

Match Secretary's Report 2010

Summer Lightning

Only 3 teams competed in last summer's summer lightning which was won by Clifton. Downend finished in 2nd place with Clevedon finishing in 3rd place.

League Divisional winners

39 teams competed in our Four Divisions last season. This compares to 43 teams last season 2008 2009.

Division 1 Clifton A proved too strong again, dropping only one point all season and amassing 75 game points in the process. Bath A finished in 2nd place 5 points behind Clifton and 8 points ahead of the 3rd place team Horfield A. At the bottom University A & Horfield B were struggling to pick up points to avoid the drop.

Division 2 was won by Thornbury who won the two horse race with South Bristol at the top of Division Two. Both teams will look forward to a return to the top flight after a few years absence. Only 5 points separated the bottom 5 teams as Clevedon B & Keynsham A lost out to fill the bottom two places.

Division 3 was won by Bath University who remained on 100% throughout the campaign amassing 34 points from 17 played and a full 10 points ahead of Yate A who filled the 2nd spot. Keynsham B & Patchway filled the bottom two places in Division Three.

Division 4 11 teams of 4 players competed in this division which included three teams from Downend. Yate B emerged as winners finishing six points ahead of their nearest rivals Horfield D. At the bottom UWE filling in as a late entry in place of Clifton E managed to fulfill 12 of their fixtures but unfortunately only managed 1 point on the board.

Knockout winners

LKO - The League Knockout was for the second season in a row won by Bath, this time avoiding the board count as they overcame Clifton 4.5 – 3.5 in an entertaining 8 board match.

MLKO – 9 teams competed in the Minor Knockout this season. South Bristol won on board count against Grendel in the final.

Steve Boniface Tankard with Real Ale (1st award)

This season there were only a few games put forward for the Steve Boniface Tankard award. I chose the game I thought had an attacking theme, and in fact the attack delivered check mate in precisely 10 moves. The final position is certainly one of amusement as White's Knights strangle Black's King.

David Peters from Clevedon wins the award for this season. The game itself can be viewed on the League website and will appear in the League Handbook for next season.

Alan Ashby

The winner of the Alan Ashby competition this season goes to James Jackson (Bath University) (16) points from 16 games played (100%), beating his colleague Chris Dorrington also from Bath University who finished one game behind him on 14 pts from 14 matches played.

Who is on Form ?

Players that have excelled this season include David Dugdale (Thornbury) averaging 183 from 12 games played, David Neagle who amassed 23.5 pts from 35 games played, Richard Garrett (South Bristol) averaging 181 from 16 games played.

Also a mention for Chris Lamming (Bath University) on 11 pts from 12 games played .

Statistics

The Grading thresholds for next season are as follows:

(1-2) (2-3) (3-4) (4-5) - Divisions

156, 127, 110, 104, 79 Old Grading Thresholds

151, 131, 109, 80 New Grading Thresholds

Grading

All games played in the league and the knockout will soon be sent to the ECF for Grading in time for the new published list that comes out in August. The cut off date for sending in the results is the end of June. My intention is to display the results on the website for about a 10 day period so that league members can check that all their results are correct. The grades shown are likely to differ from the ECF published grade in August as all results including congresses count and in the case of players that have played under 30 games in a season – the ECF will make up the results by adding games from last season.

Results sheets

I get the majority of results sent in now via email and this probably accounts for well over two-thirds of all results. 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 for over 5 years. As far as I know the hit counter has increased by over 42,000 hits since last year's AGM – this equates to well over 100 hits a day. I have added where time allows many games from local congresses and intend to add more databases over the coming months. The Website Forum has been near enough spam free this year and is a good starting point for league members to discuss chess topics or simply sound off.

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