



**Annual General Meeting of the League
Thursday 19th May 2016 at 7.30pm
At Filton Sports & Leisure Centre**

Attendees – LMC – Mike Minshall (MM) (Chair), Dave Tipper (DT) (Webmaster/Match Sec.), Alan Papier (AP) (Congress Sec.), Roger Hardy (RH) (WECU Rep), Steve Woolgar (SW) (GP Sec), Graham Mill-Wilson (GMW) (Recruitment & Publicity), Jerry Humphries (JH) (Treasurer), Stuart Iles (SI) (League Secretary).

League Club members – A further 19.

1. Opening remarks

MM opened the meeting by welcoming the members, and thanking all for attending.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Alex Dunn (AD) (President), Duncan Macarthur and Gerald Mobbs.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of last year's AGM were accepted as a true record.

4. Reports from Officers

Treasurer

JH presented the accounts to the meeting, and declared a profit on the year of £465. A discretionary payment of £650 was awarded to the juniors. A further £1700 was used to purchase 50 digital clocks for use in the congresses. The purchase of these clocks means that that all clocks are the same and there will be no need to borrow any from clubs.

The total balance of the league accounts is around £4600. This includes around £1500 from the Bristol Chess Educational Trust. This money is now owned by the league. A separate record will be kept of any transactions from this money. The balance of the league accounts also includes some advance fees/payments from the clubs. The treasurer announced that the league fees for the coming season would remain at £27 for teams in Divs. 1-3 and £18 for teams in Div. 4. There are still a large number of players who have not renewed their membership of the ECF. The deadline for this is 30th June. Any bills for unregistered players will go to the league and will then be passed on to the appropriate clubs.

Junior Officer

The Bristol Juniors have been involved in 6 local tournaments and a number of ECF Junior tournaments around the country. 2 of my players have qualified for the England U11 team, both with grades of 130ish. We have 3 Glos County Junior champions

Land UK Chess

Of the 21 qualifiers to the Gigafinals 3 reached the Terafinals in Loughborough. 1 of the 3 from Pete's Potentials finished 2nd – a great feat for a 10 year old who had to play 16 and 17 year olds.

County

As recorded last year I have switched my players allegiance to Somerset The Somerset team, strengthened by the inclusion of pete's Potentials hosted the Wales and west Jamboree in Churchill. Gwent, Glamorgan, Wiltshire, Devon and Somerset competed. this took place on 27th Feb 2016

I am team manager and the U11's stormed to an overwhelming victory scoring 37 points from a maximum of 48. Winning the tournament with ease, apparently for the first time in 10 years.

Spurred on by this success, Clifton College, home of pete's Potentials, hosted the EPSCA U11 Southern Zone. This took place on 19th march. This involves 15 counties from across the south of England. We came 4th and qualified for the national finals.

These took place on 7th May and we all travelled to High Wycombe, Bucks. There were 17 counties from all over the country and we came a respectable 8th.

On the same weekend were the Megafinals of both the southern and Northern qualifiers.

This year I have 16 qualifiers for the gigafinals, 4 of whom qualified as Supremas, the top scorers in the group.

There are now juniors playing in the the league clubs from Patchway, Downend and Clevedon. Next year will see a lot more coming through.

Congress Secretary

4 Congresses were held this year at roughly 3 monthly intervals. The congresses regularly attract 75 – 85 entries and are using Bristol Grammar School as a venue. This is proving to be a popular venue for the congresses. The Open sections of these congresses are FIDE rated.

The number of entries determines the prize fund of the congresses but as this number is fairly regular then for the first time the prize fund has been stated on the entry sheet.

An IM/GM tournament is being considered for Bristol following an approach from Malcolm Pein. This would involve 9 rounds in 6 days and would require a minimum number of GM's to participate. Should the decision be made to go ahead with the tournament then Easter 2017 would be the most likely date. The cost of hosting such a tournament may mean that sponsorship would have to be sought.

Thanks go to Geoff Gammon for acting as the sole arbiter for this years congresses.

Grand Prix

Ten events subscribed to the Grand Prix this season, and of those, three were League based and seven were Club based and my thanks to the organizers, both for running the events and for including them in the Grand Prix.

The grading bands have been removed and replaced with one overall section. This has been done to enable larger prizes to be given out to the winners – my feelings were that £10 for 3rd for a whole year's chess didn't seem to be sufficient, and the idea of only one section was to increase competition and encourage participation.

The prize fund has remained stable at just over £300 for the season.

Over the year 120 League members competed in the ten events on 304 occasions, scoring a total of 5326 Grand Prix points, with the figures similar to the previous season. Eleven players scored 100 points or more, an increase on last year.

All of the six prizewinners in this season's competition came from different clubs.

As there is only one section this season, there was no longer any need to use either July or January gradings to determine where to place entrants.

The Junior Grand Prix was very disappointing – I was only personally aware of four eligible juniors, despite my efforts to obtain the information. This amounted to only seven entries across all events. To make this a more successful event next year, I would remind clubs to inform me as soon as the season begins as to the juniors they have playing for them (for 2016/17 season, this will be taken as having a birthday on or after the 1st September 1998). As a gesture of goodwill, I have decided to waive the qualification requirement of having entered a minimum of three events to be eligible for a prize, otherwise the prize would have been handed out on a default basis.

There was still several of the prizes up for grabs coming into the last event – and indeed, the winning margin of 2.5 points was such that first and second places could still have changed going into the final round of the final event.

The Prizewinners are as follows:

1 st : Richard Porter (Bristol University)	£125
2 nd : Alan Papier (Clifton)	£75
3 rd : Duncan MacArthur (Keynsham)	£50
4 th : Antony Sage (Bath)	£30
5 th : Chris Beaumont (Grendel)	£20

The Junior trophy to Thomas Carter of Downend (2 events, 38 points) for being the highest scoring junior, along with £20.00 prize.

For anyone who wishes to view the guidelines regarding eligibility and prizes, a copy of the Grand Prix rules are available on the website (latest revision is April 2016). If anyone has any questions regarding them, feel free to contact me for more details.

Anyone wishing to register an event should contact me by either:

Telephone: 0117 960 6158 (Answerphone) or

Email: knightskies@sky.com

Steve Woolgar

Grand Prix Secretary

Recruitment and Publicity

Some leaflets have been produced publicising the league and news from the league. These have been distributed to local libraries in the Bristol area.

Webmaster/Match Secretary

League Divisional winners

Last Season we came close to achieving our goal of having four divisions of 10 teams. 39 teams competed in four divisions.

Division 1 Back came Clifton with a vengeance ! After losing out to firstly South Bristol and then Downend they set the pace early on in the season and dropping very few points. Losses to University & Downend in Feb & March failed to knock them off their perch and the title was won by early April. South Bristol emerged to grab 2nd spot with Downend claiming 3rd. Grendel found it tough going at the bottom with Downend B struggling to buy any points, a late revival helped by a pool of strong reserves saw Downend survive at the home of Horfield where they celebrated winning the championship last season.

Division 2 South Bristol B finished comfortably in 1st place a mere 10pts clear of their closest rivals Clifton B, in fact South Bristol only dropped 2 pts all season. At the foot of Division Two Patchway escaped by winning back to back games to relegate Yate.

Division 3 Looked like a three horse race involving Downend C / University B & Cabot A but Downend kept picking up the points needed and ended up comfortable winners in the end. Unfortunately Harambee A had to be withdrawn at Christmas time after a series of defaulted games.

Division 4 Patchway B convincingly won Division 4 on 28 pts ahead of Horfield D on 24 pts.

It was pleasing to see that all fixtures were played this season bar a few defaulted games and we were not left with multiple games in May, and the end of season divisions appear complete.

Knockout winners

LKO – The semi-finals saw Downend overpower Clifton and Horfield emerge as winners in a tight match at Bath. The final proved to be a tense affair with many well fought draws and in the end Horfield needing a win on a higher board managed it with 10 sec left on the clock.

Excellent Reports are available on both the Downend & Horfield Websites with the games !

MLKO – The Minor KO also involved Horfield and another board count to split the teams but this time against Clifton. Interestingly the white pieces won on all six boards so Clifton being the away team won comfortably 12-9.

Steve Boniface Tankard with Real Ale (1st award)

After a few late entries the winner will hopefully be announced at the Steve Boniface Congress in June.

Alan Ashby

The winner of the Alan Ashby competition this season goes to James Cobb (Clifton A) – Scoring 13pts for his registered team and only conceding one loss to Sam Chow (University)

Who is on Form ? A mention for those players that have improved notably this season

Richard Livermore (Downend), Alastair Drummond (Cabot) , Dave Collier (Clifton), Jack Tye (Downend)

Statistics

The Grading thresholds for next season are as follows:

(1-2) (2-3) (3-4) (4-5) – Divisions

171, 136, 104, 81 New Grading Thresholds 2016-2017

166, 129, 104, 80 Last Seasons Grading Thresholds 2015-2016

164, 127, 104, 65 2014-2015 Thresholds

161, 124, 102, 74 2013-2014 Thresholds

158, 134, 102, 76 2012-2013 Thresholds

157, 126, 108, 80 2011-2012 Thresholds

Division One thresholds continue to rise year on year

Grading

All games played in the league and the knockout will be sent to the ECF for Grading in time for the new published list that comes out in July/Aug. The cut off date for games played is June 30th and results will be sent in before the end of this month. If anyone does spot a mistake then they need to let me know ASAP so they can be corrected. Most players will be aware that they have an up to date January 2015 Grade as I have already sent in the results for games played prior to last Christmas, The results I send in now will enable the ECF to calculate a new grade for this summer which is still based on the last 30 games played so all the games played this season should count.

Results sheets

Very few results are sent by post nowadays as sending results by email is now the norm. This has worked well with only the odd error needing to be sorted out but it is still important for captains to keep a record of results as a backup. Home & Away Captains are urged to print out their own result sheets from the website and keep hold of a signed copy themselves.

Postponements

We have a tight schedule for the fixture list and it is important to keep postponements to a minimum. Captains are encouraged to avoid postponing games unless absolutely necessary. The odd player missing shouldn't trigger a postponement. If games are postponed it is important to inform the match secretary and arrange a date with the opposing captain inside 30 days.

Website

The League Website at www.chessit.co.uk has now been online since 2005, passing the 10 year mark ! The website has links now to many of the clubs that have their own websites. Cabot, Clevedon, Clifton, Downend, Hanham, Horfield, South Bristol, University & Yate all have their own sites and some have included interesting match reports and games. The League website is updated weekly to include the latest results and league tables and stats.

David Tipper

E mail: Chessit@blueyonder.co.uk

Website address: www.chessit.co.uk

5. Adoption of Accounts

The accounts were adopted unanimously

6. Awarding of Trophies and Certificates

League Congress

Open (and Bristol champion)	Steven Meek (South Bristol)
Major	James Hennefeld (Downend)
Minor	Jason Blaxhill (South Bristol)

League

Division One	Clifton A
Division Two	South Bristol B
Division Three	Downend C
Division Four	Patchway B

League Knock Out

Team KO	Horfield
Minor KO	Clifton

Other Competitions

Alan Ashby Salver	James Cobb
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Steve Boniface Tankard To be decided

7. Election of Officers

The LMC put forward all currently serving officers, with the exception of President. These were approved by the meeting.

Chair Mike Minshall, Match Secretary/Webmaster Dave Tipper, Treasurer Jerry Humphries, Congress Secretary Alan Papier, General Secretary Stuart Iles, Junior Organiser Peter Saunders, Recruitment & Publicity Graham Mill-Wilson, WECU Rep. Roger Hardy, ECF Rep. Ben Edgell.
Ian Pickup is the auditor. This is not an LMC post.

As there were no proposals for the post of President the LMC suggested that Alex Dunn continue for a further year. The meeting approved this.

8. Any Other Business

None

Meeting closed at 8:25