

President's Report, Cambridge City Chess Club 120th AGM, 1 June 2016

The Club enjoyed another season of significant growth in our membership, despite major disruption to the venue with construction works during much of the year. Based on a poll of our members we decided to close during July and August (see attached paper: Summer Closure), which is expected to become the normal pattern. The combination of summer closure and our increase in membership offsets the continuing significant increases in our rent. The Club's finances are sound (see attached Treasurer's Report), and we are able to make a major purchase of additional chessclocks.

Our performance in the Leagues was not as stellar as in recent years. But a bright spot was success in regaining the Fenland Plate trophy. Our team the Cambridge Couriers, captained by Philip Fallon, won the final in a whitewash; notably David Redman won all of his games in this competition.

Another highlight was that across the entire Bury League, the player scoring the highest percentage was our own Tom Smith, who achieved a remarkable 87.5% (playing for the Dons) and without losing a single game. Tom therefore receives the Victor Raines Shield, a trophy awarded annually by our Club to the member achieving the highest percentage score in the Bury League, in any division.

The winner of our 2015-16 Club Championship was Philip Fallon, who completed his seven games with a superb Grading Performance of 198. As our 2016 Champion, Philip is awarded the Cup.

Finding the optimal format for the Club Championship remains problematic. Last year we used a Swiss System, but it is hostage to synchrony: pairings for round N+1 can only be made once the games in round N are completed, but players schedule their games when convenient relative to the various League fixtures. The "Round-Robins-within-Groups" format that we agreed to use this year has the great advantage that games can be played in any order and on any schedule; and declaring the Champion based on top Grading Performance allows players in all Groups to have a prospect of becoming champion. But many games remained unplayed this year. The requirement we agreed about completing all of one's pairings to become Champion, allows a reticent participant to scupper others' chances. At the AGM we should try to agree an improved, perhaps less stringent, format.

I would like to thank all of the Officers and Captains who make the Club and its functions possible. On behalf of all of us, we hope you have enjoyed your membership with Cambridge City Chess Club. We look forward to seeing you when the new season starts in September, and perhaps also in June.

John Daugman