

## **CORNWALL COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at 19:30 on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 at Carnon Downs Village Hall, Tregye Road, Carnon Downs, Truro TR3 6GH**

#### **PRESENT:**

H. Brown, M. Hill, D. J. Jenkins, D. R. Jenkins, R. Kneebone (chairman), J. Menadue, R. Nancarrow, I. Renshaw, R. Smith

#### **APOLOGIES:**

A. Barkhuysen, S. Bartlett, C. Constable, J. Constable, I. George, M. Hassall, J. James

#### **MINUTES OF THE AGM 2015:**

The minutes, having been circulated before the meeting, were approved. There were no matters arising.

#### **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

**President:** (R Kneebone)

Report attached. Robin's suggestion that a calendar of events should be organised and finalised by August was strongly supported. The 2015–16 season had been unsatisfactory in that events had not been organised in advance, including the congress.

The Meeting wished to record their thanks to Mark Hassall for his fine controlling of the Emigrant and Falmouth Cups, at relatively short notice. The congress was felt to have been a very enjoyable event, despite a low entry.

**Secretary:** (D J Jenkins)

DJJ wished clubs to note that the CCCA insurance policy does not cover the constituent clubs in respect of their separate activities. Venues should possess public liability insurance, but it would be prudent for club secretaries to confirm their extent of cover under this. The ECF offer a public liability/kit insurance policy for clubs, but it may be expensive for small clubs (~£95/year). Proposal 3 (below), if carried, would mean that all one-day events would formally be CCCA events and therefore covered by the CCCA's policy.

**Treasurer:** (I George)

Report and accounts attached.

Players failing to become individual ECF members was discussed. R.S. suggested that membership ought to be a condition of playing in CCCA competitions. DJJ disliked this idea because it might discourage new players from trying competitive chess. It was agreed that it should remain a matter for individual clubs, but that club secretaries and treasurers should be aware that clubs become liable for ECF game fees for non-members who have played for them during the previous season.

The treasurer's suggestion in his report that the CCCA should not meet more than a £50 shortfall for the costs of participating in the national stage of the Counties Championship was discussed. DRJ felt that £100 was a more reasonable amount. It was agreed that substantial sponsorship or other fundraising would be necessary to meet the majority of the cost.

The accounts were approved (proposed R Smith, seconded D R Jenkins).

**Match Captain: (D R Jenkins)**

Report attached. DRJ was disappointed with the lack of ambition and commitment from many players in supporting the county team. RK noted that results had actually been very good, considering that Cornwall's team was usually substantially weaker than the opposition. JM was optimistic and thanked DRJ for his substantial efforts in persuading more players to play for the county.

There followed a discussion about ways to improve the county teams' performances. DRJ commented that youth development was good, but that training was perhaps not so good. He noted that in other sports training was taken as seriously as matches. JM's suggestion of having a couple of "training days" for county players was enthusiastically received.

RK thanked DRJ for his outstanding captaincy over the past 3 years.

**League Secretary: (I George)**

Report attached.

Most of the team competitions were still to be decided. Those completed were won by:

County Shield:	Truro (presented to M Hill)
Betty Roberts Cup:	Lerryn (presented to D R Jenkins)

It was noted that there have been many defaulted matches this season. This matter was discussed more fully under proposal 1 (below).

**Junior Secretary: (R Kneebone)**

Report attached.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

The following were elected:

<u>Post</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
President:	Robin Kneebone	R Smith	M Hill
Secretary:	vacant		
Treasurer:	Ian George	R Kneebone	R Nancarrow
League Secretary:	Hugh Brown	R Kneebone	D J Jenkins
Match Captain:	Mark Hassall	R Kneebone	R. Smith
(with Deputy:	Jeremy Menadue)		
Junior Secretary:	Robin Kneebone	D J Jenkins	R Nancarrow

## **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS**

### **Rules Applicable to all Team Matches**

1. That the following be added as rule 14:

*Where the distance between the venues of the two clubs in any match exceeds 50 miles, the away team has the right to insist that the match be played at a venue approximately equidistant between the two clubs or any other agreed venue. In such cases the away team is responsible for arranging the hire of and, if relevant, paying for the venue and is entitled to reimbursement of half the hire cost from the opposing club. It must notify home team and League Secretary of the intention to exercise this right at least 30 days beforehand, and of the venue arrangements at least 14 days beforehand. The match does not have to be played on the home team's club night.*

*Proposed: David J. Jenkins*

*Seconded: Richard Smith*

DJJ commented that this proposal was withdrawn after discussion at last year's AGM. However, this season there had instances when captains could not agree on arrangements, resulting in defaulted matches. Given that this proposal affects Bude more than any other club, DJJ invited John Constable to submit a response to it, which was read to the meeting:

In spite of having to travel further than any other team in the County Shield, Bude's players went to great lengths, often missing other regular commitments to ensure that Bude did not default a single game in this competition, indeed Bude were the only team to complete all their fixtures without even defaulting a single game all season.

We are happy to play our home matches on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon if clubs do not wish to travel to Bude on a Thursday evening (and even provide lunch if required), or alternatively at a neutral venue on a Thursday evening provided that the away team arranges and pays for the venue as Bude will have increased travel costs for what should be a "home" match. Playing on any other weekday evening will result in too many clashes with other activities totally losing any remaining "home" advantage. This season we felt that a gun was put against our head to try and force us to play a home match at Liskeard on a Monday evening while our offer to play at a weekend was rejected outright. As stated above, our players are willing to go out of their way to play away matches on other nights but it is unfair to ask them to forgo their other activities for a "home" match on a different evening.

For these reasons we believe that the proposal as worded should not be adopted.

There was a lengthy discussion about the large distances now separating clubs and the number of defaulted matches this season. The possibility of an East-West split for all competitions was discussed. DJJ said that these discussions were more appropriate for consideration at the Secretaries' Meeting, by which time the League Secretary would know which teams had entered which competitions.

On the basis of Bude's concerns, DJJ proposed an amendment to his proposal, deleting "and is entitled to reimbursement of half the hire cost from the opposing club" (*i.e.* the club "demanding" the alternative venue is responsible for both finding and paying for it) and changing the last

sentence to "The home team has the right to decide whether the match is played on the home team's club night or not."

The amendment (seconded R Smith) was **carried** (F9 A0), whereupon the amended proposal was **carried** (F9 A0).

It was the feeling of the Meeting that arrangements under the new rule should be discussed and finalised early in the season.

### **League Rules**

2. That rule 10 be amended to:

*Captains will toss a coin to determine colours at the first meeting between the teams; winner of the toss will be White on odd boards in the first match and the colours will be reversed in the return match.*

*Proposed: Robin Kneebone      Seconded: Jeremy Menadue*

**Carried** (F6 A1 Abs 2)

### **Grand Prix**

3. *That all Grand Prix events be formally designated CCCA-organised events.*

*Proposed: David J. Jenkins      Seconded: Ian George*

**Carried** (F9 A0)

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business, the chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:30.

**DAVID J JENKINS**  
**Retiring Hon. Secretary**

## President's Report

Earlier this season, at times I wondered if chess in Cornwall would collapse completely. Thanks to Mark Hassall who volunteered to control the Emigrant and Falmouth Cups; to David R Jenkins who coped with the near-impossibility of organising chessplayers into a large team; to his namesake who, with others, re-started the Penwith Club; and to Ian George soldiering on behind the scenes, ... thanks to all of these plus my helpers at junior events and to the club secretaries and captains we end the season with good signs of progress.

I am willing to step down as President but equally willing to continue. I must again record that I am happy to organise some events *as long as* other events are set up so that I can play. If Cornwall Chess wants a fulltime organiser then it won't be me.

Next season we should have a whole-season calendar, set up in June as soon as the WECU county dates are announced. I expect the AGM to support this as a proposal and then for people to assist me, *in June and July*, to plan dates and book venues for the period until June 2017. Then the season's calendar can be circulated in August.

### **The calendar to be something like this:**

June 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 Kerrier and Penwith Cups at Carnon Downs, details available

August 26<sup>th</sup> – Carrick Chess one-day event, Carnon Downs booked, details to follow

October: "My First Chess Tournament" (for juniors)

Perhaps October/November: Liskeard one-day rapidplay, including Cornwall U14 championship

November: U8, U10, U12 championships

2017 February 10/11/12 Emigrant and Falmouth Cups at Carnon Downs. We need a volunteer Controller unless we get enough entrants to pay expenses. I think we should trial, for two years, opening up the Emigrant Cup to all players with ECF grade under 195 (or higher if a local player tops that). The research in 2015 showed we are split on this issue.

Perhaps March: Penwith one-day rapidplay, including Cornwall U13 and U16 Championships

March: U9, U11 Championships

May/June: Kerrier and Penwith Cups and U15 Championship at Carnon Downs

Plus Bude events

Plus Blitz events (Carrick Club will be running at least one)

Plus Camborne Christmas Lightning

Plus possible county-wide Swiss competition between individuals, to be played at homes or clubs, about one game per month (Oct, Nov, Jan, Mar, May) 5 rounds.

Plus, ideally, club evenings open to all!

Robin Kneebone

May 2016

R Smith proposed  
David RJ 2nded.  
accepted R Kneebone  
2/6/16

## CORNWALL COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

2015/16 Season

### Treasurer's Report

#### Accounts for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 216

The accounts are appended to this report. They show that the association's finances are in a satisfactory state with reserves totalling £2,443, including £931 in the Napier Fund for junior chess. The bank balance is up from £2,204 at the end of last year to £2,491.

There was a surplus on the General Fund for the year of £276. This is chiefly due to an increase of £190 in the fees payable by the clubs to enter team competitions, there being a significant increase in the number of teams. In addition expenditure on scoresheets and trophy engraving was reduced arising partly from the significant stock of scoresheets that we started the season with.

The Napier Fund showed a deficit of £107 (2015: surplus £248). This arose mainly because of the reduced number of competitions held during the season.

#### Participation in the national stage of the Counties Championship

Total expenditure of £491 on the national stage Counties Championship match was matched by donations of £490, including £450 from Seasons Holidays PLC. In view of the significant costs involved I recommend that our policy should be to ensure that, in any season where we qualify for the national stage, we should not play in it unless it is certain that travel and other match costs will be matched by donations, sponsorship and other related income and that any shortfall will not exceed £50. In my view it would not be a productive use of county funds to commit up to 30% of our reserves to a single match when there are alternative ways in which that money can be used to promote chess in Cornwall.

#### ECF Membership

It is disappointing to note that a significant number of players are still not members of the ECF as at the time of writing. I would remind club organisers that early next season, when I pay the ECF game fee invoice in respect of games played by non-members I will include in the invoices I raise to the clubs any game fees paid to the ECF for games played in those clubs' team matches. Whether they absorb the cost or recover it from the relevant members will be for the clubs to decide. As things stand at present this could result in some clubs incurring a significant cost.

I would recommend that throughout the season club organisers monitor carefully their members' ECF status and their clubs' potential liabilities for games played by any of their members who are have not joined the ECF. Members should be encouraged to join or renew online. The process is straightforward and there is a link to it on the ECF website.

We have an arrangement whereby we can make a block application / renewal which, if completed before 31<sup>st</sup> October, makes available a discount of £1 per member. Next season I intend to offer this facility to all clubs who will be able to include any number of members on payment of the membership fees to the Association for forwarding to the ECF. After October I will not process any further applications for the season. Players will have to apply or renew online. Please note that it is player's responsibility, not the association's, to ensure that their ECF membership is up to date.

#### 2016/17 Season

I am happy to continue as treasurer and am therefore standing for re-election. This also applies to my position as grader and unofficial role as webmaster.

Ian George  
27<sup>th</sup> May 2016

**CORNWALL COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION**

**Balance Sheet as at 31 May 2016**

	<b>2015/16</b>		<b>2014/15</b>	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Assets</b>				
Bank balance	2,491		2,204	
Outstanding club fees	62		224	
Organisers' expenses	0		13	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		2,553		2,441
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Amount owed to ECF	0		17	
Grand Prix prize fund	0		0	
Accruals	0		40	
County match travel fund	110		110	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		110		167
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		<b>£2,443</b>		<b>£2,274</b>
<b>Reserves</b>				
<u>General Reserve</u>				
Brought forward	1,236		1,450	
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	276		(214)	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	1,512		1,236	
Transfer from /(to) Napier Fund	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		0		0
		1,512		1,236
<u>Napier Fund (junior chess)</u>				
Brought forward	1,038		790	
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	(107)		248	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	931		1,038	
Transfer from /(to) general reserve	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		0		0
		931		1,038
		<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Total reserves carried forward</b>		<b>£2,443</b>		<b>£2,274</b>

**CORNWALL COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION**  
**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 May 2016**

	2015/16		2014/15	
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Entry fees (team competitions)	610		420	
Annual congress	453		556	
Other competitions	0		280	
Miscellaneous income	57		78	
		<b>1,120</b>		<b>1,334</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
County match expenses (net)	240		317	
Annual congress	473		596	
Other competitions	0		225	
Publicity	0		0	
Website and IT costs	31		23	
Stationery, printing and postage	0		86	
Insurance	89		95	
Trophies and engraving	10		62	
Miscellaneous expenses	0		0	
		<b>843</b>		<b>1,404</b>
		<b>277</b>		<b>(70)</b>
Sponsorship and donations	490		805	
Travel expenses for county team (national stage)	(491)		(590)	
Purchase of equipment	0		(249)	
	(1)		(34)	
Transfer to county match travel reserve	0		(110)	
		<b>(1)</b>		<b>(144)</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>		<b>£276</b>		<b>(£214)</b>

**Napier Fund movement for the year ended 31 May 2016**

	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Competitions	172		824	
Chess Hub	0		0	
Miscellaneous income	0		0	
		<b>172</b>		<b>824</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Competitions and other events	146		446	
Trophies and engraving	34		43	
Purchase of equipment	0		0	
UK Chess Challenge and EPSCA	55		40	
ECF membership fees	44		16	
Miscellaneous expenses	15		31	
		<b>294</b>		<b>576</b>
<b>Operating surplus / (deficit)</b>		<b>(122)</b>		<b>248</b>
Sponsorship and donations		15		0
Purchase of trophies		0		0
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>		<b>(£107)</b>		<b>£248</b>

**CORNWALL COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION**  
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 May 2016

**Surplus / (deficit) on competitions**

	2015/16		2014/15	
	Congress	Others	Congress	Others
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Entry fees	383	0	503	280
Game fee surcharge	0	0	0	0
Refreshments	20	0	50	0
Other income	50	0	3	0
	<b>453</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>280</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Prizes	245	0	220	50
Room hire	208	0	262	98
Game fee payable to ECF	0	0	0	0
Cost of refreshments	0	0	20	0
Organiser's expenses	20	0	30	0
GP prize fund levy	0	0	64	0
Other expenses	0	0	0	40
	<b>473</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>188</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(£20)</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>(£40)</b>	<b>£92</b>

**County match expenses**

	2015/16	2014/15
Room hire	146	61
Travel costs	0	89
Refreshments	8	10
Match captain's expenses	17	72
WECU entry fees	55	73
Other expenses	15	13
	<b>241</b>	<b>318</b>
Opponents' contributions	0	0
	<b>£241</b>	<b>£318</b>

**Surplus / (deficit) on junior competitions**

	2015/16	2014/15
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Entry fees	172	774
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Prizes	85	302
Room hire	0	29
Game fee payable to ECF	0	0
Cost of refreshments	20	0
Travel expenses	0	115
Stationery, printing and postage	40	0
Other expenses	0	0
	<b>145</b>	<b>446</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>£27</b>	<b>£328</b>

## **Cornwall Team Captain's Report**

The county teams have had a moderately successful season. Nevertheless, the A team are currently closing the gap on Somerset and Devon at a slower rate than I had anticipated when I took on the responsibilities of captain and although for the second year running we reached the national stages of the inter-county championship it is clear that we are not yet truly competitive at this level.

In my resignation letter I expressed some frustration at the difficulties of organizing the 28 players needed to run an A and a B team. Most Cornwall county players have been accommodating and supportive, for which many thanks, but a sizeable minority is disorganized to the extent that dealing with them is like herding cats. I had taken over the task of captain with serious ambitions (I enjoy success not administration) but I do not think this ambition was replicated in our membership. We never turned out anything like our strongest team and I have the distinct impression that many potential players give county matches low or zero priority compared to sailing, playing golf or watching Plymouth Argyle. I hope my replacement as captain can make inroads into this situation.

On the bright side, our youth policy is beginning to bear fruit (thanks to Robin et al) and several very young players have represented Cornwall with distinction, notably Adam Hussain. This raises the issue of whether we can sustain both an A team and a B team, particularly when playing on the same day. The grading overlap denudes our B team, but this year we have regarded the team as developmental rather than truly competing. I hope we can still run two teams, and that my replacement continues my policy of picking an A team strictly on merit, given availability but using the B team to blood youngsters and reward county chess stalwarts.

It goes without saying that I will do my best to support the county team and make my knowledge and experience available.

David Jenkins

# CORNWALL COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION

2015/16 Season

## League Secretary's Report

### Team Competitions

#### County Shield

Carrick (Truro) retained the County Shield, previously held as Truro, following their victory over Penwith in the "winner takes all" match at the end of the season. Bude and Penwith finish equal 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Roberts Cup

In the first semi-final Bude drew 2-2 with Penwith who win the tie on board elimination. Carrick (Truro) will be at home to Lerryn on Wednesday, 8th June with the winner away to Penwith in the final.

#### 500 League

Lerryn won this competition ahead of Carrick (Truro).

#### A W Busby Cup

Carrick are at home to Penwith in the final which will be played at Carnon Downs Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 11 July.

#### Roger Grime Cup

The semi-final between Carrick and Camborne has not yet been arranged. The winner will be at home to Newquay in the final.

There were several defaulted matches during the season. In several cases this involved teams at the extreme ends of the county, arising from the impracticable nature of arranging evening matches between clubs over 60 miles apart where, depending on where they live, some players have a round trip of up to 150 miles. The inclusion of clubs in all parts of the county is a most welcome development but, in my view, the current competition structure is unsustainable and needs to be replaced by more practicable arrangements.

Due to my domestic commitments I am not seeking re-election as League Secretary. I understand that Hugh Brown has offered to fulfil the office next season and I am sure that he will do an excellent job. If required, I am available to assist with drawing up the fixture list, recording and publishing results and other "back office" tasks.

Ian George

27<sup>th</sup> May 2016

CORNWALL COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION  
COUNTY SHIELD  
2015/16 SEASON

	P	W	D	L	Def	Pts
1 Carrick (T)	10	6	2	2	0	30
2 Bude	10	6	0	4	0	28
3 Penwith	10	6	1	2	1	28
4 Newquay	10	4	1	5	0	23
5 Camborne	10	2	2	5	1	17
6 Carrick (F)	10	2	2	5	1	17

CORNWALL COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION  
ROBERTS CUP (U165) - EASTERN DIVISION  
2015/16 SEASON

	P	W	D	L	Def	Pts
1 Bude	8	5	0	3	0	23
2 Lerryn	8	5	0	3	0	23
3 Liskeard A	8	4	1	3	0	21
4 Calstock	7	2	0	5	0	13
5 Liskeard B	7	2	1	3	1	13

CORNWALL COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION  
ROBERTS CUP (U165) - WESTERN DIVISION  
2015/16 SEASON

	P	W	D	L	Def	Pts
1 Carrick (T)	7	6	0	1	0	25
2 Penwith	7	4	1	2	0	20
3 Camborne	8	3	2	1	2	17
4 Carrick (F)	8	3	0	5	0	17
5 Newquay	8	0	3	3	2	9

CORNWALL COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION  
500 LEAGUE  
2015/16 SEASON

	P	W	D	L	Def	Pts
1 Lerryn	12	9	0	3	0	39
2 Carrick (T)	11	7	0	4	0	32
3 Liskeard	12	5	1	6	0	28
4 West Cornwall A	12	5	0	6	1	26
5 Calstock	10	4	0	6	0	22
6 Carrick (F)	10	4	0	6	0	22
7 West Cornwall B	11	4	1	4	2	22

## **Cornwall Junior Chess report, season 2016 – 2017**

Personal circumstances meant that I was unable to organise the usual recent pattern of events this season. Just two competitions were held and no whole-county training sessions. I'm really grateful to my regular helpers; the team is now very knowledgeable and experienced: Jeremy Menadue, Hugh Brown, James Hooker, Kenton Richings, Matt Strevens, David R Jenkins, Colin Sellwood.

Many of the county's most promising players took part in the **2016 championships** at Penair School on February 27<sup>th</sup> 2016.

The secondary school section was won by Harvey Richings (Under 14 winner), whose solid play proved too much on this occasion for ten-year-old Adam Hussain. Third place went to Gabriel Rusalowicz. Adam was awarded the U12 cup, and the U13 trophy will be shared by Adam and Gabriel. All 3 were selected for the Cornwall adult team.

Scores: Harvey Richings (Mounts Bay & Camborne Club) 17 points, Adam Hussain (Truro Prep & Carrick Club) 16, Gabriel Rusalowicz 15, Joel Needham 12, Thomas Oates (Camborne Club) 12, Josh Patterson (Camborne Academy) 12, Sam Edwards (Truro School & Carrick Club) 12, Patrick Searle (Mounts Bay) 9, Snaha Shaju 9.

The most surprising victor was Under 11 Nojus Ivanauskas of Carrick Club who has only been playing chess for a short time. He had a slow start but proved a rapid learner and carefully won his last 4 games. Runner-up was Lily Strevens of Trythall. Glen Ramsey (Marazion) was the U10 winner.

Spencer Richings (Marazion) was the convincing victor in the Under 9 section winning all his games. Equal second were Orla Hilliard (Truro High) and Katie Strevens (Marazion).

There was a large entry for the Under 8 cup. Chloe Frankland (Truro High) triumphed, with newcomer Jethro Robinson (Carrick Club) and Charlie Sexton (Truro Prep) equal second. Tonsley Hugh-Jones (St. Levan) won the prize for the top Under 7; Ben Strevens (Trythall), who is under 6, was close behind.

The inter-schools cup resulted in an exciting three-way tie with Truro Prep, Trythall and Marazion all scoring 46 points.

Juniors have played for two clubs, Carrick and Camborne. Next season, Penwith plans a junior coaching section: there are about 40 junior chessplayers in the Penzance area schools so I'm hopeful we'll see juniors in the Penwith teams soon.

## UK Chess Challenge “Megafinal”

Children who qualified from their school competitions or from our whole-county event in February played on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

The following qualified to play in the national final in Reading (age-group winners asterisked\*):

**BOYS** (school names are shown if there is a chess club at the school)

U14 Joel Needham\*, U13 Gabriel Rusalowicz\*, U12 Harvey Richings\* (Mounts Bay School & Camborne Club), U11 Nojus Ivanauskas\* (Carrick Club), Noah Raitt (Trythall near Pz), Leo Vaughan and Oliver Burt (Trewirgie School at Redruth), U10 Adam Hussain\* (Truro Prep and Carrick Club), Oliver Sexton and Theo Clark (Truro Prep), U9 Spencer Richings\* (Marazion), Jonathan Taylor (Truro Prep), U8 Charles Sexton (Truro Prep), Otto Harman-Stevens (Trythall), U7 Tonsley Hugh-Jones\*

**GIRLS**

U12 Sneha Shaju\*, U11 Mia Roberts-Drew\* (Trythall), U10 Tamara Burgess\* (Carrick Club), U9 Lola Anderson\* (Marazion), U8 Myla Hussain (Truro Prep)

## Some Issues

1. Secondary school entrants to our junior competitions are very few. It seems to me that we should return to the arrangement of the period of (about) 1999 – 2004 where the trophies for Under 13 and above were awarded as part of our one-day series of events.
2. We should set up a training session for school staff to show them how to run a chess club. Note that, in truth, progress to becoming a strong player rarely happens in a school setting – children reach a good standard with good coaching and club competition. It’s much the same with other games, good tennis players develop in clubs, good rugby players in clubs, etc. The role of school clubs is to *introduce a larger number* of children to the game.
3. Unless the initial teaching is sound, children’s first steps in chess are easily confusing. Perhaps we should run a “parent and child” chess learning session so that those first steps are taken in the right direction. A good book for advice is “The Best Way to Teach Chess to Children” by Richard James of the successful Richmond chess club.
4. Sensible use of the internet, plus appropriate chess software and apps, enable fast progress to be made. Generally, those children who make use of technology make mincemeat of those who do not.
5. Next season we should arrange a “My First Chess Tournament” again. I’m willing to consider holding three such events: one each in the west and east, as well as one in or near Truro. I will need a couple of local helpers though for each event.
6. I cannot plan a junior season until the senior season dates are known.

Robin Kneebone

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