

## Report of Jon D'Souza-Eva, Junior Liaison Officer of Oxfordshire Chess Association for 2011/2012 season

Oxfordshire are lucky enough to have some of the strongest juniors in country living here and playing in our adult league. Marcus Harvey, Maria & Anna Wang and James & Chantelle Foster have been playing for years and have all reached a high level, winning countless titles, including several British Championships.

However, there is very little “strength in depth”. We have very few juniors of senior school age playing in the league and this does not bode well for the future. The most notable exception is Abingdon School, for which around 17 children of senior school played in the league last season.

We need to do something to encourage older children to start playing chess and younger ones to continue playing after they leave junior school. We have county teams aimed at older children (Oxfordshire 3 – the under 125 team and also the U14/130 team) but we haven't really got the numbers of ordinary club strength players we need to bolster the ranks of the adult clubs.

If anyone has any suggestions about how we can encourage chess participation amongst older children then please do let me know!