

Time: Friday 15th November 2013 6pm

Venue: Magdalen College School

Present: John Place (MCS, U14 SCCU), Joan Clanchy (SS Mary & John), Marcus Idle (Oxon Junior squad club), Andrew Varney, Tamal Matilal (St Aloysius)

Apologies: Jenny Cooke (ECS), David Lee (William Fletcher, U11 EPSCA), Simon Terrington, Mel Davenport, Marc Ives (U9 EPSCA)

1. Notes from previous AGM and matters arising

- **Item 1a** League account closed by Halifax; documentation available for Oxon Junior (EPSCA) account. Further discussion under item 5b.
- **Item 3bi & 3c** Sue Baker has retired and will not be involved in Oxfordshire junior chess any more
- **Item 4a** Roger Thetford has set up a “junior” page (incorporating all items with a “junior” flag set) which can be reached from a link on the home page.
- **Item 6a** Marc Ives is the U9 team manager and David Lee the U11 manager. Both are continuing in their roles this season. The U11 girls’ manager position is now vacant. Further discussion under item 6aiv.
- **Item 8** A presentation of gift vouchers was made to Jon and Penny as well as giving verbal thanks.

2. Election of Officers

John Place had previously indicated his intention to stand down from the position of Treasurer and Mel Davenport willingness to stand dependent on two of the subsidiary responsibilities (trophies and loan of equipment) being removed from the remit. See below under item 4b. The meeting wished to record many thanks for John’s long-term input of time and energy to the Schools’ League having been Treasurer since 2002 and Secretary for about 8 or 9 years previous to that.

Mel Davenport was elected unanimously.

Andrew Varney was willing to stand again as Secretary and was elected unanimously.

After some discussion John Place indicated he was willing to stand in the more limited role of Chairman and was elected unanimously.

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

3. Oxfordshire schools league 2013-14 season

Current entries are:

- U9: MCS, Emmanuel Christian School, SS Mary & John, Dragon, William Fletcher, Batt, Christ Church
- U11: MCS (3 teams), Emmanuel Christian School, SS Mary & John (2 teams), St Aloysius, Cunnor School, Wolvercote, Dragon, William Fletcher, Batt, Freeland

- U13: MCS, Cherwell, Dragon, Henry Box
- U18: Radley College

The first match has been played in the U11 section. At the meeting St Aloysius indicated an intention to enter a second U11 team. Potential U9 and U11 entries are pending from Botley. A meeting is also arranged for next week with Chandlings School [*subsequent to meeting Chandlings asked to enter teams in U9 and U11 sections*]. Excepting these schools, entry to the U9 and U11 league sections is now closed for this season. There are several possible other candidates for the U13 and U18 sections and since the numbers are relatively small, entry to these remains open until the beginning of January.

4. Constitutional:

a. Amendment in rules concerning AGM date

Point 1 of the rules: a simple update to reflect reality in terms of AGM date (autumn rather than “September”). In point 6 a similar change to reflect the reality of not being viable to play half the matches in the first term.

b. Clarification of officers’ responsibilities

It was agreed to separate the responsibility for equipment loans and upkeep/provision of trophies from the Treasurer’s duties (see in section 2 above). The new position of “Property manager” is not to be considered an official office but rather a delegated role. Tamal Matilal agreed to take on this responsibility with some training. **Hand over information and discuss with Tamal. ACTION: John Place. Liaise with Tamal on clocks and trophies. ACTION: Andrew Varney.** There was some discussion of the roles of Chairman and Secretary in the rules. Both positions are required formally to keep the bank account. In reality the Secretary does most of the work that is not in the Treasurer’s remit. The Chairman’s role is fairly limited but important, as overseer of the League. As such there are 3 main responsibilities which are all specified in the new version of the rules: announcing the AGM date, approving the pools set up by the Secretary in the league and acting as contact and lead arbiter in the case of disputes.

c. Proposal for change in rules for U13 section

There was a long discussion over this proposal. The encouragement and continuity aspects were appreciated by all, and a very positive response received by the Secretary personally from local-authority maintained schools was reflected by those representatives at the AGM. However, potentially the inclusion of players from primary schools in a secondary school team could lead to good primary school players dominating the results which would not be fair on the teams made up from solely secondary school players. A counter-proposal was suggested, with the additional players playing on the bottom two boards and the results not counting for the match. The issue with this is that the players themselves would not feel part of the team which would defeat the whole object. The final outcome of the discussion was that the amendment to the rules allowing U13 teams to have up to 2 players was agreed by all present with the clarification that it applies Oxfordshire “feeder”

primary schools for local-authority maintained secondary schools rather than independent schools. Review outcome of rules change at next AGM to ensure it does not unfairly bias results because of exceptional primary school players. ACTION: Andrew Varney & John Place.

d. Definition of “Oxfordshire Junior Chess”

An outline was given of the issues and reasons for wanting to define this better. The “Schools League” AGM covers general matters and activities within Oxfordshire Junior Chess (OJC), including the EPSCA events and teams. The bank account is now combined to cover all such activities. There is a case for defining OJC to include Oxfordshire schools and clubs for the benefit of participation in the UKCC Oxfordshire Megafinal. How the activities relate to the OCA and how the new OJ Squad chess club fit in with all of this is not properly defined organisationally or financially. There was general agreement that some work should be put in to define better what was meant by “Oxfordshire Junior Chess” to bring activities together under one umbrella in an official way, but that there is as yet insufficient definition and too little time at the AGM. Initiate on-line discussion including relevant parties. Appoint/delegate to sub-committee? ACTION: Andrew Varney

5. Financial

a. Accounts

The accounts were presented by John Place for the expenses and income in the original Schools League account and its transfer to Treasurer’s personal account (see 1 above and 5b below) and an attempt to summarize the payment of league fees in the absence of Oxon Junior Chess account statements. Andrew Varney had obtained these statements and was able to confirm at the meeting that most of the league fees had been paid (Christ Church, ECS and Cherwell in addition to those listed). Provide electronic copy of accounts presented for additional notes/corrections. ACTION: John Place. It was noted that there was an outstanding ECF “pay to play” grading fee of £90.75 to pay for last season’s league. Check MCS names given and pay fee if correct. ACTION: John Place.

[Subsequent to meeting: there appears to be no evidence of OHS having paid other than an email from them stating they have. Check if it has been paid into personal account. ACTION: John Place. If not, chase up with OHS. ACTION: Mel Davenport.]

b. Bank account

A complete set of statements from May 2012 to 1 November 2013 has been passed to Andrew Varney from Nigel Hartley, with many statements dating back to 2009 in addition. Mel Davenport has already checked the statements with respect to deposits for entries to the recent Oxon Junior tournament.

Together with these is a mandate for change of signatories and conditions on the account, form NWB50101 (07/07/2010). It was proposed and agreed that the signatories be changed to John Place (Chair), Andrew Varney (Secretary), Mel Davenport (new Treasurer). This means deleting Nigel Hartley (already in place on the documentation), Jon D’Souza-Eva and Roger Thetford, leaving just John Place from the original signatories, and adding Andrew Varney and Mel Davenport. The statements should be

sent to either Mel Davenport (ideally) or Andrew Varney. It was also agreed that the mandate be changed to allow one authorised signatory for amounts up to £200, and two for amounts in excess of this. The formal wording on the form is as below.

"It was resolved that:

- the signing rules in the current mandate for the accounts detailed in Section 2, be replaced in accordance with section 4;

and/~~or~~ the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 2, be changed in accordance with section 5, and the current mandate will continue as amended."

These decisions need to be ratified by Mel Davenport as the new Treasurer absent from the meeting. ACTION: Mel Davenport.

Fill out forms, sign and send off. ACTION: Andrew Varney & Mel Davenport.

c. League fees for next season

It was decided to keep the league fees the same as agreed at the 2012-13 AGM, namely (£10) for the U9 section, and £12 for the graded sections of the leagues (U11, U13 and U18 (Open)). Due to an oversight, the fees charged for the 2012-13 season were just £10 for all sections, but it was agreed to let this stand for the previous season (i.e. not to charge the extra retrospectively). Note revised numbers to use for invoices this season.

ACTION: Mel Davenport.

d. AOB

Treasurer's documentation files and statements are to be passed to Mel Davenport.

ACTION: John Place & Andrew Varney. Note that a small amount of money (current balance £58.42) is kept separate from the Oxon Junior accounts for the U14/U130 team. This is tracked and retained by John Place as team manager. A hard copy balance sheet for this has been included in the junior accounts file for information and transparency.

6. County junior teams

a. EPSCA U9 and U11

- i. Team manager(s) – Marc Ives is continuing as U9 team manager, David Lee as U11 team manager. Heather has had to step down from her chess responsibilities and this includes the management of the U11 girls' team. Several other possible candidates to manage the team have been approached but none so far have been willing to take it on. Marc and David have agreed to try to handle it between themselves since they will be present with their daughters anyway, but it is complicated by the fact that Oxfordshire are hosting the final this year! Continue to look for a girls' team manager. ACTION: Andrew Varney
- ii. Information – some information from the EPSCA AGM, etc, was circulated to the team managers previously.
- iii. Trials – a provisional date has been set for this but Andrew Varney is unavailable that weekend due to another prior chess commitment (4NCL). It will have to be organised by David and Marc. The venue is more likely to be Cumnor School rather than St Andrews due to Sue Baker's retirement. The two-day event last year worked well with the numbers involved. If anything more could be expected this year with the increased

- chess activity in the county. Arrange meeting to discuss arrangements/planning and pass on experience. ACTION: Andrew Varney
- iv. Hosting U11 girls' final! Information and communications required from Heather Lang. ACTION: Andrew Varney [*info received subsequent to meeting*] Planning meeting to be organised with David and Marc. ACTION: Andrew Varney. Venue to be booked; try Headington School? ACTION: Andrew Varney
 - v. EPSCA proposal re: sets/clocks – Nigel Dennis (EPSCA) raised the question “Would Oxford be interested in buying equipment at half price and keeping it, with EPSCA paying the other half, provided the equipment can be used by EPSCA, when required? I circulated details about this with the minutes of the EPSCA AGM, which went to association secretaries.” There was not a lot of support for this idea. It was pointed out that we can (and, in at least some cases ,do) also use the Kidlington Congress equipment for EPSCA events hosted in/by Oxfordshire in any case. Email Nigel Dennis to inform him of decision and explanation. ACTION: Andrew Varney [*done subsequent to meeting*]
- b. SCCU U14/U130**
- As described in the OCA Junior chess report, Oxfordshire won this event convincingly in the 2012-13 season, thrashing even a strong Surrey team in the final. John Place asked to have his thanks to all players recorded. Not surprisingly most of last season's team are no longer eligible due to the grade limit (in most cases) or the age limit. There is a struggle even to form a team. Additional names and contact details for candidates for the team would be appreciated. ACTION: Andrew Varney [*details of 3 additional candidates sent subsequent to meeting*]
- c. ECF U13 & U18 tournament**
- In the 2012-13 season successfully Oxfordshire entered one U18 team and three U13 teams. However, it was also a lot of work for the one manager (Andrew Varney) and we missed out on some of the county's top players because they go to school in other counties. This year we should start organising it in January and seek volunteers to delegate team management to. ACTION: Andrew Varney

7. Oxfordshire junior chess events

- d. Witney Junior Rapidplay** Sunday 29 September [past]
 - i. Report – see <http://www.witneychess.co.uk/>
 - ii. Next year – Sunday 28 September 2014. Will repeat successful format of “Junior Major” and “Junior Minor” tournaments as well as the Open in order to encourage beginners as well as challenge established players.
- e. Oxfordshire Junior LJCC qualifier** Sunday 5 November [past]
 - i. Report – see <http://www.oxfordfusion.com/oca/Juniors.cfm?Org=1> and <http://www.oxfordfusion.com/oca/GetTournamentResults.cfm>
 - ii. Accounts – with over 80 entrants, income from entry fees was around £900 while expenses are estimated to be around £400 maximum, a healthy profit which will be put towards new equipment for the league and top school prizes (see iii below).
 - iii. Top school prize – it was noted that a “top school prize” of an engraved clock was presented on previous occasions at this tournament for the school with the highest sum

of 4 individual players' scores. There was a condition on this that no school could win it twice in a row. It was proposed that this tradition be revived but with two separate prizes, one for top primary school, one for top secondary school. In the light of the profitable state of the tournament this resolution was carried unanimously without further debate. **Determine top schools from results. ACTION: Andrew Varney. Arrange clocks to be procured and engraved. ACTION: Andrew Varney/Tamal Matilal.**

- f. Junior team trials** Sat/Sun 11/12 January 2014 (proposed)
See 6aiii. Needs further meeting to arrange.

8. AOB

Further dates for the diary, both hosted by MCS:

- a. EPSCA U11 zonal** 2 March 2014
b. ECF U11 zonal 1 December 2013.

A fair number of Oxfordshire primary schools have entered.

Andrew Varney 25/11/13