

SAXMUNDHAM & DISTRICT CHESS CLUB

Secretary's Report: Season 2008 – 2009

This season (2008 – 2009) the Suffolk Chess League consisted of two divisions and the club entered two teams into the league (one in Division 1 and one in Division 2); these teams were under the captaincy of Andrew Paige and Arthur McCormick. There were six teams in Division 1 and eleven teams in Division 2; consequently the teams in Division 1 were scheduled to play each other both at home and away (giving a total of ten matches per team), and the teams in Division 2 were scheduled to play each other only once (also giving a total of ten matches per team).

The 'A' Team (under the captaincy of Andrew Paige) was playing in Division 1. Unfortunately the team finished the season in the bottom position. The Division was won this year by Ipswich 'B' who finished the season with a total of 27½ points out of a possible maximum of 40 points. Last year (2007 – 2008) the Division was won by Ipswich 'A' (with 29 points).

The 'B' Team (under the captaincy of Arthur McCormick) was playing in Division 2. Of the ten matches they were scheduled to play: one match was won, three matches were drawn and six matches were lost. The team finished the season in tenth position having obtained a total of 15½ points out of a possible maximum of 40 points. The Division was won this year by Bury Cannons 'B' who finished the season with a total of 28½ points.

The club did not enter a team into the Suffolk Chess U125 Competition this season: this is a knock-out competition in which each team consists of four players. There were eight teams competing in the tournament this year and it was won by Adastral Park who defeated Manningtree in the final.

Additionally, the club did not enter a team into either the Norfolk & Suffolk Cup or the Suffolk League Cup this year.

A pleasant opportunity arose this year for the club to compete in a friendly match against Lowestoft Ex-Servicemen's Club Chess Group. This match was held on 19 August 2008 at Benhall & Sternfield Ex-Servicemen's Club. Arthur McCormick captained our team and each team consisted of six players. However, the match unfortunately ended in defeat (the final result being 4 – 2).

Also, on Tuesday 23 June 2009, there was an opportunity available for some chess coaching when David Spence and Stephen Gregory (both of Ipswich Chess Club) visited our club.

The Club Championship this year was organised by Andrew Paige and was in the form of a one-day Tournament: this was held at Benhall & Sternfield Ex-Servicemen's Club on Saturday 27 June 2009. This year the competition was won by John Feavyour: last year it was won jointly by John Feavyour and David Brown.

Finally, the club was again able to enjoy another Christmas Dinner this year. This event was held on Thursday 18 December 2008 at The Ship Inn (Blaxhall), and Alan Naysmith deserves thanks for organising this event.