

## **Match Secretary's Report 2016**

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> spot with Downend claiming 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Unfortunately Harambee A had to be withdrawn at Christmas time after a series of defaulted games.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 ( 1<sup>st</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

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