

# Oxfordshire Chess Association: League Secretary's Report 2019-20

Roger Thetford, 28 August 2020

Report to the virtual AGM on 24 September 2020

## League Matters

### Coronavirus

Matches in the League and Frank Wood Shield were suspended on 13 March 2020 as the Covid-19 epidemic took hold. On 28 March the Committee resolved that the season should be cancelled, with the individual trophies awarded using the games that had been played, and that University 1, all but mathematically certain of winning Division 1, should retain the trophy.

### Defaults

Fewer league defaults were recorded than in the preceding two seasons, although the season was not completed. Four entire matches were conceded in the **Frank Wood Shield**.

	<b>Played</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
Division 1	45/56	9 games	1 match plus 4 games	2 matches* plus 7 games
Division 2	44/56	1 match + 6 games	7 games	2 matches* plus 11 games
Division 3	24/30	2 games	3 matches plus 13 games	9 matches† plus 10 games
Division 4	35/42	23 games	18 games	2 matches plus 12 games

\* one being an end-of-season 0-0 double default

† eight from the demise of Cowley Workers

### Disputes

Three disputes were referred to the Secretary and thence to an arbiter. One draw claim under the two-minute rule was upheld, one was rejected (and a penalty imposed, subsequently confirmed by the committee on appeal and resulting in a 0-0 result), and a ruling was made in a game when each player thought that the other had resigned, following an alleged illegal move.

### Ineligible players

Cowley 1 suffered a match-point penalty after accidentally fielding an ineligible player. This is an improvement on four such breaches last season, helped by there being fewer clubs that had two teams in the same division.

### Requests for postponements

Several requests were received, none of them truly in accordance with the *force majeure* provision in the Rules. No objections from the Secretary provided that both captains agreed, but in each case the captain receiving the request was advised that he/she could legitimately insist, without feeling guilty, that the match was played on the appointed date.

### Division 1 Final Table

Team	P	W	D	L	Def. matches	Def. games	Penalty pts	Game pt diff	Points
Oxford Univ 1	12	12	0	0	0	2	0	48	24
Witney 1	11	9	0	2	0	0	0	30	18
City 1	11	7	0	4	0	0	0	3	14
Cumnor 1	8	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	9
Banbury 1	11	4	1	6	0	2	0	-5	9
Cowley 2	13	3	1	9	0	2	0	-29	7
Didcot 1	12	2	1	9	0	0	0	-22	5
Cowley 1	12	1	2	9	0	3	1	-25	3

### Division 2 Final Table

Team	P	W	D	L	Def. matches	Def. games	Penalty pts	Game pt diff	Points
Oxford Univ 2	13	6	3	3	1	7	1	3	14
Banbury 2	10	5	3	2	0	1	0	7	13
Wantage 1	11	3	6	2	0	0	0	1	12
Witney 2	11	5	2	4	0	1	0	1	12
Didcot 2	11	3	4	4	0	0	0	-2	10
Cowley 3	12	2	5	5	0	0	0	-3	9
Bicester 1	10	3	3	4	0	3	0	-3	9
City 2	10	3	2	5	0	0	0	-4	8

### Division 3 Final Table

Team	P	W	D	L	Def. matches	Def. games	Penalty pts	Game pt diff	Points
Witney 3	10	7	2	1	0	0	0	22	16
Cowley 4	9	7	2	0	0	0	0	18	16
Cowley 5	7	3	1	3	0	0	0	-3	7
Banbury 3	8	2	1	5	0	2	0	-15	5
City 3	7	1	0	6	0	0	0	-9	2
Abingdon	7	1	0	6	0	0	0	-13	2

## Division 4 Final Table

Team	P	W	D	L	Def. matches	Def. games	Penalty pts	Game pt diff	Points
Oxford Univ 3	12	10	0	2	0	6	1	23	19
Didcot 3	9	7	1	1	0	1	0	25	15
Cumnor 2	9	4	1	4	0	2	0	-2	9
Cowley 6	11	5	0	6	0	5	1	-12	9
Bicester 2	10	4	1	5	0	4	1	-1	8
Witney 4	9	3	0	6	0	3	0	-6	6
Wantage 2	10	0	1	9	0	2	0	-27	1

## League Composition

Following the change to the Constitution agreed at the 2019 AGM, the May Committee meeting now defines the league composition for the following season.

At that meeting, all clubs bar Cowley stated that they would enter the same number of teams for 2020-21 as for 2019-20. Cowley will drop one team, leaving five, and would like to field only one team in Division 1 (i.e. Cowley 1 should either be relegated or should cease to exist, with the other team being renumbered).

**This decision will be reviewed in the light of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent motions to be considered at the 2020 AGM.**

## Fixtures

Defining the league composition in May should enable the fixture list to be proposed and refined in good time for the start of the season.

For the Frank Wood Shield, Rule 9.2 states “The first round of the competition will take place before the end of the University Michaelmas Term.” The fixture list for 2019-20 designated the week of 9–13 December for the first round, beyond the end of the University term. This, and the entry of 17 teams, had two consequences:

1. A preliminary round, and two university fixtures in the round of 16, had to be fitted among the league matches in November.
2. Although the league fixtures were known in early October, the FWS draw was made later, once clubs had made their entries. Players were evidently reluctant to play additional matches shortly before Christmas; three of the eight fixtures scheduled for that week were defaulted, along with one second-round fixture.

The last week of Michaelmas Term for the coming season is **30 November – 4 December**. Reserving this week for the FWS should allow any preliminary matches to be played in November if required.

## Awards

### Trophy Winners

Frank Wood Shield	not awarded
ODCL Division 1	University 1
ODCL Division 2	not awarded
ODCL Division 3	not awarded
ODCL Division 4	not awarded
Division 1 individual	Joris Gerlagh, University 1: $6.5/7 = 92.86\%$
Division 2 individual	Paul Friend, Banbury 2: $5/6 = 83.33\%$
Division 3 individual	Joshua Soanes, Witney 3: $5.5/6 = 91.67\%$
Division 4 individual	Chris Finn, University 3, $7/7$ ; Alessandro Tringali, Didcot 3, $6/6$ ; Joshua Soanes, Witney 4, $5/5$
Lester Millin Trophy (best junior)	Joshua Soanes, Witney
Oxon Individual Championship	Dimitrios Zakarian, Christ Church Cathedral School

Qualification for individuals: must have played in 50% or more of the team's matches.