

Fischer's Catch 2017 – 2018

The story behind Fischer's Catch...

Last year my aim was to setup an all-female 4ncl team and simultaneously the welsh junior committee had the same wish for a junior team. With a lot of the ladies already signed up to other teams and most juniors preferring the junior 4ncl setup, it seemed natural for us to merge and for me to lead the team. Credit to Dan Jaberansari for coming up with our playful team name. As a new team we were automatically entered in to division 4, consisting of thirty teams of six boards. Each weekend involved coaching, prep, challenging games and a sociable team meal.

The squad

Myself

Ifan Rathbone – Jones

Shayanna Sivarajasingam

Venetia Sivarajasingam

Benjamin Choo Yin

Susanna Fraser

Daniel Jaberansari

Vas Sivarajasingam

(With Mike Handley an acquaintance from the Oxford league helped us out for one of the rounds)



Picture taken from the final weekend

At the end of our first season we managed a respectable 17th out of 30. After hovering around the top 10 for most of the season I was initially a little disappointed. However, our success between rounds 4 to 7 resulted in a rather tough final weekend, where we were the underdogs in each match.

Below is a summary of our results for the season. Our team average grade for the season was 1734.

Round	Opposition (plus average rating)	Result
1	Watford (1909)	Loss 2.5 – 3.5
2	Barnet Knights 4 (1234)	Win 6 – 0
3	CSC (1737)	Loss 2 – 4
4	D&D united (1614)	Win 4.5 – 1.5
5	Oxford 4 (1659)	Win 4.5 – 1.5
6	Kent KJCA Kestrels (1934)	Win 3 – 2
7	Wessex B (1881)	Draw 3 – 3
8	Iceni 1 (2013)	Loss 1.5 – 4.5
9	Brown Jack 2 (1972)	Loss 2 – 4
10	MK Phoenix 2 (1806)	Loss 0.5 – 5.5
11	Poisoned pawns 2 (1859)	Draw 3 – 3

It is clear from the results we consistently outperformed our rank and caused a few upsets along the way. Resulting in a rather successful first season and a very proud captain! My star player for the season was Shayanna, who repeatedly picked up points against stronger opposition. With a special mention for Susie, who coped marvellously when faced with a very disgruntled opponent!

As my first 4ncl captaincy I was a little nervous about all the organisational duties such as submitting the correct team and arranging accommodation. However, the season turned out to be a breeze, mainly due to the parents being organised and extremely supportive. Another bonus of being captain is that I received numerous verbal and email compliments regarding the players performance and attitude throughout season.

The future of Fischer's Catch...

We are keen to continue our success next season and we are looking for players to join our squad. Preferably experienced juniors or strong adults who would like to volunteer their time to help the next generation as well as playing some competitive chess.

Please contact me on oliviasmith87@hotmail.com if you are interested or require more information.