



SUSSEX CHESS NEWS

2013

**INSIDE:
ALL THE
KEY
MOVES,
NEWS,
RESULTS
& CLUB
INFO**

That was the year that was!



County's missing archives

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SUSSEX TO FIELD EXTRA TEAMS

PAGE 16

FIVE pages on Junior Chess

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Tribute to Hastings stalwart

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DOUBLE CLUBS CHAMP

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ALL THE WINNERS

PAGES 4-5

COMMENTReasons to
be cheerful

JUST two years ago, Sussex fielded four county teams.

This past season, Sussex were down to competing in the Open and Under-180 sections of the inter-county chess tournament.

However, the situation is looking far brighter for the year ahead - with Under-160 and Under-140 teams being revived.

Everyone knows how difficult it can be to find captains - and players - to play Saturday-chess.

There is so much competing for people's attention that many feared for the future of county chess.

So the considerable efforts going into boosting county chess can only be applauded.

We should also mention the promising initiative demonstrated by Woodpushers in fielding a juniors team in division three of the Mid-Sussex League.

This, too, should be praised. Giving youngsters a taste of competitive league chess might just be the fillip needed for encouraging county participation in the future...

☐ My thanks to everyone who has contributed items for Sussex Chess News, as well as Keith Davies for proof-reading the pages.

Mick Plumb

Grading web site's a mine of info



Grading officer **JULIE DENNING** on a 'quiet' year

THERE'S nothing really of significance to report on grading this year.

The twice-yearly grading list for standard play as well as rapidplay is now well established.

The July, 2013, grading list appeared on the ECF website towards the end of the month.

The list is now much more informative than it has been in the past and all players are advised to check their personal entries and let me know of any errors or omissions they might spot.

A final reminder about ECF membership. This can be taken out any time up till the end of August and be back-dated to the previous September.

Consequently, if you haven't yet joined, are reading this before the end of August, 2013, and want to avoid a possibly hefty bill for game fees, then move quickly.

Adult bronze membership, which is all you need for club, league and county match play, will set you back just £13 for the year, or £12 if you join online.

If you also play in congresses or FIDE-rated events, then a higher level of membership is required. Full details are on the ECF website.

Julie Denning
Grading Officer



PAUL BATCHELOR reflects on how our clubs fared in this year's McArthur Cup campaign

THE McArthur Cup competition this season was contested by Hastings & St Leonard's, St Francis & Haywards Heath, Horsham and Brighton & Hove.

St Francis & Haywards Heath were to create something of an upset by defeating Hastings & St Leonard's 3.5-2.5. This included wins on the top three boards.

The St Francis & Haywards Heath winners in this match were Feliks Kwiatkowski, Robert Fitzgerald and Jeffrey Boardman.

Horsham were to host Brighton & Hove in the other semi-final. Brighton & Hove won this 4-2. So the final was to be contested by St Francis & Haywards Heath and Brighton & Hove.

On a sunny day, Brighton & Hove travelled to the St Francis & Haywards Heath home venue.

The outcome was to match the weather, from a Brighton & Hove point of view.

Brian Denman was white in a Tarrasch French Defence. I saw him win a pawn and then the queen of his opponent, Robert Fitzgerald. Brian duly won.

Luke Rutherford was black in a Scheveningen Sicilian versus Feliks Kwiatkowski.

His game looked very unclear. Feliks sacrificed a piece unsoundly and Luke managed to capitalise on this.

Thus Brighton & Hove were two up. Chris Lowe was white playing against Neil Fitzgerald in a Centre Counter game.

From an apparently equal middle-game, Chris was able to outplay his opponent and clinch a victory.

Brighton & Hove went three up. Geoffrey James was black in a Two Knights Defence game against Jeffrey Boardman. After a long struggle, he went on to win an exchange and convert the advantage.

Brighton show no mercy in final

Brighton & Hove were four up. John Henshaw was white in a Slav Opening versus Ross Rattray. This was the last game to finish decisively as John was to convert his advantage and take the win. Brighton & Hove became five up.

My game was a Sicilian 2 Na3 versus Martin Faulkner. This eventually petered out into a draw. The final score was 5.5-0.5 in favour of Brighton & Hove. Brighton & Hove retained the trophy.





Tournament controller PAUL BUSWELL rounds up the key moments from this season's events

Horsham winners after shaky start

PAUL WATSON TROPHY

Winner: Horsham

Quarter-finals: Battle & District T U3A 1/2 St Francis & Haywards Heath A 3 1/2; Horsham 2 Bognor & Arun 2 (Horsham won on bottom board elimination); Lewes 4 Bexhill 0; St Francis & Haywards Heath B 1 1/2 Hastings & St Leonards 2 1/2

Semi-finals: St Francis & Haywards Heath A 1 Horsham 3; Hastings & St Leonards 1 1/2 Lewes 2 1/2.

Final, May 7, 2013: Lewes 1 1/2 Horsham 2 1/2

- 1 B. Maufe (w) (169) v P. Harbott (168) 1/2-1/2
- 2 J. Pullan (152) v M. Harris (151) 1/2-1/2
- 3 R. Welford (137) v N. Warren (141) 1/2-1/2
- 4 M. Britnell (138) v R. Moorhouse (138) 0-1

Feliks outclasses the opposition

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Winner: Feliks Kwiatowski

THERE was a disappointing entry of only six players in this year's Sussex County Championship.

Preliminary round: Bernard Cafferty 1 Neil Tasker 0; Andy Briggs 1 Jerry Anstead 0

Semi-final: Andy Briggs 0 Bob Elliston 1; Feliks Kwiatkowski 1 Bernard Cafferty 0

Final (best of two games): Bob Elliston 0 Feliks Kwiatkowski 1; Feliks Kwiatkowski 1/2 Bob Elliston 1/2

Feliks is County Champion

McARTHUR CUP Winner: Brighton

Semi-finals:

Hastings & St Leonards 2 1/2 St Francis & Haywards Heath 3 1/2.
Horsham 2 Brighton & Hove 4

Final: St Francis & Haywards Heath 1/2 Brighton & Hove 5 1/2

- 1 F. J. Kwiatkowski v L.E. Rutherford 0-1
- 2 R. Fitzgerald v B.J. Denman 0-1

3 J. Boardman v G.H. James 0-1

4 Ross Rattray v J.C. Henshaw 0-1

5 M. Faulkner v P.A. Batchelor 1/2-1/2

6 N. Fitzgerald v C. Lowe 0-1

IT'S NO CONTEST

The Veterans, East Sussex Queen and West Sussex Queen were suspended due to lack of entries.

Sussex Chess competition entry form

ENTRIES are invited for the various competitions run by the county.

McArthur Cup

for teams of six. Open to all clubs in Sussex. The county's premier competition, played as a K.O. 3½ hour playing session (prior to final) should permit evening matches.

(entry fee £8 per team, or £10 for unaffiliated clubs).

The Paul Watson Trophy

for teams of 4, played as a K.O. Open to all clubs in Sussex. 3½ hour playing session should permit evening matches. Maximum average grade of <=150.

(entry fee £4 per team, or £6 for unaffiliated clubs).

County Championship

A K.O. competition with 'traditional' time controls permitting the leisure of adjournments rather than quick-play finishes. Open to players who live in Sussex or who are members of Sussex clubs

(entry fee £3.50)

All entries should be sent to the tournament controller, Dix Roberts, 6 Foxleigh Close, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4AX by Friday, September 27. Or e-mail: dix@foxleigh.globalnet.co.uk

Cheques payable to Sussex County Chess Association.

Please tick the appropriate boxes above and complete details below.



Name of club or of individual competitor:

Address of club captain or of individual competitor:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Phone number(s) and e-mail:

Magnificent seven aim for Knockout

THE Mid-Sussex League experienced another successful season with three clear winners in the divisions and a first-time winner in the Knockout.

The Knockout had seven teams competing for silverware, with Horsham and Lewes 2 being pushed out in the semi-finals and a fascinating final.

The Argumentatives faced Hastings & St Leonard's in the final and they adopted very different strategies for this critical game. Hastings & St Leonards chose to field a relatively weaker team, which meant that under the handicapping system The Argumentatives required four points to win. In the event, they managed to pick up the cup with a winning margin of $4\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$.

All three divisions were dominated by a single team, with Brighton 1, Worthing 2 and Worthing 3 winning their respective divisions. Brighton 1 won the first division for the second year running and Worthing 2 won division 2 with the highest margin of all three divisions, a clear lead of three points from Brighton & Hove 3 and East Grinstead.

Woodpushers 3 fielded a team of juniors in division 3 and this has been widely applauded as an excellent example for clubs to follow by providing a useful progression for the very successful county



IAN COMLEY reports on an eventful season in the Mid-Sussex League...and important changes in the pipeline

juniors. To reinforce this point, the trophy for the best overall performance in the league was shared between Zhou Ren Lim (Lewes) and Matthew Forster (Horsham 5), who both scored 7/7. Matthew is 10 years old and another graduate of the very successful Sussex Junior Chess programme.

The winners of the best performances in each division were: Mike Nicholas – best individual performance in division 1 (7.5/9 for Knoll Knights); Jim Graham – best individual performance in division 2 (7/9 for The Argumentatives); Graham Salmon – best individual performance in division 3 (8/10 for Crowborough 2).

Next season sees us return to four divisions after a period with three divisions and there were some amendments to the rules. Most notably, the away team will be granted white on odd boards, which will have the effect of balancing home advantage.

They adopted very different strategies for this critical game

What's your position on this board decision?



Adjudication secretary ROBERT ELLISTON reports on 10 positions, including a highly unusual one

THE panel members are Bernard Cafferty, James Mansson, Geoff James, Mike Nicholas, Gareth Anthony, Peter Kemp, Feliks Kwiatkowski, Dix Roberts, Luke Rutherford and Robert Elliston.

This year, there were 10 positions to consider. One position had all 32 pieces still on the board!

Each position is considered by three neutral panel members. This year, there were no appeals to the decisions.

Most claims were sent by email. All failed claim payments were made promptly .



DRAW TO A CLOSE... The 32-piece adjudication Andrew Briggs (Woodpushers) white v John Cannon (Horsham 3) black, which was adjudicated a draw



JOHN CANNON Googled "chess records" and discovered this position between Reinhard Nuber and Roland Keckeisen, the longest decisive game without captures.

He says, "43 b5 gives white a small advantage, but had white been awarded a win, it appears that this game would have easily broken the record for the longest decisive game without captures."

"According to Tim Krabbé, the record is held by the 31-move game between Nuber and Keckeisen, Mengen 1994, in which black resigned on move 31, when faced with mate in 2."



REVEALED: BRIAN DENMAN tells the worrying tale Sussex's vanishing history

Where are the county's missing archives?

JUST before Christmas last year, Mike Gunn of the ECF informed me that the Federation had lost the Sussex chess archives.

They had been looking after the archives since 2010, when Chris Ravilius had arranged for the historical items to be transferred to Battle, pending an eventual move to the National Chess Library at Hastings.

Unfortunately, the library has scaled down its activities and it decided that it did not want the archives.

Material in the archives goes back to 1879 and included are the minutes of the first-ever meeting of the Sussex Chess Association in 1882. Records of early county matches are contained in the collection, including the first-ever match played against Surrey in 1884.

The material has been built up over many years and the loss of the archives is a real blow to those who are interested in the history of chess in Sussex.

When I was notified of the loss of the archives, I was unhappy at the vague



AND THE REST IS HISTORY ... all is not yet lost for the Sussex archives

communication from the ECF and I felt that the organisation had not carried out a proper inquiry. I have been helped by Paul Buswell, Bob Elliston, Bernard Cafferty and Julie Denning in trying to find out what happened to the archives, but little progress has been made.

For about three months, the ECF virtually ignored my attempts to establish the truth of the matter, but in May, John Philpott started an investigation.

However, progress remains slow and we seem to be a long way from bringing the matter to a conclusion.



KEY MOVES ... deep concentration from the county's youngsters, including one of the youngest players, left



Stars of
future do
county
proud



BOARDWALK ... the presentation of the BCET award, above, and, right, Thomas, a member of the under-nines team, wearing his hard-earned blue SJC sweatshirt



CAROL GRAHAM on another incredible year for our youngsters

ANOTHER hectic year of junior chess draws to a close.

Our year started on a high when Neill Cooper, then ECF manager of secondary chess, visited our Worth tournament to present us with a British Chess Educational Trust (BCET) award for our contribution to junior chess. The award took the form of a rather splendid wooden chessboard and pieces which is in regular use as 'Board 1' at our events.

Looking back at last year's report, I note Sussex were holding four of the nine junior chess national titles available. This year, our haul is a slightly more modest three. However, this includes the much coveted 'jewel in the crown' of junior chess; the U11 title.

Worthy of special mention are our U11 girls, who exceeded all expectations by being placed third in their final with a very young team – no pressure next year, girls!

This year, a large number of our players have been selected to play for England. Three players travelled to the World Schools Championships in Greece with a delegation headed by SJC secretary John Higgs. A further six players went to Serbia, competing in the European Schools Tournament, and 10 players, including three girls, assisted South East England to victory in a home international against Wales.

No report would be complete without some statistics. We fielded our usual programme of nine training days, a 'grand prix' series of six tournaments, plus championship tournaments at U7, U8, U9, U11 and U13 age groups. Average attendances have been very pleasing, hovering around the 100 mark for all events, encouragingly including those held on the edges of the county at Crowborough, Hastings and Worthing.



Winning ways ... Sussex stars of the future, above, and Tanith, left, under-14 girls champion

I estimate a core group of 50 participants attended most events, supplemented by a floating population who dipped their toes in the water. Our training days and championships are 'closed', but we continue to welcome strong players from neighbouring counties to our grand prix tournaments.

Finally, more than 80 individuals aged between eight and 18 have had the opportunity to represent Sussex in national competitions this season.

We continue to run the all-age Weald Chess Congress in July each year (now with a British Championships qualifying place at stake) as a 'bridge' into the adult chess circuit for our most committed players. Thanks to Sussex club players who have supported your local congress and we hope to see you again this year.

Finally, thanks are due to our many volunteers without whom it would not be possible to run our programme of events and to the organisations who have supported us

Text continued on P14



*HOPING TO
TURN THE
TABLES ... Sussex
youngsters in keen
competition, above and
below*



*WINNING MOVES
... the prestigious
British Chess
Educational Trust
award*





THINKING TIME
... the girls section at
the Megafinal

COAST IS CLEAR
... a record 120
players aged 4-18
attended the final
tournament of the
season, at Worthing



*MOVERS AND SHAKERS ... looking
for the killer move*



financially this year, notably the Sussex Community Foundation (www.sussexgiving.org.uk/home/index.php) and SPARK (www.sparknetwork.org.uk/). Thanks also to the chess clubs in Sussex who are now welcoming and encouraging our juniors as they progress in their journey towards adult chess.



REPORTING: JULIE DENNING, SCCA delegate to SCCU and ECF

SINCE the last Southern Counties Chess Union's AGM, I have attended the following meetings as the county delegate: October 5, 2012, SCCU Executive Committee (London); October 13, 2012, ECF/BCF AGM (Birmingham); April 5, 2013, SCCU executive committee (London); April 13, 2013, ECF Finance Council (Birmingham) and July 6, 2013, SCCU annual meeting and executive committee (London).

I have provided reports on each of these meetings to county association officials and club contacts. This has been more a year of consolidation than change, with all the arguments over ECF direct membership now behind us and this system now bedding in.

However, with it being open to anyone to take out ECF membership at any time up until the end of August for the current 2012/13 season, it might not be until the autumn that any problems with the invoicing and collection of residual game fees from non-members become apparent.

In an essentially amateur activity like chess, it is always apparent just how dependent we are on volunteers prepared and able to take on the tasks to keep all the various competitions going.

At club level, availability of team captains and drivers to provide transport to inter-club away matches can be critical factors. The county has found it difficult to maintain entries in county matches, with our entries for the 2012/13 season reduced to just the Open and Under-180 levels.

However, we are hoping that we will be able to restore Under-160 and Under-140 teams for the 2013/14 season. At the Southern Counties Union, there are examples of individuals wearing more than one hat, but all essential posts are currently filled, although the current Junior Chess organiser would like to find a

Helpers are vital...and always needed

replacement to whom she can hand over the responsibility.

Even at the ECF level, serious problems exist in keeping all bases covered. They have a number of vacancies, including that of the post of CEO, which has remained vacant since the last incumbent stood down at the autumn, 2012, annual meeting. The message remains as always – if you feel able to assist at whatever level, please do so. In any event, I am hoping we will be able once again to field a wider range of county teams, which would certainly be welcomed by the SCCU.

One issue that has arisen concerns the Sussex Chess Archives that have gone astray while entrusted to the care of the ECF. Brian Denman discusses this in greater detail elsewhere in this edition of Sussex Chess News.

On a personal note, at the recent SCCU AGM I was elected to be deputy president. The normal practice is for a president to serve for two years and then to be succeeded by the deputy president for the following two years.

Team effort to boost county

AS many readers will know, the county managed to field only Open and Under-180 teams last season, unlike most other counties which have teams at all the lower bands, too.

We are hoping to captain a revived Under-160 team for 2013-14, but this is dependent on players letting me know as soon as the gradings are available (or earlier if they expect to be eligible!)

In addition, Roger Waddingham, from Horsham Chess Club, is aiming to restart an Under-140 team. He can be contacted on 07956 620769. If anybody wants to captain teams at Under-120 or Under-100, please contact the county president, Robert Elliston.

Paul Kington & Roger Waddingham



OPEN

THE 2012/13 season proved a case of “so near, so far” for the Sussex Open Team.

The SCCU in which the Sussex team compete is a strong section, with Middlesex and Surrey contesting the last two finals of the ECF County Championship.

Our first match of the season saw us defeat Surrey 10-6, where we were outgraded significantly by the Surrey team. We next travelled to Middlesex who fielded a very

We were
outgraded
...but not
outshone



strong team on the day (average grade 201)! This proved too much for us, and we lost 5-11, Mark Broom recording Sussex’s only win.

In the new year, our next match was against Kent. Sussex were outgraded on all 16 boards but the lower part of the team recorded a

number of quick wins, notably by Robert Elliston and John Cannon. We quickly reached seven points and with 30 minutes or so to go looked to have enough promising positions to win the match. Unfortunately, things began to slip and eventually we lost by the narrowest margin 7.5-8.5.

The long journey to Hertfordshire saw us record a 9-7 win. This set up the last match away to Essex, where a win in the match would have led to us finishing second in the SCCU.

Unfortunately, one Sussex player thought we were playing at home and despite a frantic chase around the M25 we had to default one



board. The remaining players scored 50% but the default proved costly and we lost the match. We hence slipped to fourth in the SCCU.

We subsequently entered the Minor Counties ECF competition. We were drawn away to Bedfordshire and suffered a narrow 7-9 defeat.

My thanks to all the players who played for the county this season, to Paul Batchelor for his assistance on match days and to Geoffrey James as custodian of the equipment.

Dix Roberts



UNDER-180

When the going gets tough...

OUR first Under 180 fixture was against what turned out to be a strong Surrey side. This we lost 4-12.

Tim Woods was the the sole winner for Sussex in this instance.

The second fixture took us to Wanstead House, the usual Essex county home venue. We improved slightly to lose 11.5-4.5. This time, I was the sole winner for this match. The new year saw us host Kent at Hassocks.

There was an improvement in our form as we were to produce five winners this time and tie the match 8-8. Winners for Sussex this day were Dix Roberts, Jeffrey Boardman, Morgan Blake, Paul Selby and myself.

On to our last fixture of the season. We travelled to Chiswick where we played Middlesex at a new venue. We were outplayed and unfortunately lost 11-5. We did have one winner, however, in Jeffrey Boardman.

During the season, we scored 21.5 game points and a half a match point. We finished the season in fifth position.

Paul Batchelor

27.10.12	SUSSEX		SURREY
1	Robert Fitzgerald 176	½ ½	Keith Richardson 176
2	Paul Taylor 176	0 1	Phil Stimpson 174
3	Paul Batchelor 175	0 1	Dan Staples 175
4	Robert Elliston 174	½ ½	Julien Shepley 178
5	Jeffrey Boardman 171	0 1	Neill Cooper 176
6	Chris Lowe 171	½ ½	Angus James 176
7	Bernard Cafferty 169	½ ½	Nick Grey 175
8	Morgan Blake 166	0 1	Christophe Roset e178
9	Anthony Higgs 164	0 1	Julian Way 175
10	Mel Young 162	0 1	Seb Galer 165
11	Martin Roe 157	0 1	Owen Phillips 166
12	Mick Reddie 153	½ ½	Paul Durrant 162
13	Paul Kington 150	0 1	Francis Fields 156
14	L John Cannon 148	0 1	Albert Yiamakis 157
15	Brian Izzard 145	½ ½	Chris Clegg 160
16	Tim Woods 141	1 0	Ian Deswarte 153
Hassocks		4-12	

15.12.12	ESSEX		SUSSEX
1	Philip Gregory 179	½ ½	Paul Taylor 176
2	Ian Reynolds 177	0 1	Paul Batchelor 175
3	Terry Whitton 176	½ ½	David Roberts 173
4	David Millward 170	½ ½	Jeffrey Boardman 171
5	Ivor Smith 170	½ ½	Anthony Higgs 164
6	David Pearse 165	1 0	Tim Spanton 156
7	Reagan Pinto 165	½ ½	Mick Reddie 153
8	Neville Twitchell 165	½ ½	L John Cannon 148
9	Jim Howson 164	1 0	Brian Izzard 145
10	Peter Doye 161	1 0	Tim Woods 141
11	Steven Rix 160	1 0	Robert Lanzer 139
12	Syd Kalinsky 169	½ ½	David Curtis 122
13	Gavin Strachan 160	1 0	def
14	David Brock 155	1 0	def
15	John Philpott 158	1 0	def
16	Malcolm Kingsley 156	1 0	def
Wanstead		11½ 4½	

26.1.13	SUSSEX		KENT
1	Paul Batchelor 180	1 0	Rohan Shiatis 176
2	Anthony Higgs 179	½ ½	J Stuart Williams 176
3	Robert Elliston 177	0 1	Trefor Owens 171
4	Paul Taylor 176	½ ½	David Tucker 169
5	Chris Lowe 176	½ ½	Bob Everson 165
6	David N Roberts 170	1 0	Conrad Allison 165
7	Jeffrey Boardman 166	1 0	Alan Atkinson 165
8	Mel Young 163	0 1	Sid Jacob 164
9	Martin Roe 163	0 1	Jerry Anstead 162
10	Alan Palmer 161	½ ½	Yasmin Giles 164
11	Morgan Blake 161	1 0	Andy Waters 161
12	L John Cannon 153	½ ½	Paul Rutland 161
13	Mick Reddie 152	0 1	David Clear 161
14	Paul Kington 143	½ ½	Bob Lane 159
15	Paul Selby 142	1 0	Peter Childs 156
16	Tim Woods 140	0 1	Andy Heard 153
Hassocks		8-8	

2.3.13	MIDDLESEX		SUSSEX
1	D Ian Calvert 179	½ ½	Paul Batchelor 175
2	Martin Crichton 173	½ ½	Robert Fitzgerald 176
3	Trevor Dunmore 171	1 0	Paul Taylor 176
4	Jonathan White 170	½ ½	David Roberts 173
5	Christopher Kreuzer 170	0 1	Jeffrey Boardman 171
6	Kayode Disu 170	½ ½	Alan Palmer 166
7	David White 166	½ ½	Michael Reddie 153
8	Dominic Northcliffe-Brown	½ ½	L John Cannon 148
9	John Tobisch 167	½ ½	Paul Kington 150
10	Jonathan Kay 166	1 0	Paul Selby 149
11	Simon Wilks 162	½ ½	Timothy Woods 141
12	William Phillips 161	1 0	def
13	Robert Kane 157	1 0	Neil Fitzgerald 123
14	Paul Kennelly 156	1 0	David Curtis 122
15	Andrew McGuinness 164	1 0	def
16	Michael Price 152	1 0	def
Gunnersbury		11-5	

6.10.12	SUSSEX		SURREY
1	Luke Rutherford 213	1 0	Roger Emerson 218
2	Feliks Kwiatkowski 204	½ ½	Stephen Berry 223
3	James Mansson 196	1 0	Marcus Osborne 202
4	Geoffrey James 189	0 1	Russell Granat 209
5	Peter Farr 188	½ ½	Ian Sharpe 193
6	Adrian Pickersgill 187	½ ½	Graham Keane 191
7	Jaimie Wilson 185	½ ½	Alan Punnett 191
8	Martin Costley 184	1 0	Geoff Marchant 190
9	Paul Taylor 176	0 1	Stephen Jones 175
10	Brian Donnelly 176	½ ½	Julian Way 175
11	Paul Batchelor 175	1 0	Angus James 176
12	Robert Elliston 174	½ ½	Daniel Staples 176
13	David Roberts 173	½ ½	Keith Richardson 176
14	Jeffrey Boardman 171	1 0	Simon Wrigley 165
15	Tim Spanton 156	1 0	Paul G Jackson 163
16	L John Cannon 148	½ ½	Francis Fields 159
Hassocks		10-6	

17.11.12	MIDDLESEX		SUSSEX
1	Richard Bates 222	½ ½	Luke Rutherford 213
2	Jochem Snuverink 213	1 0	Feliks Kwiatkowski 204
3	Robert Eames 211	½ ½	Gareth Anthony 201
4	Colin Crouch 216	½ ½	James Mansson 196
5	David Okike 212	0 1	Mark Broom 194
6	Richard McMichael 204	½ ½	Geoffrey James 189
7	Andrew Stone 200	1 0	Peter Farr 188
8	Zehra Topel 2170	1 0	Matthew Payne 188
9	Simon Spivack 197	1 0	Adrian Pickersgill 187
10	Philip Makepeace 192	1 0	Jaimie Wilson 185
11	Carsten Pedersen 192	½ ½	Martin Costley 184
12	Thomas Villiers 194	½ ½	Brian Donnelly 176
13	Paul McKeown 193	½ ½	Paul Taylor 176
14	Colin Mackenzie 192	½ ½	Paul Batchelor 175
15	Mark Lyell 190	1 0	David Roberts 173
16	Mateusz Dydak 185	1 0	Jeffrey Boardman 171
Gunnersbury		11-5	

16.2.13	SUSSEX		KENT
1	Feliks Kwiatkowski 203	0 * 1	Neil McDonald 224 (W)
2	Gareth Anthony 203	0 1	Martin Taylor 219
3	Mark Broom 198	0 1	Andrew Mayhew 215
4	James Mansson 192	½ ½	Ian Snape 213
5	Peter Farr 191	½ ½	Tony Stebbings 209
6	Jaimie Wilson 189	0 1	Alan Hanreck 203
7	Geoffrey James 188	0 1	Paul Talsma 189
8	Martin Costley 182	½ ½	John Sugden 191
9	Brian Donnelly 181	½ ½	Ben Spink 190
10	Paul Batchelor 180	0 1	Conor Murphy 191
11	Anthony Higgs 169	1 0	Rohan Shiatis 184
12	Robert Elliston 177	1 0	James Scholes 184
13	Paul Taylor 176	1 0	J Stuart Williams 179
14	Adrian Pickersgill 175	½ ½	David Shire 178
15	David Roberts 170	1 0	David Tucker 176
16	L John Cannon 148	1 0	David Barnes 163
Horsham		7½-8½	

9.3.13	HERTS		SUSSEX
1	V Thiruchirapalli 218	1 0	Feliks Kwiatkowski 203
2	M Boyce 192	0 1	Mark Broom 198
3	P Byway 187	½ ½	James Mansson 192
4	S Law 185	1 0	Peter Farr 191
5	A Tinker 179	0 1	Jaimie Wilson 189
6	M Fletcher 178	0 1	Martin Costley 182
7	P Rice 177	½ ½	Brian Donnelly 181
8	B Morris 176	0 1	Paul Batchelor 180
9	T Savanhu 173	1 0	Paul Taylor 176
10	T Thurstan 161	1 0	Adrian Pickersgill 175
11	C Majer 173	½ ½	Matthew Payne 172
12	G Havard 165	0 1	David Roberts 170
13	P Kenning 161	0 1	Jeffrey Boardman 166
14	S Leadbetter 151	½ ½	Alan Palmer 161
15	I Mutton 148	½ ½	L John Cannon 153
16	M Price 142	½ ½	Tim Woods 140
Harpenden		7-9	

16.3.13	ESSEX		SUSSEX
1	Neil Carr 216	1 0	Luke Rutherford 210
2	David Sands 205	½ ½	Feliks Kwiatkowski 203
3	John Hodgson 191	½ ½	Mark Broom 198
4	Jeff Goldberg 194	1 0	James Mansson 192
5	Tim Hebbes 192	1 0	Jaimie Wilson 189
6	David Spearman 186	½ ½	Geoffrey James 188
7	Ian Hunnable 182	½ ½	Richard Almond 184
8	Kevin White 177	½ ½	Martin Costley 182
9	Adam Taylor 187	1 0	Brian Donnelly 181
10	Larry Marden 174	½ ½	Paul Batchelor 180
11	Philip Gregory 161	½ ½	Anthony Higgs 179
12	Jim Howson 171	0 1	Paul Taylor 176
13	David Millward 164	0 1	David Roberts 170
14	Colin Ramage 172	1 0	def
15	Chris Hampton 163	0 1	Adrian Pickersgill 175
16	Syd Kalinsky 155	0 1	Alan Palmer 161
Wanstead		8½-7½	

MINOR COUNTIES

18.5.13	BEDS	Quarter-Final	SUSSEX
1	Dave Ledger 209	1 0	Feliks Kwiatkowski 204
2	Chris Ross 196	1 0	James Mansson 196
3	Stephen Ledger 196	½ ½	Jaimie Wilson 185
4	Charles Tippleston 186	0 1	Martin Costley 184
5	Graham Borrowdale 184	1 0	Paul Batchelor 175
6	John Sharp 183	0 1	Anthony Higgs 164
7	Richard Freeman 181	½ ½	Paul Taylor 176
8	Alan Brown 179	½ ½	Adrian Pickersgill 187
9	Branko Pribanich 172	1 0	David Roberts 173
10	Adrian Elwin 172	0 1	Jeffrey Boardman 171
11	Paul Kendall 172	0 1	Alan Palmer 166
12	David Martinez-Villena	1 0	Michael Reddie 153
13	Adrian Matthews 162	½ ½	L John Cannon 148
14	Peter Taylor 154	0 1	Timothy Woods 141
15	Peter Rawcliffe 146	1 0	Julie Denning 121
16	Colin Solloway 124	1 0	def
Milton Keynes		9-7	

THE ARGUMENTATIVES

Knockout blow was highlight

ONCE again, the Args had a disappointing season in division 2 of the Mid-Sussex League, finishing seventh, with 4.5 from 10 matches.

With Bob Huston's virtual retirement, we now have only six players and were forced to default a couple of games owing to illness. As usual, we lost the toss regularly, so had to play yet again with a majority of blacks.

However, we shocked everybody, especially ourselves, by sensationally winning the Knockout Tournament.

Of course, the handicapping system was vital for the Args to defeat strong teams like

Lewes and Horsham. In the final, we beat Hastings 4.5 to 0.5 points after winning the toss for a change and also with home advantage.

They made the mistake of sending a talented but very young side and the match was over soon after 9pm, so we could celebrate a rare and unexpected underdog trophy!

Individual scores merging MSL and KO matches were: Peter Farr 9/13; Jim Graham 9/12; Paul Kington 7/13; Dennis Collard 4/12; Mike Garson 4/10; Mike Card 0.5/3.

Paul Kington

BEXHILL

Membership's on the up

THE membership of the club continues to expand, with 26 at the last count.

For some reason, of late, most interest in joining seems to have been shown by women, and the proportion of female members must compare favourably with most clubs in the county. There are also seven junior members.

Meeting two afternoons a week instead of the previous one (on Saturday afternoons as well as on Tuesdays), with an average attendance of about 10, has improved the overall playing strength considerably, especially of those who a few years ago were raw beginners.

This was demonstrated in December when the club defeated Hastings & St Leonards fairly convincingly (not for the first time) in a friendly match to become the first winners of the new Challenge Trophy.

The next match in the usually bi-annual series will take place on Saturday, August 10, at the club's venue in the BUPA Grosvenor Park Nursing & Residential Home, 26 Brookfield Road. It may be a closer contest this time, but the Bexhill team are confident.

For the first time in recent memory, the club entered a team in the Paul Watson Knockout Tournament, but their inexperience in match play showed in a 4-0 defeat in the first round, away to Lewes, although the board 1, John Kimber, with a 60-point grading disadvantage, gave his opponent a fright, being only a pawn down at the end and looking for a while as though he might beat him on time.

On September 21, Francis Rayner, the current Hastings & St Leonards champion, will be giving another simultaneous exhibition and may be in for a surprise, as Bexhill have at least one secret weapon.

Above all, Bexhill is a friendly club and everyone is prepared to play everyone else, one reason, it would seem, for the improvement in average playing strength.

In the club's Rapidplay match against Hastings & St Leonards, the score was 19.5-12.5 to Bexhill. Four of the Finn family (Jonathan, Thomas, Daniel and Elizabeth) together scored 12/14.

Joe Sharp

BOGNOR

It's the Wilson show again

CHESS seasons at Bognor are fast becoming known as the Jaimie Wilson Show.

Jaimie has finished this season as club champion of both the Bognor and Chichester clubs, Chichester being linked with Bognor in the Portsmouth Chess League.

A unique event. Jaimie also won the Knock-out Cup, is the holder of the Rapidplay Cup and if the event gets completed for this season one would bet on him to win that as well. Last year's Summer Cup did see Mike Spence emerge the winner and so break into the Wilson monopoly. Well done.

As to other happenings the combined Bognor/Chichester teams finished a creditable 2nd in division 1 of the Portsmouth Chess League, last in division 2 but top of division 3, bringing about an interesting promotion/relegation scenario for next season.

Bognor's first ever participation in the Mid-Sussex Paul Watson Trophy resulted in our enjoyment exceeding our success, the club losing at an early stage to eventual winners Horsham on tie break. Better luck next year perhaps.

Alas, this season is set to be the the last for Keith Davies as our tournament controller. Keith has done a great job for many years and the club is hugely indebted to him for his tireless efforts. Now he can concentrate on his chess, he thinks!

The club's membership continues at a healthy level in our chandelier-lit clubroom, with secretary Donald Close always ready to welcome new members on 01243 267037. The club welcomes all standards and meets all year round, every Friday, starting 7pm.

William Partridge

BRIGHTON & HOVE

French polish edges it

OUR year began in September, 2012, when it was our turn to host the annual Brighton & Hove-Dieppe match.

They won 8-7. There was a meal afterwards, with home players contributing the dishes. Club president Sue Chadwick presented our French visitors with a Garde chess clock as a parting gift.

Hopefully, their return crossing from Newhaven was smoother than ours from Dieppe the year before.

In the Mid-Sussex League, we had six teams. Our 1st team topped division 1 for the second season, and took the McArthur Cup for the fifth consecutive year, with a 5.5-0.5 win against St Francis & Haywards Heath in the final.

The 1st team welcomed the arrival of a substantial contributor to its Mid Sussex success - Ezra Kirk (16), who made an IM norm with a 23-move win in the 4 Nations Chess League v GM Keith Arkell.

In May, Ezra gave a blindfold simul at the club, taking on five opponents and then three more, winning seven and losing just one, to Anthony Stanton.

Ezra followed this up by winning the Club Championship with 5/5.

Robin Jones was the top individual player in Mid Sussex division 2, with 11/14 but missed out on a tankard because his games were split between our 3rd and 4th teams.

Another of our younger members, Callum Brewer, is in the England junior squad and

played in the World Schools Championship in Greece during May.

Geoff James was selected for England in the European Senior Team Championships in Dresden (July).

At the long-established Hastings International Congress (December/January) Duncan Badham was clear 1st (4.5/5) in the Weekend Minor, and Anthony Stanton was clear 1st (4.5/5) in the New Year Afternoon 'C' Tournament.

In the July e2e4 Sunningdale Congress (U2000 section), Mustapha Othman was joint 1st.

In May, a group of us visited a nearby former casino for the opening night of a new games club. Expecting to watch GM Raymond Keene give a simul, we found we could sign up to play. Sue Chadwick and Michael Cain were offered (and took) draws, but for the rest of us it was, as they say, a 'learning experience' in a Las Vegas-style setting.

Along with the club website, we have an internet presence on Chess.com where matches against Hastings & St Leonard's and



FRENCH CONNECTION...action from Brighton's 15-board home match v Dieppe

Uckfield are in progress. Could this be the future for the Mid-Sussex League ?

The club currently has 53 members. A street chess event similar to the two last summer was set for Saturday, August 10, opposite the Theatre Royal, Brighton, for those looking to find out more or join. Also, we are hoping to secure a stall at the Brunswick Festival in Brighton on Saturday, August 17.

Rob Counsell, secretary

CHICHESTER

Chess at a superb venue

CHICHESTER Chess Club has settled into its new venue very successfully, having now been at the excellent facilities at the Fishbourne Centre, Blackboy Lane, Fishbourne, for exactly one year. We meet at the Fishbourne Centre on Monday evenings, from 7pm.

The centre itself has a great many activities on offer which are set out on their very informative website:

www.fishbournecentre.org.uk

The chess club also has a website giving up to date league results and results from our internal club competitions:

www.chichesterchessclub.co.uk

We once again combined with Bognor & Arun Chess Club, entering a team in each of the three divisions of the Portsmouth League. The A team finished as very creditable runners-up in a competitive first division. The B team met with rather less success, finishing bottom of the second division.

However, the C team made up for this by finishing top of the third division. We again reached the final of the Cole Cup, this time going down 3-2 to a strong Emsworth A team.

The Club Championship was won, for the second time, by Jaimie Wilson, with a brilliant score of 11½ out of 12. He also won the Bognor championship. Ed Farrington gained

the runner-up spot, with 9 from 14. Ian Richardson came out on top in play-off against Mick Plumb for the Under 130 Championship when they both finished with a score of 7 from 8.

The very popular Handicap Competition, for the Peter Rayment Trophy, was won by Mick Plumb, with Keith Davies as runner-up.

We are looking forward to our very successful association with Bognor & Arun continuing in the Portsmouth League.

We also hope our stay at our excellent venue at The Fishbourne Centre proves to be a long and enjoyable one.

Philip Wake, Club Secretary



CLUB CHAMPION...Jaimie Wilson

CROWBOROUGH

Salmon nets 'best' tankard

CROWBOROUGH 1 finished their Mid-Sussex League division 1 campaign in the lower half of the table, which was an improvement on the first few months of the season, which saw them flirt with relegation.

They achieved three victories and surprisingly, these were obtained by the slenderest winning margin, 3-2.

In division 3, captain Caroline Campion saw her Crowborough II team riding high, ending the season with only the champions, Worthing III and St Francis II, in front of them, the latter claiming the runners-up position by virtue of more game points.

A chief factor in the second team's season was the brilliant play of Graham Salmon, who scored eight points from 10 games which enabled him to win the best match average tankard for the division.

Also worthy of note was the impressive form of 10-year-old Amadip Ahluwalia, who notched up three wins from three outings.

Results were as follows:

Kenwright Trophy: 1 Don Grant; 2 Chris Dunn and Michael Redman; 4 Amadip Ahluwalia. Simon Deere Cup: 1 Don Grant; 2 Amadip Ahluwalia; 3 Chris Dunn and Michael Redman.

Richard Chamier Trophy: 1 Chris Dunn (50.5); 2 Amadip Ahluwalia (49.5); 3 David Fryer (48.5). Friends Cup (Top Junior): 1 Amadip Ahluwalia (49); 2 Matthew Pannett (29); 3 Luke Pannett (20).

Rapidplay: 1 Amadip Ahluwalia (7); 2 Michael Redman (5); 3 Matthew Pannett (3) and Luke Pannett (3). Autumn Lightning: 1 Peter Kemp (5); 2 Robert Elliston (4); 3 Joshua Higgs (3.5) and Jonathan Lawrance (3.5). Spring Lightning: 1 Jonathan Lawrance (5); 2 Gary McCulloch (3.5) and Michael Redman (3.5). Top junior: Amadip Ahluwalia.

Don Grant

EAST GRINSTEAD

We're up for the challenge!

WE are only a small club of 18 members, however, we attract a reasonable turnout when we meet every Tuesday at The Age Concern building in East Grinstead.

Our venue is quiet and well lit, with tea, coffee and biscuits always available.

The challenge this year was to see how many members would sign up for ECF registration so that we could decide how many teams we could field in the Mid-Sussex League.

I am pleased to report that more than 60 per cent have joined, which has meant we have been able to field two teams.

Not a great number to some clubs but throughout the season we have managed to field full teams, both home and away.

We have also managed to attract two under-16 players which has reduced the average age of club members dramatically and we hope they will stay on for the 2013 season.

It is true we struggle to attract new members, however, I thank all my fellow chess players at East Grinstead for being a jolly bunch who enjoy their chess evenings.

**Bob Dyke,
chairman**

HASTINGS

How we embraced the internet

IN February of this year, Hastings & St Leonards Chess Club created a group on chess.com the popular online chess website and set about an ambitious plan to embrace this medium fully to create a 21st century chess club.

Our main goals were/are:

- Ultimately to increase the number of members at the club, from a variety of backgrounds and age groups. A broad demographic of ages/skills/experiences is essential for the healthy future of the club, with the younger generations more at home with new technology, it is essential we embrace technology to attract them to the club.

- For existing members to play each other online as well as in the club to help promote cohesion and social interaction, bringing all members together where possible. This is especially important for our more remote/restricted members who cannot always attend the club.

- For us to have online matches against other clubs (and depending on size counties/federations/groups). The PR the club could generate in the local press by taking on New York, for example, would raise our profile somewhat.

- The club to have a diamond membership on chess.com so members can access all the videos and training material directly from the club's computer, thus providing additional benefits to becoming a member of the club.

- To have small online welcoming tournaments in honour of new members where the new member can play and get to know existing members quickly.

So how did this work out for us? Well, we've managed to get 30 members, locals and friends

join us on chess.com. We've challenged and taken on other clubs in team matches, Brighton & Uckfield (disappointed there are



not more Sussex teams on chess.com), we've taken on the entire county of Devon and even played the Channel Islands. Towards the end of the year, we will be looking forward to participating in the chess.com World Cities League and Cities World Cup, playing the likes of Athens, Cairo, Zagreb, Paris etc.

Social interaction and cohesion at the club has also increased as members discuss games played online when meeting up at the club, and members meeting new members they might not have met otherwise.

Initially, we wanted to restrict the group to fully paid-up members only, but found that by including locals and friends of the club we have a richer experience, so would suggest other clubs interested in setting up an online group to do the same. And while you're at it, why not challenge us to a match!

Mason Woodhams

Sad news devastated club

THIS season has been overshadowed by the sad death of Richard Almond, which is reported elsewhere. Clubs quietly depend on such stalwarts.

Our playing season has been one of only modest team success, with no league titles or cups coming our way.

At an individual level, Francis Rayner won the Club Championship with an unbeaten 8/11, ahead of Bernard Cafferty, 7½, and Rasa Norinkeviciute, 6½.

The second division Pelton Cup was won by Ollie Willson, unbeaten with 9/11, ahead of Conrado Quintos, 8½, and Jim Wheeler, 7½.

The third division Rush Cup was a clean sweep for debutant teen Daniel Lowe 9/9, with another new member, Keith Hossack, on 7, with Alfred Mikurenda on 6.

And although it seems a long time ago, perhaps one should record that last summer

(2012) the summer winners were: Anslow Cup, Alfredo Luaces; Bradley-Martin Cup, Anna Pontonutti; Winsor Cup KO, Mel Young; Dent Cup Plate KO, George Jelliss; Whyte Cup rapidplay, Paul Kelly; Rider Trophy rapid play, Alan Ticehurst.

And the first instalment of a new ladder tournament was won by Roy Webb.

As for many clubs, our problems remain those of volunteers and of transport.

For the most part it's the same people doing the work, to whom we are most grateful, but it would be good to spread it more thinly perhaps.

While transport to away matches is a continued problem - we have the players to sustain more teams, but not the drivers.

☐ Obit - Pages 32-33

Paul Buswell

HORSHAM

Competing at all levels

HORSHAM had another busy year, with a heady mix of Mid-Sussex League Chess, Sussex county matches and internal club competitions.

In total, we managed 305 inter-club games, scoring a respectable 52 per cent, and even managed to pick up some silverware!

With five teams in the Mid-Sussex League, we always start the season with a couple of Horsham team clashes, and these both led to upsets, when Horsham 1 drew with Horsham 2 in division 1 and Horsham 5 beat Horsham 4, showing no respect for the higher team in division 3. Our Knockout team beat Crowborough and Woodpushers 1, before losing to the eventual winners, The Argumentatives, in the semi-final.

Horsham 1 regretted dropping that half-point in the very first week, as with it they would have finished in clear second place. As it was, they tied with three other teams for equal second on match points, but ended fourth on game points. Horsham 2, also in division 1, put up a credible performance and would have avoided relegation in normal circumstances (the divisions are being reshaped from three to four divisions next season).

Horsham 3 always looked strong in division 2, but could never match the winning Worthing team. At the end of the final date of the season, they looked set to finish in second place, since one lower team had been unable to attend on two occasions. Horsham agreed to waive the rules which require matches to be played before a given date, and regretted it when they lost fair and square and dropped to fourth place!

In division 3, Horsham 5 followed up their win against Horsham 4 by completing the season ahead of Horsham 4. Horsham 5 were greatly aided by Matthew Forster, aged 10, who managed 7/7, sharing the overall MSL

Tankard. He is clearly a junior to watch and he joined fellow junior Amy Hoare in representing England Juniors in Serbia, and also achieved an impressive 5/5 to win the Southern Gigafinal in Reading, gaining the title “Ultimo”, as under-11 boys champion.

Nine Horsham players played a total of 49 county games, scoring 24 points – a good



MATT'S THE WAY TO DO IT ... Horsham Junior Club's current junior champion Matt Forster won the British under-11 Rapidplay in Leeds with 5/5

percentage when compared to the two wins and a draw scored by Sussex in the ten matches involved! In the McArthur Cup, Horsham was, for the second successive year, paired against Brighton, and again came off worse.

We were, though, also pleased to participate in the Paul Watson Cup, since so many of us to continue to remember the great contribution Paul made to Sussex chess over so many years. Wins over Bognor and St Francis & Haywards Heath were followed by victory over Lewes in the final. We would greatly

ALL SMILES... Horsham Junior Chess Club members Matthew Forster and Oliver Thorne, part of the winning Sussex team at the English Primary Schools' Chess Association Under-11 finals in Nottingham. Here, they are posing with the chessboard trophy and coach Mike Forster.



encourage more teams to compete in this excellent competition.

Horsham's busy season of internal competitions comprised three all-play-alls, an Open Knockout and Plate, a Quickplay Knockout and Plate, a Lightning tournament (10 seconds per move) and a new Invitational tournament (25 minutes per game).

The all-play-alls were won, in order of strength, by Anthony Higgs (Club Championship), Melusi Nkomo (The Bishop) and Paul Richardson (The Knight). These three players all enjoyed very strong seasons, with Anthony expected to significantly increase his grading, and it was particularly good to see a newcomer win the bottom division.

Meanwhile, Mike Forster won the Knockout Cup, while Paul Taylor won the Plate. Mike Forster also won the Quickplay KO, while Paul Taylor won both the Quickplay Plate and the Lightning competition. Nick Warren finished ahead of seven other players, to win

the new end of season Invitational competition. Finally, Matthew Forster (10) won the cup for best performance representing Horsham, and retained the Peter Alford Cup as Horsham Junior Champion, with a score of 10/10. **Ian Comley**

WOODPUSHERS

Youngsters leading the way

IT was a poor season for Woodpushers grown-ups - last and third from last in division two of the Mid-Sussex League.

We will look forward to our new adventures next year in a new division. Andrew Briggs is the East Sussex Queen, a title that he may hope to defend this year.

Woodpushers III, although coming plumb last in the bottom division, attracted much

favourable comment from their opposition as they were almost always out-aged by one of their opposing team members.

We tried to play a full team of 10 and 11-year-olds all season, and although we did not quite do well enough to win a match, we did give a few teams a scare.

Julian Mitchell

WORTHING



TAKING THEM ALL ON ... Chris Jones in a club simul at Worthing

What a fantastic year!

FOR Worthing, it was without doubt our best season to date.

Fielding four teams in the Mid-Sussex League for the first time, we won divisions 2 and 3.

The 4th team had a great start, with many players taking the opportunity to experience league chess for the first time.

The 1st team, having drawn with Brighton 1, pushed hard for that third success but fell short, losing our last two matches (thanks to my two losses)!

Even so, we were runners-up, a great achievement under Dave Graham's captaincy.

With players leaving for university and several moving away, we cannot really expect such success for a while. However, the junior



PACKED... a busy club night at Worthing

club run by Dave Graham is going from strength to strength, so the club continues to progress. **Chris Jones, club secretary**

Hastings loses one of its greats

Richard J. Almond, Winner of the Hastings Chess Club championship in 1991 and joint champion in 1993, 2010 and 2012.

BORN on January 4, 1967, Richard Almond was one of a group of young chess players who went to Grove Secondary School in Hastings.

Three went on to become club champion, the others being Mark Rich (champion 1990) and Stuart Conquest, who achieved the Grandmaster title.

Richard quickly progressed to serious play in the club, becoming a strong county player who twice played in the British Championship as well as occasionally taking the scalps of titled international players during his extensive tournament play.

Mark Rich wrote: “Over the years, we must have played literally hundreds of games (mainly blitz but a few “over the board” matches) together. He was very tough to beat and resilient. Richard was always a fan of the Queen’s Gambit Declined (as black) and initially the Caro-Kann against 1 e4. Later on, he played the Scandinavian Defence against 1 e4. As white he always played 1 d4.”

As well as competitive success, he also put his skills into chess administration and into



Richard was a quiet, unassuming person who loved playing chess

supporting the game he loved. He had been captain of Hastings and St Leonards Chess Club’s title-winning Mid-Sussex League team, match secretary of the Sussex first team, chess club treasurer, and a trustee of the charitable Junior Fund.

Mark added: “Richard was a quiet, unassuming person who loved playing chess and also the social side that this brought to his life. He enjoyed sport and was a fan of Liverpool FC. In his younger years, he was a good runner and also cycled a lot. He lived with his mother until a couple or so years ago when she sadly passed away. He was an only child so lived alone after her death.”

Richard's sudden death at the age of only 46, completely unexpected by any of his club colleagues, was a shock. As a member of the e2e4 team that played in the National League (4NCL) event, it was on his way to this event, while on a train-replacement bus service at St Leonards Warrior Square station, on a very cold day, Saturday, March 23, 2013, that he was taken ill.

The messages of appreciation following his death emphasised his courtesy and gentlemanly approach to the game and a readiness to help

other members, and his stalwart devotion to the club.

Mark , who was asked to give an address noted: "It was very touching to see so many people attend his funeral in Hastings with so many of them coming from all over Sussex to attend." A wake was held later that day at the club premises, Pelton House, where no doubt a few games of chess were also played.

Reproduced courtesy of Hastings & St Leonards Chess Club website

Richard excelled at positional play

I PLAYED Richard Almond fourteen times between 1991 and 2001, *writes John Dodgson.*

All the games were hard fought; score from Richard's point of view: P14 +6 =5 -3. He was a very determined and resourceful player; in at least two games I was clearly winning but went on to lose!

In the following correspondence game, Richard's careful positional style brings home the point. Neither player is using an analysis engine.

Almond, Richard J - Dean, Stuart [E94 King's Indian Defence]

C&DCCC Ward-Higgs, 2008, Board N8 Sussex vs Hants

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 0-0 6.Be2 c6 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Qc2 Qc7 9.Rd1 e5 10.Rb1 a5 11.b3 There are less than a dozen games with this position in my database. For what it is worth, White scored very well: +7 =2 -2. 11...Re8 12.a3 exd4 13.Nxd4 Nc5 14.f3 Qe7 A 'theoretical novelty'. [One of Black's few wins in this variation went 14...Nh5 15.g4 Nf6 16.b4 axb4 17.axb4 Ne6 18.Nxe6 Bxe6 19.Bf4 Qb6+ 20.Kg2 Ra3 21.Rb3 Rxb3 22.Qxb3 d5 so far as in Pedersen, S (2415)-Mortensen,E (2445)/Denmark 1997/0-

1(33). Here Houdini1.5a recommends 23.e5!? Nd7 24.cxd5 cxd5 25.Nxd5 Bxe5 26.Bc4 Qd8 27.Qe3 claiming a slight plus for White. To my mind, the unanswered question: is it worth a tempo (14...Nf6-h5-f6) to induce g2-g4? 15.Bg5 Ne6 16.Nxe6 Bxe6 17.Qd2 Red8 18.Qe3 Rd7 19.c5 Qf8 20.Na4 dxc5 21.Nxc5 Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 White is very comfortable here. 22...Bc8 Black has difficulties if he tries other defences of his weak b7-pawn: [22...Qe7 23.e5 eg 23...Nd5 24.Rxd5!+-; 22...Qb8 23.Nxe6 fxe6 24.Bc4±; 22...Rb8 23.Nxe6 fxe6 24.Qa7±] 23.Qc1 h6 24.Be3 Kh7 25.Qd2 b6?! A serious weakening of his queenside. 26.Na4± Nd7 [26...b5 27.Nc5±; 26...Qxa3 27.Nxb6 Rb8 28.Nxc8 Rxc8 29.Bc4±] 27.Qc1 c5 [27...Rb8 drops a pawn to 28.Qxc6 but may have been a better try. The Engines think "White has a clear advantage" here, though this may under-estimate Black's difficulties.] 28.Nxb6! A little combination which nets a couple of pawns. 28...Nxb6 29.Bxc5 The black knight cannot be saved. 29...Qh8 30.Bxb6 Be6 31.Qe3 Bc3 32.Bc4 Qf6 33.Bd4 Bxd4 34.Qxd4 Black resigned.

Notes by John Dodgson

Adrian Pickersgill (2019) - Nicholas Mahoney (1815) [B23]
62nd Ron Bruce Premier Paignton (6), 07.09.2012

This game was played in the Premier at Paignton in 2012. Both players made mistakes, but an interesting piece sacrifice by white gave the game interest.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.0-0 a6 7.Bc4 e6 8.d3 b5 9.Bb3 Ne7 10.Nxd4 The idea of this is to make d4 a target if black recaptures with a pawn.

10...cxd4 11.Ne2 0-0 12.Qe1 Nc6 13.Qf2 This threatens either an e pawn advance with an attack on the d pawn or f5 with an opening of the f file.

13...Rb8 It is not clear what the immediate threat is behind this move. Better was d6 allowing a defence on the f5 square.

14.f5 exf5 15.exf5 d5 16.f6 White has secured a pawn on f6 forcing the bishop to h8 and therefore out of the game. The second threat on the d pawn is also ominous.

16...Bh8 17.Nxd4 Nxd4 18.Qxd4 Be6 19.Be3 Rb7 20.Qh4 Rd7 21.Bd4 Re8 22.Rae1 The computer gives Bg7 as black's best move extricating the piece from its trap.

22...Rd6 23.Re5 Qd7 24.Rh5 Diagram



! ? This is not the best move, which according to the computer is Bc5. There is an immediate draw in hand, but white is looking for more.

24...gxh5 25.Qg5+ Kf8 26.Qh6+ Kg8 27.Qg5+ Kf8 28.Qxh5 Bf5 ! ? Black attempts to defend the h pawn and open the game for the rook. But this loses the piece with insufficient compensation. [28...Kg8 The computer gives this as the best line, but with advantage to white. 29.Qg5+ Kf8 30.Qh6+ Kg8 31.Bc5 Bf5 32.Bxd6 Qxd6 33.Rxf5]

29.Rxf5 Re1+ 30.Kf2 Rde6 31.Rxd5 The computer gives Qxh7 as the best move, but the text move is clearly won for white.

31...R6e2+ 32.Kf3 Qc6 33.Kg3 Qc7+ 34.Kh3 Re3+ 35.Bxe3 Rxe3+ 36.g3 Bxf6 37.Qh6+ White forks the king and rook, and black has had enough. **1-0**



Adrian Pickersgill (2029) - John Anderson (2161) [B23]
88th Hastings Masters Hastings (4.32), 31.12.2012

This game was played in Round 4 of the Hastings Masters and was reported in the Daily Telegraph Newspaper on Monday 7th January 2013.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.0-0 Nxb5 7.Nxb5 d6 8.d3 Nf6 9.Nc3 Rb8 The normal move is 0-0. Black prepares a queenside advance.

10.Qe1 b5 11.e5 White's move is more or less forced as the knight on c3 is going to move to e4.

11...dxe5 12.fxe5 Nd5 13.Ne4 c4 14.d4 0-0 15.Qh4 This is the standard attack in this system.

15...f5 16.Bh6 ! ? A piece sacrifice in order to proceed with the main attack with knight, queen and bishop.

16...Bxh6 The most critical line is fxe4 [16...fxe4 17.Ng5 Qb6 18.Rxf8+ Bxf8 19.c3 Bg4 20.Rf1 b4 21.Bxf8 h5 The computer has the game as about equal. 22.h3 bxc3 23.bxc3 Nxc3]

17.Qxh6 e6 Here fxe4 gives white a mating attack. However 17...Rf7 was better than the text.

18.Nfg5 Qe7 19.Nd6 Bd7 20.Rf3 White's position is clearly winning. Black has little counter play.

20...Rbd8 21.Raf1 Bc6 22.Rh3 Rd7 23.a3 Nb6 ?? This move loses the game, as it permits the infiltration of the second rook.

24.Rf4 Nc8 25.Rfh4 Nxd6 Diagram



Black permits a quick finish to the game with this move. **26.Qxg6+ !! 26...Qg7 27.Qxe6+ Rff7 28.Rxh7 1-0**



White: Omer Namouk

Black: Keith Osborne

Paul Watson Trophy Hastings v Lewes B3
21.02.2013 Annotated by Senior International
Master Mike Read

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3

Many White players who wish to enter the Grand Prix Attack against the Sicilian Defence play the text move at their second turn, rather than 2.f4 which can be met by 2...d5 if Black wishes.

2...e6

A sound and sensible response. Black intends to play an early ...d5 anyway.

3.f4 Nc6 4.Nf3 d5 5.e5

Most books only look at 5.Bb5 here. ECO 4th edition continues 5...Nge7 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Ne5 Bd7 with chances for both sides after White instigates a double exchange on c6.

5...Nh6 6.g3

White intends to fianchetto his king's bishop and then to castle behind it with an attack on the f-file to follow, but Black has a surprise in store for him.

6...c4!

The point of this move will become clear on his next turn.

7.Bg2 Bc5!

Perfectly timed. Black puts this bishop on the square that his pawn vacated on his previous move, and thus prevents White from being able to castle.

8.d4 cxd3

Re-opening the bishop's diagonal.

9.Qxd3

If 9.cxd3 Black would reply 9...Nf5 and White would still not be able to put a pawn on d4.

9...a6

Preparing a retreat square for the strong bishop, and introducing the possibility of ideas involving a knight advance to b4.

10.a3

He cannot play 10.Be3? due to 10... Bxe3 11.Qxe3 d4.

10...Bd7

Black allows White to challenge the diagonal at last. He will claim control of the c-file in return.

**11.b4?!**

If 11.Be3 Qb6 12.Na4 Black has the promising sacrificial continuation 12...Qa5+ 13.b4 Bxb4+! 14.axb4 Nxb4, and so White feels obliged to weaken his queenside by inserting this move before opposing bishops.

However, although after 11.Be3 Qb6 12.Bxc5! Qxc5 Black's queen would be controlling the diagonal, White could then play 13.0-0-0 with a playable game. This is probably the line he should have chosen. (The further 13...Ng4 can be met by 14.Ne4!.)

**11...Ba7 12.Be3 b5 13.Bxa7 Rxa7
14.Nd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 Rc7**

This is the type of position that Black envisioned at move 10. His c-file control gives him a clear advantage.

16.0-0 Qc8 17.Rf3!?

Despite this move being forced, it nonetheless sets a neat trap.

17...0-0!

Avoiding 17...Nf5 18.Qd3 d4?! 19.Ne4 Rxc2? when 20.g4! would turn the tables completely due to the potential fork on the d6 square.

After the text move that combination becomes a legitimate possibility for Black.

18.g4!?

Desperation!

Faced with a position that is almost ready to fall apart, White sacrifices a pawn in an attempt to create an attack. However, he will find that Black is prepared for this.

18...Nxf4 19.f5 Rc4

White had missed this fine move, which cuts across his plans and wins the pawn at e5.

20.Qd2 Nxe5 21.Rh3 Qd8 22.Qe2

Dreaming of manufacturing a mate at h7...

22...Ng4

...but Black has mating plans of his own.

23.Qd3 Qb6+ 0-1

What a pity he did not allow Black to demonstrate his intended 24.Kh1 Nf2+ 25.Kg1 Nxf3+ 26.Kh1 Qg1+! 27.Rxg1 Nf2 mate at the board. This would have been the perfect conclusion to an excellent game.

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**Alan Barton (Hastings & St Leonards)
v Gavin Lock (Horsham I), Mid-Sussex
League, January 23, 2013**

1. d4 e6 2. Nf3 b6 3. e4 Bb7 4. Bd3 c5 5. c3 cxd4 6. cxd4 Nc6 An unusual looking move, but one that has actually been played several times.

[6... d6 7. Nc3 Nd7 8. O-O Ne7 9. Re1 Ng6 10. g3 Be7 11. h4 O-O 12. Ng5 e5 13. d5 h6 14. Nh3 Re8 15. Rb1 Nf6 16. Kg2 Bc8 17. Rh1 a6 18. f3 b5 19. Be3 Rb8 20. b4 Nh5 21. Ne2 Limp,E (2405)-Fier,A (2516)/Rio de Janeiro BRA 2007/The Week in Chess 682/0-1 (47)]

7. Nc3 a6N Black's play has been very provocative, and he is seriously neglecting his development.

[7... d6 8. O-O Nf6 9. d5 exd5 10. exd5 Nb8 11. Re1+ Be7 12. Qe2 Nbd7 13. Bg5 Kf8 14. Rad1 h6 15. Bxf6 Bxf6 16. Ne4 Nc5 17. Nxf6 Qxf6 18. Bb5 g6 19. b4 a6 20. bxc5 axb5 21. c6 Ba6 22. Qc2 Tognella,O (2055)-Szirmai,E (2175)/Budapest 2002/CBM 089 ext/1-0 (41) Kg7 23. Nd2 Rhe8 24. Ne4 Qe5 25. Qc3 Qxc3 26. Nxc3 b4 27. Ne4 Red8 28. Rc1 f5 29. Nd2 Re8 30. f3 Rxe1+ 31. Rxe1 Bc8 32. Nc4 Rxa2 33. Nxd6 b3 34. Rb1 b2 35. Kf2 Ba6 36. c7 Ra1 37. Rxb2 Tognella,O (2055)-Szirmai,E (2175)/Budapest 2002/ CBM 089 ext/1-0 (41) ;7... Rc8 8. O-O d6 9. Qa4 d5 10. exd5 exd5 11. Re1+ Be7 12. Bf5 Ra8 13. Ne5 1-0 Pandavos,P (2300)-Trikiotis,G (2215)/ Athens 1989/EXT 2005]

8. O-O Qb8 9. a3 Nf6 10. e5 Ng4 11. h3 h5!?! Probably the best practical chance, though amazingly my opponent has been played this position before.

[11... Nh6 might be the best move, but it's hardly good. 12. Re1 Be7 (12... Nf5 13. Bxf5 exf5 14. d5+/- is very powerful for White.) 13. d5 Na7 14. d6 Bd8 15. Bxh6 gxh6 16. Ne4 and Black is much worse.]

12. Be4 I liked this move, it nullifies the b7 bishop and further promotes d4-d5, due to tactics on that diagonal. It seems that Barton

has played this exact position before, and White took the piece.

[12. hxg4 hxg4 13. Nh2 probably the safest, giving the king extra protection. (13. Ng5 is also possible Nxd4 14. Qxg4 Nc6 15. Bf4 which is very nice for White.) 13... f5 (13... Nxd4 14. Bf4 f5 15. Re1 g5 is unclear, and gives Black some counterplay, though probably not enough for the piece.) 14. Be3 Qd8 15. g3 Qe7 16. f3 Rxh2 17. Kxh2 g5 18. Qe2 gxf3 19. Rxf3 g4 20. Rff1 Bg7 21. Kg1 Bxe5 22. dxe5 Nxe5 23. Bd4 Nf3+ 24. Rxf3 gxf3 25. Qe5 d6 26. Qe3 O-O-O 27. Bxf5 Kb8 28. Be4 Rg8 29. Kf2 Bxe4 30. Nxe4 Qh7 31. Qxf3 d5 32. Nf6 Qc2+ 33. Qe2 Qf5+ 34. Kg2 Rc8 35. Qxa6 Rc2+ 36. Kg1 Qh3 37. Be5+ 1-0 Ledger,D (2266)-Barton,A (2080)/Hastings 2013/CB01_2013]

12... Be7 13. Re1 Nh6 Black retreats, as I am now genuinely threatening to capture on g4, having neutralised the a8-h1 diagonal and covered d4 in advance. 14. d5 Na7 This move is a sign that Black's game has not gone according to plan.

[14... Nxe5? loses due to tactical threats on the long diagonal. 15. Nxe5 Qxe5 16. dxe6 Bxe4 (16... dxe6 17. Bxb7+-) 17. exd7+ Kf8 18. Rxe4+/- and Black is considerably worse.]

15. Be3 Nc8 16. Qd3 Intending Rad1 and dxe6, threatening a killing check on d7. Bc5

[16... O-O 17. Bxh6 gxh6 18. Rad1 b5 19. Qe3 Kg7 and White stands strongly after 20. Bc2 Qa7 21. Qd3+-]

17. dxe6 This initiates an opening of the centre, combined with threats on the kingside if Black castles there.

[17. Rad1 is also possible, and may transpose. Bxe3 (17... O-O 18. Bxh6 gxh6 19. dxe6 dxe6 20. Qd2 transposes to the game.) 18. dxe6! O-O (18... dxe6 19. Qd8#) 19. exd7+- and Black is lost.]

17... dxe6 18. Rad1+- White is winning. O-O Black has no option but to castle now, there are no more constructive moves. 19. Bxh6 gxh6 20. Qd2 This is enough for a big

advantage, but it appears that White has a more forcing alternative.

[20. Bxb7! Qxb7 21. Ne4 is very strong for White. Be7 22. Nf6+! Bxf6 (22... Kg7 or king to h8 meets the same fate. 23. Qh7#) 23. exf6 and the threat of Ne5 and Qg3+ wins.]

20... Kg7 21. Qf4 Bxe4?! This is inaccurate, but Black is struggling already.

[21... Be7 is the best defence. Now after 22. Rd7! Bxe4 (22... Ra7 leads to 23. Rxe7! Nxe7 24. Qf6+ Kg8 25. Qxh6+- and Black is completely lost.) 23. Nxe4 and now after Ra7 24. Rxe7 Nxe7 (24... Rxe7 25. Qf6+ Kh7 (25... Kg8 26. Qxh6+-) 26. Nfg5+ hxg5 27. Nhg5+ Kg8 28. Qh6 with mate as before.) 25. Qf6+ Kh7 26. Nfg5+ hxg5 27. Nhg5+ Kg8 28. Qh6 is mate as before.]

22. Qf6+ This intermediate check is very strong, though the simple recapture with the knight may be more accurate.

[22. Nxe4 Be7 (22... Qc7 23. Nf6 and White wins after Ne7 24. Nxe5+ Kh7 (24... Kg8 25. Qxh6+-) 25. Nf6+ Kg7 26. Rd7+- and Black has no defence.) 23. Nf6 and now after Ra7 24. Re3! Black is losing.]

22... Kh7 23. Nxe4 Be7 This natural move fails to defend, though Black is lost at any case.

[23... Ra7 is the only defence here, but White still wins after 24. Nfg5+ hxg5 25. Qxg5 and now after f5 26. Nf6+ Rxf6 27. exf6+- and Black is lost.]

24. Nfg5+! This completely strips the black king of any defences, and forces the win. hxg5 25. Nhg5+ Kg8 26. Qh6+- Black is lost here, and has no other options. Bxg5 27. Qxg5+ Kh7 28. Qxh5+ Kg7 29. Qg5+ Kh7 30. Re4 and mate follows next move.

Summary - a very provocative and dubious opening gave me a strong position in the centre, which Black never recovered from. In the end, my dominant central position lead to a rare but nicely played kingside attack. 1-0



David Millward (Essex) v Dix Roberts (Horsham) Essex v Sussex Open, Board 13, March 16

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.g3 e6 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.d3 0-0 8.0-0 d6 9.Be3 Nd4 10.Qd2 Qb6 11.Nd1 Nxf3+ 12.Bxf3 Bd7 13.c3 Rac8 14.Bf2 Qc7 15.Ne3 Bc6 16.Rfd1 d5 17.Qe1 f5 [17...Rfd8 or; 17...Rfe8 more circumspect] 18.Ng2 d4 19.cxd4 cxd4 20.Rac1 Qb6 21.Qe2 Rfe8 22.Ne1 [22.Nh4 Bf6 23.b3 Bb5 24.Qb2 and the game remains fairly level] 22...e5 23.exf5 ? 23...Nxf5 24.Bxc6 bxc6 25.fxe5 Rxe5 26.Qf3 Ne3 [26...Qxb2 and if 27.Rxc6 Rf8 wins] 27.Rd2 Bh6 28.Re2 c5 29.Rb1 [29.Ng2 was essential but black remains on top after 29...Rf8 30.Nf4 Bxf4 31.gxf4 Rg5+ 32.Kh1 Nd5 33.Bg3 Rgf5] 29...Rf8 30.Qh1 Qf6 31.b3 Ng4 32.Rbb2 Qxf2+ 33.Rxf2 Rxe1+ 34.Kg2 Ne3+ 35.Kh3 Rxd1 0-1

Dix Roberts



Horsham Chess Club junior Amy Hoare's win for ECF Juniors v Slovenia

Amy Hoare continues to do great things in the chess world - here she is demolishing a 2303. From the position (IM Rendle annotation):

18...Bf8? [18...Bxf5 removing the knight was Black's best chance but White should be winning after 19.Qxf5 f6 20.Qg6 and Black's position is full of holes. Ng3-f5 will be decisive.; 18...f6?! fails to 19.Nxg7! Kxg7 20.Nxf6 Bxf6 21.Bxf6+ Kg8 22.Bc3! and there is no reasonable defence to the threat of Re3-g3]

19.Nxh6+! [A great finish from Amy - this move shatters Black's defences all in one go. This is definitely the way to play against a much higher rated opponent - don't play for a draw, go for the win!]

[Black resigned as after 19.Nxh6+ gxh6 20.Nf6+ Nxf6 21.Qxf6 Kh7 22.Qh8+ Kg6 23.Qg8+ Black will be mated in short-order - one nice line is 23...Kh5 24.Rxe6! Rxe6 25.Rf5+ Kh4 26.g3+ Kh3 27.Rh5#]



Sussex Championship, November 12, 2012. Played at the Brighton CC in the first round of the KO competition with six entrants. Bernard Cafferty v Neil Tasker English Opening

1 Nf3 c5 2 c4 Nc6 3 Nc3 g6 4 e3 Nf6 5 d4 cxd4 6 exd4 d5 7 cxd5 Nxd5 8 Qb3

This produces a position of the type that could arise in the Caro-Kann, Panov-Botvinnik Attack, but in that case Black would have made the more useful move ...Bg4, rather than ...g6.

8...Nxc3 9 Bc4! e6 10 bxc3 Be7 (or 10...Bg7 11 Ba3 Bf8 as played by Petrosyan in his 1963 world title match with Botvinnik) 11 Bh6 Na5 12 Bb5+ Bd7 13 Qa4 Nc6 14 d5!

Botvinnik's idea, mentioned in his notes to the above match game.

14...exd5 15 0-0 a6? 16 Bxc6 Bxc6 17 Qd4 Bf6?

An active move that loses at once, whereas defence in depth by 17...f6 18 Rfe1 Kf7 was

called for though White has a big plus after 19 Ng5+! Kg8 20 Ne6.

18 Rfe1+ Kd7 19 Qg4+ Kd6 (19...Kc7 20 Bf4+ Kb6 21 Rab1+ Ka7 22 Be3+ Kb8 23 Qf4+ Kc8 24 Bb6 exploiting the hole created at move 15, when White wins the Bf6)

20 Bf4+ Kc5 21 Bc7! Qxc7 22 Qb4#

Bernard Cafferty



Ian Deswarte (Surrey) v Tim Woods (Sussex). Sussex U180 v Surrey, board 16, October 27, 2012

1 e4 d6; 2 d4 Nf6; Nc3 g6; 4 Be3 c6; 5 f3 Nbd7; 6 Qd2 b5; 7 Nh3 Qa5; 8 Be2 Bg7; 9 00 Qc7; 10 a4 b4; 11 Nd1 a4; 12 c3 bxc3; 13 bxc3 00; 14 Nb2 e5; 15 Rac1 d5; 16 Nf2 Re8; 17 dxe5 Nxe5; 18 Bh6 dxe4; 19 Bxg7 e3!; 20 Qxe3 Neg4; 21 Nxg4 Rxe3 22 Bxf6 Rxe2; 23 Nh6+ Kf8; 24 Nd3 Ba6 25 Rfd1 Bxd3; 26 Rxd3 Qf4; 27 R1d1 Qxf6 0-1



R.V. Elliston v F. Kwiatkowski. April 1, 2013, Haywards Heath; Sussex County Championship Final, Game 1.

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.d4 0-0 6.Be2 cxd4 7.exd4 d5 8.0-0 Nc6 9.c5 Ne4 10.Qb3 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Bxd4 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Rd1 e5 14.Bh6 Re8 15.Be3 Qf6 16.Rd2 Rd8 17.Rad1 b6 18.cxb6 axb6 19.a3 Bb7 20.Qb4 Rac8 21.Bxd4 exd4 22.Rxd4 Rxd4 23.Rxd4 e3 24.f3 Ba6!! [wabba-zabba hooobi-woobi!!!] 25.Rc4 Bxc4 26.Bxc4 Qd4 27.Bxf7+ Kxf7 28.Qxd4 Rc1+ ; 0-1.

'Note' by by Feliks Kwiatkowski

People are strange... especially chess players

FOLLOWING the debacle of the County and District CC Championship not being run in 2011-12, the competition was placed in the far more capable hands of the British Federation for Correspondence Chess (BFCC).

Unfortunately, we could not raise a team of 10, so we couldn't enter the top competition (the Ward-Higgs), but with a team of eight, we were able to enter a team in the Sinclair (the next division down).

One significant change was that games are now all played on the web server. This did not appeal to everyone, but I think those who did enter found it a very easy way to play correspondence chess.

Some of us were confronted by opponents with "berserker" tendencies, who tried to complete their games without using any of their thinking time (there is a time lag before time is counted). Needless to say, this did rather miss the point of correspondence chess!

Also, it was not noticeably successful; for instance, Tim Spanton managed to win both his games before the official start date because he was faced by such an opponent.

There were no disputes of significance. Trevor Norton experienced a curious episode, where his opponent became vexed that Trevor wasn't accepting his conditional moves. It had to be pointed out to him that the web server doesn't support conditionals; simply putting them in the comment field has no force!

As Trevor observed: "Some of us can find chess players to be very strange people." Joe Sharpe achieved winning positions in both his games, only for his opponent, who up to then

had been moving very quickly, to suddenly slow down, taking a couple of weeks per move. Joe was concerned that his opponent was about to employ the "dead man's defence" (as John Dodgson would call it), using up all his remaining time in the hope that Joe would die first! Fortunately, his opponent, after doing this for four or five moves, suddenly decided to give up.

At the time of writing, Feliks Kwiatkowski has yet to finish his two games on top board, but in the remaining games we managed to score 13/14 (12 wins and two draws), which has already guaranteed us first place and promotion to the Ward-Higgs next year.

I have recently been informed by the tournament organiser, Neil Limbert, that the Ward-Higgs will consist of teams of eight next year, so there should be no problem with numbers for the 2013-14 season.

As well as the C&DCCC, we recently entered the second British Web Server Team Tournament.

Last season, John Dodgson entered a team of four of us (1 James Mansson; 2 Tim Spanton; 3 Paul Batchelor; 4 David Fryer). This year, we entered the same team again. The team plays under the banner of "Sussex Servers", and is not an official Sussex team as such, but does consist of several county stalwarts. So far, we have notched up a win and a draw.

I'd like to conclude by thanking John Dodgson for his assistance in taking over the team, and everyone who played so successfully in it this season.

James Mansson

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