

# The Missing Bishop

No. 4

November 1999



SJC Website - [www.nbarraclough.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.nbarraclough.freeserve.co.uk)

50p



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01273 - 834 646  
01424 - 893 264  
01403 - 786 984  
01444 - 483 907  
01424 - 755 744  
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01444 - 483 907

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Michael Tester  
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01825 - 760 005

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Nick Barracough

Nick Barracough  
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01273 - 832 750

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.... vacant

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01273 - 846 107

The Missing Bishop newsletter is published by Sussex Junior Chess. If you wish to contribute, please contact the Editor on 01273 - 834 646

*Cover photo: So much silverware! will the English team get past customs?*

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## Off the board . . .

Welcome to the second year of The Missing Bishop. What with the newsletter, our website and, more recently, information display stands, we believe we have largely achieved our original objective - viz. to keep juniors, parents, schools and clubs in touch with junior chess events and developments in the county.

Now, we're keen to make the newsletter more accessible to juniors, especially the younger ones. So, starting with this issue, and with thanks to Anne-Marie Prescott and her junior helpers, we are delighted to introduce a Kids Page (or two or three). Juniors remember, this newsletter is as much for you as for the adults, so do please contribute.

On the production side, Chris Pearson, who worked unstintingly on the first three issues, has withdrawn. We owe him a huge debt of thanks. By way of replacement, welcome to Alan Hustwayte, a strong club player from the Hastings stable, who has undertaken to design and produce the newsletter this season. This will be his first issue. We hope you

appreciate the improvement in quality brought about by having the newsletter professionally printed.

Everything that SJC does is done through the voluntary efforts of parents, players, and teachers. New blood, new ideas and new volunteers are always needed. So, we are delighted to welcome Neil Prescott (to be trained in the dark arts and mysteries of tournament pairing) and Steve Lympney who becomes the manager for the under-14 county team. And, as if Nick Barracough doesn't do enough already, he has now also taken on the mantle of the under-12 county team manager: and didn't they do well first time out with a considerably under-strength side!

Coming back to new blood, new ideas and new volunteers, please offer your services either to help at events on weekends or support the growing administration during the week. Without more helpers, the huge developments we have achieved over the last two seasons may falter.

*Stephen Penty, The Editor*

## Memories of Aubergicourt . . .

As autumn now draws in, our French trip seems a long time ago. I am however frequently reminded of it as I see the T-shirts being worn as far away as Scarborough, and as people still remark to me on what a great time they had.

The weekend was memorable for me both for the warmth of the welcome we received from the whole of the community of Auberchicourt and for the sense of almost non-stop fun and excitement enjoyed by all of the children who took part. Looking back, the weekend seems to have passed at breakneck speed as we moved from one place to another (and one bottle to another - or was that just me?) pausing just long enough for the children to play some serious competitive

chess. The sense of enjoyment was enhanced, I think, because the trip was open to all - not just the top players, and this helped to create a great spirit amongst the 90 of us who participated.

I was also impressed by the informality of the arrangements - the music and



*'The venue - sports hall in Aubergicourt town centre'*

dancing girls who greeted us on our arrival established an immediate effect and I particularly enjoyed the spacious playing hall and the fact that the parents were free to spectate and view the goings-on at liberty, without interfering with play. True, poor David had to play his final game with about 50 people crowding around his table, but this all seemed to add to the excitement.

We are, of course, left with the almost impossible task of having to reciprocate next year. Our main problem is in finding suitable accommodation for the number of people likely to be travelling over. If anyone has any ideas please talk to me or Nick or Jonathan. Similarly, does anyone have any ideas on how we might offer some typically English entertainment to our guests while they are here - and I don't mean sitting around watching Eastenders with a crate of Newcastle Brown!

Rod Draper  
French Trip Organiser

*Editor's note: for those who haven't heard, we won. The event was structured around a 'strong' section of 21 boards playing three rounds of long-play over the weekend (won 15-6, 15½-5½, 15½-5½), and a 'less strong' section of 22 boards with 7 rounds of rapid-play (also won, with 16 English players in the top 18 positions). In the evening, for light entertainment, a blitz tournament of 3 rounds, involving all adults and juniors from both countries, was*



'Eighty young players keeping perfectly still for the photographers'

won by our inimitable u9 team manager, Gary McCulloch.

## Thoughts of France

The sun was shining  
Our spirits were up.  
We never dreamed  
We'd come back with the cup.

The journey was long  
The children were tired  
But when playing chess  
They were truly inspired.

We made many friends.  
The welcome was great.  
The food and the wine  
Made us put on weight.

The Mayor of the town  
Gave medals to all  
To claps and loud cheers  
Around the large hall

We'll see them next year  
When they come back to GB.  
Will they win the cup back?  
Just wait and see!

So thank you to Sussex  
For giving us the chance  
To accompany you  
On your trip to France.

Brenda Phillips (Mother of Charles)

*Editor's note: The Phillips are from Essex. About a dozen juniors from Kent, Surrey, Essex and Hampshire joined Sussex on this trip.*

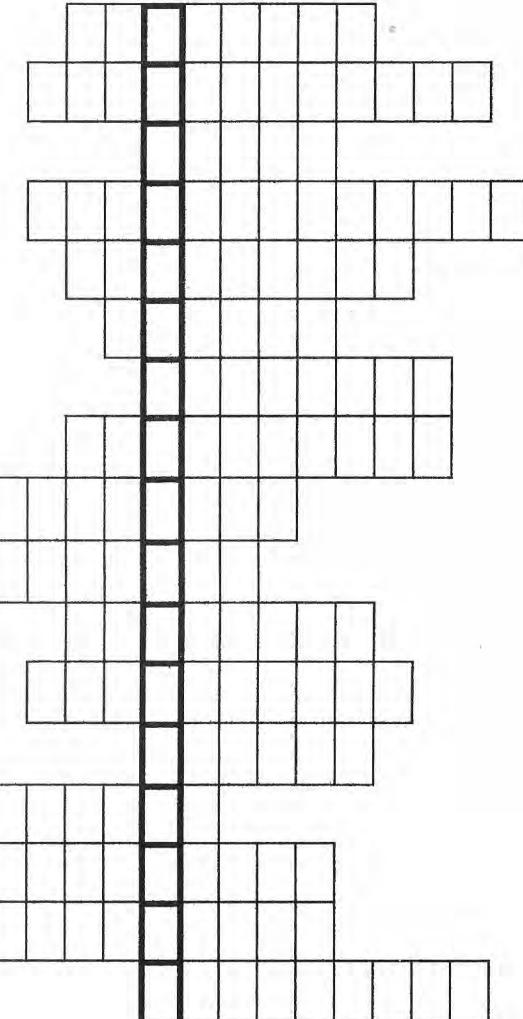


## Junior Prize Competition



Answer all the clues and fill in the grid to find the vertical phrase. To enter, complete the form and send to the address below by November 30th. The winning name will be drawn, from all correct entries, at the December training.

World Champion	1																
..... Display (clue: 1 player versus 20)	2																
English Grandmaster	3																
Sussex Chess Magazine	4																
End of Chess Game	5																
Good at something!	6																
Sussex Trainer	7																
Crowborough, Southwater etc .....	8																
Essential to Learning Chess	9																
First moves on Chess Board	10																
We all like to win these!	11																
Total Value of White Pieces on a Chess Board	12																
Movement of King and Rook	13																
Equal to a Bishop in Points	14																
No-one can Win!	15																
'In Passing'	16																
Number of Squares on a Chess Board	17																



Name: ..... Tel No: .....

Send entries to: Anne-Marie Prescott, The Rosery, New Place, Uckfield,  
E. Sussex. TN22 5DP.

# County team performances . . .

Usually there is nothing to report at this time of year by way of team results as the under-9s and under-11s don't start playing their competitions until March. However, as SJC is now involved in junior chess organisation at secondary level and as competition between girls' teams develops, there is a lot more activity in the earlier part of the year.

## Girls Team

Our second year of running a Girls Team got off to an encouraging start in September when our six member under-14 team came third in their zonal of the ECGF National Jamboree. As most of our team were playing 3 or even 4 years out of age this was a great performance. On top boards, Stephanie and Georgina had good wins against much higher graded opponents. Rebecca, Deborah and Natalie also scored good wins too, and Briony was unlucky to be paired against some good players from Middlesex and Surrey.

As we go to press, I am arranging some friendly matches against other counties. These matches will allow some of our less experienced girls to represent their county and gain valuable competitive experience.

Don't forget - competition for this season's Top Girl trophy has already begun. To remind you - points are awarded for match performance, training attendance, and improvement throughout the year. Could YOU be the next winner?

Rod Draper  
Girls Team Manager

## NYCA u12 inter-County Championships

Sussex was represented at the first ever National Youth Chess Association's u12 competition in Stoke-on-Trent. The team members included many of last season's u11s with a few younger players taken along to broaden their team competition experience. The event itself was unusual in that whole teams competed against each other Swiss style.

Despite missing some of the top players - due to a clash with an England team event in Belgium and last minute sickness - the Sussex team exceeded all expectations in coming third on 37 points - only 1 point behind 2nd placed Greater Manchester, and 2 points behind the eventual winners, Richmond.

In the first round, Sussex were drawn against Greater Manchester, and were obviously suffering from travel weariness as they went down 7-5. The second round drew Sussex against the favourites, Richmond, who had also had a poor start against weaker opposition. The form book held true, and Sussex went down 8-4. Each of the individual winners in this round - Matthew Linnett, Joe Richardson, James May and Christopher Murphy - should be congratulated on gaining points against such strong opposition. Having dropped to 8th place, Sussex had easier draws in the next two rounds and we took full advantage, winning both rounds by 10-2. This pushed Sussex up to 3rd, and those with calculators realised that there was a distinct possibility of gaining second place (or even first!) should we beat Somerset comprehensively. In the event, Sussex nearly succeeded, and only a loss by Richmond on the last board to finish, saw the team remain in third spot (had Richmond won this game, then as

their opponents were Greater Manchester, Sussex's points total would have placed us 2nd).

A great time was had by all, and congratulations must go to both players and parents for making this a day to remember.

### NYCA Under 12s Team Results

Nick Barraclough -  
Under 12s Team Manager

	Rounds	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1.	Nick Campion	0	0	1	½	1	1½
2.	David Barraclough	0	0	1	1	1	3
3.	Matthew Linnett	½	1	1	½	0	3
4.	Scott Lympney	1	0	½	1	1	3½
5.	Andrew L'Estrange	1	0	0	0	1	2
6.	Joe Richardson	0	1	1	1	1	4
7.	Daniel Khoo	0	0	½	1	1	2½
8.	James May	1	1	1	1	1	5
9.	Ben Thompson	0	0	1	1	0	2
10.	Chris Murphy	1	1	1	1	1	5
11.	Iason Prassides	½	0	1	1	1	3½
12.	Jack Holman	0	0	1	1	0	2
Round score		5	4	10	10	8	37
Progressive score		5	9	19	29	37	
Round-end position		7=	8	6=	3	3	
Round 1		v.	Greater Manchester				
Round 2		v.	Richmond				
Round 3.		v.	Staffordshire				
Round 4.		v.	Cheshire & North Wales				
Round 5.		v.	Somerset				

## U-11 National Schools Competition final . . .

St Lawrence (Hurstpierpoint) could not quite repeat its dazzling form of the semi-finals where it drew with the eventual winners, Temple Sutton (Essex) - see Missing Bishop No. 3. There were six teams at the final at Oakham School (Rutland) in July. St Lawrence secured joint 3rd place, with Theo Penty and Grant Bucher both scoring an impressive 4/5.

Last year, for the first time in many years, only one school from Sussex was

represented in this competition in any age group - an astonishing fact when chess interest and play is enjoying a period of sustained local and national growth.

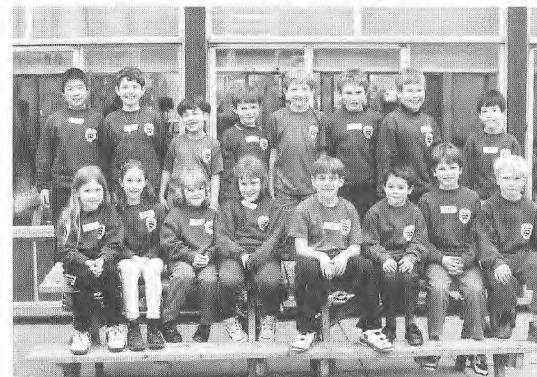
Contrast this to Sheen Mount from south west London which entered five teams in the tournament last season and has been doing this for many years. It is not too late to enter this year.

Contact: Tony Corfe - 51 Borough Way, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3HA or phone 01707-659 080

## You too could play for Sussex . . .

If you take part in Sussex tournaments (especially the Sussex Championships for your age group), and Sussex training days, you could be selected to play for the County, and earn the right to wear the coveted blue sweatshirt.

From now until January, team selectors (Gary McCulloch, Simon Deere and Jonathan Tuck) will be looking for sixteen u9s and twenty-four u11s to mount this season's challenge in the National Inter-Counties Championships to be held in the spring. Last season the u9s came second, and the u11s fifth. These were Sussex's best ever results. Can we do better this year?



The '98 u9 team after winning their EPCSA zonal in Barnet.

Parents and teachers, if you know of any promising, new talent, please talk to one of Gary, Simon or Jonathan.

## Thomas Rendle wins Terafinal . . .

Thomas Rendle, under 13 from Hastings, scooped the title at the Saitek-sponsored UK Chess Challenge Terafinal played at Olympia in August by narrowly beating Adam Hunt (aged 18 from Oxfordshire) in a play-off.

The terafinal is the culmination of the UK Chess Challenge competition which starts with play in schools from all over

the country from late October. It is the largest chess tournament in the world for juniors. Last season was its 4th year and attracted over 35,000 entries between the ages of 6 and 18.

In an exceptional day for Sussex juniors, Thomas was joined by 9 year-old David Howell who took joint third place.



Gary Kasparov playing Thomas Rendle earlier this summer

## Gigafinal results from Nottingham . . .

There were some excellent performances from Sussex players at the Gigafinal event held in Nottingham on July 11th. Best results were from David Howell who won the Under 8 boys with a maximum 6/6, and Thomas Rendle who won the under 13 boys, with 5½/6. Other players with placings were Joe Richardson who was 2nd in the under 9 boys with 4½/5, and Stephanie Barraclough 3rd in the under 9 girls with 4½/6.

Gigafinal results for Sussex Players (scores out of 6)

under 13	Thomas Rendle	5½ (1st)	
under 11	Nick Campion	5 (6th)	Deborah Margolis 3½
	Theo Penty	4	
	Matthew Linnett	4	
	David Barraclough	3½	
under 10	Adam Prescott	1½	Georgina Draper 4
under 9	Joe Richardson	4½ (2nd)	Stephanie Barraclough 4½ (3rd)
	Alex Cook	3½	
	Grant Bucher	3	
under 8	David Howell	6 (1st)	Eleanor Hayden 2½
under 7	Christopher Linnett	4	



Sussex juniors at the Nottingham Gigafinals for the UK Chess Challenge, July 1999.

## Sussex Juniors shine at 87th British Championships . . .

Players from Sussex were a successful at the British Championships held in Scarborough over the fortnight 1st - 14th August. Top performer was David Howell, who scooped both the under 9 and under 10 titles, with 7/7 and 6½ / 7 respectively. He was also 3rd in the under 11 age group with 5½ / 7. Sebastian Pozzo was joint winner in the under 8 age group with 5/6, and also third in the under 9's with 5½ / 7. Stephanie Barraclough 4½ points in the under 10 made her joint runner-up for the girls title.



## Kids Page

Welcome to the *Kids Page*, a new addition to the Missing Bishop. It is a space for you the Sussex Junior Chess members to tell your jokes, stories and news, or to send in word searches and puzzles for others to do. Please contribute to your page - address below.

### Chess Word Search

Sussex	Trophies	Grades
Chess	Pawn	Knight
Rook	Bishop	King
Prizes	Masters	Queen

Which word is missing from the puzzle?!!

S	A	T	R	O	P	H	I	E	S
B	U	F	I	Q	C	L	C	M	P
P	S	S	G	U	D	K	H	N	A
K	R	R	S	E	Q	E	E	O	W
N	U	I	T	E	H	J	S	P	N
I	K	V	Z	N	X	W	S	X	A
G	Z	I	J	E	B	Y	E	C	F
H	K	I	N	D	S	R	O	O	K
T	L	G	H	G	R	A	D	E	S
M	Z	P	S	R	E	T	S	A	M

Knock knock.  
Who's there?  
Ammonia  
Ammonia who?  
Ammonia little monster,



Why is 6 afraid of 7?  
Because 7 8 9!

What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment but not once in a thousand years?

How do you get an aeroplane into your bedroom?  
Leave the landing light on!



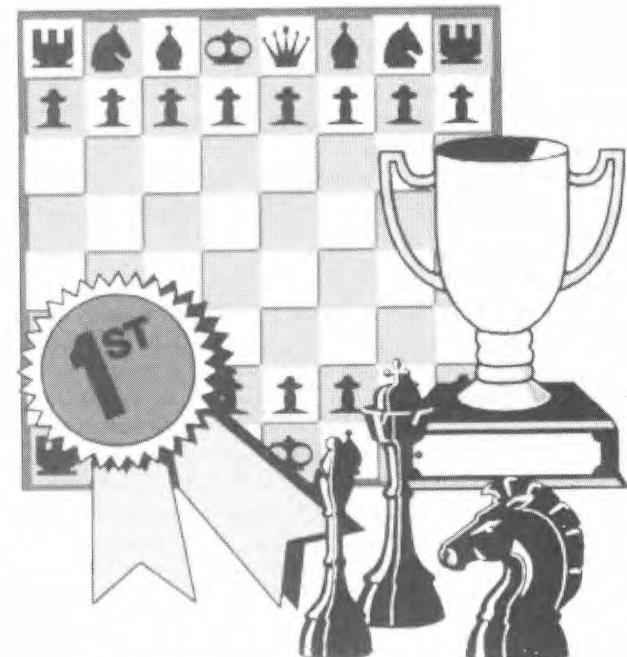
Knock Knock  
Who's there?  
Pyjamas  
Pyjamas who?  
Pyjamas around me and hold me tight!

Answers can be found on Page 13

Word search and jokes supplied by Rebecca Tuck, Adam & Fiona Prescott

Send entries for the next Kid's Page to Anne-Marie Prescott The Rosery, New Place, Uckfield, E. Sussex TN22 5DP

*Spot the Difference.  
Can you spot the 10 differences between these pictures?*



Overall Sussex junior results were (score out of 7, 6 for under-8s)

<b>u 13</b>	Charlie Linford	2½	<b>u 9</b>	David Howell	7 (1st)
<b>u 12</b>	David Barraclough	3½		Sebastian Pozzo	5½ (3rd)
<b>u 11</b>	David Howell	5½ (3rd)		Grant Bucher	4½
	David Barraclough	2½		Alex Cook	4½
<b>u 10</b>	David Howell	6½ (1st)		Stephanie Barraclough	4
	Stephanie Barraclough	4½		Andrew Tucker	3
	Sebastian Pozzo	4½	<b>u 8</b>	Sebastian Pozzo	5 (1st=)
	Grant Bucher	3½		Andrew Tucker	3
	Alex Cook	3			
	Georgina Draper	2½			

## Grand Prix Results . . .

The new season started with a record entry of 85 at the Crowborough Junior Championships on 18th September. The tournament was split into three sections; with 30 in the u18s, 23 in the u11s major and 32 in the u11s minor.

The minor section is a new initiative this year and proved an instant success with many players and parents. Juniors who had been scoring 3 or less points in a tournament last season now have the chance to shine, and experience the thrill of battling for a tournament victory. The closeness of the section was shown by the fact that four players scored 5 points. In the final analysis (countback) Guy Willis won 1st place over Andrew Tucker, Rupert Quiney and Eugene Geidelberg. In the major section, Kent visitor Kenrick de Nazareth scored 5½, Joe Richardson 5, and Danny Glebocki 4½.

This year's field in the under 18s has been boosted by last season's strongest ever under 11s contingent and so it was that two of these players, Nick Campion and David Barraclough, scored 5 with Nick winning on tie-break.

Our London Junior Championships qualifier, the 2nd South West Sussex Open at Chichester on 2nd October, had a modest increase in numbers over last year. As a qualifying competition, its sections have to conform to the LJC

format of u18s, u12s, u10s, and u8s. The winners were, respectively, Charlie Linford with 5/6, Theo Penty 5/6, Stephanie Barraclough 5½/6, and Christopher Linnett 5/6.



### Grand Prix Leader Board after two (out of six) rounds

u17	Tom Davey
u15	Nimai McCarthy
u14	Charlie Linford
u13	James Purcell
u12	= Theo Penty
	= Nick Campion
u11	James Asquith
u10	Stephanie Barraclough
u9	Andrew Tucker
u8	Eugene Geidelberg
u7	Christopher Linnett

SJC gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of Astec Computing Services Ltd for this season's grand prix

## Merit Award Scheme . . .

The scheme is still growing, with certificates now awarded in 16 schools with a further 9 schools yet to submit test results.

Bronze certificates awarded	Total	Distinction	Credit	Pass
Battle & Langton	11	8	3	0
Great Walstead	1	1	0	0
Hellingly	1	0	1	0
Holy Cross (Uckfield)	19	4	11	4
Rottingdean	1	1	0	0
Sacred Heart (Hastings)	1	1	0	0
St Lawrence (Hurstpierpoint)	66	15	16	35
St Margaret (Ditchling)	10	1	3	6
St Mary (Ifield)	1	0	1	0
St Peter (Ardingly)	16	1	3	12
Stafford Junior (Eastbourne)	11	3	5	3
Thomas Bennett (Crawley)	1	1	0	0
Wivelsfield	13	2	5	6
Total Bronze	152	38	48	66
St Lawrence - Silver	15	5	3	7
St Lawrence - Gold	1	1	0	0

Michael Tester at St Lawrence cannot believe that only juniors at his school are ready to take Silver and Gold tests, and throws down the challenge to any other school to match St Lawrence in getting 5 juniors through the Silver level this autumn!

For general information about the scheme and / or registration phone: Michael Tester on 01273 832747 day or evening or write to 74 Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex BN6 9SB

## UK Chess Challenge for schools . . .

This competition is great fun for juniors of all ages and provides a good structure for fostering basic chess playing. Last season 25 primary and secondary schools entered the competition. It's not too late for schools to register for this season's competition which starts at the end of the year with matches played at after-school club and / or in breaks over several months.

Last year over 1,050 schools took part nationally. Why not join them? The organisers will provide a plentiful supply of certificates and badges, and advice on how to organise the competition if your

school is not familiar with such events.. Contact: Mike Basman - 7 Billockby Close, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2ED (Tel: 0181 397 1826).

not once in thousands years  
once in every minute, twice in every moment, but  
Answer to time puzzle: the letter 'M' occurs  
from the word search  
players with white named first  
Board 1 - Alice loses to John  
Board 2 - Lucy beats Sarah  
Board 3 - Paul loses to David  
Answer to logic puzzle  
Answer to word search: bishop is missing

# Sussex Young Masters . . .

Charlie Linford started playing chess only a few years ago. With next to no training he has developed into a mature junior player. Winning the first year of the Sussex Young Masters was a considerable achievement as in doing so he defeated several players with a lot more match-playing experience. We make no apologies for printing his article in full; it is an illuminating and humble account of his semi-final and final matches (each round involving two long-play games followed, if these were drawn, by rapid-play games until someone lost). The moves of the first match in the final are featured after the article. Play through these to see how, even though Charlie had lost his queen, he managed a win.

## Four draws and a funeral by Charlie Linford . . .

The semi-final against Theo was incredibly tense. The two of us had never played before, and were both nervous as to what the result would be. The first game (Theo had white) was a hard fought battle, eventually ending up in a 55 move draw. In a London System Queen Pawn, Theo appeared happy to sit back and let me direct the pace. However, despite a few strong positions, I could not break through. On move 20, Theo offered a draw, a fair reflection on his slightly inferior position. After declining this, my position got worse as I tried to force my way through to Theo's king. However, a series of inferior moves up to move 23 left me offering the draw after a Queen exchange.

Theo, however, correctly gauged that his position was now better and refused. He won a pawn on move 27 and things looked bleak. After the time control I was forced to give up the exchange for a pawn to release the pressure. By move 38 my position was looking more hopeful, with a bishop and pawn for the rook. On move 49 it even looked like I might win, but an impressive pawn sacrifice by Theo (who was in mild time trouble, I might add) gave him an easy draw.

The stage was set for the return match. In a Caro-Kann, I chose a lesser known side-line. The surprise caught out Theo, and I snatched a hot pawn on move 9. To keep the pawn, I would have to face Theo's Queen-Side onslaught. After a magnificent attempt by Theo, he was unlucky to reach the double rook ending a pawn down. However, the saying "Rook endings a pawn up are drawn, rook endings a pawn down are lost" was telling, and after recouping the pawn on move 38, the game was drawn.

There was now the confusion of the rapid plays. After phoning Jonathan Tuck, we decided to play 15 minute rapids, with the time being reduced by two minutes every two games. Then came mayhem. The initiative swung back and forth, material was tossed about like juggling balls and no-one capitalised until game three. There, instead of replying to 1.e4 with 1...c6, Theo varied to 1...e5. I received an opening I knew inside out and won a rook. Still the drama continued. In a confusion of where Theo's bishop was, I placed my rook en prise. However, at lightning speed Theo missed it. Eventually, I converted my advantage into a winning endgame. Theo, the unlucky but gallant loser, resigned. I, in the most dramatic of circumstances, was through to meet Nick Champion in the final.

Playing Nick was a very different experience. Whereas Theo and I had never played each other, Nick and I had met in the group stages. There, Nick had beaten me after a bad game on my part. The final was going to be played solely at my

## Four draws and a funeral by Charlie Linford continued

house. Had it been the World Championships, Nick would surely have complained on grounds of a home advantage.

Any game between Nick and myself so far has been decided by cheap tricks or tactics. The final game in which Nick was white was no exception. In an Nimzo-Indian (with 4. Bd2 if anyone is interested), I made a horrendous blunder on move 10, forcing me to give up my queen for two minor pieces. Just as I was thinking of my excuses, I realised that Nick was unlikely to shed material to reach a better position. He was more likely to adopt the "monkey have, monkey hold" approach. So, on this basis I decided to stake everything on a do or die attack. I made annoying threats and by move 16 his king was stranded, with the rooks defending insignificant pawns.

By move 21, I was revitalised by the winning of a pawn and the attacking positions of my pieces. With rooks on the central open files, a bishop on the a1-h8 diagonal and a knight on the 7th rank, I decided the time was right for the attack. By move 25, Nick's king had ended up on g5, unable to retreat or advance. After

making a last ditch attempt to save his queen, the other half of the monarchy was executed by a bishop switchback to c8. A 28 move victory, and once again in unusual circumstances.

With white for the next game, the outlook was good. In theory, all I needed was a draw and the title was mine. Of course, in practice, Nick was still an excellent player. In a Scotch Game, my position was easily good enough for a draw. However, lax thinking in an attempt to simplify an endgame further fell to a painful pin. Suddenly, I was a bishop down, and Nick's excellent technique did the rest.

The rapid plays were played at Warden Park School. The first game (with Nick as white) was a Nimzo-Indian as before, but this time I had done my homework. In the middle game, I won the exchange with a crude knight fork and drove home the advantage in an ending.

The second rapid was a Scotch Game again, but here sloppy play led me to lose two pawns and eventually Nick reached an ending with rook and two pawns against rook. Here though, the most sickening thing happened to Nick. He glanced at his clock and saw he had just under five minutes left. For the ending we were in, it was plenty of time. That's



Charlie Linford raises the Masters trophy

## **Four draws and a funeral by Charlie Linford continued**

the theory. In practice, though, we all know that the majority of chess players (myself included) panic when their flag starts to rise. A cheap trap set by myself led Nick into quick play and missing a skewer on his king and rook. In absolute disgust, Nick resigned. Once again, cheap tactics carried the day.

Both Theo and Nick were excellent sportsmen and accepted their defeats with grace. I am sure they will have better luck next year.

Charlie Linford

(Editor's note for Nick and Theo: don't take the title to heart, it's just a rather poor play on words!)

## **All you ever wanted to know about grading: well almost! . .**

The primary reason for grading is to provide a measure of each player's ability. This is used in tournaments to ensure players are matched against other players of a similar strength. It also helps with 'seeding' - arranging games during the opening rounds so that the best players don't meet each other until the later rounds.

**Sussex Grading:** In September, at the start of the season, players will have a grade based on their performance over the previous year. This grade is kept as their 'base line' grade until new grades are calculated at the end of the year.

When a player wins a match, they are awarded their opponent's grade plus 50. If they lose, they are awarded their opponent's grade less 50. For a draw they are given their opponents grade.

At the end of the season, all the points a player has earned are added up and then divided by the number of matches played. The resultant figure is their new grade for the following season.

Sussex Young Masters 1998/1999

Final - First match

Nick Campion v. Charlie Linford 10.6.99

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. d4 .. Nf6     | 15. e4 .. Bb7     |
| 2. c4 .. e6      | 16. Rc1 .. c5     |
| 3. Nc3 .. Bb4    | 17. dxc5 .. Nxc5  |
| 4. Bd2 .. 0-0    | 18. Qc2 .. Ra-c8  |
| 5. g3 .. d5      | 19. Rd1 .. Ba6    |
| 6. cxd5 .. Nxd5  | 20. Qg2 .. Nd3+   |
| 7. Nxd5 .. Bxd2+ | 21. Kd2 .. Nxb2   |
| 8. Qxd2 .. Qxd5  | 22. Rc1 .. Rf-d8+ |
| 9. Nf3 .. b6     | 23. Ke3 .. Nc4+   |
| 10. Bg2 .. Bb7   | 24. Kf4 .. e5+    |
| 11. Nh4 .. Qxg2  | 25. Kg5 .. Rc6    |
| 12. Nxg2 .. Bxg2 | 26. g4 .. Rh6     |
| 13. Rg1 .. Bd5   | 27. Qf2 .. f6+    |
| 14. f3 .. Nd7    | 28. Kf5 .. Bc8++  |
- Result: 0 - 1

New players entering a tournament who don't have a grade are allocated a 'default' grade for that tournament. At Sussex events it is 50 for events involving players over age 9, and 40 for younger aged juniors. A default grade is denoted on the results table by a 'd' next to the grade.

As a brief guide, the majority of county players in the under 11 team have a Sussex grade in the 60-100 range.

**BCF grading:** The British Chess Federation (BCF) run their own grading system. The calculation principle is roughly the same as for Sussex grading, but a player has to have played 10 games during the year to qualify for a published grade. There are also two lists, one for rapidplay (games under two hours in length) and longplay. Because of the relatively small number of games submitted to the BCF for junior matches, published grades for juniors can often be misleading, and should not always be believed!

Until this year junior tournaments in Sussex were not submitted to the BCF for

## **All you ever wanted to know about grading: well almost! continued**

addition to its grading system. This was due to the enormous task of calculating the results with the large number of players and games involved. However, with computerisation of the results system, and also computerisation of the BCF grading system this will now be done, and all junior players in Sussex will be given a BCF grade. Eventually, it will be possible to use BCF grades and do away with Sussex grades altogether.

**Nick Barracough**  
SJC's Grading and Results Officer

## **Press Cuttings appeal - cut it and mail it**

Remember, if you see an article concerning chess and Sussex, please cut it out, label it with date and name of publication, and send it to Simon Deere. Please don't hesitate because you think someone else must have seen it, we would much rather have several copies of the same thing than none at all! Send to Simon Deere - 19 West Beeches Road, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2AN

## **Master of the 'blitz' meets his match . . .**

8 year old David Howell from Seaford stunned the chess world by defeating Grand Master, Dr. John Nunn, in a 5 minute blitz tournament at the Mind Sports Olympiad on Sunday 29th August. Dr Nunn is author of the bible of chess "Nunns Chess Openings", and is also an acknowledged expert at the blitz form of the game.



David Howell, aged 7, wins the Sussex u9's in 1997.

There followed a significant amount of media attention with articles in most of the British national broadsheets, the local Evening Argus, and international papers in Australia, Singapore, Canada and Spain, as well as interviews on BBC Regional News, BBC Breakfast News, BBC National lunch time news and American television.

David's first success in chess was at a Sussex Chess tournament - Southwater in October 1997 where he won the u9s - and, despite his phenomenal rise to the top of the game, he continues to support Sussex events and the county teams.

# Improve your chess . . .

SJC puts a lot of emphasis on training, and invests a lot of energy organising monthly training sessions. Why? because most people do things they enjoy and they enjoy what they do when they do it better. This is no less true of chess than say football, dance, judo, or piano playing. For all these activities, team or one-to-one coaching, as appropriate, is essential if an individual is to get beyond the very basics.

Coaching opportunities in Sussex were virtually unheard of several years ago. But during the last two years the number of juniors receiving formal private coaching has increased from two to an estimated thirty; and now there are at least fifteen trainers known to offer private coaching in the county.

Such coaching, coupled with the large attendance (between 60 and 100) at SJC regular monthly training sessions, have contributed to the unprecedented successes of Sussex juniors last season playing as individuals and in teams; and has brought Sussex into line with the



Susan Lalic setting thought provoking conundrums.



Harvey Murray-Smith's ever popular group.

direction other traditionally strong countries have been following for the last 10 to 20 years.

Other ways for juniors to help themselves include:

(a) **playing a computer:** there are many cheap, dedicated chess computers and software programs available. Recently, the price of the most powerful of these programs, Fritz v5.32, was halved to £38. With its excellent training modules this is a real bargain. More detail in next issue about the capabilities of such software and how to get the most out of them.

(b) **learning on the Internet:** there are literally thousands of pages on chess training from how to score (write) the moves to mating with just a bishop and knight in 35 moves.

(c) **playing on the Internet:** there are many chess playing sites where you can register (under an alias if you wish!) and play someone of your own strength anywhere in the world. Many Sussex juniors are already known to be doing this. But be careful, this can be quite addictive!

# Logic Puzzle

There are three chess matches being played. Can you work out who is playing whom, which board and position they are playing and who wins each game?

## Clues

Sarah who is playing black is next to the board with two boys.

Two boys are not first to move in their game.

Alice will open her game, David will not.

The boy on board one will not be playing Lucy.

Paul loses on board three to another boy.

John is playing on a board to the left of Lucy.

White wins on board two.

The boys win 2 – 1.

Name	Board	Black or White	Win or Lose

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Win/Lose \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Black  
1  
White  
Black  
2  
White  
Black  
3  
White

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Win/Lose \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# *Sussex Junior Chess - Autumn/Winter Diary*

## **Local Events**

### **Sat 16 Oct**

Southwater Open  
u11Maj, u11Min, u18  
Simon Deere 01892 663688

### **Sat 6 Nov**

Under 9 Champs (Closed)  
Ditchling  
Simon Deere 01892 663688

### **Sat 13 Nov**

Training - Bluebell Railway  
Simon Deere 01892 663688

### **Sat 20 Nov.**

Under 11 Champs (Closed)  
Lindfield  
Simon Deere 01892 663688

### **Sun 5 Dec**

Training - TBA  
Simon Deere 01892 663688

### **Sat 8 Jan**

Hastings Junior  
u11Maj, u11Min, u18  
Colin Rendle 01424 424413

### **Sun 16 Jan**

Training - TBA  
Simon Deere 01892 663688

### **Sat 22 Jan**

Sussex Girls u18 (Open), u11 (Closed)  
Rod Draper 01273 835808

## **Nearby Events**

### **Sat 16 Oct**

Wey Valley Junior (LQ)  
Pat Armstrong 01372 726762

### **Sun 17 Oct**

Barnet Knights (LQ)  
Laurie Winston 0181 959 8376

### **Sat 6 - Sun 7 Nov**

Surrey Champs, Guildford (LQ)  
Andrew Mell 01483 880600

### **Sat 27 Nov**

Surrey Girls  
Leaerhead  
Neil Clifton 0181 660 8564

### **Sat 11 - Sun 12 Dec**

London Junior Champs  
u8, u10, u14  
Tony Corfe 01707 659080

### **Tue 28 - Thu 30 Dec**

London Junior Champs u12, u16  
Tony Corfe 01707 659080

## **Team & National Events**

### **Sat 16 - Sun 17 Oct**

British Rapidplay, Leeds  
England u11 qualifier  
Sam Nicholls 0113 226 9827

### **Sat 30 - Sun 31 Oct**

English u11 Champs, Nuneaton  
England u11 qualifier  
Brian Jones 01564 773319

### **Sat 13 Nov**

u14 NYCA Team Champs  
Steve Lympney 01403 730071

### **Sat 4 Dec**

u14 v. Surrey (away)  
Steve Lympney 01403 730071

### **Sat 22 Jan**

EPSCA Rapidplay Championships

An intermittently updated printed calendar of events can be obtained from the British Chess Federation free of charge by sending an S.A.E. to 9a Grand Parade, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0DD. Tel: 01424 442500

Results, news, dates and contact details for Sussex events can be found on the SJC website which is regularly updated - [www.nbarraclough.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.nbarraclough.freeserve.co.uk) Other junior chess events of interest can often also be found on <http://members.aol.com/nevillebel>