

Oxfordshire Individual Chess Championship Report, 2017-18

Following ratification of the proposal by the 2016 OCA AGM, the Oxfordshire Individual Chess Championship was revived, with the title of Oxfordshire Chess Champion and the Championship Trophy to be awarded to the *eligible** player with the highest combined score in the Open sections of the Witney Weekend Congress and the Kidlington Chess Tournament during the season.

Last year's winner, David Zakarian, played only in the Witney leg of the competition this season, where he finished second on 3.5 points, having been outpaced by Banbury Chess Club's James Jackson, who won the event with 4.5 points.

James went on to complete a very fine tournament double by winning the Open section at Kidlington, too, thereby finishing streets ahead in the County Championship with a final score of 8.5/10. Trailing in second place, with 6 points, was Cowley's Eldar Alizada. Oxford University's Tim Foster finished third, half a point behind Eldar.

So we congratulate Banbury's James Jackson, the new Oxfordshire Chess Champion for 2017-18!

In the coming season, the first leg of the Individual Championship will be held on Saturday & Sunday 3 & 4 November (incorporated into the Open section at the Witney Weekend Congress). The second leg, incorporated into the Open section at the Kidlington Tournament, will be held on Saturday & Sunday 2 & 3 February 2019.

I encourage ambitious eligible players to challenge for the title by competing in both events in the coming season.

Gerard O'Reilly (OCA Individual Championship Organizer)
4 September 2018

***Eligibility**

A player will count as eligible provided that either (i) his or her (main) home at the time of both events is in Oxfordshire, or (ii) he or she has played a combined total of at least four games in the Oxfordshire League and (representing the Oxfordshire Open team) the Chilterns League before the end of January in the season in which both events are held. In the event of eligible players being tied for the highest combined number of points, the title will be shared.

In clause (i) above, the point of speaking of a player's 'main home' is that, for example, Oxfordshire students who may be residing away from home in their university town during term will be regarded as eligible for the Oxfordshire Individual Championship if their parental home to which they return during university vacations is in Oxfordshire. Those students and others whose main home is outside Oxfordshire will be eligible for the Individual Championship if they satisfy clause (ii) above. If you have any further questions about eligibility, please contact me (GO'R).