

Cavendish I first team report, 2010/11

The dust has settled on another season in the London Chess League. Cavendish I finished in 5th place with 7.5 match points. Once again, the league was won by the professional team Wood Green although this time they were pushed hard by the slightly less professional (in every sense) Drunken Knights. It's hard to see how we can challenge these teams at the moment, although not losing to Hackney in the first match of the season for a third year running would be a good start! On a serious note, however, the club is severely lacking in players at the moment, despite the timely arrival of Terry Chapman and Thomas Kuilman this year. With this second team being promoted to the first division an extra two players are required there. If anyone knows of any unsettled or unattached souls please try to persuade them our way.

On a more positive note, Cavendish retained the Eastman Cup trophy despite the best efforts of Richmond All Stars. In the best traditions of the club we won a very close match 5-5. One of the club's leading players recently likened the team to Stoke City FC. In the light of the FA Cup final last weekend that analogy is now out of date. Perhaps the Portsmouth team of 2008 would be more apt. In fact, given the state of the club's finances that may be more accurate than we would wish. Subscriptions are still being gratefully received by Treasurer Tony Milnes.

Finally, after all of that team nonsense, we come to the crucial moment – individual performances. Modesty prevents me from revealing this year's top scorer on absolute points (8.5/11). All I can say is that there's a clear correlation (ignoring one or two players who should, perhaps remain nameless) between the number of games played and total points scored. Therefore, if you want to be top next year, don't turn your captain down! On a % basis no one could match Mark Ferguson's 86% over 7 games. His new book, "Winning with 1...c6" will be in the shops soon. While on a grading performance basis, Simon Roe is again top, his performance exceeding his published grade by 34 points. Since this also happened last year, one can only wonder how his grade stays so low. One can only pity the captains of the other teams for which he plays.

Many thanks to everyone who played for the team this season, especially to those who stepped in at very short notice. Should anybody else fancy a go at captaincy next season, I should be very, very happy to step aside. Honestly. Congratulations to Barry and his team for winning the second division and for their promotion back to the first division. Go easy on us next year.