

Hello

We have maintained an average of just about 11 members attending sessions during the last term, which is always good in the summer term particularly in such warm weather, and we have completed our internal club competitions:- our Lightning tournament involving fast play with clocks was won by Freddie Day with an excellent final percentage score of 94.44%, with Elliot Howell second on 71.43% and Spencer Greenhough came third on 66.67%; the longer (and much slower) Knockout tournament which required games to be recorded was also won by Freddie Day against Elliot Howell in a long hard-fought final, with Rosemary Saunders coming third; the season-long ranking tournament, which I call the Grand Prix was eventually also won by Freddie Day, with Spencer Greenhough second and Elliot Howell third. These three trophies were presented at our last session, and the star trophy was awarded for the summer to Thomas Baggalley. Anyone concerned at Freddie winning all three trophies does not have my perspective as I have seen how close some of these matches were and have witnessed a definite rise in talent in the school, with great potential for the future

We have had more chess activity to report. Sadly we had no-one attending in the last holiday at the local Academy event, which is an area for development, but in the Sussex Under-7 championship we had Sam Baggalley attending a county event for the first time and he scored a magnificent 4/5, coming fifth on tie-breaks, but his excellent effort being rewarded with a trophy as the Top Under-6 player which obviously bodes well for next year. However I was also extremely proud that I visited the Southern Gigafinal at Twickenham – effectively the UK Chess Challenge reaching its national semi-final stage - a few weekends back to realise that I had 32 coached children from my two Academy areas taking part at that level – and all of them did well, but five of them achieved scores enabling them to qualify for the national final stages of this prestigious competition. Freddie Day took part in a strong Under-10 group and scored a highly creditable 3/6, missing qualification to the final stages by just one point.

There is now another opportunity in this holiday for all to put their developed skills into practice at a local Uckfield area Academy event to be held at the Uckfield Youth Centre on Monday 23rd July as previously advertised in my last circular. I attach an entry form for this event. These are the annual summer championships, where we not only determine the Top School and Top Primary School as well as the top three junior players in each area, but we also establish the local champion for each year group with a trophy for each. As you are already registered with me, entry can be simplified to just sending me an email with your youngster's name, date of birth and school, for which the deadline is extended to 1800 hrs on Sunday 22nd July. I encourage you to have your youngster attend if you can, as the experience gained would be well worthwhile, and if more attend I am sure we can become even more competitive and realise the known potential of our players.

I have spoken with Mrs Davies and confirmed that I will be returning for the Tuesday breakfast sessions in the new school year, and am now liaising with your new Head Teacher Mrs Pestell to confirm details but hope to re-start early in September. I hope also to attend an assembly early in the new year to do some active recruiting and celebrate our considerable achievements in the last

year. I will notify you of details at the start of next year. Of course recruitment is always necessary, but not least this time to try and replace the loss of no less than six club members:- Oliver Geer, Spencer Greenhough, Ryan Hastings, Elliot Howell, Oscar Rabson-Stark and Rosemary Saunders, who have all contributed greatly to the strength of the club and made it a delightful group to coach. I hope they all continue with this great game, but just as important turn up next Monday to maybe help at their last opportunity to lift Framfield to top Primary school. I cannot close without publicly offering sincere thanks to your retiring Head, Jacqueline Davies, who has been so strong in enabling and supporting the chess club and I have, as I am sure you all have, wished her a long, happy and healthy retirement !

Thanks for your time in reading this and for supporting your youngster in the chess sessions this year! Have a great summer holiday!!

Best regards

Brian Stockham