

Match Secretary's Report 2014

League Divisional winners

Last Season we had 40 teams competing in four divisions

Division 1 became a two horse race between Clifton A & South Bristol A as Clifton surprisingly started dropping points. The crunch game was when the two teams played each other in late February in what was to become a title clincher as South Bristol A won the match 4-2 and eventually crossed the line with two points to spare on a tally of 27pts. So finally Cliftons hold on the championship trophy has finally been broken. Unfortunately South Bristol's B team finished the season at the wrong end of the table alongside Downend B with the two teams stuck on 11pts.

Division 2 quickly developed into a battle between two teams, Horfield B and Clifton C. Horfield B boosted by some new recruits and benefiting from the unbeaten performance of John Richards who played 20 games without losing a single game! became champions with a points tally of 34pts and only dropping 6pts all season. Places at the foot of division two were only decided in the last round of games in April as Keynsham A & Hanham A lost out.

Division 3 Another two horse race in division three between South Bristol C and Clevedon B was only resolved in late April as South Bristol C came out winners by a single point amassing 28pts from 16 played only dropping 4 pts throughout the season.

Division 4 Ten teams competed in division four as the two university teams (Bristol & Bath) looked to pick up points. Bristol University's B team finished top with a total of 28pts closely followed by Thornbury B on 27pts

Knockout winners

LKO – For the first time in many years Downend reached the final but they had to do it the hard way after wins against Clifton & Horfield. In the final itself they faced a confident Clevedon side who were notably outgraded on all the boards but put up a strong fight and the match went to the wire and in fact the final second as board two finished with check mate in favour of Downend who won on board count.

MLKO – The following week and Clevedon dusted themselves down to compete in the final against Yate where they managed to outplay their opponents and win comfortably 4.5 – 1.5 to return some well earned silver wear.

Steve Boniface Tankard with Real Ale (1st award)

After a few late entries the winner will hopefully be announced at the Steve Boniface Congress next weekend

Alan Ashby

The winner of the Alan Ashby competition this season goes to James Cobb (Clifton A) – Played 18 Won 12, Drew 4, Lost 2 for his registered team

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

Arturo Wong (South Bristol), David Peters (Clevedon), Michael Meadows (Downend), Alex Rossiter (Cabot)

Statistics

The Grading thresholds for next season are as follows:

(1-2) (2-3) (3-4) (4-5) – Divisions

164, 127, 104, 65	New Grading Thresholds 2014-2015
161, 124, 102, 74	Last Seasons Grading Thresholds 2013-2014
158, 134, 102, 76	2012-2013 Thresholds
157, 126, 108, 80	2011-2012 Thresholds
151, 131, 109, 80	2010-2011 Thresholds

A slight increase in thresholds for Div 1 – 3 but only by a couple of points

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 sending in the results is actually July 20th but I will be sending all the games in well before this date, aiming for the middle of June. 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 2014 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.

Website

The League Website at www.chessit.co.uk has now been online since 2005, so next season we will have been online for 10 years. The website has links to all the club websites which are proving quite popular and is the hub for Chess in the Bristol area with all the information you will need for league chess. Events happening this summer include – Downend Summer Quickplay – (see the website for the schedule) and don't forget the Graeme Thomson Rapidplay this coming Sunday 1st June, and the Steve Boniface Memorial Congress the following weekend at the Holiday Inn on Fri- Sun 6-8th June.

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