

I think we were all disappointed at the Under 11 final on 6th May, 2017. After such a good start, we saw first place gradually slip away from us. We had a plan for round 1, and it worked, but not for the two subsequent rounds.

However, the team can be pleased with this year's results. In 2016, we won medals only in the under 11 and under 9 zones and came 5th overall in the other events. In 2017, we won the U11 zone, were second in the Girls, the U9 Final and the Grand Prix and third in the U11 final. That's five trophies out of a possible six. It shows us the training, organised by the parents, particularly Allison Mellor, Venky, Naoufel and Naz, and coached by Nick Pert and others, was highly successful.

Other teams found that they could not dominate the EPSCA events either; of the top teams, Kent won three events outright, but did not shine in the girls or the U11 final; Barnet came 2nd in no less than four events, without winning any outright. Sussex won the Girls competition, but came 5th overall in the Grand Prix; Nottinghamshire, the top team in the Midlands/North, could not break through this year. The best success story was Richmond, with an outstanding victory in the Under 11 Final, which shows they are back to their best. There were increasingly strong performances from Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire. This increased competition is good news for Wey Valley and will encourage us to increase our skills and ingenuity to stay ahead of the pack.

“Other guys imitate us, But the original's still the greatest!” Bryan Ferry, The In Crowd.

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I hope parents will support my attempt to become the first chess master to be elected for Parliament since Marmaduke Wyvill (1847-1868 for Richmond, Yorkshire.) Marmaduke came second to World Champion Adolf Andersson in the International Tournament of 1851, and offered his hand in marriage to Florence Nightingale (not accepted) in 1840.

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