

## **Leicestershire and Rutland Chess Association Junior Chess Committee Report** **May 2019**

Three years ago when I took on the role of chairman on an 'interim' basis, Leicestershire Junior Chess was in a parlous state. Paul Findley had abandoned a number of schools mid-stream' and Paul Colburn was about to stand down as head coach after fighting a losing battle against Nottinghamshire 'poaching' and David Levens .

Fast forward those three years and LJs are in a much healthier position. But the credit for this must go almost entirely to another Paul, Paul Mottram, who has worked tirelessly to improve the coaching set-up and support the teams and events.

We also managed to get the former England junior selector David Levens to come on board as head coach in the regular Saturday sessions at Westleigh church, a position that I am happy to say is now to be taken over by Alan Agnew, who also does school and private tuition I have now asked David to move on to co-ordinating school chess activity, an area which conversely has made little progress.

There are however regular clubs at the following primary schools run by Leicestershire player-coaches -

Ashby C of E

Fairfield Prep

Woodhouse Eaves

Holywell

Brooke Priory

Langham C of E

as well as Ivanhoe College.

Also recently, initial chess activity has restarted at Oakham Public School (perhaps resurrecting former glories ?)

Sparkenhoe and Arnesby are also active as part of the Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC) initiatives headed by Daily Telegraph chess columnist Malcolm Pein.

(The CSC course I arranged at De Montfort University has in fact led to the formation of the Anstey club run by Ben Vaughan) .

The local Megafinal stage of the national Delancey Chess Challenge is about to take place across the country with multiple Leicestershire schoolchildren involved. At a recent meeting we agreed with Northants Chess Association that Leicestershire shall stage the 2020 'Rockingham' event which is the shared event for Northants and Leicestershire children but has been staged in Wellingborough previously.

We also agreed in a spirit of co-operation to combine our u11 Girls with Northants to take part in the recent National finals .

I shall leave the report on the fortunes of the teams themselves to Paul to report, except to state that they have made considerable progress over the last 3 years.

Sasha Kerbel and Jason Lv of Wigston club cleaned up on the major honours this year winning both the Most Improved and Team Player awards respectively, as well as the county u140 and u120 summer competitions ! They, and George Worrow-Goodin at Ashby, are also making names for themselves at their senior clubs.

I am now standing down as chairman and invite any member who feels able to assist Paul, Alan and David in the future to take over. I shall continue to coach at the schools that I currently teach, and am happy to offer any advice sought by my successor.

I am also relinquishing the role of Safeguarding Officer. This role should go hand-in-hand with that of Junior Chairman in my opinion. It usually will require little action, though vigilance is required, and I did have to deal with one very serious matter . We do have a Safeguarding Policy that I created, which is largely common sense, but the central crux of this is that unobserved one-on-one situations between child and coach should be avoided, and that all coaches should have DBS clearance.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have assisted in any capacity in coaching or supporting events during my time, and hope that you will continue to do so.

Bob Wallace  
Chairman  
Leicestershire Junior Chess Chairman