



**Chi high
...club in
a league
of its own**

**Howell's about that:
Our youngsters are
sweeping the board**

2017

SUSSEX CHESS NEWS



... and the word on the street ...



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It's another tremendous year for Sussex youngsters, as Carol Graham reports. Pictures by David Gray



**County's
youngsters
sweeping the
board again**

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SPECIAL



MAKING THE RIGHT MOVES: David Howell drops into Hastings to present prizes. Cover picture, young players at the Sussex Megafinal



IT WAS another successful year for Sussex Juniors with attendances of around 100 at each of our nine training days and heading towards 120 at tournaments.

As our older juniors move off into adult chess, the successful academy schools programme continues to recruit new beginners, particularly in Burgess Hill and Uckfield (run by Brian Stockham), and Brighton and Worthing (Chris Jones and David Graham respectively).

Sadly, the ECF Junior Jamborees didn't take place this year, depriving us of a chance to compete for prestigious national titles. However, Sussex teams still travelled many miles to take part in NYCA (National Youth Chess Association), EPSCA (English Primary Schools Chess Association), and SCCU jamborees.

Our thanks to all the parents who supported their children with this – in particular our Under-11 team who found their national final relocated from

JUNIOR CHESS ♔ ♚ ♛



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: Brighton College, the Butler Cup winners, top left, and below, the Under 11 girls after winning the national final

Northampton to Oldham at relatively short notice. Currently, we hold four national titles – U12, U14, U16 and U11 girls – and our SCCU U14/U130 grade team reached the final for the first time in several years.

The inter-schools competitions saw an increased entry this year at both Primary Cup (U11) and Butler Cup (U14) level. We are particularly proud that in Sussex chess is as active in state schools as it is in the independent sector. Broadwater CE Primary (Worthing) won the Primary Cup, and Brighton College the Butler Cup.

There were many individual honours – Edward Gray, Arjun Kolani, Polina Schcepina and Callum Vyse were all accepted into the National Chess Junior Squad; Calum Salmons represented England at the European Schools Championship in Montenegro, and several others enjoyed chess trips abroad with the NCJS to Gibraltar, Poland and Czech Republic. After a break of 10 years, Mike Forster (Horsham) successfully brokered the resumption of the Sussex v Ireland fixture.

Eleven of our senior players travelled to Dublin for four rounds of standardplay and a blitz tournament,



SO PROUD: Primary Cup winners, Broadwater CE Primary School, and, right, a trip to Murmansk and a meeting with Karpov and Timman



successfully retaining the Sir Patrick Moore Cup.

We are lucky to have among our parents, Balvinder Ahluwalia, who is the NCJS U11 team manager and organiser extraordinaire. So when the NCJS invited Sussex to fulfil a fixture on their behalf ... in Murmansk ... she didn't hesitate. As well as playing world-class opposition from Russia, France and The Netherlands, the team got to meet former world champion GM Anatoly Karpov and GM Jan Timman.

Sussex Junior Chess sponsor teams in the 4NCL – this year increasing from two teams to three. Everyone in the teams has a Sussex connection, with most being Sussex juniors, ex-juniors, or their parents. We would like to thank the club players who have filled in for us this year and are pleased to report that Sussex Martlets 2 have escaped relegation so we will have teams in divisions 2, 3 and 4 again next season. Thanks to Rhys Cumming and Sue Howell for their leadership.

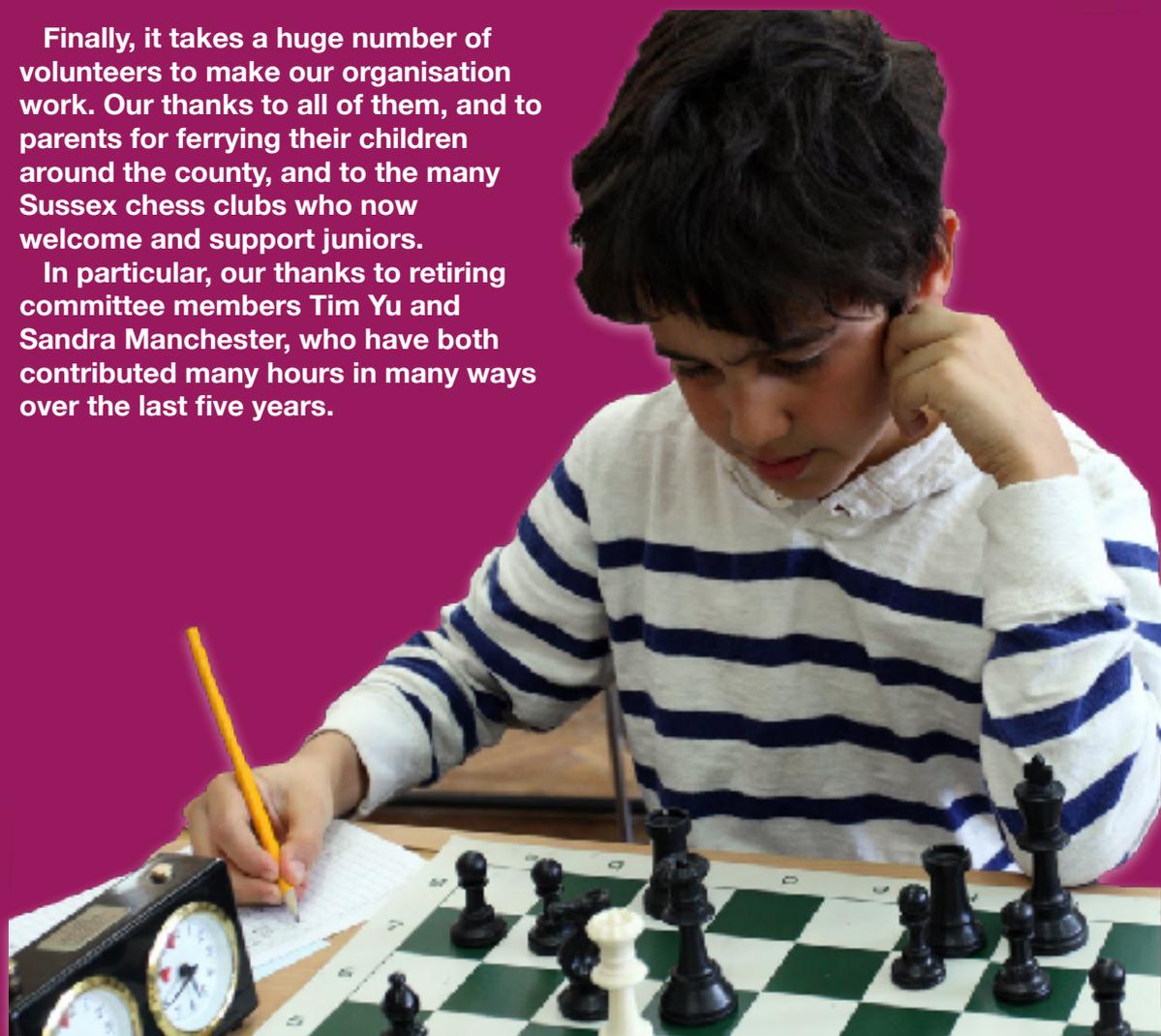




COMPETING HARD: The Under 7s competing at the Sussex Megafinal

Finally, it takes a huge number of volunteers to make our organisation work. Our thanks to all of them, and to parents for ferrying their children around the county, and to the many Sussex chess clubs who now welcome and support juniors.

In particular, our thanks to retiring committee members Tim Yu and Sandra Manchester, who have both contributed many hours in many ways over the last five years.



Julie Denning gives her SCCU and ECF delegate's report for the past year ... and what an eventful one it has been

It's the end of an era

THIS year has been one of celebration tinged with sadness for the Southern Counties Chess Union. The celebration is of the union's 125th anniversary. The sadness was the passing of Richard Haddrell at the start of the 2016/17 season.

To celebrate the anniversary, the SCCU entered a team in the World Seniors Team Championships that took place in Crete over the April–May period. The team of four consisted of the current and past presidents of the union, hence I was privileged to be a member. This was all about taking part as we were inevitably going to be out-classed in such exalted company, but a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

As I write this report, the union's other major event to mark the anniversary is coming up. This is a North v South (of the river Thames) match taking place in London on Saturday, September 16. It's unfortunate that in an ever more crowded chess calendar this clashes with the Crowborough Rapidplay Congress, which will no doubt limit our participation, but I still hope a good contingent from Sussex will take part.

The aim is for there to be at least 125 boards with games to be standardplay with all moves

in 125 minutes. (You'll see a theme developing here!) There's no restriction on age or playing strength, and anyone from any county that has ever been affiliated to the SCCU is invited to play.

It's particularly hoped to have a good representation of juniors – after all, it will be down to them to organise a sequel in another 25 years!

It should be an event to be remembered fondly for many years to come. Full details can be found at <https://www.sccu-chess.com/index.php/en/125th-celebration>

Much has been said and written about Richard Haddrell, who passed away at the end of September, 2016. He was still in post as deputy president and webmaster of SCCU and is very sorely missed.

His death was still unknown when the executive committee met that same evening and which included a written report from Richard.

Thus it's believed his distinctions include providing the union's first posthumous report. Richard was a life-long bachelor and a former schoolmaster who had also been very active in organising junior chess activities. He has left the bulk of his estate, understood to be around

£0.5m, to the Chess Trust to benefit junior chess.

It had been hoped that Richard's health would hold out sufficiently for him to assume the role of SCCU president this summer. Alas, it was not to be and as a result I was re-elected president for a third year. This isn't unprecedented, but against the norm of a change of president every two years. However, the union also elected Mark Murrell of Essex to become deputy president and it is expected he will succeed me as president at the 2018 AGM next summer.

At this year's AGM, Paul Shepherd of Surrey was elected secretary, taking over from Chris Majer who had stepped into the role briefly.

A significant task for the SCCU over the past year has been in developing child safeguarding policies and procedures, and putting officers in post with safeguarding responsibilities. I continue to emphasise that, sadly, this is a matter that we must all be aware of these days.

The ECF has adopted major changes to the British Championship qualifying rules to take effect from 2018.

These changes have severely limited the rights of unions to award qualifying places. In the past, the SCCU was able to award qualifying places to the winners of each of four congresses in our area, one of which was in recognition of the right to award the title of SCCU Champion. From now on, the union can only award a place to its union champion.

Two new organisations sought, and were granted, affiliation to the SCCU as non-county members at the recent AGM. These were Maidenhead Junior Chess Club and Hampshire Junior Chess Association.

It's anticipated that this will lead to increased participation in our junior activities – an area where Sussex has done particularly well in recent years.

Turning now to ECF matters, where, in addition to being the county delegate to

council, I was re-elected to the Board as a non-executive director at the AGM last October.

That AGM was a pretty tame affair compared to the turbulence a year before. There were no surprises in the elections, with almost all existing directors re-elected, together with Sarah Longson to the newly-created post of director of Women's Chess. The one change was that Julian Clissold, who had been my fellow non-exec, was elected to the re-established post of non-executive chairman of the Board. His place as a non-executive director was filled by Stephen



Thus it's believed his distinctions include providing the union's first posthumous report

Woodhouse.

The incumbent chairmen of the governance and finance committees were elected to the posts to which they had been appointed by the Board over the previous year.

Mike Gunn, of Surrey, a former president of the SCCU and chairman of the ECF, was elected unopposed to the newly created post of chairman of council.

As we all left for home after the AGM, news began to circulate that John Philpott had died. This was completely unexpected and, although John had indicated his intention of withdrawing progressively from ECF responsibilities, it had major repercussions.

At the time of his death, John was ECF company secretary, financial controller and voting register officer. As a consequence, the Board decided to out-source the role of company secretary and to appoint an accountancy firm to computerise and oversee the accounts.

The finance council in April this year approved modest increases in membership fees. A more significant change was the abolition of game fees.

It had been anticipated that game fee would be consigned to history when the membership scheme was adopted a few years ago, but in the end a game fee option was retained for anyone who, for whatever reason, chose not to become an ECF member.

The level of the game fees has been increased progressively as an incentive to take out membership, but it was subject to criticism that it could be a disincentive to occasional or new players.

The change is that a player can play up to three times in any one standard play graded league or event without being a member or incurring a game fee.

On playing a fourth time without being a

An expression that has gained prominence has been OMOV – one member one vote

member, the league or event would be charged a fee equivalent to the bronze membership fee. For rapid play events, the threshold is set at eight games. I supported these changes as being a good response to the criticisms of the existing system, but in retrospect we have become aware of possible unintended consequences for junior events, where costs might increase substantially.

On the Board there is a strong desire to encourage junior membership and grading of junior events. To the extent that costs might be a limiting factor, there is a will to mitigate this. I confidently anticipate changes emerging shortly, and to be implemented for the 2017/18 season.

A recurring topic at recent council meetings has been that of representation of members and the possible re-constituting, or even complete abolition, of council.

An expression that has gained prominence has been OMOV – one member one vote. Such a major change was rejected a couple of years ago by the independent constitution and governance review. Nevertheless, the governance committee had advised the Board that the question of members' representation should be reviewed.

This resulted in a range of options being circulated for consultation ahead of this year's finance council at which they were then debated. The intention was to gain an indication of whether any substantive changes put to a subsequent council meeting would be likely to be approved. (As changes to the ECF's articles of association, such changes would require a 75 per cent majority in accordance with company law.) I was not in favour of any of the options.

This was very definitely not because I am opposed to the democratic representation of the members who largely pay for the ECF's activities.

Rather, it was because all the evidence available to me was that the vast majority of members would not actively participate in ECF activities or consultations.

The consultation on these ideas was very much a case in point. At a response rate of just 0.25 per cent of ECF members, it was actually one of the better results!

At the finance council, the only proposal that gained a simple majority was that shown as option 3 in the consultation paperwork, whereby direct members' representatives would be given greater voting power within an otherwise unchanged council.

However, even that majority fell short of the 75 per cent that a formal proposal to amend the Articles would require. A somewhat further watered-down proposal may be put to a future council meeting.

Feliks seals county title for another year

Tournament controller Joseph Sharp speculates that classical time control may deter younger players from entering competition

THERE was an increased entry of eight this past season, which was still disappointing as it had been hoped to attract some younger players, including juniors.

It has been suggested that the classical time controls, including the possibility of adjournment after four hours, is not to the taste of younger generations. Three Bexhill Chess Club members were among the octet, with only three Mid-Sussex representatives.

In the first round, Martin Faulkner defeated Michael Dean; Alan Ticehurst lost to Jerry Anstead; Andy Briggs and Feliks Kwiatkowski reached an adjournment after 40 moves, but Andy decided to resign without resuming; and in the fourth tie, Bernard Cafferty needed four games to see off John Kimber (the first three were draws).

In the fourth game, John lasted for 44 moves after gaining a reasonable position, but he failed to recapture a bishop on move 33, overestimating the strength of his advanced pawns.

But the experience clearly stood him in good stead as he went on to win the Bexhill Club Championship, beating the much more experienced Steve Blewitt, who has played in the Knockout Championship in previous years.

In the semi-finals, the first game between Bernard and Martin was adjourned and resulted in a draw on resumption, but in the replay Bernard emerged the winner, after having offered a draw on move 23 which was declined. Bernard sealed his 43rd move but Martin resigned after examining the position.

The first game of the other semi-final, between Jerry and Feliks, also ended in a draw but the latter managed a quick win in only 23 moves in the replay.

So the final was between the two established adversaries, Bernard and Feliks, for the second successive year. The run of draws continued in the first game. The second went to adjournment. Unusually, Bernard offered to resign if Feliks had sealed one of two moves. Feliks asked Bernard to open the envelope and he had no alternative but to resign as one of the two moves had, in fact, been sealed.

Congratulations to Feliks on becoming Sussex champion again after his win in 2016. Is there anyone, among those who have never taken part in the tournament, prepared to take on the challenge of trying to prevent him achieving the hat-trick next season?



Carol Graham reports on the continuing success of the Weald Chess Congress, which this year attracted 115 entries

Dad's the way to do it!



ELEVEN UP: Scenes from the congress and, below, GM Nick Pert and IM Richard Bates with the Glenroy Cup (SCCU champion)



JULY saw the 11th year of the Weald Chess Congress. Started in 2006 as a way of introducing stronger juniors to standard play tournament chess, the event has grown year on year to reach 115 entries.

This year, the SCCU granted us the right to award the SCCU Individual championship which carries with it a 2017 British Championships qualifying place – probably one of the last to be awarded under the current qualification rules.

The Championship was shared by GM Nick Pert and IM Richard Bates. As both are pre-qualified for the British Championships, the qualification place cascaded down to Matthew Payne of Worthing and Kris Jamroz from Kent.

A feature of the congress has always been the number of parent and child competitors. With many dads having their arms twisted to put their chess pieces where their advice is, this year saw four father-son combinations and a further three

fathers with daughters playing. Special recognition to Keith Martin of Crowborough CC who managed to play and man the BBQ – who says men can't multi-task!

Thanks to all who supported the event; full results are available at www.wealdchesscongress.org



Relegation avoided... and plenty to play for



Team captain James Mansson reports on another eventful year for the county's correspondence chess players

THE 2015-16 Ward-Higgs concluded with Sussex avoiding relegation by scoring 6 out of 16, to finish eighth out of the 10 teams in the top division. Individual results were as follows:

Board	Sussex Player	Opponent	White	Black	Total
1	Eastoe, Leslie K. G.	Williams, Stephen M.	Draw	Draw	1/2
2	Spanton, Tim	Grayland, Stan J.	Loss	Draw	0.5/2
3	Batchelor, Paul A.	Pritchard, David J.	Win	Win	2/2
4	Mansson, James C.	IM Lumley, Bill F.	Loss	Draw	0.5/2
5	Elliston, Robert V.	Herriot, Brian James	Loss	Loss	0/2
6	Mansson, Ralph A.	Lunn, Tim	Win	Draw	1.5/2
7	Sharp, Joseph	Thompson, David F.	Loss	Loss	0/2
8	Fryer, David W.	Piper, Matthew	Draw	Loss	0.5/2

Board	Sussex Player	Opponent	White	Black	Total
1	Eastoe, Leslie K. G.	GM Coleman, Peter L.	Win		1/1
2	Batchelor, Paul A.	McLeod, Fraser	Win	Draw	1.5/2
3	Spanton, Tim	CCE Yeo, Gareth	Draw	Loss	0.5/2
4	Mansson, James C.	Reed, Arthur F.	Draw	Draw	1/2
5	Mansson, Ralph A.	Young, Daniel	Draw		0.5/1
6	Elliston, Robert V.	Jones, Brian	Draw	Loss	0.5/2
7	Fryer, David W.	Hart, Terry	Win		1/1
8	Sharp, Joseph	Lefevre, Stephen D.	Loss	Loss	0/2

The 2016-17 Ward-Higgs is currently in progress. Sussex are currently in joint sixth but there is still a way to go before the final positions are clear. Individual results so far are:

Sussex have a team in the 4th British Webserver Team Tournament, in division 2. The team is James Mansson, Tim Spanton, Paul Batchelor and David Fryer.

At the moment the scores are:

- James Mansson (Board 1): 1.5/3 (3 draws) with 3 unfinished.
- Tim Spanton (Board 2): 2/5 (4 draws and 1 loss) with 1 unfinished.
- Paul Batchelor (Board 3): 1/2 (2 draws) with 4 unfinished.
- David Fryer (Board 4): 2.5/4 (2 wins, 1 draw, 1 loss) with 2 unfinished.

The Sussex team is in mid-table (fourth out of seven teams) but there are plenty of games still to finish.

Grading

Monthly grading lists still on the cards

ALL the grading work has been completed for 2016 / 17. Once again, I experienced some IT issues and, unfortunately, these resulted in some issues with the published July grading list.

There were a few changes which were resolved in an early revision to the list. Matthew Carr has taken over as the ECF grading administrator with the daunting task of following on from Richard Haddrell who had fulfilled this role very ably for many years. So far, the service has remained good.

The League Management Software (LMS) being developed by the ECF is currently undergoing testing. I haven't seen it yet, but am having some concerns that its applicability might not be as comprehensive as I had hoped. It should work well for leagues that wish to adopt it – I guess the clue is in the name. However, I'm less confident that many clubs will wish to adopt it for their internal competitions. There should be more to say on this over the coming year.

The prospect of moving to monthly grading lists is definitely on the horizon. A significant factor in this is catering for juniors with rapidly improving grades and who the ECF is keen to attract into the membership and grading systems.

*Julie Denning
Grading Officer*

Steve Smith, Chichester Chess Club chairman, looks at when it's potential slim pickings for the top players



Making the grade

FRIENDLY SOCIETY: Steve Smith, above centre, enjoys a less hotly contested game during East Preston Festival's chess challenge in June

HAVING played competitive chess continuously since my schoolboy days in the 1960s, I believe I have a good perspective on my playing strength. Couple this fact with my long held belief that chess clubs thrive better when more games are played during a season – after all the *raison d'être* for most clubs would certainly include promoting the playing of the game and creating a pleasant environment for this.

Most clubs hold a championship event and some additional tournaments for members of lower strength, thereby enabling all to play fellow members of similar

strengths. It falls to the handicap tournament to encourage players of differing strengths to play each other. Some strong players are reluctant to play in the handicap tournament. The seat of this reluctance lies within our current grading system. This I will now examine in some detail.

Player A is graded 200, Player B is graded 160, Player C graded 120 and Player D is graded 80.

If Player A wins all the games then his grading is 210 for each of the three games. This, therefore, represents the best possible outcome, a minimal grade improvement especially when averaged over a season of say 20 games.

Should player A say draw against B and C, wins against D, this creates an average grade of 163 for these three games, quite an impact, probably six grading points when averaged across the season.

If Player A loses to Player B and wins both other games then this generates an average grade of 176, again quite an impact for the loss of a single game. Other scenarios illustrate a general principle that the stronger players have little to gain by playing a succession of weaker players and significant grading points are to be lost for even draws and certainly for losses.

This differs in risk profile from county games, 4NCL and championship games where players are of broadly similar strength play and therefore even strong players have a meaningful chance of good grading results and reward for the games they do win.

So is all the above just a theoretical mathematical exercise? Clearly not. This year I

suffered two of my worst grading results in more than 50 years of chess.

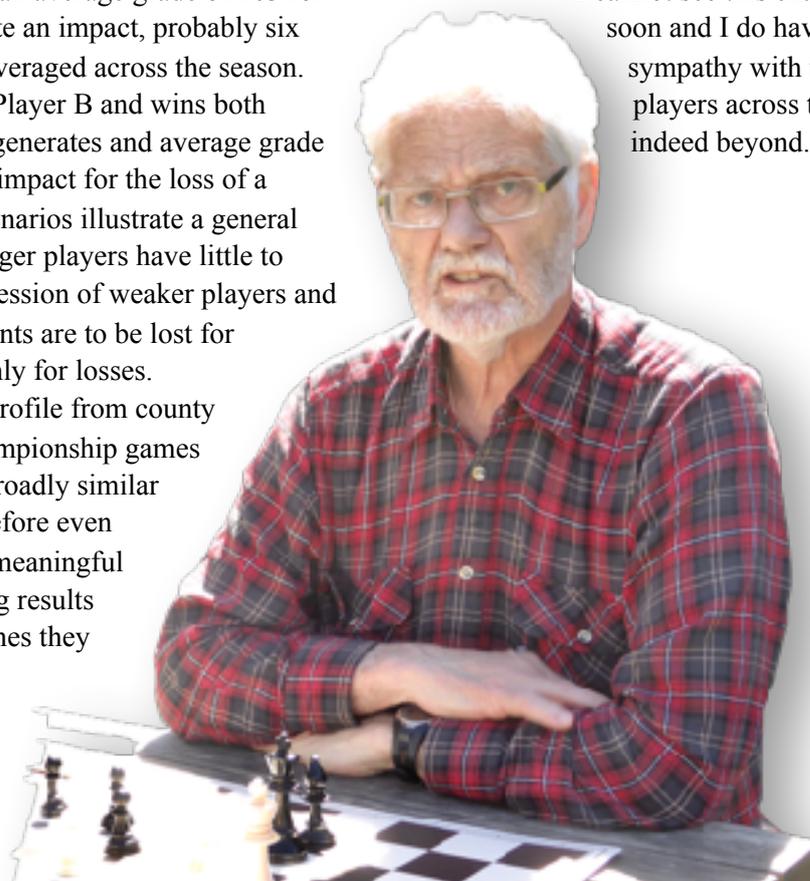
The first loss was to someone graded 40 points below me, the next to someone 20 points below me.

These matches contribute to a handicap grading which calculates to some 15 points fewer than my league and championship matches combined.

This impact to my grade, compromises my participation in the A team, county fixtures and other on-merit board orders.

Little wonder, therefore, that those covetous of their grading will not play in handicap tournaments.

I cannot see this changing any time soon and I do have some sympathy with the strong players across the county and indeed beyond.



**WINNER TAKES ALL:
Keith Davies,
winner of the Peter Rayment club handicap tournament**

Mid-Sussex Adjudications

THERE were six positions received and adjudicated. Three verdicts were appealed of which two were successful. Panel members were Bernard Cafferty, Mike Nicholas, Geoff James, James Mansson and Robert Elliston.

Robert Elliston

The Argumentatives

The Args lost 4-1 to Horsham in the KO which started a poor season. In the MSL division 2 we managed to draw two matches but lost the other six.

Despite some brave attempts the lower boards could not quite match the improved depth of the sides in this division and relegation was inevitable.

We generally had only five players available and the top three were also finding it far from easy:

Individual results : Peter Farr 7/9, Jim Graham 3/9, Paul Kington 5/9.

Nevertheless, hopes are high for next season in division 3, since the Args have

Farr from easy

pounced in the transfer market window to secure another septuagenarian sensation - Mick Harris!

However, just before going to press we have all been shocked to hear of the sudden tragic death after a fall in his French home of Mike Garson, pictured left.

A proper obituary will no doubt follow in due course, but just to say how we will all miss his wit and his personality.

Paul Kington



Bexhill

Happy in new home

BEXHILL Chess Club is firmly settled for the foreseeable future in its new venue, Centenary House, 21 Holliers Hill, Bexhill-on-Sea.

Doubts about the affordability of meeting two afternoons a week (Tuesdays and Saturdays) have receded, with an average attendance of 12 or more. This has been achieved by charging a session fee of £2 (to include refreshments) and there was no resistance to the suggestion of this fee being doubled to meet the increased rental costs.

Regular membership is holding steady at about 25 but in view of the increasing average age, new junior members would be welcome. Five people (including two women) come regularly all the way from Eastbourne. Meeting twice a week has meant that the standard of play has improved considerably over the last few years, as has been remarked upon by several Hastings & St Leonards members who belong to both clubs.

The new club champion is John Kimber, mainly by dint of gaining 8½ points from 9, including a win over the 2016 winner, Steve Blewitt, who scored 8/9. Third was Alan Ticehurst, with 5½/9. John also acquitted himself well in the first round

of the Sussex Individual Knockout Championship, managing three draws against an eventual finalist.

The winner of the secondary tournament, the Gordon Cup, has still to be decided, as there was a three-way tie on 8/9 between Alfred Mikurenda, Victor Mowbray and David Slidel. A play-off for first and second places – to decide promotion to next season's Championship – is underway.

The Summer Rapidplay Major Section was won for the second successive season by Steve Blewitt, with 12½ points from 16. Second was John Kimber on 11 points, and third, Alan Ticehurst with 10½. Derek achieved the feat of beating Steve in both their games. The Minor Section was won by Victor Mowbray, with 10½ points from 14, second was Mel Stockdale with 9½, and third, David Pratt, with 9 points.

The club continues to be mainly social in nature, although many members take their friendly chess very seriously. Players of all levels are most welcome and there are several members prepared to give coaching, so beginners can be sure of gaining a good knowledge of basic principles fairly quickly.

Joseph Sharp

Bognor



TAKING THEM ALL ON: Members enjoying a well supported chess challenge during East Preston Festival

Hat-trick heroes in league of their own

WHILE Bognor and Arun Chess Club has enjoyed its normal schedule of home-based tournaments and activities, the club, in its well established combination with Chichester, has completed a spectacularly successful season in the Portsmouth and District League, winning all three divisions, a performance never before equaled in the history of the league. Well done to everyone who took part.

On the home front, Rolandas Lukosius is club champion this year and competes,

probably with Jaimie Wilson, for the Knockout Cup.

One of these two will probably land the Rapidplay tournament. The Summer Cup, with a different scoring system aimed at giving succour to the rest of the club, was won by Mike Spence. Mike and Michael Hemming also look most likely to taste success among the Championship grading prizes.

On the social side, the club repeated its midsummer event on a sunny Saturday in June at the East Preston village festival

with a very well attended event at the Seaview Hotel where we renewed many old acquaintances over the chess-board.

A very friendly and sociable club, we meet at 7pm every Friday and has chess to suit every standard – just get in touch with the secretary, Donald Close, on 01243 267037, or visit our website www.bognorandarunchessclub.co.uk. New members are always very welcome.

Bill Partridge

Brighton

THE club has had a successful season. In the Mid-Sussex League we won the first, second and fourth division championships and reached the final of the Knockout competition, where we lost against Uckfield.

In the first division, we were grateful for contributions from Swiss IM, Julien Carron, and promising young player, Rhys Cumming. However, both eventually became unavailable and the first division championship became very close. In the final match against Crowborough we needed a draw and at one time appeared to be losing, but in the tense finish we salvaged the draw.

It appears that we were the only club interested in taking part in the McArthur Cup. This competition goes back as far as 1889, but for the last two years there has been no name on the trophy.

Like a number of clubs, we have benefited from the great success of the Sussex Junior Chess Association. Callum Brewer, aged 16, was recently awarded the Sussex U-18 trophy. He played on board one for the Sussex Junior Chess team, which was invited to compete in the Basamro International Tournament at Murmansk. He was also on top board for the Sussex junior team, which travelled to Dublin to take on Ireland juniors.

Calum Salmons, aged 13, was awarded the Sussex U-14 trophy. He was also in the Sussex junior team in Ireland and represented England juniors in the European Schools' U-15 Championship in Montenegro. Mikolaj Rogacewicz, aged 16, became one of the youngest players ever to win the club championship with a convincing score of 8.5 points out of 9. In the other club competitions there was a triple tie in the Plummer Knight between Brian Izzard, Paolo Ortolani and Anthony Stanton, while the Tasker Tankard was won by Joe Reid.

Our club president, Sue Chadwick, has been teaching juniors in the lunch-hour at Windlesham School, Brighton. She is currently arranging sessions for a junior club next season with coaching for the different levels.

Club's in a league of its own in Mid- Sussex

Last August Michael Cain arranged our usual two open days, firstly in New Road, near the Theatre Royal, and later as part of the Brunswick Festival in Brunswick Square. In September, we welcomed Dieppe Chess Club for the tenth meeting between the clubs. Home advantage is often very important in this fixture and we won the match by the score of nine points to two.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Bob Davies, aged 67, on March 8. In the mid-1970s he had been a member of both Brighton and Sussex University chess clubs. He later played for Seaford



JUNIOR PARTNERS: from left, Callum Brewer, Calum Salmons and Mikolaj Rogacewicz

and Lewes chess clubs. In about 2007 he rejoined our club and acted as librarian while serving on the committee. He used to be quite a strong player, but ill-health affected his standard in recent years. These same health problems stopped him playing tennis, in which sport he used to play in the first division of the local league.

Finally, we were pleased to welcome back to the club Ches Clifton, who had first joined us as long ago as in 1951. In 1955 he arranged a 20-board simultaneous by Russian grandmaster, Viacheslav Ragozin, at the Royal Pavilion.

Ches's last competitive match was in the late 1960s and a lot has changed since then. At that time, Brighton Chess Club used to meet at 4 Pavilion Buildings, next to the Pavilion itself. There were no chess computers, no digital clocks, no quickplay finishes, no use of increments and

chess rooms were often full of smoke caused by cigarettes, cigars and pipes.

Brian Denman

*We welcomed
Dieppe Chess Club
for the tenth meeting
between the clubs*

Chichester

History in the making



WINNING WAYS: Members of Chichester Chess Club enjoy their triple title triumph

CHICHESTER Chess Club, which plays at The Fishbourne Centre in Blackboy Lane, has enjoyed one of the most successful seasons in its lengthy history.

The club moved to the venue in 2012 and has enjoyed the association ever since, with visiting teams commenting favourably on the playing room and social facilities.

Playing on the extreme eastern edge of the Portsmouth and District Chess League (PDCL), and with support from kindred club Bognor and Arun, the club has won all three divisions in this league.

Long-standing chess players believe this is the first time in the 70-year-history of the PDCL this has happened. Across the entire season, the club lost only five of 26 matches played across the three divisions.

It's a wonderful achievement by everyone over the board and a tribute to the tireless work undertaken by the match captains, specific thanks to Bill McDougall, Mick Plumb and Mike Spence.

Our team was narrowly beaten in the final of the Cole Plate – effectively the FA Cup of the local chess scene. This was a good effort, well steered by Jaimie Wilson."

Success for the club has not only been with the teams but also on several individual fronts.

Steve Smith and Chichester veteran Alex Miller shared the honours for the Ruth Rose Cup for those aged over 60 and Ed Farrington won the Wilf Pratten Cup with the highest individual percentage score in Division 1. Anyone interested in joining the chess club should contact club secretary Philip Wake on 01243 931253 and philipwake@hotmail.com

Steve Smith

Crowborough

IT was a tough season for our 1st and 2nd teams, which faced strong opposition in their respective divisions.

However, after a mid-season lack of consistency due to key players missing with family and work commitments and sadly a bereavement, the teams in the end pulled out all the stops to avoid relegation.

The 1st team had an exciting final match against champions-to-be Brighton, holding them to a draw and retaining our 1st division status by a thread.

The 2nd team's save came thanks in no small way to Jon Lawrance's 5/8 score, including a win in the crucial March victory over league runners-up Lewes.

We entered a team in the new Mid-Sussex Rapidplay League that is aimed at promoting junior participation in the Mid-Sussex Chess League and achieved a creditable mid-table result. We were proud to be part of the inaugural match playing away at Horsham.

Individual successes during the year, of which there were many, were headed by Amardip Ahluwalia becoming the British U13 champion and then winning the West of England Under 18 Open Championship with qualification to this year's British Championship finals in Llandudno.

The two lightning club championships held at the club were won by Jonathan Tuck, Christmas, 2016, and Robert Elliston, spring, 2017.

The 32nd Crowborough Chess Congress, with £550 in prizes, takes place on Saturday, September 16, 2017, and we hope to welcome back all the 40+ competitors from last year

The going is tough!

including winner Rasa Norinkeviciute, as well as many new faces as possible.

The junior club continues to thrive with Trevor Norton, Jonathan Tuck and Gill Fryer being key to this success. Many of our members represent Sussex at the junior level and compete regularly in Sussex tournaments as well as our club championships but more importantly than anything they are learning to have a love for the game.

David Fryer,
Twitter @CrowChess

The 1st team had an exciting final match against champions-to-be Brighton



RAPID ACTION:
The inaugural match v Horsham

East Grinstead

STREETS AHEAD: Jonathan Tuck from Crowborough Chess Club takes on all comers in East Grinstead



**Fresh blood gives
club a healthy
injection of talented
new players**

ANOTHER year passes and as always I am grateful for the support of the elected officials and the team captains without whom the club could not function properly.

At the start of the season, there was some concern as six regular members had decided to retire or not return for other reasons.

However, it is pleasing to report new members arrived which included experienced chess players who had recently moved to the area.

On average, we still attract 16 players who turn up on a regular club night which allows us to enter two teams in the Mid-Sussex League.

By the standards of some clubs, this is fairly small but it was only a few years ago numbers were much lower.

To attract new members we still play chess every Wednesday at the book shop in East Grinstead High Street and when the weather allows we play al fresco, much to the interest of passers-by.

You can also follow us on Twitter, thanks to one of our members, Roy, who runs the official East Grinstead Twitter site.

In July, Jonathan Tuck, from Crowborough Chess Club, kindly took on all comers simultaneously in the High Street, which is a good advert for co-operation between clubs in the Mid-Sussex League.

Thanks, Jonathan, and don't worry, Crowborough, we are not trying to poach him back.

Team captains try to make sure everyone gets a chance to play both home and away for the club which sometimes means fielding a slightly weaker team but keeps the club more inclusive.

We managed to meet all our obligations in the Mid-Sussex League but cannot report any promotions, and gladly, no relegations. Well done to team captains Ian Dennis and Andrew Finnie (Finn) plus all those who turned out to play.

Last year I reported that Robert Fisher, our No 1 team captain for many years, had to step down following hospital treatment so I am pleased Robert has now returned to playing for the 1st team, but not as captain.

Our internal competitions are proving extremely popular and run very efficiently by Norman Hawkins.

We now have four internal competitions which means most club members have a chance to play each other during the season.

With four competitions and two teams in the Mid-Sussex League, it was a struggle to fit all games in so I am pleased to confirm that from 2018 club nights will be extended into mid-May.

The winner of the Knockout competition was new member, Asanka Amarasinghe, who beat Ian Dennis in a hard-fought out final. The Rapidplay was won by Roy Henderson, who managed nine games with runner-up Alan Smith who played



*To attract new members
we play chess at the
book shop in East
Grinstead High Street*

seven.

With so many members wanting to take part, the internal league was split into A and B divisions. Division B was won by Andrew Finnie, with myself second. Division A winner and club champion was another new member, Eric Granzelius, with Grau Christian second.

Thanks to Norman for all his efforts which has made the club nights more challenging and enjoyable.

We are a small friendly club which meets every Tuesday - September to Mid-May – our home being The Age Concern premises in Queens Road, East Grinstead.

Bob Dyke
chairman, East Grinstead Chess Club

Hastings

Ollie good show

HAVING the club rooms just behind Hastings railway station and open for 363 days a year enables a the club to arrange a full all-play-all club championship.

This season saw a larger entry than usual attracting 12 participants, though new member Henry Cove withdrew in January before completing half of his scheduled 12 games.

The schedule laid down is for a game every three or four weeks from late October to end-June, but exceptions can be made. Thus the early leader, teenager Ollie Willson, was able to defer some of his second-half games till June in view of preparing for public exams.

In fact, Ollie played and won three games in the last week of June to win the title decisively, conceding just three draws!

He scored 9.5 points out 11, well ahead of Howard Tebbs 7.5, John Sugden 7 and 83-year-old veteran Bernard Cafferty 6.5.

These were followed by four players on the 'popular' score of 5.5, namely Rasa Norinkeviciute, Adrian Pickersgill, Alan Barton and Jerry Anstead.

As can be seen, it was a representative event other than the absence of the regular winner, Francis Rayner, too busy this year with his piano commitments at concerts to spare the time to play.

Promotion to the championship from the Pelton Cup was secured by junior organiser Mason Woodhams.

In the Mid-Sussex Chess League, Hastings fell out of contention after a narrow loss to Brighton in the first match of the Division One season.

The second team was aspiring for promotion throughout but failed at the last hurdle, losing to Brighton 2.

The traditional friendly match with the Insurance CC was won 4.5-2.5. Thanks to all club officials, especially team captains Paul Kelly (helped in some matches by Howard Tebbs), Marc Bryant, Adrian Cload and Derek Harvey.

Finally, I cannot fail to mention that the traditional Bank Holiday QP arranged by Paul Buswell was won decisively by new memberBogdan Lalic, the GM from Croatia.

Bernard Cafferty

Haywards Heath

Cup holders' knockout blow

THE season was encouraging overall, underpinned by a modest increase in membership and a stable venue.

We were unable, alas, to retain the Mid-Sussex League KO trophy. However, our second team kept well away from the bottom of the league, while an under-strength first team nevertheless finished in the top half of division 1, and might easily have done better.

The league's rapidplay division has proved itself as a stable format, and the club hopes to participate in coming seasons.

Feliks Kwiatkowski

Horsham

Finding the perfect blend

HORSHAM had another busy season with the usual blend of Mid-Sussex League (MSL) chess and internal competitions.

We normally compete in the McArthur and Paul Watson cups but unfortunately the Sussex competitions were not run this year. This was a disappointment for those of us with fond memories of Paul Watson and we hope these competitions will return next season.

Horsham has a mobile population and this was the second year in a row where we lost a number of players due to job moves, which put pressure on our stalwart captains and will very likely mean that we will drop down to four teams next season.

Both Horsham 1 and Horsham 2 were playing in division 1 of the MSL, with Horsham 1 as strong contenders to win. Horsham 1 were edged out by the eventual winners and close rivals Brighton, although Horsham had the opportunity to win after Brighton dropped points elsewhere. Unfortunately, the ever strong Haywards Heath 1 put paid to our ambitions with a 3.5-1.5 victory. So Horsham finished second to Brighton 1, despite scoring 1 more game point over the season.

At the lower end of division 1, Horsham 2 looked to comfortably hold their place, by beating both Eastbourne 1 and Woodpushers 1 and drawing with Worthing 1. The season turned when Crowborough defaulted their match because they had only juniors available, and when the match was rescheduled our opponents managed to field their strongest side of

the season and won convincingly. In the final match we played Worthing 2 who were also facing relegation and who won by the narrowest of margins. In earlier calculations we had still thought we would be safe, but Crowborough fielded an even stronger side against Brighton 1 and pulled off a draw that ensured our relegation.

In Division 2, Horsham 3 had a successful season, being just edged out of promotion into third place, but with an impressive 5/8. This is all the more impressive since Horsham's is the only third team in this division and Horsham 3 managed good wins against first teams of other clubs.

In division 3, Horsham 4 and Horsham 5 had a tough time. In the very first match they met and Horsham 5 managed to defeat Horsham 4, which demonstrates the competitiveness of the teams. Horsham 5 ended up in the relegation zone with just 1.5 points and Horsham 4 only managed one further point, but avoided relegation by virtue of scoring more game points than Uckfield 2.

In the MSL KO, we comfortably beat the Args 4-1, which was higher than the 3.5-1.5 margin required by the handicap. However, against the higher graded Woodpushers we needed only a draw to progress but lost 2-3.

Horsham has a busy schedule of internal chess, comprising of all-play-all competitions, knockouts, quickplays and an end of season invitational. We also have an evening of ten second chess which I would recommend all clubs to try. It leads to some

crazy positions and spectacular blunders and is a great social way of mixing the whole club up for a fun evening. The winner this year was Mike Forster who seems to be specialising in winning quickplay tournaments at the moment.

There are three all-play-alls – the strongest of which is the Rook (the club championship), which was won by James Mansson with a dominant performance.

The Bishop was won by Paul Taylor and the Tournament Knight by Julie Denning. Dix Roberts won the Open Knockout and Paul Taylor got more silverware from the Open Knockout Plate. The Quickplay competition was won by James Mansson and the plate final was contested by two juniors – Lucy Bennet-Stevens being edged out by Zevon Rustom.

Matt Forster, another

very strong junior, won the Knight Cup for the best performance in matches representing Horsham, with a score of 6 out of 7. The final adult trophy, the Invitational was won by Anthony Higgs. The junior championship for the Peter Alford Cup, was won by Maya McMahon, who became the first girl to win this trophy.

We expect her to attain the strength of other strong Horsham girls like Amy Hoare or Lucy Bennet-Stevens.

There will be even more competitions next year, to ensure that all our members can play the form of chess they most enjoy.

Finally, 20 Horsham players represented Sussex, playing a total of 90 games and scoring 37 points.

Sussex had a tough season this year, winning just 3 of their 21 matches.

We also have an evening of ten second chess which I would recommend all clubs to try

Ian Comley

Lewes

Back where we belong!



CUP THAT CHEERS: Jonathan Britnell, current U13 Sussex county champion

LEWES Chess Club have enjoyed a successful year. Our 1st team finished second in division 2 of the Mid-Sussex Chess League and (subject to confirmation from the new fixtures secretary) will return to division 1 chess for 2017-18.

The team achieved the highest number of game points in the division (25 from a possible 40) but on 5.5/8 match points, were 0.5 behind winners Brighton and Hove 2. Our average team strength was ECF 151, the third highest in the division.

Lewes 2 won division 3 and thus also return to the next level for 2017-18. The team won seven out of eight fixtures, facing a setback only in home date against Worthing 3. We collected 27.5 from 40 game points, the highest in the division. On average, our team strength was 133, the fifth highest in the division.

Notable individual performances for Lewes this season were by Duncan Badham, who scored 8.5 from 11 games (77%), Daniel Brooks, who scored 4.5 from 6 games (75%), and Jonathan Britnell (U12), who scored 6.0 from 9 games (67%). Overall, 12 members

represented the club, 11 adults and one junior, in the MSCL main divisions in 2016-17 from a pool of, at season end, 16 adults and seven juniors.

Divisions 1 and 2 are both extremely competitive with few cheap wins on offer; without an injection of new (or greatly improved existing) talent Lewes will do well in 2017-18 to achieve mid-table final positions. It is hoped our members rise to the challenge of meeting what in most cases are anticipated to be higher graded opponents.

Elsewhere, Lewes were eliminated in round 1 of the Knockout Cup and were disappointed the

Sussex County Chess Association Paul Watson Trophy did not take place in 2016-17, an event in which over a number of years we have been particularly successful. We still await the trophy marking these previous wins!

Lewes were one of six clubs in the Mid-Sussex League area to submit a team in the newly formed experimental Rapidplay Division, aimed primarily at juniors. With a pool of six juniors at the start of the season, Lewes were one of three teams able fully to comply with the spirit of the new division and field an all-junior team in every match, thereby affording our youngsters with a bona fide reason to stay up a bit later than normal during the week. Overall, the division was successful; all enjoyed

the challenge and while we didn't come top (we finished third), our juniors, particularly those that are not regulars on the Sussex Junior Chess circuit, gained valuable match experience and a chance to improve their grade. Seven juniors represented Lewes at least once during the season; Henry Adams (U11) played every fixture. Notable performances were Jacob Wynn (U10),

played 2, won 2; Henry Adams (U11), played 4, won 2; Solomon Mitchell (U10) and Noah Lewis (U11) both played 3, won 1. No draws! Our average team grade was 76.

Sadly one fixture was defaulted by the team due to be visiting us, who then declined to rearrange. Eventually, Lewes were awarded a walk-over match point. It is hoped clubs' enthusiasm to support the division in principle does not mask an insufficient pool of junior talent in practice; in our experience, seven to eight keen juniors are required to comfortably sustain an all-junior team.



PARTY TIME: Members enjoying their summer garden party

Lewes Chess Club's top two juniors continue to record impressive results on the county and even national stage. Jonathan Britnell has twice travelled abroad during 2016-17 with the national chess junior squad, first to Flanders in the autumn, and then to Frydek-Mistek for a week in April. Involving players from six countries, Jonathan was leading the Czech tournament at the half-way stage with 4/4 but stamina and stronger opponents took their toll and in the end he finished on 4.5/8.

Sussex are current U12 national champions. Jonathan played on board 2 for the county in the annual Telford renewal while Solomon Mitchell, two years his junior, was also in the team. Jonathan is the current U13 Sussex county champion and also won the Sussex Junior Chess U12 Grand Prix for 2016-17. Solomon's run in the 2016 Delancey Schools

Chess Challenge took him all the way to the last stage, the Terafinal in

Lewes Chess Club's top two juniors continue to record impressive results on the county and even national stage

Loughborough, where he finished on 3.5/6, the highest U9 in the country, winning £300. More recently, he won the Sussex Junior Chess GP5 U11 Major at Eastbourne in February, 2017, with a perfect 6/6. He finished second in the U10 Grand Prix for 2016-17. Among our other juniors, Jacob Wynn represented Sussex

at U11 level and played in five of the six Sussex Junior Chess GP events, finishing fifth in the U10 Grand Prix. Henry Adams (U11) picked up a grading prize in his first ever standard play tournament, scoring 3/5 in the Weald Congress Minor 2017.

At the time of writing, our 2016-17 internal



TURNING THE TABLES: another picture from the club's summer garden party

quickplay and club championship events are still in progress. Our treasurer, Barry Maufe, is current club champion. The club continues to organise occasional social events and as well as our annual Christmas meal at The Griffin, Fletching, members also attended a summer garden chess party at a member's house.

Once again, Lewes hosted the Mid-Sussex Chess League AGM in 2017 and the meeting voted to return in 2018. Our excellent venue, combined with its convenient central location, ensures members of all MSCL clubs appear content to return year on year. We don't have it all so easy, however, as club secretary Matthew Britnell is also secretary of the MSCL and our treasurer, Barry Maufe, is MSCL webmaster.

Matthew Britnell, secretary

Uckfield

Knockout success in a season of mixed fortunes

THE last year has seen mixed fortunes for the club, which still meets on the second and fourth Wednesday in the Tiler Room of the Luxford Centre, behind The Picture House, between 6.30pm and 10.30pm. That said, we have been successful.

In the Mid-Sussex League, our second team found division 3 just a tad difficult. There were some good performances but we appear to have been relegated back to division 4 at the end of the season, though had just a couple of close individual matches in tense team battles gone our way, we might have held our place and indeed pressed higher.

The first team in division 2, however, consolidated and finished fifth and was closer to promotion than relegation. This was unexpected as we had lost our England junior top board, Toby Harris, to Bristol University so feared great difficulty and a survival battle.

But the club has been boosted by a

new member, Chaski Patrick, who has returned to the UK from Sweden. We soon found he was at a level the rest of the club can dream of as he battled successfully against some of the league's best players.

This afforded us well in the league but in the MSL Knockout, which is subject to handicap on ratings, we advanced to the final by beating Worthing and Woodpushers 2, enjoying a close match against Brighton but finally winning 3-2, which is the second time we have won this tournament.

The MSL had an inaugural RapidPlay League, mainly designed to develop juniors into the adult leagues, and we had a good season there, too, finishing runners-up, albeit the January ratings did not help us when we lost our top junior, Michael

Stockham, as he had exceeded the grading limit. Our club competitions have been successful and we



IT'S A KNOCKOUT: The Mid-Sussex Knockout League Shield winning team.

now have perpetual trophies for all of them kindly donated by members, so our club sessions see an amalgam of Grand Prix Ranking, Knockout Cup, Rapidplay, Standard Play, Blitz and a Handicap Split based on ratings.

We also have a Top Junior trophy, which this year was won by Jack Graham, who performed well in all competitions – sadly we will miss him next year as he takes up his place at Loughborough University.

The future still looks bright as both Jack and Michael were supremo champions in their age group at the Sussex Megafinal of the UK Chess Challenge, but could not take their place at the Gigafinal at Twickenham in July though the rest of our juniors did at this national semi-final, with Bobbie Ridley and Daniel Longley achieving medal status, and Benedict Weis came back to win the Uckfield Academy Summer Championships.

We are working hard to develop junior players into the club players of tomorrow, and this year we have affiliated to the club the new Uckfield Junior Chess Club, which thanks to a partnership with Uckfield Community Technology College meets at Uckfield Youth Centre on a Friday evening between 5.15.pm and 6.30.pm.

This has around 20 members and is growing, with complete beginners starting in the next school year.

This next year will see some change, as we have lost some players but know of two returning to the club.

Our long-standing leader, Ken Swanton, to whom the club owes so much, has stepped down from literally doing everything and has accepted the position of honorary life president. Mark Attree is now our treasurer and Brian Stockham is chairman and secretary.

Brian Stockham

Worthing

Age is no barrier

WORTHING Chess Club has continued to thrive and expand. It meets on Mondays, at 7.30pm, in Tarring. Full details on website.

The exhilaration of a win in one of the world's most challenging games still has massive appeal to all ages.

The 2016-17 results are as follows:

The Derrick Final is yet to be played between Thomas Dan and Timmy Hedger.

Championship : Dave Graham

Challengers : Callum Vyse

Ladder: Peter Larwood

Rapidplay: Keith Homeyard

Knockout: Joe Everett

Knockout Plate: Jon Young

Ron Saunders: Joe Everett

Joe also won the Mid-Sussex League division 3 averages tankard!

Mid-Sussex

Division 1: Worthing 1 - 5th; Worthing 2 - 7th

Division 3: Worthing 3 - 3rd

Division 4: Worthing 4 - 6th, 2nd= on match points. 6th on game points!

Worthing's club welcomes all in the fine friendly atmosphere of Tarring Working Men's Club, Monday evening. It has a very wide range of ages and abilities, all are catered for and much appreciated.

There are several very talented younger players but recently an older chap won the championship after a more than 25-year break. In fact, for next season, 2017-18, the championship has several most interesting competitors lining up. For those who wish a more casual game, they will find such also.

Robin Trinkwon

Under 160

FOR the third time in four seasons the Under 160 team got 2 points from 4 matches, but this time actually qualified for the Nationals on countback as third in zone.

This hardly seemed likely when, fielding 10 reserves, we were hammered in London by national champions Middlesex in the opening match.

However, fielding stronger home sides, including some talented teenagers, we were able to defeat both Surrey and Kent in Horsham.

Between these matches, we were very unlucky to lose 9-7 in Essex (eventual champions) again with many reserves. After a delayed start one home player arrived 55 minutes late and managed to win, so we were that close to 8-8, which would have made us zone joint winners and an easier route in the nationals.

Sussex were now drawn against Lancashire in a preliminary round of the Nationals.

This was played in a good venue in Birmingham, but owing to a transport misunderstanding our bottom two boards failed to make it and (for once!) we had to default two games.

We eventually lost by five points so could have no complaints against a strong side.

Nevertheless, I should like to thank all those who took part this season, especially those who were prepared to play in awkward away matches, and congratulate the following for the best results:

Mikolaj Rogacewicz 3/3 (unluckily missed Lancs game as in Poland!); Michael Harris 3.5/5; Jim Graham, Paul Richardson and Tim Woods 2.5/5; Chris Heath 2/3; Freddie Coleman 1.5/2; Lucy Bennet-Stevens, Oli Weiss and Richard Moorhouse 1.5/3.

Paul Kington

Under 180

OUR first match was home to Surrey. We fought valiantly but were to go down by 9.5-6.5.

Winners for Sussex that day were Amardip Ahluwalia, Tim Spanton, Matthew Howell and myself.

Second up were Essex. Here, we were to face a defeat by the same scoreline, 9.5-6.5. The sole winner for Sussex this match was Laurence Butt.

We next faced Middlesex away. We were to lose by 11.5-4.5, the sole winner being Chris Howell. A win for Chris despite turning up close to an hour after the start.

A Surrey away fixture followed. Surrey were to win by 10-6. Sussex winners that day were Tim Spanton, Tim Pavlovic and Tim Woods. A good day for Sussex players named Tim with a 100 per cent record.

The last match of the season saw us face Middlesex at home. We were to lose by a familiar scoreline 9.5-6.5. Winners for Sussex were Tim Pavlovic and Paul Taylor. During the cycle we collected 30 board points this season.

Paul Batchelor



COUNTY TEAMS/OPEN

SUSSEX 9.5 SURREY 6.5 October 8, 2016					
1	Broom, Mark	200	0.5 - 0.5	Wall, Gavin	231
2	Wilks, Simon	196	0.5 - 0.5	Berry, Stephen H	215
3	Anthony, Gareth	192	0.5 - 0.5	Osborne, Marcus E	212
4	James, Geoffrey H	191	0.5 - 0.5	Granat, Russell G	206
5	Wilson, Jaimie	189	0.5 - 0.5	Emerson, Roger	201
6	Costley, Martin O	189	0.5 - 0.5	Keane, Graham DJ	191
7	Boardman, Jeffrey	187	0.5 - 0.5	Porter, Sam J	190
8	Farr, Peter G	187	1 - 0	Rosen, Daniel B	190
9	Mansson, James C	186	0.5 - 0.5	Haldane, Robin W	188
10	Higgs, Anthony RJ	185	1 - 0	Punnett, Alan K	183
11	Elliston, Robert V	181	1 - 0	Shepley, Julien M	183
12	Roberts, David N	177	+/-	N.N.	
13	Batchelor, Paul A	175	0.5 - 0.5	Stimpson, Philip M	171
14	Pickersgill, Adrian O	171	+/-	N.N.	
15	Taylor, Paul	168	0 - 1	Faulks, Nick W	161
16	N.N.		-/+	Young, Daniel	167

ESSEX 9 SUSSEX 7 February 11, 2017					
1	Sands, David A	199	0.5 - 0.5	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	207
2	Spearman, David	194	0 - 1	Farr, Peter G	187
3	Hebbes, Tim	194	0.5 - 0.5	Costley, Martin O	189
4	Goldberg, Jeff A	188	0.5 - 0.5	Mansson, James C	186
5	White, Kevin D	172	0 - 1	Wilson, Jaimie	189
6	Hunnable, Ian D	174	0.5 - 0.5	Roberts, David N	177
7	Marden, Larry E	173	0.5 - 0.5	Batchelor, Paul A	175
8	Kenning, Paul H	174	0.5 - 0.5	Spanton, Tim R	168
9	Williams, Stephen M	172	0 - 1	Pavlovic, Tim	166
10	Staniland, Philip	166	0.5 - 0.5	Pickersgill, Adrian O	171
11	Whitton, Terry D	166	0.5 - 0.5	Taylor, Paul	168
12	Ramage, Colin R	161	1 - 0	Roberts, Harry	0
13	Donnelly, Terence M	164	+/-	N.N.	
14	Kingsley, Malcolm P	162	+/-	N.N.	
15	Murrell, Mark RA	157	+/-	N.N.	
16	Nickals, Peter A	144	+/-	N.N.	

COUNTY TEAMS/OPEN ♔ ♚ ♛

MIDDLESEX 12.5 SUSSEX 3.5 January 28, 2017					
1	Bates, Richard A	228	1 - 0	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	207
2	Stone, Andrew M	214	0.5 - 0.5	Broom, Mark	200
3	McMichael, Richard J	207	1 - 0	Wilks, Simon	196
4	Eames, Robert S	206	+/-	N.N.	
5	Makepeace, Philip J	201	0.5 - 0.5	James, Geoffrey H	191
6	Ilfeld, Etan	197	1 - 0	Wilson, Jaimie	189
7	Stanisz, Patryk	194	1 - 0	Costley, Martin O	189
8	Pedersen, Carsten	192	0 - 1	Farr, Peter G	187
9	Wittmann, Jochen	191	1 - 0	Boardman, Jeffrey	187
10	Mogilarov, Dimitar	186	1 - 0	Roberts, David N	177
11	Blackie, Neville J	187	1 - 0	Batchelor, Paul A	175
12	Mackenzie, Colin	185	0.5 - 0.5	Pickersgill, Adrian O	171
13	Spivack, Simon SY	190	0.5 - 0.5	Taylor, Paul	168
14	Chan, Nevil	181	0.5 - 0.5	Pavlovic, Tim	166
15	Davey, Mark	181	1 - 0	Palmer, Alan H	165
16	Coles, Steven F	176	+/-	N.N.	

SUSSEX 3 KENT 13 February 25, 2017					
1	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	207	0 - 1	McDonald, Neil R	237
2	Farr, Peter G	187	0 - 1	Taylor, Martin R	219
3	Mansson, James C	186	0 - 1	Mayhew, Andrew	219
4	Costley, Martin O	189	0 - 1	Snape, Ian L	210
5	James, Geoffrey H	191	0 - 1	Hanreck, Alan E	197
6	Wilson, Jaimie	189	0 - 1	Hammond, Andrew	197
7	Boardman, Jeffrey	187	0 - 1	Chandler, Cliff R	203
8	Ahluwalia, Amardip	178	0 - 1	Talsma, Paul A	201
9	Roberts, David N	177	0.5 - 0.5	Sugden, John N	188
10	Elliston, Robert V	181	0.5 - 0.5	Tucker, David S	181
11	Batchelor, Paul A	175	0 - 1	Botley, Gordon	182
12	Spanton, Tim R	168	1 - 0	Bayford, Jim R	183
13	Pickersgill, Adrian O	171	0 - 1	Wooldridge, Leon M	181
14	Palmer, Alan H	165	0.5 - 0.5	Everson, Robert J	179
15	Taylor, Paul	168	0 - 1	Plumhoff, Bernd	176
16	Bennet-Stevens, Lucy	143	0.5 - 0.5	Allison, Conrad	171

COUNTY TEAMS/UNDER 180 ♀ ♀ ♀

SUSSEX 6.5 SURREY 9.5 October 1, 2016					
1	Ahiuwalia, Amardip	178	1 - 0	Sedgwick, David R	177
2	Howell, Chris	178	0 - 1	Richardson, Keith B	173
3	Roberts, David N	177	0.5 - 0.5	Stimpson, Philip M	171
4	Batchelor, Paul A	175	1 - 0	White, Nigel	171
5	Pickersgill, Adrian O	171	0 - 1	Young, Daniel	167
6	Finn, Thomas	169	0 - 1	Smart, Mike	165
7	Spanton, Tim R	168	1 - 0	Collins, Anthony S	165
8	Taylor, Paul	168	0 - 1	Deswarte, Ian	160
9	Pavlovic, Tim	166	0 - 1	Odunaiya, Victor	158
10	Salmons, Calum	161	0.5 - 0.5	Jones, H Trevor	157
11	Reddie, Michael J	160	0.5 - 0.5	McLeod, Ian S	157
12	Forster, Matthew	160	0 - 1	Akeya-Price, Robert	147
13	Selby, Paul R	159	0.5 - 0.5	Fields, Francis E	146
14	Lanzer, Robert A	154	0 - 1	McKenna, John R	144
15	Howell, Matthew G	153	1 - 0	Muir, Martin John	140
16	Finn, Daniel M	132	0.5 - 0.5	Driver, Nicholas P	138

SUSSEX 6.5 MIDDLESEX 9.5 March 11, 2017					
1	Ahluwalia, Amardip	178	0 - 1	Coles, Steven F	176
2	Roberts, David N	177	0 - 1	Calvert, D Ian	177
3	Batchelor, Paul A	175	0 - 1	Batchelor, Guy J	174
4	Pavlovic, Tim	166	1 - 0	Dydak, Mateusz	169
5	Palmer, Alan H	165	0 - 1	Walczak, Rafal	173
6	Pickersgill, Adrian O	171	0 - 1	Fulton, Anthony R	173
7	Kelly, Paul J	171	0 - 1	Kreuzer, Christopher RL	169
8	Forster, Matthew	160	0.5 - 0.5	Kennelly, Paul	167
9	Taylor, Paul	168	1 - 0	McAleenan, Charles T	161
10	Blewitt, Stephen D	158	0.5 - 0.5	Boy Lazoni, Victor Hugo	161
11	Wheeler, James M	151	0 - 1	Fincham, Leon HJ	162
12	Selby, Paul R	159	0.5 - 0.5	Phillips, William	157
13	Lanzer, Robert A	154	0 - 1	White, David J	137
14	Bryant, Marc A	141	+/-	N.N.	
15	Finn, Daniel M	132	+/-	N.N.	
16	Cannon, L John	131	+/-	N.N.	

COUNTY TEAMS/UNDER 180 ♀ ♀ ♀

SUSSEX 6.5 ESSEX 9.5 October 29, 2016					
1	Howell, Chris	178	0.5 - 0.5	Jaszkiwskyj, Peter	178
2	Roberts, David N	177	0 - 1	Reynolds, D Ian W	175
3	Batchelor, Paul A	175	0 - 1	Rix, Steven JL	174
4	Pickersgill, Adrian O	171	0.5 - 0.5	Hunnable, Ian D	174
5	Spanton, Tim R	168	0 - 1	Marden, Larry E	173
6	Taylor, Paul	168	0.5 - 0.5	White, Kevin D	172
7	Pavlovic, Tim	166	0.5 - 0.5	Millward, David J	166
8	Palmer, Alan H	165	0.5 - 0.5	Hampton, Christopher	163
9	Reddie, Michael J	160	0.5 - 0.5	Kingsley, Malcolm P	162
10	Forster, Matthew	160	0 - 1	Cocks, Elliot	162
11	Selby, Paul R	159	0.5 - 0.5	White, John A	162
12	Howell, Oliver W	154	0.5 - 0.5	Barclay, Paul R	162
13	Howell, Matthew G	153	0 - 1	Hughes, Gavin James	162
14	Butt, Laurence A	150	1 - 0	Ramage, Colin R	161
15	Woods, Timothy J	141	0.5 - 0.5	Murrell, Mark RA	157
16	Lanzer, Robert A	154	+/-	N.N.	

SURREY 10 SUSSEX 6 February 18, 2017					
1	Cooper, Neill	176	0.5 - 0.5	Roberts, David N	177
2	Richardson, Keith B	173	0.5 - 0.5	Batchelor, Paul A	175
3	Stimpson, Philip M	171	0 - 1	Spanton, Tim R	168
4	Deswarte, Ian	160	0 - 1	Pavlovic, Tim	166
5	Smart, Mike	165	0.5 - 0.5	Pickersgill, Adrian O	171
6	Barasi, Paul DL	164	+/-	N.N.	
7	Phillips, Owen S	170	0.5 - 0.5	Taylor, Paul	168
8	Kumaresan, Darshan	161	0.5 - 0.5	Selby, Paul R	159
9	Edwards, Nicholas L	165	1 - 0	Lanzer, Robert A	154
10	Collins, Anthony S	165	0 - 1	Woods, Timothy J	141
11	Inwood, Kenneth FH	152	0.5 - 0.5	Cannon, L John	131
12	N.N.		+/-	N.N.	
13	N.N.		+/-	N.N.	
14	N.N.		+/-	N.N.	
15	N.N.		+/-	N.N.	
16	N.N.		+/-	N.N.	

COUNTY TEAMS/UNDER 180

MIDDLESEX 11.5 SUSSEX 4.5 January 21, 2017					
1	Coles, Steven F	176	1 - 0	Ahluwalia, Amardip	178
2	Calvert, D Ian	177	0 - 1	Howell, Chris	178
3	Walczak, Rafal	173	0.5 - 0.5	Pickersgill, Adrian O	171
4	Batchelor, Guy J	174	1 - 0	Taylor, Paul	168
5	Hayler, Andrew	170	0.5 - 0.5	Spanton, Tim R	168
6	Dydak, Mateusz	169	0.5 - 0.5	Batchelor, Paul A	175
7	Dickson, George A	169	0.5 - 0.5	Pavlovic, Tim	166
8	Kreuzer, Christopher RL	169	0.5 - 0.5	Palmer, Alan H	165
9	Campbell, Russell	168	0.5 - 0.5	Selby, Paul R	159
10	Kennelly, Paul	167	1 - 0	Lanzer, Robert A	154
11	Lees, Fraser A	161	1 - 0	Howell, Matthew G	153
12	McAleenan, Charles T	161	0.5 - 0.5	Woods, Timothy J	141
13	Fulton, Anthony R	173	+/-	N.N.	
14	Rubeck, Jonathan	161	+/-	N.N.	
15	Phillips, William	157	+/-	N.N.	
16	Kay, Jonathan	152	+/-	N.N.	

ESSEX 16 SUSSEX 0 December 3, 2016

Essex win match due to forfeit

COUNTY TEAMS/UNDER 160 ♀ ♀ ♀

SUSSEX 9.5 SURREY 6.5 January 7, 2017					
1	Selby, Paul R	159	0 - 1	Odunaiya, Victor	158
2	Heath, Chris W	155	1 - 0	McLeod, Ian S	157
3	Lanzer, Robert A	154	0 - 1	Jones, H Trevor	157
4	Graham, Jim	153	1 - 0	Grey, Nicholas D	158
5	Kington, Paul N	153	0.5 - 0.5	Ifalore, Michael	152
6	Coleman, Frederick	150	0.5 - 0.5	Alcock, Graham P	150
7	Parker, Colin L	149	0 - 1	McKenna, John R	144
8	Rogacewicz, Mikolaj	147	1 - 0	Yu, X Henry	139
9	Richardson, Paul	144	0.5 - 0.5	Waldock, Adrian DP	139
10	Weiss, Oliver	143	0.5 - 0.5	Driver, Nicholas P	138
11	Bennet-Stevens, Lucy	143	1 - 0	Chidi, Lovinia Sylvia	137
12	Woods, Timothy J	141	0.5 - 0.5	Andrews, Graham	129
13	Marshall, W John	140	0.5 - 0.5	Charters, David	128
14	Moorhouse, Richard	140	1 - 0	Tillett, Richard	125
15	Banks, Don	137	0.5 - 0.5	Kovic, Danny	125
16	Harris, Michael C	134	1 - 0	Ryan, John	121

MIDDLESEX 11.5 SUSSEX 4.5 October 8, 2016					
1	Tomkin, Neil D	158	1 - 0	Selby, Paul R	159
2	Phillips, William	157	1 - 0	Lanzer, Robert A	154
3	Goodacre, John	155	0.5 - 0.5	Graham, Jim	153
4	Mandnikar, Atreya	154	1 - 0	Kington, Paul N	153
5	Healeas, Simon	152	0 - 1	Rogacewicz, Mikolaj	147
6	Kay, Jonathan	152	0.5 - 0.5	Richardson, Paul	144
7	Walsh, Steven JF	152	+/-	N.N.	
8	Hodgson, Jeremy K	150	1 - 0	Woods, Timothy J	141
9	McGuinness, Andrew	150	1 - 0	Marshall, W John	140
10	Cross, Ian K	147	0 - 1	Harris, Michael C	134
11	Colter, Nigel	146	1 - 0	Harvey, Derek	131
12	Zurstiege, Frank	147	0.5 - 0.5	Strauss, Dona	125
13	Morton, Peter S	144	+/-	N.N.	
14	Stanton, Donald	146	0 - 1	Denning, Julie L	124
15	Patel, Rishi	143	1 - 0	Britton, David	114
16	Scowen, Roger S	137	+/-	N.N.	

COUNTY TEAMS/UNDER 160

SUSSEX 10 KENT 6 March 25, 2017					
1	Rogacewicz, Mikolaj	147	+/-	N.N.	
2	Heath, Chris W	155	0.5 - 0.5	Gibb, John	157
3	Selby, Paul R	159	0.5 - 0.5	Lane, Robert E	157
4	Graham, Jim	153	0.5 - 0.5	Rutland, Paul C	156
5	Kington, Paul N	153	0.5 - 0.5	Cook, John	155
6	Parker, Colin L	149	0.5 - 0.5	Heard, Andrew H	149
7	Bennet-Stevens, Lucy	143	0 - 1	Bishop, Geoffrey L	146
8	Lanzer, Robert A	154	1 - 0	Tassell, Hugh G	147
9	Richardson, Paul	144	1 - 0	Wiltshire, Michael R	146
10	Weiss, Oliver	143	1 - 0	Sherriff, Alan J	140
11	Plumb, Mick	136	0 - 1	Sharp, Gary	139
12	Woods, Timothy J	141	0.5 - 0.5	Gilbert, David J	131
13	Harris, Michael C	134	0.5 - 0.5	Bernard, Chris PJ	129
14	Coleman, Frederick	150	1 - 0	Dovey, Andrew	125
15	Moorhouse, Richard	140	0.5 - 0.5	Jefferies, Tyrone R	116
16	Denning, Julie L	124	+/-	N.N.	

ESSEX 9 SUSSEX 7 February 25, 2017					
1	Spurr, Michael	159	0 - 1	Rogacewicz, Mikolaj	147
2	Gambardella, David	159	0.5 - 0.5	Heath, Chris W	155
3	Winter, Thomas G	158	0.5 - 0.5	Selby, Paul R	159
4	Murrell, Mark RA	157	1 - 0	Graham, Jim	153
5	Robson, Scott M	154	0.5 - 0.5	Kington, Paul N	153
6	Clow, Ken W	153	0.5 - 0.5	Richardson, Paul	144
7	Johnson, Roderick S	150	0.5 - 0.5	Woods, Timothy J	141
8	Khoda, Noor	144	1 - 0	Harris, Michael C	134
9	Woodward, Ian P	146	1 - 0	Marshall, W John	140
10	Porter, Edward D	143	0 - 1	Cannon, L John	131
11	Groce, Ken	141	0.5 - 0.5	Harvey, Derek	131
12	Moth, Simon C	141	0.5 - 0.5	Izzard, Brian J	127
13	Johnson, Roland ES	140	1 - 0	Strauss, Dona	125
14	Rahaman, Mustapha	139	0.5 - 0.5	Wallis, David	119
15	Burgoyne, Peter A	138	0 - 1	Waddingham, Roger	125
16	Morgan, Ian P	134	1 - 0	Britton, David	114

COUNTY TEAMS/UNDER 140 ♀ ♀ ♀

SURREY 12 SUSSEX 4, October 29

No further match information

SUSSEX 5.5 KENT 10.5 December 3, 2016					
1	Stockham, Brian	134	+/-	N.N.	
2	Harris, Michael C	134	0 - 1	Sharp, Gary	139
3	Curtis, David C	129	0 - 1	Wood, Mike H	139
4	Izzard, Brian J	127	0.5 - 0.5	Davis, Derek J	138
5	Waddingham, Roger	125	0 - 1	Davey, Adrian	138
6	Strauss, Dona	125	1 - 0	Thompson, Robert G	137
7	Denning, Julie L	124	0.5 - 0.5	Watson, Mikey J	136
8	Stockham, Michael	124	0 - 1	Nevols, Keith	137
9	Simpkins, David	121	0 - 1	Lettington, David	133
10	Davies-Arai, Minori	121	0.5 - 0.5	Gilbert, David J	131
11	Wallis, David	119	0.5 - 0.5	Fowler, David J	129
12	Britton, David	114	0.5 - 0.5	Bernard, Chris PJ	129
13	Mitchell, Andy	121	0 - 1	Shahoud, Mike	124
14	Mayer, Andrew	113	0 - 1	Pol, Jerry	124
15	Mitchell, Solomon	102	0 - 1	Hickey, Peter	123
16	Thorne, Oliver	88	+/-	N.N.	

SURREY 6 HERTFORDSHIRE 9, January 21

No further match information

COUNTY TEAMS/UNDER 140

ESSEX 10 SUSSEX 6, February 18, 2017

No further match information

MIDDLESEX 9 SUSSEX 7 March 11, 2017					
1	Roebuck, Derek J	139	0.5 - 0.5	Harris, Michael C	134
2	Scowen, Roger S	137	0.5 - 0.5	Curtis, David C	129
3	Sonnis, Steve	137	0.5 - 0.5	Strauss, Dona	125
4	Meynell, Alexander FM	135	0 - 1	Amarasinghe, Asanka	125
5	Price, Michael C	134	0 - 1	Mitchell, Andy	121
6	Ransome, Wilson	132	0.5 - 0.5	Waddingham, Roger	125
7	Costeloe, C Andrew J	131	0 - 1	Denning, Julie L	124
8	Parfett, Gerald F	130	1 - 0	Davies-Arai, Minori	121
8	Parfett, Gerald F	130	1 - 0	Davies-Arai, Minori	121
9	Fraser, Alasdair A	125	0.5 - 0.5	Wallis, David	119
10	Beachley, Evan	124	0.5 - 0.5	Britton, David	114
11	Ainscow, Faye	124	0 - 1	Mayer, Andrew	113
12	O'Caolaidhe, Cormac	124	1 - 0	Mitchell, Solomon	102
13	Leanse, Martin D	122	1 - 0	Couchman, Andrew	110
14	Pickering, Peter E	115	+/-	N.N.	
15	Lekic, Dejan	111	+/-	N.N.	

Results from www.sccu.co.uk



Sussex County Championship 2016-7. Game 1. Sunday, May 7, 2017. Haywards Heath. W: Bernard Cafferty. B: Feliks Kwiatkowski. Queen's Pawn, London System.

IT was gratifying to see that my efforts to drum up support for the competition had borne fruit, so that entries were up. Nevertheless, two county veterans found themselves in the final yet again. Where is the roaring young blood that the competition needs?

1.d4 Nf6; 2.Nf3 g6; 3.Bf4 Bg7;.

[And here it is! Chess is as much subject to fashion as is any other field of human enterprise. For unclear reasons, Queen's pawn systems with Bf4 on move 2 or 3 have suddenly become all the rage. I had smelt a rat when Bernard deviated from his usual English opening, therefore I also deviated from my normal 2. ... e6 in reply to 2.Nf3. Now we come to that part of the game which is played away from the board, that part which forms the greatest part of the county final. I speak, of course, of nerve and psychology. I had made a decision of principle, some time previously, to avoid answering 2.Nf3 with ...e6, precisely because of the increasing prevalence of White Bf4 and Bg5 systems. My opinion is that it is harder to generate winning chances for Black after ... e6 in these systems than it is after ... g6. The gamble I had to take is that White will not switch back to normal lines with c4 after ... g6, and that I am still learning Black's London system ideas with ... g6.

Further, only a week or so previously, I had played a truly awful game in the 4NCL. I had tried ... g6 against the London System, and had effortlessly achieved a lost position, which I accidentally won. As 4NCL games are swiftly

published on the internet, my fear was that Bernard had booked up on me and was seeking to take advantage of my visible ignorance. Nevertheless, I have stopped believing in ... e6, so I gritted my teeth and went for 2. ... g6; although I feared exactly what came after. It emerged that Bernard was not aware of my 4NCL game after all.]

4.e3 O-O; 5.Nbd2 c5; 6.c3 d6; 7.Be2 b6; 8.h3 Bb7; 9.O-O Nbd7; 10.Re1 a6; 11.a4 ... ;.

[This is a standard set-up. Black now has a variety of playable tries. I just wanted to play something other than what I had played in the 4NCL, so I chose one of the tries at random.]

11. ... Ra7; 12.Qb3 Qa8;. [Black restrains the White e-pawn, and prepares to ease his game by exchanging one or more minor pieces, and then advancing on the Q-side.] 13.Bf1 Ne4; 14.Nxe4 Bxe4; 15.Nd2 Bc6; 16.Bg5 ... ;

[And here Bernard shocked me by offering a draw, in a position which is indeed roughly level, but where there is still everything to play for. I took the draw. Why? First, a draw with Black is not a loss, and is an acceptable result in the harsh County Championship format. Second, I have no 'feel' whatsoever for these positions yet, as my 4NCL game had demonstrated, and thus felt even more at risk of making a fatal mistake than usual.

Bernard should have played on of course, but I suspect he had mistakenly thought I knew what I was doing.] Agreed ½ - ½ .

Feliks Kwiatkowski



Game 2. Sunday, June 11, 2017. Hastings. W: Feliks Kwiatkowski. B: Bernard Cafferty. French Defence, Tarrasch Variation.

1.e4 e6; 2.d4 d5; 3.Nd2 Nf6; 4.e5 Nfd7; 5.c3 c5; 6.Bd3 Nc6; 7.Ne2 cd; 8.cd f6; 9.ef Qxf6;.

[There are many perfectly sensible ways to counter 3.Nd2 The 'usual' moves are 3. ... c5

and 3... Nf6. However, the unusual third moves ... Nc6; ... a6; ... Be7; and even ... h6; are perfectly rational and awkward to counter. This is a standard set-up, but with a twist. Black usually plays 9. ...

Nxf6;. The capture with the Queen heralds a set strategy: try to break early with ...e5;, otherwise castle, play ... Rd8; and ... Nf8;, then manoeuvre the light-squared Bishop via d7 and e8 to g6 or h5.

Now for the psychology. Bernard had caught me in the opening again. I expected some line we had previously not played from Alekhine's, the Centre-Counter, the Caro-Kann or the Scandinavian. I had actually thought about preparing this very sub-variation of the Tarrasch French, but had not done so. Why? We had had a game with it some years ago, so I reasoned he would not repeat it. Wrong! Although I won, I had played an inferior White reply in that game, and in another game against another opponent which had been published. On the face of it, I was ripe for exploitation.]

10.O-O ... ;.

[Yes, this is a gambit. The normal move is 10.Nf3 ... ;, but I had struggled in a Mid-Sussex League game to find any advantage after Black had replied 10. ... Bb4+, swapped the bishops and freed his game with ... e5. For what it's worth, at professional level, the check is thought to be dubious. My choice offers the d-pawn. After 10. ... Nxd4; 11.Nxd4 Qxd4; I judge that 12.Nf3 ... ; gives excellent play for the pawn. Bernard thought so too and contented himself with going into the ... Qxf6 main line.]

10. ... Bd6; 11.Nf3 h6 12.Bc2 ... ;. [The idea is to restrain Black by exposing the d-pawn – to deter ... e5; - and then to play Ng3, Re1 and Ne5. This would have been an improvement on my plan in our previous game with this variation, but Bernard decided to put psychological pressure on me by deviating from the main line immediately.]

12. ... Nf8?!. [This is “playable”, but can't be right, yet there is no immediate refutation that I could find.] 13.Ng3 Bd7; 14.Re1 O-O-O; 15.Ne5 Be8; [If Black tries to capture on e5 to win a pawn, he runs into Nh5.] 16.f4 Bc7;. [Black contemplates ... Bb6 to harass the d-pawn, or even ... Nxd4 to set up a battery against the White King on g1.]

17.Be3 Kb8; 18.Rc1

[I confess I didn't really have a plan. I just wanted to keep a clamp on the centre, start getting my heavy pieces out, then see what would happen. 18.Ba4 ... ; may have been superior.]

18. ... Qe7; 19.a3 Nxe5; 20.fe Rc8 21. Bd2?

[A critical moment. I was trying for Bb4, but it was a stupid idea. I was arguably a little more comfortable before Bd2, but I regretted playing it almost instantly. Rf1 and Bd3 each seem more sensible with the benefit of hindsight.]

21. ... Bb6!;. [Of course! Now, if 22.Bb4 Qh4 with an active game. I had to tell myself not to be stupid, but to admit I had gone wrong and back-track. Black appears to be fully equal after my mistake, but there is the matter of the ‘17th piece’ – the clock. The time control was the traditional 40 moves in 2 hours. I had used 76 minutes after 21 moves, but Bernard had used 94. Bernard could not break down that time differential, and it inevitably affected the quality of his decisions.]

22.Be3 Bg6;. [Offering to swap off his bad Bishop. I decided not to swap. The Black QB now has a good diagonal, but Black still has a weak e-pawn.] 23.Ba4 Rxc1; 24.Qxc1 Nd7; 25.Qd2 Rc8; 26.Rc1 Rxc1+; 27.Qxc1 ...;. [I wanted the rooks off as, without calculating anything, I had a “feeling” it would be easier to gang up on the e-pawn with just the minor pieces and Queens on the board.]

27. ... Qd8;. [Times: White 91; Black 111, i.e. Black had to play 13 accurate moves in 9 minutes. My computer prefers ... Qf7; but the move chosen can't be bad.] 28.Qd2 Ba5; 29.Qe2 Bc7?;. [Black was trying to provoke b4 from me, to park a knight on b6 and then c4, but abandoned the idea when I was not provoked. That was a bad decision, under clock pressure. Had Black tried for ... Nc4, with or without provocation, it would have kept him with a fully equal share of the chances.]

30.Qg4 Nf8; [Clocks: White 100; Black 115. White is now better, but not winning. I knew if Bernard survived to move 40 he would almost surely hold the position.] 31.h4 ...;. [To force the Bishop away from shielding the g-pawn, and to give the King the option of hiding on h2. There is a third idea, but it's bad.] 31. ... Qe7; 32.Nh5? Qf7; 33.Ng3 ... ;.

[What goes on? Well, I had wanted to play 33.Nxg7?? Qxg7; 34.h5 ... ; with good pressure, but I saw at the last instant that 33. ... h5! wins a piece. I thought about retreating to f4, but that gives the Black QB too much air. Now Black is probably no worse after 32. ... Bd8;, but he had

about 3 minutes left for 8 moves and Qf7 was a reasonable try for a trap.]

33. ... Bd3;. [Again, ... Bd8; was a good idea, probably with full equality.]

34.h5 ... ; [Played to fix the g-pawn, or to leave the h-pawn weak if the g-pawn is pushed. Now ... Bd8 or ... Nd7 would have been reasonable moves, but Black lashed out instead.] 34. ... b5?;

35.Qd1! ... ; [Black now had under 2 minutes for 6 moves.] 35. ... ba;. [Black is in trouble whatever he chooses. However, after 35. ... Bc4; the strong, clever move is 36.Bc2 ...; I wasn't going to play the clever move. I was planning b3 instead, when the computer sees 36. ... Qe7;, with the idea of 37.bc Qxa3; and chaos to follow.]

36.Qxd3 Qd7; [White has a nasty initiative and play against three weak pawns. Even here, the computer likes ... Bb6;, threatening ... Nd7; and ... Nxe5; with counterplay.] 37.Bd2 ...; [The obvious move was 37.Ne2 ... ;, but I wanted to harass the Knight on f8 with Bb4.] 37. ... Qc6; 38.Qf3! ... ; [Targeting the Knight and the g and e-pawns.]

38. ... Nd7; 39.Bc3! Bb6;

40.Kh2! Kc7;. [The computer finds a complex plus after 40.Qf7, despite the availability of

Nxe5, perhaps enough of a plus to win. But that is not practical chess! I wanted to stay safe while keeping pressure. Black reached the time control with seconds left. He might have tried ... Bd8 or ... Qc4 on his last move, but the White plan of going for the weak K-side pawns is too strong in any event. I now gave the board a good ponder and sealed a move.]41. Qg4 ... ;.

[I now thrashed my brains out on the train home from Hastings, trying to work out what was happening. The machine finds a complex win after 41. ... Qc4; 42.Qxe6 ...; but I couldn't see it. When the train was nearly at Haywards Heath, I suddenly saw the sneaky 42.Kh3! This protects the Queen, takes away ... Qh4 defensive ideas and leaves Black struggling in vain for moves that do not worsen his game.

The idea is enough to win with, and easy to play. I therefore looked forward to fighting out the adjourned game. However, a day or so later, I received an e-mail from Bernard, saying that if I had sealed either Qf7 or Qg4, he would spare me a trip to Hastings.

And so Black resigned without resumption.]

1-0.

Feliks Kwiatkowski



Paul Kelly - Bernard Cafferty Hastings Chess Club Championship, June 27, 2017, played on the latter's birthday!

1 d4 Nf6 2 Bf4 d6 3 Nc3 g6 4 e4 Bg7 5 Qd2 Nc6 (The London system is popular in the Hastings CC. Paul plays it with the follow-up of exchanging the Bg7 and then hoping to open the h-file and create a mating attack by Qh6)

6 Nge2 0-0 7 f3 e5 8 Bh6? (8 Be3!) Nxe4!

A shattering blow that more often turns up in the KID Saemisch.

9 Nxe4 Qh4+ 10 g3 Qxh6 11 Nf6+ Kh8 12 Qxh6 Bxh6 13 Nd5 Bf5

White might back a pawn temporarily, but the opposing bishops prove too mobile for him to cope with.

14 c3 (Or 14 Nxc7 Rac8 15 Nb5 Nb4!and White's lag in development is catastrophic) exd4 15 Nxd4 Nxd4 16 exd4 Rae8+ 17 Kf2 c6 18 Nf4 Re7 19 h4 Rfe8 20 h5 g5!

White's various K-side pawn moves enable Black to open lines for his four active pieces, but no alternative seems better.

21 g4 Bd7 22 Ne2 f5! 23 gxf5 Bxf5 24 Ng3 Bd7 25 Rd1 g4! 26 Ne4 Rf8 27 Nxd6 Be3+ 28 Kg2 gxf3+

White now made to play 29 Kh2 here, but seeing 29...Bf4+ duly resigned. The game lasted only just over an hour.

Bernard Cafferty



James Mansson v Allan Gardner, Correspondence game, October, 2016 1-0
For those viewing Sussex Chess News online you can
play through the game on an interactive board: ([Play through game](#))

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bg5 Bg7 5.Qd2 c6
 6.Bh6 Bxh6 7.Qxh6 Qa5 8.Bd3 c5 9.d5 Nbd7
 10.Nf3 b5 { ?! Shaw assesses this move as dubious
 in his recent book. } (10...c4 { ! } 11.Bxc4 Qc5 { !
 } 12.Bd3 Qxf2+ 13.Kxf2 Ng4+ 14.Kg3 Nxh6 { is
 what he recommends for Black. }) 11.O-O c4
 12.Be2 b4 13.Nd1 Qc5 14.Ng5 Rb8 15.Ne3 { This
 is Shaw's novelty, improving on Bergamini -
 Braun, email 2000. } 15...Ne5 { The key Black
 piece is the knight on e5. If this is dislodged, then
 the Black position would fall apart. Both f7 and c4
 would become vulnerable. However, the queen on
 c5 makes this hard, due to the pressure it exerts on
 the a7-g1 diagonal. Also, the queen can create
 counterplay by ...Qd4 'with the idea' ...Qxb2
 or ...Qd2. } 16.h3 { White initiates a slow build-up
 by covering g4 to free his pieces. The idea is Rfe1,
 Bf1 then either play in the centre with f4 (possibly
 combined with moving the king out of the pin) or
 on the queenside with a3. } 16...Qd4 17.c3 { ! }
 17...bxc3 18.bxc3 Qc5 (18...Qxc3 { is not a good
 idea, as after } 19.Rac1 { White will regain the
 pawn and the queenside will be opened up. Black
 cannot afford this as his king is currently stuck in
 the centre. }) 19.Rab1 Rb6 { Black has to play this
 to keep the queenside sealed. } 20.Rfc1 { White
 intends Rb4, intending to liquidate both c-pawns

and open the queenside. } 20...Nd3 21.Qg7 Rf8
 22.Rd1 Nf4 23.Bf3 { ! White needs to
 discourage ...N4h5 by Black. } (23.Bf1 { ? allows
 Black to force a draw by repetition after }
 23...Rxb1 24.Rxb1 N4h5 25.Qh6 Ng8 26.Qxh7
 Ngf6 27.Qh6 Ng8 =) 23...Nd3 24.Nxh7 Nxh7
 25.Qxh7 { White has won a pawn, but still needs to
 break open the Black position. } 25...Ba6 26.Be2
 Nf4 27.Bf1 Nh5 28.Qh6 Nf6 29.e5 { ! White
 initiates a forced sequence to open up the
 position. } 29...dxe5 30.Qg5 Ne4 31.Qxe5 f5
 32.Rxb6 axb6 33.Bxc4 { ! } 33...Bxc4 34.Nxc4
 Qxc4 35.d6 { The point - Black has to return the
 piece. } 35...Nxd6 36.Rxd6 Kf7 37.Rxb6 Ra8
 38.Rb4 { White is now two pawns up and has an
 attack. } 38...Qe6 { Black could find nother better
 than going into an endgame. } 39.Qxe6+ Kxe6
 40.a4 Ra6 (40...Rc8 41.Rb3 Ra8 42.Ra3 { and
 White's queenside pawns are securely defended. })
 41.Kf1 { White first brings his king to the centre. }
 41...Kd6 42.Ke2 Kc6 43.h4 { Now he prepares to
 create a passed pawn on the kingside as well as the
 queenside. } 43...e5 44.f3 Kd5 45.g4 Ke6 46.Ke3
 Ke7 47.gxf5 { Black decided to give up now. He
 cannot cope with both the passed a- and h-pawns. }
 1-0

James Mansson



W: S. Gordon [Wood Green 1]. B: Feliks Kwiatkowski. [King's Head 1]. Maroczy
Bind. London League Division 1, 2016-7. Wood Green 1 v King's Head 1, Board
4/12. February 7, 2017, Golden Lane.

I WANT to demonstrate how frustrating it can be
 to play a Grandmaster, to suddenly find yourself
 ruined without understanding what you have done
 wrong.

Incidentally, to illustrate how London differs
 from the Mid-Sussex League, mark that Gordon is

a professional, but could only achieve Board 4 in
 the Wood Green line-up.

1.c4 c5; 2.Nf3 g6; 3.c4 Bg7; 4.d4 cd; 5.Nxd4
 Nc6 6.Nc2 ... ;

[White chooses a specific move-order that lets
 him play the Maroczy Bind. The position after 5

moves can arise from a number of openings. Black supposedly has few theoretical problems, but in practice White's game is easier to play. Therefore, I might have tried something disruptive like 4. ... Qa5+; or 4. ... Qb6;. Why 6.Nc2 ... ; instead of the more usual 6.Be3 ... ; ? The idea is to avoid exchanges and exploit White's space advantage. My recent experience is that White players who favour the Reti and the English are frequently forcing the Maroczy onto the board whenever Black tries systems involving ...c5 and ...g6, so that either I have to seriously learn the Black side, or give up those systems.]

6. ... Nf6; 7.Nc3 d6; 8.Be2 O-O; 9.O-O Nd7; 10.Bd2 a5;

[These are perfectly reasonable, well-known moves for each side. The idea is to restrain the White Q-side pawns, park a Knight on c5, play ... Be6;, then consider the heavy pieces and pawn breaks.]

11.Be3!?! Nc5; [White's 11th was a surprise, inviting a capture on c3. It is not a popular idea at professional level, the normal move among several rational choices being 11.Na3 ...; threatening Nab5. I rejected the capture, and played "the normal move", as I cannot play an immediate ... Qa5;, the b-file is opened, my dark squares will inevitably be weaker and my King would be minus a defender. Having since consulted the database, I see that Grandmaster Gordon has won two games with this move.]

12.f3 a4; 13.Qd2 Qa5; 14.Rac1 Be6; [All perfectly rational, but here's the twist. Gordon had reeled out his moves in 10 minutes, whereas I had taken 37, working out my plan from first principles,

rather than whacking it onto the board fast from memory. The database shows I played no worse to this point than one of Gordon's IM victims.]

15.Na3 ...; [Rfd1 would also have been strong, but Gordon heads for b5. There are now two rational moves for Black - ... Rfc8; and my inferior choice. That having been said, the database shows that a strong IM once chose my move and drew, while Gordon beat an IM who made the better move. What this tells you is that the whole system is so comfy for White that Black should choose an entirely different tabiya where he doesn't need to be quite so exquisitely careful. What's best in this tabiya? My guess, with hindsight, is that Black should go ... Rfc8; and ... Nb4;. Obviously it is hard to generate Black winning chances from such positions.]

15. ... f5; 16.ef Bxf5; [It may be that ... gf; was preferable, to keep better control of e4.] 17.Nab5 Be6; 18.Rfd1 Bf7; [I recall a sudden feeling of strong discomfort around here. Probably Black is already finito.] 19.Nd5 Qxd2; 20.Rxd2 ... ; [Here I just could not see anything sensible to do, and was left bewildered as to how this state of affairs had come about. I was also in gross time trouble.] 20. ... Nd7;. [Fritz Online suggests ... Rae8; or ... Rab8; but still thinks White is better.] 21.f4 Nf6; [Fritz Online marks out 21. Bg5! ... ; as very strong, but White has no need for major exertions.] 22.Nb6 Ra5; 23.Bf3 Bxc4; 24.Nxd6 ed; 25.Nxc4 R5-a8; 26.Nxd6 Ne7.

[Here, in a ruined position, my flag fell ten moves before the time control.

1-0 **Feliks Kwiatkowski**



W: Feliks Kwiatkowski. [King's Head.] B: Christopher Dorrington. [Barbican 4NCL 1.] Caro-Kann Defence, Smyslov System. 4NCL, Season 2016-7, Division 1, King's Head v Barbican 4NCL 1, Board 3/8. November 19, 2016, Wokefield Park.

THIS game is notable for two points – the victim was rated well above me at 228, and there is a Queen sacrifice.

1.e4 c6; 2.d4 d5; 3.Nc3 de; 4.Nxe4 Nd7;. [This Knight move is the badge of the "sensible Smyslov". Dorrington has no track record with the

Caro-Kann. So, why did he play this? My guess is that his database preparation showed that I have two published losses as White against the Smyslov.] 5.Bc4 Ngf6; 6.Ng5 e6; 7.Qe2 Nb6; 8.Bd3 ... ; [8.Bb3 ... ; is also reasonable.] 8. ... h6; 9.N5-f3 ... ;

[Black had taken far too long over these moves, which showed that he was unfamiliar with the position and with the ideas behind it. For background, the strongest modern line is 5.Ng5 ... ; . My choice is older, and probably a little less testing overall. It involves a cheapo. If 8. ... Qxd4?; 9.Nf3 and Ne5 follows. Dorrington should have played the mainstream plan of 9. ... c5; 10.dc Bxc5; 11.Ne5 ... ;, when I suspect Black equalises after a few more moves without difficulty. 10.Be3 ... ; is more testing but, again, Black should be fine.]

9. ... Bd6?!; 10.Ne5 ... ; [Black's choice does nothing to free his QB, and my reply is the universal choice of all the stronger players who have faced ... Bd6; here. For all that, Black emerges with a playable, albeit inferior, game.] 10. ... Qe7?!; [My instinct swerves towards ... Qc7; or ... c5; , but practical results strongly favour White no matter what Black chooses.]

11.N1f3 c5; 12.dc Bxc5; 13.O-O O-O; [Black has lost a move with his Bishop, and has his Queen on the wrong square. For all that, his game is not actually that bad. White must now find a plan. I decided to provoke the Black a-pawn to advance in order, first, to make it easier to attack and, second, to make my Q-side pawn majority more influential. I'm not saying it's the best plan, but it's a plan. Fritz Online does not disapprove of my choice, but it fancies the simple Bd2 immediately, and I won't argue.] 14.a3!?! a5; 15.Bd2 Rd8; 16.Rab1 a4;. [White was threatening to expand with b4 and c4.] 17.Rbd1 Bd7; [Black bites the bullet. The minor piece must come out sooner or later, so that the Rooks can be connected, but now White can bag the Bishop pair. Fritz Online prefers playing for time with ideas based on ... Qc7; and ... Nbd7;.] 18.Nxd7 Rxd7;. [I could have tried 18.Rfe1 ... ;, to let the Bishop grovel on e8, had it wished, but I wanted something tangible.] 19.Ne5 Rd5; 20.c4 Rd6; 21.Bc2 Rd4; 22.Bc3 Rxd1; 23.Rxd1 Qc7;.

[Black's efforts to provoke weaknesses have resulted only in an increased White grip on the centre, and the Black a-pawn is exposed. Had Black tried 23. ... Rd8;, White can just swap on d8 and play h3, when Black has a hard defensive task ahead.] 24.Qd3 ... ;.

[Now the position is starting to look like something out of a 'how to attack' textbook. Fritz Online fancies the simple h3 or Qf3 instead of my move, but I wanted to undermine the Knight on f6 and penetrate h7 with my Queen.]

24. ... Be7;. 25.Ng4! Rd8;.

[Wow! What have we here? After I had put Qd3 on the board, Fritz Online saw its merits and agreed that Dorrington's ... Be7; is the best defence. It does not immediately see the merit of the "obvious human move" Ng4 but, once it is put on the board, it sees the point, and argues for 25. ... Kf8; and grovelling. I suspect Dorrington believed he was lost and tried to confuse the issue to generate Black winning chances.]

26.Nxf6+ Kf8?!?!;.

[Wow again! I could not believe this, but it gave me a chance to indulge in my well-known habits of mental paralysis and self-destruction. Here, I was seduced by what follows. There is a Q-sac and a King hunt on the board. How could you NOT give it a bash?]

27.Qxd8+ ... ;. [How d'ya like THEM apples, buster? However, as the wartime energy-saving propaganda poster asked: "Is your journey really necessary?" During the game, I suspected that simple ideas like 27.Nh7+ Kg8; 28.Qe4 ... ; might win without fuss. I also had 27. Nd5 ... ; on the bare fringes of my consciousness. But the pull of the sacrifice was so compelling that it occupied such calculating faculties as I have. For the record, 27.Nd5 ed; 28.Bxg7+ Ke8; is a massacre, provided you are clever enough to see 28. ... Kxg7; 29.Qh7+ Kf6; 30.Qxh6+ Ke5; 31.f4 checkmate. Which I didn't and, even if I had, I might still have been seduced.]

27. ... Bxd8; 28.Rxd8+ Ke7;. [The first point is that 28. ... Qxd8 is met by 29.Bb4+ ... ;. Oh dear.] 29.Re8+ Kd6; 30.Bb4+ ... ;.

[You might say the game starts getting interesting here. I had seen the King getting driven to e5 and f4 in advance of course, but I could not penetrate the fog and find a mate. I don't think there is a mate, Fritz Online can't find a mate either, but jolly good luck to you if you can prove us wrong.]

30. ... Ke5; 31.Bc3+ Kd6; 32.Bb4+ Ke5; . [Repeating moves, to gain on the clock. I had

ravaged my time allowance when calculating the sacrifice, and did not fancy being reduced to “playing on the increment” before the time control at move 40.] 33.Ng4+ ... ;

[I had seen the necessity for this at move 27, but could not see a forced win. I had taken the amateur’s course of going for the position, then having another ponder. My fallback option was, in the event of not finding a mate, that my sacrifice was not a true sacrifice. I have a rook and two decent minor pieces for my Queen. I judged, without calculation, that I could bail out into an ending where I keep control and squeeze with my material advantage.]

33. ... Kf4;. [33. ... Kd4; 34.Re7 ... ; with continuing pressure and a likely long-term win.] 34.Ne3 ... ; [To provoke Black’s next, but there is

a lot to be said for Re7 at once. Fritz Online also gets very excited about h3, which I actually considered, but didn’t have the guts or time for. I had suffered quite enough seduction already for one game. Stick h3 in YOUR computer and watch the fun.] 34. ... Nxc4; 35.Re7 Qc6; 36.Rxf7+ Ke5; 37.Bc3+ ... ;

[My aim was to finish in a clear, safe position. There may be objectively stronger choices.]

37. ... Kd6; 38.Nxc4+ Qxc4; 39.Rxb7 Qf4; [Fritz’s choice too, but it assesses me at over +5.] 40.Bd3 e5;. [Black should try ... Qc1+; 41.Bf1 ... ;, but it’s still bleak.] 41.Rb6+ Kd7; 42.Rb4 ... ;

[I was looking forward to grinding out this position, but Black here decided he had better things to do with his evening, and resigned.]

1-0

Feliks Kwiatkowski



W: Feliks Kwiatkowski. [Haywards Heath 1.] B: Rasa Norinkeviciute. [Eastbourne 1.] Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation. Mid-Sussex League Division 1, 2016-7. Haywards Heath 1 [away] v Eastbourne 1, Board 1/5. December 2, 2016.

1.e4 c5; 2.Nf3 d6; 3.d4 cd; 4.Nxd4 Nf6; 5.Nc3 a6; 6.g3 ... ; [This is relatively harmless after ... e5, but I didn’t feel up to anything theoretical. The effect of this harmless move on Black was spectacular. She fell into extreme mental paralysis and time trouble, being left at move 23 with one minute to make the time control at move 42.]

6. ... b5?!; 7.a4!? ... ; [I knew ... b5 is not approved here, but could not remember what is recommended. I suspected Bg2 is sensible, but I consciously decided to be provocative instead.] 7. ... b4; 8.Nd5 e5!?. [White gets too many chances after 8. ... Nxe4; 9.Bg2 ... ;] 9.Nxf6+ Qxf6;

10.Nf5!? ... ; [This was a matter of judgment. After 10. ... Bxf5; 11.ef Qxf5;

12.Qd5 Ra7; 13.Be3 [or even Bd2] White’s domination of the light squares should be worth a pawn.] 10. ... Bb7; 11.Bg2 d5; 12.Ne3!? d4;

[More provocation. Again, I judged that Black cannot afford 12. ... de 13.Nd5 ... ;]

13.Nd5 Qd8; 14.O-O Bd6; 15.Qg4 Kf8;. [White has a huge plus, and Black had used 86 minutes.

Now I got really nervous, thinking of how it would look were I to lose from this point. If 15. ... O-O?; 16.Bh6 ... is strong.]

16.f4 Bxd5;. [Fritz Online prefers 16.Bg5 ... ;, but I can’t believe opening the K-side is anything but positive.] 17.ed Nd7; 18.fe Nxe5; 19.Qxd4 Rc8;. [Having little to lose, Black gambles a pawn for counterplay.] 20.Qe4 Qc7; 21.Bf4 f6; 22.Rae1 Re8; 23.Bh3 Ke7;. [Good for shock value.] 24.Bxe5 Bxe5; 25.Qxb4+ Kd8;. [Here, I really wanted to play 26.d6 ... ;, but my nerves would not let me see that 26. ... Bxd6?; loses after 27.Rd1 Ke7; 28.Rxd6 Qxd6; 29. Re1+ ... ;] 26.Be6 Bd6; 27.Qb3 Re7?;. [Note that Black still has chances, based on ... h5; ... h4; or ... Bxg3; so White must take care. Black may have done better to try ... h5; at once.] 28.Qd3 h5; 29.Qxa6 Qb8; 30.Qa5+ Ke8; 31.Qb5+ Qxb5; 32.ab Kd8; 33.Ra1 Bc5+; 34.Kg2 Kc7; 35.Ra6 Bd6; 36.Rc6+

[Here, Black’s time ran out and she resigned simultaneously.]

1-0.

Feliks Kwiatkowski



East Devon Open 2017, Round 2
GM Keith Arkell (240) – Anthony Higgs (186)

MY first one-on-one game with a GM. Although I lost it was an interesting game with a nice finish by Keith, who is a thoroughly nice guy and very pleasant to chat with.

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. d4 d6 5. g3 c6 6. Bg2 Qc7 7. Bf4 Bg4 8. c5!? [A good practical move from Keith, which allows him to unbalance the pawn structure when he wants to, making it less likely that I will be able to stodge around if pieces come off...] **8...O-O 9. O-O Nh5 10. cxd6 exd6 11. Be3 Nd7 12. Qd2 Rfe8 13. h3 Bxf3** [Possibly 13...Be6 was better. I wanted to fight for the central dark squares hence removing the knight but maybe the bishop pair was a slightly high price to pay for this] **14. Bxf3 Nhf6** [Here I gave serious thought to 14...d5!? instead. In retrospect I regret that I didn't play this, as the damage to my kingside is offset by the active chances and control of e4 this move gives me. I was worried about 14...d5 15.Bxh5 gxh5 16.Bh6 Re6 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Qg5+ Rg6 19.Qxh5 when there is no sacrifice on g3 and White is a pawn up. However what I missed is that instead of Re6 I can play 16...Qd6! and with the queen on g6 instead of the rook Black's position is fine with lots of activity. If White doesn't play Bh6 I similarly have little to fear] **15. Bf4 Nb6 16. h4 Qd7 17. e4 h5?** [A clear mistake

which paints a big target on the Black king] **18. Rad1 d5 19. e5!** [Long-term White will either play e6 or f5 and the Black kingside will be in big trouble. In comparison Black struggles to find a pawn break that doesn't lose material] **19...Ng4 20. Bg2 Kh7 21. Bh3 Qe7 22. f3!** [I thought Keith might try 22.Bxg4 here with the idea of rounding up the g4 pawn with queen and knight in a few moves. His move is far better!] **22...Nh6 23. Bg5 Qb4** [After the game Keith suggested 23...Qf8 which is also the computer's recommendation. The thought of grovelling in this way didn't really appeal and I was determined to go down fighting!] **24. Qc2 c5 25. a3 Qa5 26. f4 Bf8?** [The final error after which White finishes me off attractively] **27. f5 cxd4 28. fxg6+ fxg6 29. Rf6** [Black could resign here but there were a few onlookers so why not let them see the end?] **29...Nf5** [29...d3 30.Qxd3 Bc5+ 31.Kh2 Rg8 runs into 32.b4] **30. Bxf5 dxc3 31. Bxg6+ Kh8 32. Qe2 Qc5+ 33. Kg2 Re7 34. Qxh5+ Kg8 35. Bf7+ Rxf7 36. Qxf7+ Kh8 37. Rh6+ Bxh6 38. Bf6+ 1-0** [I took solace from the fact that I had not made any really crass blunders and went on to finish the congress with 3/5, this being my only loss. The Open was won by GM John Nunn, Keith finishing joint 2nd.

Anthony Higgs

Calling all players: Let's make it a **Championship** to remember

CLUB secretaries are requested to draw the attention of their members to the Sussex Individual Knockout Championship, which is expected to start in October.

Entries have generally been declining of recent years and as for the most part only senior players have been participating, it would be refreshing to see younger ones entering.

It should be noted that the classic time control allows for the possibility of adjournment at the end of a four-hour session, with no quick-play finishes. This is chess in the traditional style.

Joseph Sharp



COMMENT

Everyone needs to bang the drum for county contests

Although County Championship entries were up on the previous season, we still found ourselves with two feeble old men contesting the final. In my judgment, it would be in the interests of county chess in general were the trophy in the hands of one of our young blades.

With that in mind, I write to encourage all those with influence to bang the drum for the Championship and all other county individual and team contests, at all levels.

Feliks Kwiatkowski

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