

## OCA Committee Meeting - 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 : Secretary's Report

### Season Duration

Many have complained about the excessive length of the season only just ending  
We should not be having to clear league and cup ties this late in May  
It does not help to have 9 teams in Div 4, especially if one is a Univ side. Asking teams to play 16 ties in the league season is too much in my view. We must find a way to solve this one

### Defaults

See separate sheet. The number of defaults this season, at least double that of last year has been unacceptable. One can only hope that this has just been a bad year

### Disputes

There have been very few disputes this year. Many thanks to the captains for the sportsmanship that has evidently prevailed.

### Postponement Requests

The Secretary has been disappointed by the number of requests to postpone matches on invalid grounds. Captains are reminded that inability to field a team or your best team is not a valid reason for such a request. Nor is the fact that you may be holding a simultaneous event on the night of the match at your club, a variation on a similar theme  
The time to ask for fixture date changes is early in the season, when the Fixture Sec invites you to do so, when you can also advise about special events at your club, to keep apart from OCA fixtures. Though I will not stand in the way of teams who accept a postponement request, who want to play over the board, I will support a decision by opponents to claim a default if the request was not made on valid grounds.

### University Teams

Neither University side due to visit Wantage this season was able to come on the scheduled date causing inconvenience in re-arranging  
We have suggested that the university sides ask the Fixtures Secretary to schedule most of their out of town matches in the first part of the season when they are less inconvenienced by exams, and can then look forward to being at home for the return matches

\*\*\*\*\*

George Spalding, Secretary

June 2017

