**LRCA Chairman’s Report 2025**

This is the first of these I have had to deliver, so please bear with me!

The 2024/25 league season has now drawn to a close, not without incident or drama, but on the whole most of the league fixtures were completed. There were a few exceptions of one or two clubs suffering the exodus of University students appearing to be the main reason(s) for the defaulting of boards, and in some cases, defaulting of matches. It is important to seek feedback from these clubs and work with them so that future fixtures can be avoided during these periods and maintained the healthiness of league chess. Some of the board defaults are due to internal club organisation, (or lack thereof!). These instances can’t be helped.
Congratulations to each of the divisional winners, the Summer Cup winners and the County Championship winners from 2024. As I write, the 2025 Summer Cups and individual championships have started, or are about to start.

I am delighted to say that the LRCA presentation and Charity quickplay back in September yielded a total donation of £110 which was warmly received by LOROS, a charity close to mine (and many people’s) hearts. Thank you very much to all of those that attended. Hopefully we can get more bodies through doors and backsides on seats this year.

I was also pleased that Leicestershire was able to host a rapid play and classical Congress last year – more details to follow in the Congress report.

I also think it is important that we acknowledge all the people ‘behind the scenes’ for their time and effort that is helping to run the LRCA – there are too many to name but thank you for your efforts in keeping the LRCA running – it is appreciated.

The formation of the League Management Committee and, beyond that, the General Committee, will enable any issues to be resolved quickly and efficiently, and make the LRCA more responsive in general. We would also like to think that we are approachable, fair, and above all inclusive for all players, clubs and other associations to get in touch. Gone are the days of a slow, unresponsive committee.

Finally, it is with regret that I need to advise that Paul Mottram is to step down in his role as League Secretary, both for the LRCA and the LMC General Committee. On behalf of Leicestershire Chess over the last few years, I would like to wholeheartedly thank Paul for all his efforts and his time during the previous years – the number of which, I dread to think!
We are therefore in urgent need of a new League Secretary to fill Paul’s shoes, and we would warmly invite anybody with a high level of organisation to assist us in moving league chess in Leicestershire forward. Please contact me if you would like to have a chat.

Ben Vaughan

Chairman

16th May 2025