codes. The Oxford League and Chiltern Leagues were submitted on the dates shown. Results submitted to the OCA results database before those dates are included in each submission.
When a submission includes new players there is a delay before the whole file is committed and the results visible (sometimes several days but usually get caught in time for the ECF monthly list).

Oxford & District League	Standard Play	PHOL25	30 October	8	
			2 December	9	
			4 March	9	
			29 March	3	
			28 April	4	
			20 May 2025	2	New players
Chiltern League	Standard Play	PHCL25	30 October		
			2 December		
			31 January		
			4 March		
			30 March		
			27 April 2025	1	New player.
Wantage Roger Davidge Swiss	Standard Play	PHWC25	31 March		
			16 May		
			20 May 2025	0	New player.
Wantage Junior Club Tournament	Rapid Play	PHWJ25	28 April	0	New player.
Didcot Club Tournament	Standard Play	PHDM24	28 June 2024		
		PHDM25	Results awaited		

Results from other events including Kidlington and Witney were submitted independently.

Player identification is always a key issue and clubs are reminded that it is better to give a player's given name rather than just an initial. I can cope with misprints better if there is a name to work with.

There have been several instances where the name of a player in the database differs from that in the ECF database: most commonly, shortened Christian names or extra initials. Steps have been taken to bring things into line.

Appendix B

Oxfordshire Junior Chess (OJC) – Annual Report 2025/26
Presented to the Oxfordshire Chess Association AGM

Covering Events, Activities, and Achievements from May 2025 to May 2026

1. Executive Summary

The past 12 months have marked an exceptionally active and successful period for Oxfordshire Junior Chess. Highlighted by our overall victory in the **Midland Counties Championship**, podium finishes at the **EPSCA National Finals**, and robust participation in both online and over-the-board leagues, the county continues to nurture talent across all age brackets from Under 8 to Under 18.

2. Core Activities & Local Competitions

- **Weekly Training (Ojays):** The Oxfordshire Junior Squad Chess Club ("Ojays") continues to meet weekly on Friday evenings during term time at Rose Hill Methodist Church in Oxford. Led by Head Coach **Joe Cossins-Smith**, sessions combine 45 minutes of gameplay with an hour of structured tactical coaching.
- **Elite Mentorship:** Stronger juniors benefit from advanced coaching sessions delivered by local talent, including **FIDE Master (FM) Kenneth Hobson**.
- **Oxford FIDE Rapidplay Series:** Organised by **Satish Gaekwad** at Kennington Village Hall, these quarterly 5-round rapidplays ($25\text{ min} + 10\text{s}$) continue to draw strong junior turnouts across the U1150, U1550, U1850, and Open sections.
- **Delancey UK Chess Challenge Oxford Megafinal (May 31, 2025):** Hosted at Cheney School and organised by **Emma-Jane Billington-Phillips**, the event saw extensive participation across U8–U18 sections, qualifying local players for the national Gigafinals.
- **Oxfordshire Primary Schools Competition (Jan 31, 2026):** Organised by **Andrew Varney** at Summer Fields School, providing 6-player team competition for U9 and U11 school teams.

3. 2026 Oxfordshire Junior Championship Results

Held on **January 3rd–4th, 2026**, at Cumnor Primary School (Organisers: **Anna Bishop** & **Joe Conlon**; Chief Arbiter: **Andrew Varney**). The U9 and U11 rapidplay trials ran alongside the 2-day classical U13–U18 championships.

Section	Format	Champion / 1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Under 9	1-Day Rapid	**Nicholas Tanuwidjaja**	Yuqi Liu	Gregory Schlackow
Under 11	1-Day Rapid	**Anna Gray**	Yechu Chen	Edmond Du
Under 13	2-Day Classical	**Aden Kennedy**	Gavin Wang	Kadhir Cholan
Under 15	2-Day Classical	**Daniel Udovenko & Jan Murawski***(Tied)*	—	—

Section	Format	Champion / 1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Under 18	2-Day Classical	**Kenneth Hobson**	—	—
Under 18 Girls	2-Day Classical	**Shambavi Hariharan**	—	—

4. County Team Performance & National Campaigns

EPSCA National Inter-Association Championships

- **Under 11 Open (Manager: Dan Schmidt-Valle):** Qualified through the South Zonal to reach the Major National Final in Macclesfield (March 14, 2026), achieving an extraordinary **Tied-3rd Place in the UK** (28.5 game points).
- **Under 11 Girls (Manager: Julie Gray):** Delivered an outstanding performance at the Major National Finals (April 18, 2026) to win the **National Bronze Medal (3rd Place Overall)**, winning 3 of 4 match rounds.
- **Under 9 Squad (Manager: Frido Tanuwidjaja / David Scott):** Navigated the Midlands Zonal Qualifier (Feb 28, 2026) to secure their place in the National Finals (April 25, 2026).

Inter-County Jamborees & League Play

- **Midland Counties Championship:** Oxfordshire secured 1st place overall in the region across combined junior team results.
- **Maidenhead Inter-County Jamborees:** Oxfordshire fielded 12-player U18 teams in both September 2025 and February 2026 under team captain **Craig Miller**, providing classical long-time-control experience against Berkshire and neighbouring counties.
- **Online Junior 4NCL (Season 13):** Coordinated by **Ola Murawska**, Oxfordshire entered **6 to 7 teams** into the Thursday evening Lichess league, providing friendly, ECF-rated competitive play for players of all levels. *(Note: An over-the-board J4NCL team was explored for Coventry but not entered due to minimum squad requirements).*

5. In Memoriam

We record with deep sadness the passing of **International Master Adam Hunt** after a brave battle with cancer. Adam was one of Oxfordshire Junior Chess's most distinguished alumni, having won the British U10, U14, and U18 titles before achieving his IM title. His legacy remains an inspiration to all our young players.

6. Acknowledgments & Thanks

An organisation of this scale relies entirely on volunteer dedication. Special thanks are extended to:

- **Exec & Tournament Committee:** Anna Bishop (Treasurer/Organiser), Joe Conlon (Chairperson/Arbiter).
- **Arbiters & Officials:** Andrew Varney, Alex Conlon, Zoe Varney, Craig Miller, Matt Bevis.
- **Team Captains & Managers:** David Scott (U9), Dan Schmidt-Valle (U11), Julie Gray (U11G), Frido Tanuwidjaja (U9), Ola Murawska (Online/J4NCL), Craig Miller (Jamboree).
- **Volunteers & Administration:** Juliette Sherwood (Catering), Fulya Markham (Certificates), Jules Kennedy (Webmaster), Jan Murawski (Setup).
- **Host School:** Cumnor Primary School for their ongoing hospitality.

Appendix C

Proposed Amendment: Online Confirmation of League Composition and Fixtures

Oxfordshire Chess Association — draft proposal for submission under Constitution clause 2.9

1. Purpose

Currently, confirmation of the OCA League's divisional composition and fixture list is tied to the September AGM: the post-season Committee meeting takes only a provisional decision, which is then ratified (or adjusted) at the AGM, after which the Fixture List is locked down. This proposal replaces that AGM-dependent step with an online confirmation process that clubs complete by 30 June — well before the season starts — so that fixtures, team entries and league composition are settled earlier and with less reliance on physical attendance at a single meeting.

This is a Constitution and League Rules amendment. Under Constitution clause 2.2, it can only be adopted at an AGM or EGM.

2. Proposed changes to the Constitution

2.11 — consequential cross-reference (amend)

Current text:

All clubs must send a representative to the AGM. In exceptional circumstances, this rule may be waived by the Secretary if he is informed before the meeting of the intentions of the club regarding teams.

Proposed text:

All clubs must send a representative to the AGM. In exceptional circumstances, this rule may be waived by the Secretary if he is informed before the meeting of the intentions of the club regarding teams. **Confirmation given by a club under clause 2.12 shall be treated as satisfying this requirement to inform the Secretary of the club's intentions regarding teams.**

2.12 — new clause (insert after 2.11, before Section 3)

2.12 Online Confirmation of League Composition and Fixtures

(a) The composition of the divisions of the OCA League for the forthcoming season, and clubs' team entries and fixture requirements, shall be confirmed through an online process rather than at the AGM.

(b) Following the post-season Committee meeting held under clause 3.2.1, the Secretary shall publish the Committee's provisional decision on league composition (taken under clause 3.2.2) to all clubs, on the OCA website and by direct email to club representatives, no later than 1 June.

(c) Each club shall confirm online, in a manner specified by the Secretary, its team entries and its agreement with (or objections to) the published provisional composition, no later than 15 June. A club that does not respond by 15 June shall be deemed to have accepted the provisional composition as published.

(d) The Committee shall consider and resolve any objections or adjustments arising from clubs' responses under (c), and the Secretary shall publish the final, confirmed composition of the divisions no later than 30 June.

(e) This online confirmation process replaces the ratification of League composition previously undertaken at the AGM under clause 3.1. The AGM shall receive a report on the outcome of the process for information only.

(f) Nothing in this clause prevents an EGM being called under clause 2.5 to address a dispute arising from the online confirmation process.

3.1 — AGM agenda (amend)

Current bullet:

~~decide on the composition of the divisions of the OCA league in the light of the recommendations of the post-season committee meeting and any relevant further information that has subsequently become available;~~

Proposed bullet:

receive, for information, a report on the composition of the divisions of the OCA League for the season as confirmed through the online confirmation process under clause 2.12;

All other AGM agenda items in 3.1 (minutes, reports, accounts, Officer elections, proposals, Frank Wood Shield deadline, other business) are unaffected.

3. Proposed changes to the League Rules

1.1 — provisional decision on league composition (amend)

Current text:

~~Subject to ratification or adjustment by the AGM in September~~ (or, exceptionally, late adjustment by an EGM), the post-season Committee meeting will take a provisional decision on the composition of the league for the next season in the light of the information available to it in order to facilitate timely production of fixture lists.

Proposed text:

Subject to confirmation or adjustment through the online confirmation process under Constitution clause 2.12 (or, exceptionally, late adjustment by an EGM), the post-season Committee meeting will take a provisional decision on the composition of the league for the next season in the light of the information available to it in order to facilitate timely production of fixture lists.

1.12 — fixture list production (amend)

Current text:

Fixture lists will be produced by the Fixtures Secretary and sent to all clubs as early as possible ~~before the AGM. After the AGM~~, changes to the Fixture List may only be made by the Fixtures Secretary. (Information, including results and tables, will be published on the OCA website.)

Proposed text:

Fixture lists will be produced by the Fixtures Secretary and a draft will be sent to all clubs as early as possible after **the closing date of the online confirmation process (Constitution clause 2.12). After that process closes,** changes to the Fixture List may only be made by the Fixtures Secretary. (Information, including results and tables, will be published on the OCA website.)

4. Indicative timeline under the proposed process

Date	Action	Responsible
Within 4 weeks of season end	Post-season Committee meeting takes provisional decision on league composition	Committee
By 1 June (or within one week of com mtg)	Provisional composition published to all clubs (website + email)	Secretary
By 15 June	Clubs confirm entries / raise objections online	Clubs
By 30 June	Objections considered; final composition published	Committee / Secretary
By 31 July	First-draft fixtures produced; clubs invited to comment	Fixtures Secretary / Clubs
August	Comments considered; finalised list	Fixtures Secretary
September	AGM receives confirmed composition for information only	AGM