

Bedford Chess Club

C Team Captain's Report 2014/15 Season

Key Points

The C team declined promotion last season, to avoid having three teams in the first division. Subsequently, the C and D teams split the remaining members who were not in the A or B teams more or less evenly between them, to give a reasonably balanced pair of teams in division two. It also provided the opportunity for new players to be introduced to league matches, rather than just playing casual games on club nights.

The C team had a good season, coming fourth out of six teams, but with the same number of points as Open University, who came third by virtue of a higher game points score.

The C team won five out of ten matches, with no drawn matches, scoring sixteen wins and thirteen draws, but losing twenty one games. The team remained intact for most of the season, with only three matches requiring a substitute to be used. In contrast, we obtained three defaults from other teams who were unable to field full teams on the night.

Player Performance

When fielding a full team, the C team averaged a grading of 117 per board, compared with the average of 134 by our opponents. Every team member was out-graded for most of the games, with Peter Gill particularly averaging an out-grading of 22 points across the season's matches.

Individual results were:

| Player | Played | Won | Drawn | Grading at Season Start | Grading Estimated at Season End |
|---------------|--------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Gerry Nolan | 10 | 3 | 3 | 150 | 153 |
| Peter Gill | 9 | 2 | 5 | 127 | 144 |
| Nigel Staddon | 10 | 2 | 3 | 122 | 117 |
| Peter Housden | 9 | 4 | 0 | 102 | 113 |
| Mac MacKenzie | 5 | 1 | 1 | 84 | 77 |
| Defaults | | 3 | | | |
| Tony Lawrence | 2 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Marc Obi | 1 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Total | | 16 | 13 | | |

Overall, the performances of Peter Gill and Peter Housden were the team's best, given the strength of their opponents.

Peter Gill also claimed the honour of breaking Adrian Elwin's reporting programme, by arriving 34 minutes late at Leighton Buzzard, because of train delays. LB claimed

a win by default (as they were entitled to, after 30 minutes), but because all the other games had already started, that meant that theoretically we were playing the un-defaulted players out of board sequence and Adrian's programme incorrectly gave us a large number of penalty points. Adrian subsequently amended his programme, to reflect the unusual situation. To rub salt in the wound, Peter played his opponent in a casual game at LB and won it, while the rest of the match continued around him!

Conclusion

The decision to field two fairly evenly balanced teams in division two has been successful, in that it avoided promotion possibilities, while providing a good level of formal chess for our new recruits to the club.

The C team performed on balance better than their average gradings might have forecast. The decision to split players between the C and D teams, rather than playing all the strongest players in the C team has shown that the club has sufficient players to maintain four teams, while still providing good opposition to the rest of the division.

Gerry Nolan
May 2015