

## LRCA Junior Committee Minutes 5Aug14

Tuesday Aug 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 - at Braunstone Civic Centre 7:30pm.

### 1. Present and apologies for absence.

	Present	Apologies
Ashby		
Braunstone	Jim Bingham (JTB);	Paul Colburn (PJC)
Heathcote		
Kirby Castlers	Note : Thurnby rep (JP) below, is also involved in the junior chess at this club.	
Latimer		
Loughborough	John Mitchell (JM)	
Melton		
Red Admiral	Paul Findley (PF)	
Thurnby	John Pattinson (JP)	
Latimer		
Oadby		
Syston		
Wigston		

**John Mitchell** chaired the meeting; **Jim Bingham** took the minutes

### 2. Recent Developments and Activities

At the request of the chairman, PF provided a brief summary of his junior chess activities over recent months. He firstly mentioned about the series of junior tournaments (*the Delancey UK Chess Challenge*) leading up to the Terra –final to be held later this month at Loughborough Grammar School. Paul had been delighted by the number of Leicester juniors who had competed in the first two stages (the Mega- and Giga-) and was pleased that a record number of Leicester players attended the Mega-, and then that of the total of 25 in the Giga- (in Manchester) 3 Leics juniors had won through to the Tetra-final or the Plate. The latter being a junior tournament with no age subdivisions.

Another important event organised by Paul was the Leics Junior Championships held at the Fairfield Prep School on June 21<sup>st</sup>. This was particularly successful since there were 90 juniors present; the full results being provided in detail on the LRCA website.

In the absence of Paul Colburn, PF mentioned that with the former as the driving force the two of them had had an interesting season running an U100 county team which was originally intended to consist of just junior players. However, in view of the poor first match result it was decided to bolster the team with some suitably graded adult players. This had the desired result of making the subsequent matches more keenly contested.

An U100 team will again be entered this season, and as the standard of the juniors has clearly improved during last year, the aim will again be to try field teams that include a majority of juniors in the coming season.

Besides the activities described above (for which detailed information is given on our website) PF also confirmed that all the other junior related activities that he and others are involved with (e.g. schools chess and the Saturday training sessions) continue to be very rewarding and successful.

Sponsorship – JM informed the meeting that he will be scaling down his job at Biopolymer Solutions Ltd during the coming year, but he is hoping to continue sponsorship of LRCA Junior Chess if required. However there is growing confidence that sufficient income can be made from our Junior Chess activities so that it could soon be made to be self-financing anyway.

### Proposed New Junior Activities

Following the discussions at the LRCA AGM there is continued optimism that there will be a junior section of the Atkins Congress this year. The main obstacle to this being the availability of a suitable room. And on this subject PF expressed his concern about the possibility of juniors being somewhat boisterous at the event, and disturbing the other sections.

As well as the tuition being provided by various people in Leics schools, PF said that he is currently involved in the plans to resurrect the inter-schools league; and he is hopeful that this will include both primary and secondary schools.

Another interesting possibility that was mentioned (by PF) was the idea of entering a Leics junior 4NCL team: though the committee members present were short of concrete facts on this subject.

PF and JP then provided some feedback about the chess activity that formed part of the 2014 Indian Summer event, and in particular that the organiser was quite keen to run a totally separate event. However there was a feeling that there are probably already sufficient events for existing Leics juniors to attend, and that this idea was unlikely to be a way of attracting many new players.

### The Minor League

There was full agreement among the committee that despite the limited number of entries (4 teams) those who had played in it had thoroughly enjoyed it; so there was unanimous support for its continuation. Although he wasn't present, there had been no indication given by PJC that he would not be prepared to repeat his very successful administration of this league.

After a discussion about the likely entrants for next season (Braunstone x 2; Lough x 1; Red Admiral x 2?; Ashby x 1?; Kirby Muxloe x 1?) JM proposed that he should contact all the clubs about making entries; and then review whether it may be worth applying further pressure on particular clubs. JTB expressed the view that the success achieved by the league last season might encourage additional entries and when it was agreed to increase the grading limit to 100 (RP) partly because it was felt that this might help clubs find sufficient players to form new teams. In this context JM expressed the hope that the minor league might attract new adult players e.g. parents of juniors, who find the single long time limit league games too demanding.

Since it was found that accepting entries up till the start of December had been satisfactory last season JP suggested that we should keep this arrangement; and this was agreed. JP also proposed that the entry fee should be £10 per team as before, and that the income should go into the monies designated to our junior chess.

The last discussion relating to the Minor League rules was about the possible need to have options on the rate of play, because of the variation in the capabilities and ages of the players involved. It was ultimately

decided to retain the status quo because of the lack of any strong consensus view on a change, and because of the complexities of having different timing arrangements co-existing in a match.

### **3. Any Other Business**

Following the input from a “bystander” (Pat Reid) some discussion took place on the relative merits of awarding trophies or monetary prizes in junior tournaments; and it was interesting to discover that the youngsters themselves are often quite keen to be given cash prizes.

As a consequence of a query from PF about the objectives of the annual Charity event, it became evident that the LRCA never actually holds an Open Day, as such. Although this was not exactly a topic suitable for discussion at this meeting, it has been minuted in case it might be worth following up in some other forum.