

Time: Wednesday 14th October 2015 6:30pm

Venue: Magdalen College School

Present: John Place (Chair, MCS, U14 SCCU), Mel Davenport (outgoing Treasurer), Andrew Varney (Secretary, OCA Junior Liaison, EPSCA Oxon Association Secretary, various school chess clubs), Kathryn Gillow (Treasurer Elect), Sandy Ruxton (SS Mary & John, Oxford Spires), Duncan Young (U11 Girls EPSCA, Ojays), Anne Harpin (St Aloysius)

Apologies: Tom Aubrey-Fletcher (Dragon), Jenny Cooke (ECS), Marc Ives (U11 EPSCA), David Lee (U9 EPSCA, William Fletcher), Charlotte Rayner (Ojays & EPSCA teams), Robin Harskin (Christ Church), Marcus Idle (U13/U18 team, Ojays), Gillian Hood (Wheatley Park), Kevin Mosedale (Radley), Chris Lillington-Martin (Summer Fields)

1. Minutes from previous AGM and matters arising

- The Minutes from the 2014-15 season AGM were accepted as correct.
- **Item 1, Note 4b** Property Manager: A spreadsheet for tracking Oxon Junior Chess property was sent to a volunteer for this role, but it really needs more hands-on work than previously communicated in order to be effective. Some attempts were made by AV to retrieve older paperwork and any remaining property but without complete success. The two oldest unretrieved sets of chess clocks known of are at St Andrews (Headington) and Harwell.
Mel volunteered to get the clocks back from St Andrews. ACTION: Mel Davenport. Spreadsheet needs to be updated. ACTION: Andrew Varney.
- **Item 3** Entry deadlines. It was agreed that the deadline for entering teams for the league and playing first matches worked well last year and would be repeated this year. Deadline for entry = end of first week in November (i.e. Friday 6 November 2015); deadline for first match to be played = end of January (i.e. Sunday 31 January 2016). An exception will be made for U18 section. **ACTION: Andrew Varney to communicate to school team managers.**
- **Item 6c** Older girls' team. This did not happen.
- **Item 8a** 2nd hand sweatshirts. This did not happen.
- All other actions in the minutes last year were completed.

2. Presentation of Accounts

The accounts were presented by Mel Davenport. There is a healthy balance in the account showing a significant profit (approximately £600) over the year. Less new equipment was purchased during the year than the previous season. There is still an outstanding amount (probably ~£100 or more) to be paid to the ECF as grading fees. Based on discussions at the OCA AGM, it seems that the ECF are well behind on the collection of these fees from everyone and it is not clear when (or even if) the invoice will be received.

Only one school (Dragon) had not yet paid the invoice for last season's league fees and this will be chased up. ACTION: Andrew Varney/Mel Davenport/Kathryn Gillow

Discussion followed on whether the account balance is in fact more than it should be for a not-for-profit organisation. It was agreed that we should keep ~£1000 in the account to

cover transport costs (coach hire) for EPSCA events and such like if required. Various suggestions were made on where to invest some additional money. John Place mentioned that there used to be cash prizes for the winners of the Oxon Junior tournament trophies; it was agreed to reinstate these as follows (see 7.a.iii. below). In addition, it was suggested that small “trinkets” are available to all that enter Oxon Junior tournaments. It was thought that Oxon Junior Chess pens and/or badges would be suitable. ACTION: Andrew Varney to investigate.

3. Election of Officers

The following were elected unanimously and unopposed for the 2015-16 season:

- a. Chairman – John Place (re-election)
- b. Secretary – Andrew Varney (re-election*)
- c. Treasurer – Kathryn Gillow (Mel Davenport is standing down**)

*Andrew indicated his intention to stand down as Secretary within the next few years to pursue other opportunities.

**The committee and meeting expressed their gratitude for all Mel has done over the past two years. During her term of office, the issues with bank accounts have all been sorted out and a robust system for expense claims put in place.

4. Oxfordshire schools league 2015-16 season

Current entries at time of writing (a few of these subsequent to AGM) are:

- U9: Emmanuel Christian School, SS Mary & John, Dragon, William Fletcher, Christ Church, Cumnor Primary School, St Aloysius, New College School [8 teams total]
- U11: MCS (3 teams), Emmanuel Christian School, SS Mary & John, Cumnor Primary School, Dragon, William Fletcher, Freeland, Chandlings, Botley, Larkrise, Christ Church, St Josephs [14 teams total]
- U13: MCS (2 teams), Cherwell, Dragon, Summer Fields, Christ Church [6 teams total]
- U18: Oxford Spires, Cherwell [2 teams total]

MCS changed their entry from 2 teams in the U11s to 3 teams, with a request that one of the teams was in a different pool to the others. St Aloysius decided to change from U11 to U9 and request that they play (at least mostly) away matches. In addition, Didcot Girls School might be interested in entering a team for a relevant section of the league and it is hoped that at least Bartholomew and Leckford Place will also be persuaded to enter teams for the U18 section.

Some teams north of Oxford have indicated that they can enter as long as there is not too much travelling to the centre of Oxford and southwards. The possibility of 3 (or more) zonal sections – e.g. N Oxon, S Oxon and Central - was discussed and it was agreed that we could go ahead with this if there were enough entries for at least 5 schools per section. We would have to sort out how to manage the play-offs if this happened.

ACTION: Andrew Varney to consider when setting pools.

5. Constitutional & administrative:

a. Reminder and explanation of rules concerning use of clocks

An item for discussion had been raised by one of the team managers. During the last season, some matches were played without clocks and/or with teams in a board order which clearly did not reflect ability. This had led to emails being sent to the team managers by the Secretary after consultation with the Chairman and the local ECF grading officer.

The circumstances of these rule infringements and the necessity for those specific rules was outlined to the meeting. The use of clocks is required for all except the U9 section of the league because the games are sent for grading to the ECF and this requires the fundamental aspects of the FIDE Laws such as clock use to be followed. An arbitrary or reverse board order is not allowed as this is an unfair practice.

A reminder and explanation is to be sent to school team managers, together with a reminder that clocks and equipment are available to loan and some advice on what to do if a mistake is made (e.g. forgetting to take clocks on one occasion). **ACTION: Andrew Varney**

b. Definition of Oxon Junior Chess

i. “Not for profit” – should we have charitable status?

It was pointed out that having charitable status might help sort out issues such as insurance (see below) as well as allowing us more easily to set up (e.g.) bursary funds for Oxon junior players otherwise unable to play at the appropriate level for their ability. It was felt, however, that such a change might be quite involved. It was suggested that we **find out what other junior chess organisations do and possibly check with Charity Commission what is involved.** **ACTION: Sandy Ruxton**

ii. Indemnity & liability insurance

This is a current hot topic in a few contexts (including emails from Berks Junior Chess). The Schools League is obviously covered by individual schools since they are inter-school matches. It was suggested that Oxon Junior tournaments are handled on a case-by-case basis, with a check being made with each individual venue.

iii. Safeguarding policy

It is some years since the OCA produced a safeguarding document. It was suggested that this should be brought up to date. The ECF is currently in the process of revising their guidelines and an attempt will be made to follow these once they are published. **ACTION: Andrew Varney**

6. County junior teams

a. EPSCA U9 and U11

- i. Team manager(s) – At the meeting it was reported that there were no changes, but subsequently the Secretary was informed that Marc Ives is now U9 team manager, David Lee U11 team manager (swapped back again because of their daughters’ participation in the different teams!). Duncan Young continues as Girls’ team manager.

- ii. Information
- iii. Trials – a date & venue need to be set in January for the U9 and U11 trials. ACTION: David Lee/Marc Ives

b. SCCU U14/U130

John continues to run this and now has enough players in the relevant categories to run two Oxon teams this year. The first match between the Oxon A and Oxon B teams has already taken place.

c. Girls' team

Duncan Young presented some ideas for expanding girls' chess in Oxfordshire beyond the 2 inter-county fixtures (one friendly & EPSCA U11 final) currently timetabled. A significant suggestion was to run an internal county (U11) tournament based on the 5 districts of Oxfordshire. Some discussion followed on this, from which DY has thoughts to take away. He would need willing teachers/volunteers to look after each "district." There was also some discussion on involving older girls to help on a tournament and/or coaching day (something that Heather Lang ran on occasion previously). ACTION: Duncan Young to make and communicate more detailed, specific proposals.

d. ECF U13 & U18 tournament

Marcus Idle organised older teams to enter the ECF and other similar tournaments last year.

7. Oxfordshire junior chess events

a. Oxfordshire Junior LJCC qualifier Sunday 29 November

- i. Status of venue availability – Cherwell school is the likely venue, just waiting for final confirmation of South site availability or back-up of North site. (*Post meeting note: Cherwell not available; urgently seeking alternative, but hampered by it being half term!* ACTION: Andrew Varney and anyone else who can offer to help!)
- ii. Request for volunteers – Duncan Young said he could help on the day. More volunteers required! ACTION: everyone!
- iii. Top school prizes – will still continue with engraved chess clocks, as well as reinstating individual prizes (see above for discussion): U18 = £50, U15 = £35, U13 = £25. ACTION: Andrew Varney to arrange and list on entry information.

b. Junior team trials TBD - Sat/Sun in January 2016
ACTION: David Lee/Marc Ives

- c. UK Chess Challenge Megafinal(s)** – The Oxon one went ahead at usual venue and date with Andrew Varney as overall organiser. There was no "N Berks" Megafinal. Arrangements are likely to be the same this season.

8. Notice of other local & national events

- John Place circulated information on the ECF U11 schools tournament and EPSCA U9 and U11 schools tournaments, for which MCS is hosting regional qualifiers.

- National Schools Championship – information to be circulated. (See <http://englishchess.org.uk/NSCC/>.) The U19 Open championship zonal stages have already taken place, but it is not too late to enter for either of the Girls' tournaments or for the younger age groups (U11 and U13). Only small teams are required for some of the sections (e.g. U19 Girls 3 players).
- London Chess Classic on week of 7-11 December– this was highly recommended by Sandy Ruxton, with free events for school groups, including professional coaching. See http://www.londonchessclassic.com/school_events.htm.

9. AOB

There was no other business.

Andrew Varney

31/10/15