

Minutes of Junior Chess Committee

28 May 2015.

Held in Food Sciences Building Sutton Bonington Campus, University of Nottingham

Attendees: Paul Colburn, John Mitchell (Chairman) John Pattinson., Neil Roberts

Apologies for Absence:

Jim Bingham, Bob Wallace (comments by Bob on various Agenda items were circulated)

Minutes of Meeting 5 August 2014

These were circulated. There were no matters arising not dealt with in the subsequent Agenda

Report to AGM

A draft compiled by Paul Colburn with some minor amendments from John Mitchell was circulated. *Paul will add some more information on the performance in the recent Megafinal of the Rockingham section of the Delancey Chess Challenge and send the completed report to Jim Bingham for circulation.*

Structure of Leicestershire Junior Chess

It was proposed that the Junior Chess Committee should consist of the Chairman of LRCA plus representatives from Ashby Ivanhoe (Neil Roberts), Braunstone (Paul Colburn), Loughborough (John Mitchell), Melton. and Rutland (Bob Wallace) with the power to co-opt additional members where appropriate. The roles of the individual committee members will be defined more formally at the first meeting of the new committee but clearly Paul will continue to direct county chess. The critical issue is to find a structure/person to interact with Schools following the withdrawal of Paul Findley

Financial arrangements

The failure of Paul Findley's company (Leicestershire and Rutland Chess Academy) has brought into focus the financial status of other chess activities encouraged by the Leicestershire and Rutland Chess Association (LRCA). This was discussed in some detail. There are two extreme models.

1. All junior activities are financially independent of LRCA.
2. All activities are run through LRCA account(s) as would be the case for the Atkins tournament.

This merits further discussion but the feeling of the meeting was that most "small" junior activities e.g. junior coaching should be run by clubs and be financially independently of LRCA. There may however be some activities e.g. the Leicestershire Junior Chess Championship which should be run through an LRCA account,

Coaching Included interactions with Schools

The withdrawal of Paul Findley at the beginning of the year has resulted in some unfilled coaching commitments. Paul has said that any money owing will be paid back. John Mitchell said that he had tried, by contacting Paul Findley and also parents at the Leicestershire Junior championship, to find out the extent of the problem. So far three schools and two individuals who had been receiving coaching from Paul Findley had been identified. There appears more concern about the loss of the excellent coaching from Paul Findley than the money. *John Mitchell will contact the parents/teachers involved to see if alternative arrangements for coaching could be made.*

The new coaching sessions involving the four clubs mentioned above, starting June 6th at Ashby has been timetabled. There was some discussion as to the level at which these should be aimed.

Paul Colburn expressed the view that their function should be to raise the standard of the county teams and weaker players should be coached on normal club nights. Bob Wallace had stated that it is important to have some coaching for beginners and weaker players. John Mitchell agreed with this. It was suggested that clubs have some freedom as to whether they run one or two sessions at the weekends until the current session ends at the end of July. The programme can then be reviewed.

Neil Roberts wants to check availability of teachers before confirming the second Ashby session on July 4th.

County Teams

Last season our county teams were entered for the first time in two further competitions (U12 U14 and U16) sections of the National Youth Chess Association and the U11 section of the English Schools Primary Chess Association

Paul commented that the reason for the relatively poor performance of our juniors when compared with other counties was that until recently Leicestershire had not been very active in junior chess. To increase the opportunity for juniors to play competitive chess the merits of entering an under 120 county team was discussed. This would consist of juniors strengthened by some adults. An entry for the junior 4 NCL team was also considered. A decision as to whether go ahead with this will be made by August.

Paul indicated his willingness to captain the new junior teams.

Minor League (George Winterton Cup)

The minor league ended in a tie between Ashby and Loughborough. It was agreed that this would be decided by a play off to be held at Ashby. *John Mitchell to arrange the date.* After the withdrawal of Red Admiral there were only three teams in the competition this year, There was a discussion as to whether to continue with it or replace with a further Division in the normal league. The grading limit of 100 and rapid play format made it suitability for junior players and weaker adults

so it was decided continue with the competition and encourage new entries. Clubs mentioned were Thurby and Kirby Muxloe but school teams could also be entered. *John Pattinson, and John Mitchell to actively seek to encourage new entries.*

Prize for most improved junior

John Robinson had indicated that he wished to donate money/a prize to help support junior chess activities. It was agreed to award the prize this year to Thomas Brown from Kirby Muxloe

John Mitchell to discuss with John Robinson the most appropriate form of the prize

Date of Next Meeting

It was considered that in future the junior chess committee should meet at three monthly intervals Suggested dates for the next full committee were 19 and 26 August. This will be held at Ashby

John Mitchell to contact Bob Wallace to find out about his availability.