

Report by the President for Cambridge City Chess Club AGM, 4 June 2014

The 2013-14 season was marked both by successes and challenges. Members represented the Club in more than 500 graded games this season in several Leagues. Notable successes included winning both Division I and Division II of the Bury Area Chess League: the Examiners won Division I with a score of 45 points, captained by David Redman (remarkably, his first captaining experience). The Oddfellows, ably captained by Ole Bay-Petersen, won Division II with 43.5 points, a margin of 10. Player-of-the-Year in Division I was David Redman, scoring 79%, while in Division II the top three scorers were all members of Cambridge City, including long-standing member Richard Newman who achieved a remarkable 81%. In Division III the Gowns had a good finish with third place, and in the Roger Goldsmith the Cambridge Masters took second place. In other events, the Fenland Cup was won by the Cambridge Eggheads, ably captained by Chris Davison, who also led the Cambridge team to victory in the Cambridgeshire Jamboree.

A major difficulty faced by the Club was that its membership plummeted by 33% at the start of the season with the loss of 16 members, after we had made optimistic commitments at our 2013 AGM for the numbers of teams to field in the Bury Area and other chess Leagues. Fortunately we gained some new members during this season, but it remained a struggle for Captains to field full teams, and nearly 20 games were defaulted. We shall remedy this problem by fielding fewer teams next season across all the Leagues (*item 11*), based on the Secretary's survey of members' intentions.

A further challenge affecting the current season and possibly the next one has been building works to our venue. The Club aims to appoint a Venue Liaison Officer (*item 7*) to help us to anticipate and mitigate its effects; a preliminary report about remaining disruptions will be given (*item 6*).

Many thanks to our Website Officer, Kelvin Hunter, for maintaining and for revamping the Club's website in a highly attractive way (www.cambridgecitychess.org.uk), including a new history of the Club contributed by Richard Newman. Thanks also to the other Officers, especially our Secretary Stephen Pride who does the lion's share of all the work that keeps the Club functioning, and to our Treasurer David Cattermole who keeps us solvent; and special thanks also to all of our team Captains besides those named above for their vital work. All Club members are urged to consider captaining a team, and players are urged to make Captains' work easier by being reliable for match schedules.

Thank you for your participation in the Cambridge City Chess Club, and for helping to ensure that it remains a friendly and enjoyable setting for *our` beautiful game'*: ***"Time cannot wither, nor custom stale, its infinite variety."*** We look forward to your participation in this summer's planned activities and to welcoming you back for the new season in September.

John Daugman