

Time: Thursday 25th September 2014 6pm

Venue: Magdalen College School

Present: John Place (Chair, MCS, U14 SCCU), Mel Davenport (Treasurer), Andrew Varney (Secretary, OCA Junior Liaison, EPSCA Oxon Association Secretary, various school chess clubs), Joan Clanchy (SS Mary & John), David Lee (William Fletcher, U9 EPSCA, Oxon Junior squad club (“Ojays”))

Apologies: Mark Edwards (Dragon), Jenny Cooke (ECS), Marc Ives (U11 EPSCA), Duncan Young (EPSCA girls team), Richard Dodd (OHS), Robin Harskin (Christ Church), Marcus Idle (U13/U18 team, Ojays)

1. Notes from previous AGM and matters arising

- **Item 4b** Property Manager: The information and some clocks were handed over to the volunteer following last year’s AGM, but the role was not able to be fulfilled due to a variety of reasons. Another potential volunteer has been approached and requires follow-up to confirm. ACTION: Andrew Varney. The paperwork and any remaining property should be retrieved. ACTION: Andrew Varney
- **Item 4c** The rule introduced at the last AGM for the U13 section has worked fine without unfairly biasing outcome and will stand for this season.
- **Item 4d** The situation with regard to Oxfordshire Junior Chess has moved on significantly (e.g. new “Ojays” club, UK Chess Challenge Megafinals discussion, etc) and it is felt that this issue is no longer so relevant.
- **Item 5a** The OHS schools league entry fee from the previous season is to be written off as bad debt.
- **Item 5b** The Oxford Junior Chess bank account has been sorted out (see item 5b in this year’s minutes).
- **Item 6a (i)** Subsequent to the previous AGM, Duncan Young agreed to take on the role of U11 girls’ team manager and did a very good job, beyond the call of duty in a year when Oxfordshire hosted the EPSCA U11 girls’ final.
- **Item 6a (iii)** The county team trials were efficiently run by David Lee *et al.*
- **Item 6a (iv)** Oxfordshire hosted the EPSCA U11 girls’ final at Didcot School and were praised for the organisational success.
- **Item 6c** Oxfordshire did not enter a team this previous year due to over-commitment in hosting the EPSCA girls’ event and other activities. A new manager has now been appointed (see item 6d in this year’s minutes).

2. Election of Officers

John Place, Mel Davenport and Andrew Varney agreed to stand for one further year in their existing roles and all were elected unanimously for a further term of office.

Chairman = John Place; Secretary = Andrew Varney; Treasurer = Mel Davenport

3. Oxfordshire schools league 2014-15 season

Current entries include:

- U9: MCS, Emmanuel Christian School, SS Mary & John, Dragon, William Fletcher, Batt, Christ Church
- U11: MCS (2 teams), Emmanuel Christian School, SS Mary & John (2 teams [*reduced to 1 subsequent to meeting*]), Cumnor School, Dragon, William Fletcher, Batt, Freeland, Chandlings
- U13: MCS, Cherwell, Dragon, Henry Box, Christ Church [*corrected to U11 team subsequent to meeting*]
- U18: Radley College, Leckford Place, Henry Box

Headington School have explicitly stated that they will not be entering teams for the Oxon Schools League this season. Entries might be expected from Wolvercote in U11s [*subsequent to meeting told not now likely*], Chipping Norton in U18s [*still waiting to hear*] and Oxford Spirens in U13 and U18 sections [*probably now only U18*]. [*Some additional schools have expressed interest subsequent to the AGM – see website for actual line-up*].

MCS requested that their two U11 teams are allocated to separate pools, assuming that there are enough teams for two pools. SS Mary & John requested that their two U11 teams are kept in the same pool [*now only 1 team so not an issue!*]

It was agreed at the meeting that entries for this year's league will be accepted up until Friday 7 November inclusive, but no later unless under exceptional circumstances. However, teams that have already entered may commence to play matches. For this season only (i.e. not yet a constitutional change) a deadline for playing the first match was proposed. A date of the end of January was suggested. Any teams having not played a match before this date will be assumed to have withdrawn from the league. This was agreed unanimously. **This needs to be clearly communicated to schools involved in the league.**

ACTION: Andrew Varney

4. Constitutional:

a. Discussion of new FIDE Laws of Chess with respect to Rapidplay

The latest FIDE Laws of Chess (1 July 2014) state, amongst other things, with respect to Rapidplay “*An illegal move is completed... the opponent is entitled to claim a win..*” (A.4b). This is felt to be inappropriate for junior chess at the level of the Oxfordshire Schools League. Hence it was proposed, and accepted unanimously, that the rules be changed to reflect this explicitly by the extension of the paragraph “*There are, of course, other rules, some of which are more complicated. Common sense and fair play should always prevail in any dispute.*” An additional sentence is to be added stating “***In particular, the July 2014 FIDE Laws relating to the penalty***

of loss of game for illegal moves are considered inappropriate at this junior level, so will not be enforced.” ACTION: Andrew Varney

b. U18 section of Schools League

A suggestion had been made that we consider making the U18 section Rapidplay rather than Standard Play, but this suggestion was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

5. Financial

a. Accounts

The accounts were presented by Mel Davenport. There is a healthy balance in the account showing a small profit over the year (but with a game fee expense and outstanding trophy engraving costs still pending for a similar amount).

b. Bank account

The Oxfordshire Junior Chess bank account is now all sorted out. The Treasurer is receiving monthly statements, and there are two cheque books held by the Treasurer and Secretary (which helps to reduce the magnitude of expense refunds). Payments of up to £200 can be made using one signature; two signatures are required for amounts greater than this. An exception is for expense payments paid to a signatory, which require the other two signatures, however small the amount.

We are very grateful to Mel, who has kept a very clear track of the accounts and has implemented a new expense form for additional transparency and to avoid volunteers ending up out of pocket.

c. League fees for next season

The league fees will remain the same for this season – i.e. £12 per team for the U11, U13 and U18 sections which are graded, and £10 per team for the ungraded U9 section.

d. AOB

John Place continues to maintain a separate account for the U14/U130 team, in his role as team manager, to cover refreshments and trophies.

6. County junior teams

a. EPSCA U9 and U11

i. Team manager(s) – Marc Ives now U11 team manager, David Lee U9 team manager (swapped over because of their daughters’ participation in the different teams), Duncan Young continuing as Girls’ team manager for one more year.

ii. Information – the EPSCA AGM is held the weekend following this Oxon Junior Chess AGM. *Some other dates have already been circulated to team managers (needs checking). ACTION: Andrew Varney*

iii. Trials – see 7c below.

iv. Possibly hosting U11 girls’ final (again!) FYI only – dependent on Didcot School availability. Should be more straightforward having done it once.

b. SCCU U14/U130

John will continue with this. Surprisingly, Oxfordshire won this event convincingly for a second season in a row. *It was suggested that the SCCU U14 team past and present be formally invited to join “Ojays.” ACTION: Andrew Varney/David Lee via John Place.*

c. Older girls' team

There is a proposal for an older girls' team with grading limits akin to the U14/U130 team, but e.g. 11-16 years, under 130. Older and/or higher-graded girls already have chances to play in clubs and other mixed teams/events. **It is envisaged that they would arrange friendly matches with other counties, e.g. in parallel with the U11 or U9 friendly matches arranged by Nigel Dennis. Duncan Young has agreed to take this on. ACTION: Duncan Young.**

d. ECF U13 & U18 tournament

Hopefully we will be able to enter an Oxon team for this in the 2014-15 season, as well as the one or two similar events that take place. Marcus Idle has agreed to act as team manager to co-ordinate this. **Event information to be passed to Marcus Idle. ACTION: Andrew Varney.**

7. Oxfordshire junior chess events

a. Witney Junior Rapidplay Sunday 28 September

- i. Entry summary – it appears numbers of entries are lower than expected. Why could this be? Possibly because of the ages being mixed and a perception that it is thus too tough for U11 players. Maybe consider at least one age split in the future? It was pointed out that the Major/Minor split is intended to largely cope with this and the strongest juniors tend to enter the adult section.

b. Oxfordshire Junior LJCC qualifier Sunday 2 November

- i. Status of venue availability – cancel or go ahead?
No suitable venue was confirmed by the deadline. However, rather than cancel altogether, it was proposed that an LJCC qualifier (with reduced number of entries by restricting it to U8, U10 and U12 sections) may allow the event to go ahead at a primary school. **William Fletcher was proposed with David Lee to take on the venue responsibilities. ACTION: David Lee.** [subsequent to AGM, the event is going ahead on this basis.] If this is not possible, rather than cancel outright, the action will be to tell the LJCC organisers that we've had to postpone from 2 November with the message that "we will look at alternative dates, but with no promises that it will be able to go ahead."
- ii. Top school prize – this will happen again, assuming the tournament goes ahead. Last year's prize winners will be ineligible to win the chess clock.

c. Junior team trials TBD - Sat/Sun 10/11 January 2015 ?

The date suggested should be fine, with U9 on Sat, U11 on Sun. Note that John Place is unavailable on the Sunday due to an SCCU fixture. Venue is likely to be Cumnor PS again, but numbers may have to be limited to 50 entrants each day (due to parking issues).

d. UK Chess Challenge Megafinal(s) – controversial discussions

Discussions have taken place with Mike Basman. It looks likely that an additional "North (Old) Berkshire" Megafinal may get the go-ahead, which could cater for the players from the Abingdon/Botley/Cumnor area. This will also need Nigel Dennis's

agreement. The Oxfordshire Megafinal may also then move slightly further north (e.g. Kidlington?) to try to attract more North Oxon schools.

8. AOB

- a. Oxon Junior sweatshirts need to be re-ordered in time for the January trials.
ACTION: Mel Davenport. There are also some 2nd hand sweatshirts available (from MCS, etc) which could be sold at reduced price. ACTION: Mel Davenport to liaise with John Place.
- b. Further dates for the diary, including some hosted by MCS, to be circulated:
 - EPSCA U11 zonal
 - ECF U11 zonal

Andrew Varney

29/10/14