

Cavendish 2 v Kings Head 2

We will be crowned champions after last night as we are 4-3 ahead last with Paul's adjournment clearly won, Philip having at least a draw and Geoff fighting to draw his game.

My statistical assistant Michael assures me that a 5-5 draw makes us champions and even a 6-4 defeat still guarantees promotion.

A memorable season for Cavendish with two trophies ... Div Two and the Eastman Cup.

To win the league with 10/12 is a fantastic performance, especially after starting with 2/4, and credit must go to the whole team.

We had a squad of 13 with occasional welcome help from some 3rd team players, especially Bertie and Ricardo. The fact that we only had one default all season speaks for itself and last night we had two reserves ready and waiting to play ... Dave Openshaw whose wife was waiting for him at the theatre and the famous Ron Harman who has not been well enough to play for the club this year.

I got yet another dodgy position from the opening (white v the French) and rescued the game with a fiddle in time trouble. Hopefully I will get more blacks next year ... or improve my opening play.

The real story of the night was our dominance on the lower boards where we will score 3.5/4.

Our leading scorers are Philip with 9 or 9.5/11 on boards 4-6, Danny with 6.5/10 on 1-2, Dave with 7/8, Syd with 7/11 and Paul with a probable 6/7. Tony and Michael also scored 6 and Alan scored 5.5. Dave, Paul and Tony are undefeated and pretty well the whole team have recorded a plus score with every member of the squad playing in 6 or more games.

Philip has to be singled out for his exceptional score ... maybe the record points tally in Cavendish history ... and for being the only player to have played in every match. Although the lower boards have often pulled us through, our top two boards, Danny and Caius, have both had very good seasons. Geoff, Julian, Alan and I have done quite well on boards 2-4 though Julian modestly reckoned that his key contribution was in the matches he could not play as the team always won without him! It was also great to have fresh and younger blood in the team with Thomas who announced his arrival by thrashing me at 5-minute chess.

I also must thank Michael for his constant good advice and moral support which even went as far as texting me late this Wednesday evening with the Beckenham result from Golden Lane that night.

I have enjoyed being captain of such a brilliant squad but I would be delighted to hand over the reins if there are any volunteers to try to beat 10 points next year in Div One.

Watch this space for news of the AGM date from Michael.