

League Controller's Proposals for 2009/10

This paper proposes a fundamental change to the structure of league chess in Buckinghamshire. Although the League Controller remains in favour of promotion and relegation, it is recognised that relegation may have an adverse effect on the ability of individual clubs to recruit and retain players, which may prove to the detriment of overall chess activity in the county.

Recommendation

It is recommended that league chess in Buckinghamshire be restructured, and that from the season 2009/10 clubs are invited to field teams in two separate and distinct events, an Open championship, and a Grading Limited division or divisions.

Detail

The League Controller has received informal indications that the recommendation would have the broad support of clubs within the county. What follows are a few observations about these changes, both 'big picture' and some of the fiddly detail as well. This part of the paper is intended to get the ball rolling in terms of working up proposals. Note: Although any re-structuring would be intended to take effect for the season 2009/10, prizes will still be awarded to divisional winners in the 2008/9 season.

Key points

- As the proposed competitions are separate there would be no promotion or relegation between the events.
- Clubs would be guaranteed a single place in the Open (if required). Participation would not be mandatory.
- Clubs would not be precluded from entering further teams, if in the opinion of the League Controller, the proposed team had sufficient playing strength to enhance or maintain the competitiveness of the event.
- The exact 'grading limit' for the second tier event would be determined in the light of the grades of players in the county and kept under review. Players would be eligible to represent their clubs in both events, and restrictions on up-floats would only apply within the specific competition. The League Controller would need to be consulted prior to the use of any un-graded player.
- The format, double round, single round, conference or zonal system would be determined in the light of the number of entries.
- It is also proposed that the new event has a new trophy. It really is a new event and winners should be celebrated. Indeed we might want to consider naming the trophy to celebrate an individual within Bucks.

Other points

I am assuming that the 'grading limited' event will be exactly that, but we might consider using the sort of 'average grade' methodology used in ECF events, albeit that the teams are usually smaller. This may avoid the situation where our smaller clubs become uncompetitive in the Open event, but have to enter because there are members who are ineligible for the lower event.(this might not work if the player concerned is graded 190)

Please discuss at your clubs and let me have responses by 31 October.