

SUSSEX CHESS NEWS

2016

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the way again

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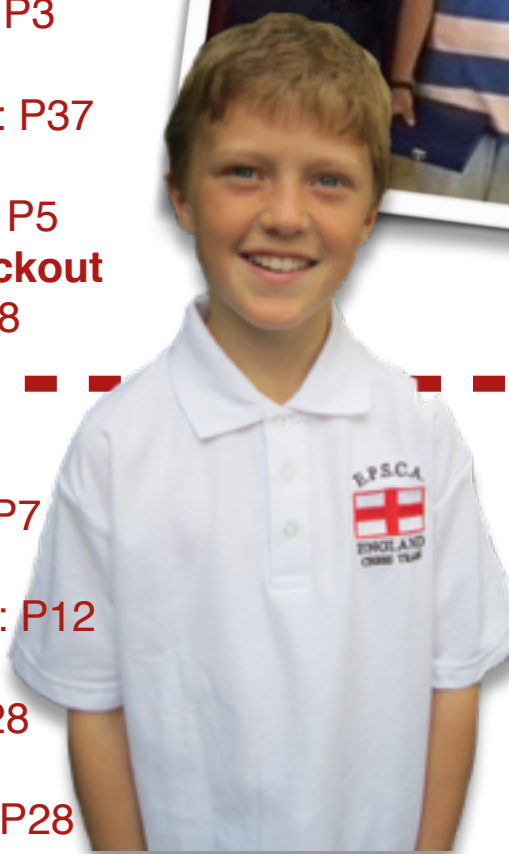
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Julie Denning considers an eventful year and reports on some worrying proposals for the future

Defaults debacle has cost our teams dear

THE SCCU is experiencing a period of change with regard to personnel. The name of Richard Haddrell, from Kent, first appears as an officer of the union for the 1978/79 season, when he took on the roles of minutes secretary and bulletin editor. He handed over the former role after four years, but took it up again in 1997, combining it with what had previously been a separate role of secretary. Richard has continued in these secretarial roles until this year, when declining health has caused him to cut back a little on his commitments. He continued as bulletin editor until this publication gave way in 2011 to electronic communication via the union website, itself the creation, in 1998/99, of Richard. He retains the role of webmaster and is also the current deputy president.

As Richard's replacement as secretary, we have welcomed back Chris Majer, who has held both this post and that of president in the past. Chris has also held senior positions at the national level, including having spent periods as CEO of the ECF and, before that, the BCF.

The union has also lost the services of David Smith from Essex as county match controller, a role he has fulfilled since the 1998/99 season. His replacement is Michael Flatt, of Hertfordshire.

As a county, we have rather struggled over the past season in the County Championships. We have defaulted more boards than all other SCCU counties put together and none of our teams made it through to the national stages, although we declined an invitation to represent the SCCU in

the Minor Counties competition. Our level of defaults has caused some consternation amongst our fellow counties. The ECF director of membership recently produced an analysis in which, as far as possible, he allocated ECF members to individual counties. From this, I've extracted the following summary for SCCU counties and the teams each entered in the six levels of the 2015/16 County Championships.

County	No. of ECF Members	Teams in SCCU County Championships
Essex	490	6
Hertfordshire	346	2*
Kent	397	5
Middlesex	718	5
Surrey	737	6
Sussex	345	4

*Hertfordshire also entered 2 teams in the EACU competitions

Although subject to some possible inaccuracy in the ECF analysis, and no account of active players who might have chosen to pay game fee rather than become ECF members, these numbers indicate that the Sussex chess playing population is at the lower end of all SCCU counties and that the number of teams we field is not disproportionately low compared with our overall number of players.

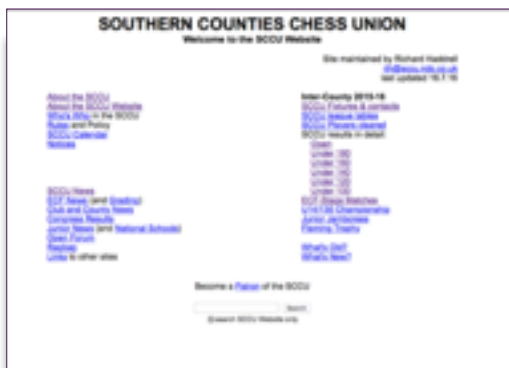
However, assuming players are spread across the grading range, including the lower levels (Under 120 and Under 100) where we did not enter teams,

this may help to account for why our teams tend to include a large number of players playing up a level in grading terms.

In contrast, our juniors have done us proud in SCCU competitions over the past season. In the one-day Junior Jamboree, Sussex won both the Open and Minor (under 130) sections at the under-18 age level, while also coming in the middle of the field in the under-14 age level sections. In the Under 14/130 league, Sussex Juniors came second to Kent in the Eastern Zone.

Turning to ECF matters, my perspective has no doubt been influenced by having been elected to the Board as a non-executive director at the October, 2015, AGM. At this time last year, I was predicting that while the ECF could be in for a busy period, it was likely to be calmer than in the recent past. Alas, that was a bit of a false hope.

As the AGM approached it became clear that there were still a range of inter-personal difficulties amongst Board members, including a formal complaint by one director against another – the subsequent handling of which many felt was very



LATEST NEWS: The SCCU website

poor. This all came to a head at the October, 2015, AGM. Two directors, the CEO and the commercial director, despite each standing unopposed for re-election, were deposed by the mechanism of council voting in favour of “none of the above”. A challenge to the incumbent home director by an out-going non-executive director was defeated, but a challenge to the incumbent international director was successful – albeit on a recount announced after the event.

Thus, as a newly elected non-exec., I was one of two new directors joining a board with a couple of

gaps. As a board, we appointed the incumbent chairman of the finance committee as CEO, while the chairman of the governance committee resigned in the aftermath of events at the AGM. Both these committee chairs have since been refilled by board appointment. To date, the board has not seen fit to appoint anyone to the vacated slot of commercial director. By all accounts, the current board is a rather calmer institution than that which it replaced.

A major activity this year has been the consideration and implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Constitutional and Governance Review which was reported to council last October. At the Finance Council meeting in April, it was agreed to re-introduce, from the 2016 AGM, the post of non-executive chairman of the Board and that in future directors and members of standing committees should serve for periods of three years, introduced progressively from the 2016 AGM.

It was also agreed to introduce a new post of chairman of the council, the first election for which will be held in October, 2016. The federation’s

articles of association have been amended in a number of detail areas to bring them up to date with company law and changes in ECF practices.

A year ago, I raised concerns over possible changes to the format of the County Championships that the ECF director of home chess had suggested in a discussion paper. The SCCU was opposed to these changes which we saw as a threat to the existing regional stages of the championships that were well supported in our region. I’m pleased to report that these potential changes have not been proceeded with. However, the April, 2016, Finance Council did pass another proposal from the home director; namely, that from the 2016/17 season the final (national) stage of the Open competition will be FIDE-rated. This would

From the 2016-17 season, the final stage of the Open competition will be FIDE-rated...

normally require players to be gold or platinum members of the ECF, but there will be a one game exemption from this membership requirement. It could, though, still catch a lower-level member in a team that progressed beyond one round of the final stage.

The Director of Home Chess has recently published a discussion paper and consultation document regarding arbiters. While this is largely to do with rationalising the national and international (FIDE) systems of arbiter training and qualifications, there is also a proposal that leagues must have recourse to an arbiter qualified to what is termed Level 2 or above. Failing this, a league would be excluded from the grading system. This was strongly opposed when discussed at the recent AGM of the Mid-Sussex League and I have responded to the consultation request accordingly in my role as their delegate to council.

While there's obviously nothing wrong if a league does have a suitably qualified arbiter available, the discussion paper presents no evidence of failure to do so having caused problems. It seems to me to be an unnecessary level of micro-managing of local

affairs. The sanction of exclusion from grading is a sledgehammer that would threaten the existence of a league.

Also, if introduced for leagues, why not extend it to club internal competitions? After all, if non-compliance by a league would risk bringing the ECF grading system into disrepute, why not make the same criticism of club competitions? I shall continue to oppose this aspect of the proposals.

The 2016 Finance Council approved the budget sought by the ECF Board, but rejected increases to membership and game fees to help finance it. Any shortfall shall be met from reserves. While this is feasible in the short term – and, indeed, there are a range of views on whether the combined ECF reserve and various funds held by the BCF are excessive – it cannot be a sustainable position in the long-term.

I anticipate finances continuing to be a major item of debate at both board and council levels.

As always, if anyone in the county has any questions on SCCU or ECF matters that I might be able to help with, please get in touch.

Julie Denning

Monthly grades on the horizon?

GRADING work has proceeded smoothly throughout the year – personal issues such as time and computer trouble apart!

There have been no changes to the grading system over the past year, but there are changes on the horizon. The ECF has invited tenders to provide “league management system” software and this is expected to proceed. Little detail is known yet, but my understanding is that this will be something freely available to leagues and clubs to adopt and incorporate on their own websites as they wish.

It is also intended to make it easy for individuals such as league or club secretaries to enter results directly for grading. As such, it could well make county-wide graders such as myself redundant (hurray!!) although I envisage it might be advantageous, at least until such a system beds in, to retain someone as a local resource to advise on its implementation and use. If this system is adopted widely, it is likely to lead to renewed proposals for more frequent grading updates, probably monthly.

A significant administrative change is also looming, with the ECF currently inviting applications for the post of grading database administrator. This is the person we local graders submit our results to for incorporation into the ECF system.

It has been ably performed by Richard Haddrell for many years, but poor health is requiring him to give up this task. I look forward to whoever takes over continuing to provide as good a service as Richard has.

Julie Denning



James Mansson, Sussex Correspondence Chess captain, reports on a season of mixed fortunes

County team avoids the dreaded drop

SUSSEX finished a very decent 4th in last year's Ward-Higgs competition (2014-15). The final results for the team were:

Board	Sussex player	White	Black	Opponent
1	James Mansson	0.5	0	Philip Barber
2	Leslie Eastoe	1	1	William Hewitt
3	Bob Elliston	0.5	0	Neil Carr
4	Tim Spanton	1	1	Arthur Reed
5	Paul Batchelor	1	0.5	Ihor Lewyk
6	Ralph Mansson	1	0.5	Matthew Piper
7	Joe Sharp	0	0	Alan Sutton
8	David Fryer	0.5	0	Michael Squires

All of Sussex's games have been completed in this year's competition (2015-16). Although it was tight, Sussex have finished in 8th place, avoiding relegation. The final results for the team were:

Board	Sussex player	White	Black	Opponent
1	Leslie Eastoe	0.5	0.5	Dr. Stephen Williams
2	Tim Spanton	0	0.5	Stan Grayland
3	Paul Batchelor	1	1	David Pritchard
4	James Mansson	0	0.5	Bill Lumley
5	Bob Elliston	0	0	Brian Herriot
6	Ralph Mansson	1	0.5	Tim Lunn
7	Joe Sharp	0	0	David Thompson
8	David Fryer	0.5	0	Matthew Piper

We also entered a team of four (James Mansson, Tim Spanton, Paul Batchelor and David Fryer) in the third edition of the British Webserver Team Tournament. Despite some good results against strong opposition, we have been unable to avoid relegation to the second division.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has played for the teams this year, and hope they found their games interesting and enjoyable.



Mark Currah reports on yet another outstanding year as our youngsters collect a string of national titles



SO PROUD: The U13 team - ECF national champions

Magnificent moments in year to remember

JUNIOR Chess in Sussex continues to thrive with outstanding team and individual success in the 2015-16 season.

Sussex teams were national champions at U12, U13, U13minor, U18 and U18minor levels, and there were many individual successes.

None of these would have been possible without a well organised infrastructure and the hard work



TEAM EFFORT: The U18 team - NYCA national champions

of a committed band of volunteers. Symptomatic was this year's MegaFinal, the county final stage of the UK Chess Challenge, the biggest junior chess tournament in the country, which attracts upwards of 50,000 junior

competitors each year. Sussex hosts the largest MegaFinal of all the UK counties, this year attracting over 400 competitors to Downlands



BOARDS OF EDUCATION: Top, the ECF Junior Jamboree, hosted by Sussex at Brighton College. Below, working out the best moves, and right, Dominic Miller, who represented England at the European Schools Tourney in Greece

School in Hassocks.

The smooth running of such an event is a major undertaking with entries being co-ordinated weeks in advance, setting up the night before, arranging playing arenas, parents' rooms, analysis boards and catering for up to 1000.

The day itself sees an early start with stewards in place directing car parking, and the setting up of 200 plus boards, all with clocks. Plus controllers, board stewards, arbiters and photographers. Not forgetting a report and results rapidly appearing on the website afterwards.

It was a season of outstanding individual success, with a county record of five qualifying for the NCJS England squad at the U11 level trial. They were Jonathan Britnell, Giovanni Currah, Alec Hedger, Xavier Laurillard and Oliver Manchester. Also qualifying this season for the England squad were Batuhan Kaya (U12), Lucy Bennet-Stevens (U13), JuJu Samworth-Calvier (U14) and Cassie Graham (U15).

Eight-year-old Arjun Kolani was selected to represent England at the World Youth Chess Championships in Croatia with IM Andrew Martin

eulogising a 'Tal-like' victory in one of his games.

Also representing England in various tournaments abroad were Amardip Ahluwalia, Lucy Bennet-Stevens, Calum Brewer, Freddie Coleman, Daniel Finn, Thomas Finn, Oli Howell, Dominic Miller, Calum Salmons, JuJu Samworth-Calvier and Ollie Wilson. Brian Tarhon became a Fide Master at the age of 14.

The successful juniors will have gained a lot of early experience in inter-school competitions which are an important part of the SJC set-up. Winners of the Primary Cup were in Division 1, Wallands School from Lewes; Division 2, English Martyrs, Worthing; Division 3, Little Common, Bexhill and Division 4, East Hoathly School.

At U14 level, the Butler Cup was won by Brighton College, Butler Plate by Great Walstead and Butler Shield, Copthorne Prep. At U18, the Wilson Cup was won by Uckfield.

The Weald Congress is an opportunity for juniors to play adult long-play, and this season saw



POWER PLAY: Ben Power, grandson of the late Con Power, was chosen to make the opening move in Round 8 of the London Chess Classic for GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave.



MASTER TOUCH: Brian Tarhon, right, FIDE master at 14, and above, youngsters in tournament action





LEARNING POINTS: IM
Tom Rendle at the
Sussex Junior Chess
end of season simul,
and, below, more
youngsters enjoying
their chess

*The successful
juniors will
have gained
a lot of
experience*



another successful event, thanks to the participation of adults from Sussex and further afield.

Sussex Junior Chess sponsor two teams in the 4NCL, with the intention of exposing older juniors to higher levels of play.

Congratulations to Sussex Martlets 2 who finished the season Division 4S champions, losing only one match out of 11. They will compete in Division 3S next season. Sussex Martlets 1 had a challenging season in Division 1



FINAL DEMANDS: Youngsters pit their wits against each other in the The Sussex MegaFinal



where they were outgraded in every single match but still produced some excellent individual results.

Finally, there was a strong junior contingent at the British, with many excellent performances, notably from Juju (joint U14 champion), Amardip (U13 champion) & Arjun (Joint U10 champion).



www.sussex-junior-chess.org



Brian Denman reflects on the life of a man who devoted so much of his life to the game he loved

Farewell to a Sussex chess legend



**LOYAL
SERVANT:**
Chris
Ravilious

SUSSEX CHESS lost a loyal servant with the death of Chris Ravilious earlier this year. He had been county archivist and editor of *Sussex Chess* for a number of years and had written articles in national chess magazines which improved readers' knowledge of Sussex chess history.

Chris was born in Hammersmith in 1938 and his father, Frank, was the elder brother of the well-known artist Eric Ravilious, who died in September, 1942.

During World War Two, the family moved to Stroud and Malvern before coming to live in Eastbourne in 1946. Frank had fought in World War One, but had become unfit for service in 1917 because of spinal pain and inflammation of the lungs. He worked as a dealer in antiques, but at times ran into financial difficulties. In a letter to me dated May 4, 1998, Chris told me that his sister, Avril, and he remembered their father as a puritan of a rather extreme kind. Certainly, Chris and his sister were brought up in rather austere conditions. Frank died in 1955.

Chris went to Eastbourne Grammar School and played in the chess team along with his long-term friend, John Herbert. Chris joined Eastbourne Chess Club in about 1954 and a year later became one of the youngest players ever to have won the East Sussex Queen competition. Unfortunately, his name has been misspelled on the trophy.

In his final year at school, Chris was taught English by H.M. (Michael) Morley, who in his autobiography, *Irons in the Fire*, records that Chris was offered a State Scholarship at Cambridge. Chris told me that he went for an interview at Cambridge, but was disillusioned by the experience and subsequently turned down the offer.

He did, however, later obtain a degree at Sussex University which qualified him as a teacher, though he did not follow that profession. Instead, he enjoyed success as a librarian.

He started his career at Westminster Library, London in 1959, then moved to Hastings and Eastbourne before taking up a position at Sussex University where he rose to the rank of Sub-

Librarian. Chris was an ideal librarian as he was an expert at gathering and indexing information. He was impressed by the indexing skills of Gilfred Norman Knight (1891-1978), a former Hastings Chess Club player, who became president of the Society of Indexers.

In the summer of 1960, Chris married Rita and they enjoyed 55 years of happiness together, Rita acting as Chris's carer in the final difficult years of his life. Their son, Julian, was born in 1963.

As his life became more settled, Chris developed his skills at Eastbourne Chess Club. He was one of the better players at the club, but did not win the club championship. He made a number of appearances in the McArthur Cup

team and the highest grading that I have found for him is 165 in the 1974-75 season.

He did not always appear in the national grading lists

and it is likely that

there were some seasons when he did not play competitive chess.

In February, 1973, he produced the first of four club magazines called 'En Passant'. Despite his efforts, it was probably the lack of contributors that brought the journal to an end in December, 1974.

Chris had a particular interest in young players and he rendered useful assistance to organisers of local junior chess.

In December, 1991, Chris contacted me, offering assistance for a history of chess in Brighton, which he had heard I was writing. Previously, I had been in touch with Colin Worsley, the librarian at Hastings Chess Club, but sadly he suddenly became afflicted with a terrible illness.

He died in 1992, but before this he contacted Chris as he felt that he would be the right person to help me with my research. Indeed, Chris proved an ideal person for me to work with. Although I had done a lot of research, I had no idea how to produce a book. Chris was a bit of a computer buff

and possessed some excellent chess software which could produce diagrams.

Also, his knowledge of reference material was particularly useful to me and his excellent writing skills were instructive to me. We also were pleased to receive assistance from Julian Simpole and eventually we completed *Brighton Chess* in 1994. Chris and I had a regular correspondence for about 10 years, but now he gradually began to develop a number of chess projects of his own.

For many years, he had been interested in chess problems and he wrote an article called *The Aesthetics of Chess and the Chess Problem*, which appeared in the British Journal of Aesthetics in July 1994. In the following year, he borrowed material from the British Chess Problem Society relating to the chess problems of Lilian Baird and produced a charming monograph about the life of this 19th century child prodigy. Modestly, he stated that the small book had been produced by Woodpusher Publications, which of course was a reference to himself!

Chris's next major project was a study of Brighton's free public chess room, which was in existence from 1873 to about 1922. When he became interested in a subject, Chris could produce a lot of material in a short space of time and he often used to rise in the early hours of the morning to do keyboarding before going off to work.

In order to gain detailed information about the Brighton chess room, Chris had to gain access to the minutes of the Pavilion Committee. After agreeing to follow the rather quaint custom of wearing gloves to consult the minutes, he was allowed to retrieve much information about the chess room. As a result, in 1997, he produced a 14-page article on the subject in the Sussex Archaeological Society Collections. Many people would be unable to write an interesting article about a room, but Chris made the room come alive with his description of the different personalities of those who used to play chess there.

It was also in 1997 that Chris discovered some chess articles by Aleister Crowley in the Eastbourne Gazette of 1894. Chris realised there might be a lot of interest in the subject of Crowley as a chess player and he obtained further information at the Warburg Institute in London. He

Chris was a bit of a computer buff and possessed some excellent chess software

contacted the magazine *Chess*, which published his article in the December, 1997, edition. In the journal's index, the article was given the heading *The Wickedest Man in the World*, though Chris himself called it 'Aleister Crowley: A Life in Chess'.

It was clearly an extremely skilful piece of writing and was the first of many articles by Chris to appear in national chess magazines. His subject matter was certainly varied and even featured an internet diary and one or two chess crosswords to solve.

One could, however, detect similar themes running through some of his contributions. Chris wrote several articles under a general heading of *Real Chess* and one of these in *Chess* of April, 2001, was entitled 'I bought it in a boot sale.' He seemed particularly happy at car boot sales and second-hand bookshops, where he loved to collect rare books (not just connected with chess, as he was also keen on works of poetry and literature). He also wrote a series of articles with a title of *Bookman's Halt* and these concentrated on his love of books.

He particularly enjoyed looking at handwriting inside the cover of second-hand books and then using Sherlock Holmes type deductions to build up a picture of the book's history and its previous owners. *Real Chess* for Chris was not about top players producing brilliancies in top tournaments, but in the type of interest in the game that an ordinary but inquisitive player might have.

Chris also wrote an article in *The Problemist magazine* of January, 2004. He recounted attempts made in the newspapers of a century ago to identify the favourite problem composers of the day.

From 2003-2009, Chris wrote the *Quotes and Queries* articles in the *British Chess Magazine*. This followed the death of Ken Whyld, who was extremely knowledgeable. Chris, however, also performed creditably in this role. Another service he provided for the two main national chess magazines was to act as their indexer. He was very skilful at indexing as I have mentioned earlier in this article.

Chris was also the joint writer of the book *Chess Texts printed before 1850* with Ken Whyld. It was published by Olomouc, Moravian Chess in 2003 in the same year that Ken died.

Previously, Douglas A Betts had produced a similar bibliography for the period from 1850-1968 and Andy Lusic had covered the period from 1969-1988. It is clear that Chris's knowledge of books as a librarian would have stood him in good stead for this particular book.

As well as writing for national chess magazines, Chris proved very valuable to Sussex chess by acting as editor of 'Sussex Chess' from 2002-2005 and serving as county archivist from about 1996 to 2010. I had passed the Sussex Chess Archives to him in 1994, but, as he grew older, he had less room for the material in his house because of the large number of items that he had collected.

When the National Chess Library (NCL) started in Hastings in 2007 and advertised for collections of chess books to be placed on its shelves, Chris saw an opportunity to free up space in his home. I was amazed when I heard that he had started donating his chess library to the NCL, as this had once been a pride and joy of his. He also

arranged for the English Chess Federation (ECF) to collect the Sussex Chess Archives and then to transport the items to the Hastings library.

Sadly, they never reached Hastings and were lost by the ECF. The books in Chris's library did reach Hastings, but following the later closure of the NCL, they are now back in Eastbourne in a storage facility. In addition, to the interest he showed in his county chess duties, Chris remained a member of Eastbourne Chess Club for a number of years.

However, he became reluctant to play in the Mid-Sussex League as he did not like travelling long distances at night. His main interest lay with the club library, which he ran with his usual enthusiasm.

Chris retired from his post at Sussex University early in 1998 and it was not long before he was

Chris proved very valuable by acting as editor of Sussex Chess News from 2002-2005

visiting Heathfield once or twice a week to record material for the blind. He had a fine voice and would have been an ideal candidate for the charity called National Talking Newspapers and Magazines. He made recordings for about six years.

About five years ago, Chris was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. I last visited him in December, 2013, and found that the powerful drugs, with which he had been prescribed, made him continually drowsy.

However, for the last four years of his life he was a member of the Read Aloud Group at Eastbourne Library. Those attending were encouraged to give readings aloud to boost their confidence. After about two years, Chris needed a wheelchair to travel around in and Rita changed the family car to accommodate this item.

He continued to attend the group until close to the time of his death, though six months before the end he became unable to speak. Not to be deterred, however,

He would have been an ideal candidate for National Talking Newspapers

he bravely arranged for previous recordings made in a different context to be played to the group.

I knew Chris for over 20 years and I

always found him friendly. He was basically a quiet person, who had a kind heart. He had a love of cats and, as an animal-lover myself, I found it refreshing to see his cats basking in the sunshine or seeking a shady spot in his garden. There was one particularly nervous black cat called Bramble, who would nestle in a place close to where Chris would sit.

Chris will be remembered not just within Sussex, but also nationally for his excellent writing skills and the pleasure that his articles gave to people.

I should like to thank Rita Ravilious, Julian Ravilious and John Herbert for their help in

writing this article. John's article in *Chess* of March, 2016, has been particularly useful to me.



Chris seems to have generally played chess in a solid, positional style, but in the following game, published in the *En Passant* magazine of Volume 2 of August, 1973, he showed that he could play direct attacking chess:

Ravilious, CP - Love, SC [C55]

Casual game, March 12, 1971

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.0-0 d3 7.b4 Bb6 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 0-0 11.e5 Nh5 12.Qxd3 Nxd3 13.Qg6+ Kh8 14.Qxh6+ Kg8 15.Nxg5 1-0

Bexhill

Home move pays off as club goes from strength to strength

THE season was dominated by the need to find new premises following notice to quit BUPA, Grosvenor Park, by December 1, 2015.

Various possible venues were considered and it soon became clear that we would have to pay far more than the peppercorn rent which we had been blessed with for four years, courtesy of BUPA.

Two special general meetings were required to discuss options and it was finally decided, on a trial basis, to go for the two cheapest: the Scout hall, Wainwright Road, on Tuesday afternoons and Centenary House, 21 Holliers Hill, on Saturdays. The members accepted, *nem. con.*, that membership subscriptions and session fees would need to be doubled.

It soon became clear that the Holliers Hill venue was preferable as being more comfortable, with better facilities, and the club now meets there every Tuesday and Saturday, from 1pm to 5pm. It was thought the extra fees would have an adverse effect on numbers, but they have been fairly well maintained, with a solid core of about 25 members (averaging about 15 per meeting), resulting in the club managing so far to break even with regard to the increased rental costs.

During the year, we learned the sad news that Joe Blake, our most longstanding member whose membership went back decades, had died after a protracted illness, which did not prevent his attending the club and still playing good chess until nearly the end (as many as 15 blitz games in an afternoon). He was a great character, with a typically Irish sense of humour. Two members represented the club at his funeral at Hastings Crematorium.

It is pleasing to report that the heavy loss to Hastings & St Leonards Chess Club in April, 2015,

in the regular Rapidplay match was followed by a convincing win by 30½ points to 19½ in August. The club has therefore won the Challenge Trophy four times out of six since its inception. As usual, the stars were the Finn family, but there was a strong performance from Roy Webb in the top group and from all our members in the lower group who managed to win that section for the first time. The result was particularly pleasing as Hastings & St Leonards fielded their strongest team ever for this match.

The new club champion is Steve Blewitt, who scored 9½/10; second was Roy Webb with 8½/9; and third was John Kimber on 7½/10. The Gordon Cup was won by Michael Madeline, with Ted Baker, David Pratt, David Slidel and Mel Stockdale all tying for 2nd place with 6/10.

The major section of the Summer Rapidplay tournament 2015 was won by Steve Blewitt with 12½ points from 16. Second was John Kimber with 11 and third, Alan Ticehurst with 10½. The winner of the minor section was Victor Mowbray with 10½/14, ahead of Mel Stockdale on 9½ and David Pratt with 9.

Although members do take their chess seriously, the club is first and foremost friendly and sociable. It continues to look for new members of all standards. Coaching is given to beginners. The attractions are: very comfortable playing conditions and excellent facilities with no parking problems – and a good supply of tea, coffee and biscuits (included in the session fee of £2, which also goes towards rental costs). The annual membership subscription is now £20, which is the same as it was at the end of the last century.

Joe Sharp,
secretary

Bognor & Arun



UP FOR THE CHALLENGE: Members of Bognor Chess Club take on visitors at East Preston Festival Chess Challenge

Pompey pride as club makes it a double

A THOROUGHLY satisfying and successful season all told. In our usual combination with Chichester Chess Club the A Team finished top of the Portsmouth Chess League's 'A' Division while the B Team repeated the performance in the PCL 'B' Division. Missing out on a clean sweep of the League's team trophies, the clubs' C and D teams finished mid-table in the 'C' Division. The A team reached the final of the Cole Plate but lost 2 -3 to Fareham. In recognition of his performances this season Mick Plumb wins the Ruth Rose Cup.

Not before time, some could argue, there has been a change of trophy winners in the Bognor club. No longer has Jaimie Wilson walked away with everything in sight, Rolandas Lukosius has this year won the Club Championship with a perfect score (13/13) and also won the Knockout Cup, beating Mick Plumb in the final. The as yet

unfinished Summer Tournament is presently being closely contested by Warwick Turner and Jaimie Wilson.

Summer and the always-popular East Preston Village Festival was again attended by the club, enjoying the hospitality of the Seaview Hotel and meeting up with old friends. Ham Manor Golf Club was also the venue for a get-together with the chess-playing section of the local E3A.

The Paul Watson Trophy was not competed for this season, hopefully next season.

The Bognor Club's magnificent chandelier still shines down on its chess players. The club meets 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 the website at www.bognorandarunchessclub.co.uk New members are always very welcome. **Bill Partridge**

Brighton

ANOTHER successful season for Brighton and Hove, winning the Mid-Sussex League First Division Cup - drawing one match and winning all the rest - and their captain, Paul Batchelor, winning the division's best performance tankard on 6/7.

In the other divisions, we are heading for gentler times next season with one team in each division and one in the KO. With three of our four juniors already ahead of the grading limit, we won't be entering a junior team, but will be following the progress of the new Junior Division with interest.

We've run three standardplay internal tournaments, a Rapidplay tournament and a Ladder. The Club Championship was won jointly by Julien Carron and Simon Wilks, with Geoffrey James and Chris Lake joint third. Terry Brown won the U140 Plummer Knight, with Alaa Albadin and Jonathan Davies joint second.

Joe Everett won the U120 Tasker Tankard (his grade is now 154!), with Sue Chadwick and Rob Counsell coming second and third. The Rapidplay and Ladder are still ongoing.

However, the organisation of games by competitors often seems a challenge in itself and after a talk at the club by Scott Freeman from Coulsdon Chess we are hoping to invigorate the process with internal fixtures next season - cutting out the bother of chasing elusive and frequently unknown opponents.

In an increasingly organised world, it seems the way to go - but we shall see. Many are happy just to swap engines and online chess for real people, friendly games and chat - of which we are never short 100 days a year. New members continue to arrive year-round while others move on, taking chess with them.

We have two days out in the summer when the club takes to the streets: one when we set up opposite the Theatre Royal and another at the Brunswick Festival, when hopefully the sun shines and people think of chess. In September this year

The French connection still going strong

we host our annual match against a team from Dieppe, now in its ninth year, having enjoyed another gourmet trip to Dieppe last August. Being a much bigger club, we initially got used to winning, but over the years the French have enlisted from further afield so we have to knuckle down to avoid an entente with a bashing.



READY FOR THE PUNTERS: Rob Counsell, Michael Cain, Robin Jones and Joe Everett at the Brunswick Festival, Hove, in August, 2015.

We meet, of course, at the lovely Avenue Bridge Club on Third Avenue, Hove, where visitors are welcome every Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon.

Sue Chadwick

Chichester Chess Club

Make mine a double: Club claims two titles

CHICHESTER Chess Club meets at the Fishbourne Centre, Blackboy Lane, Fishbourne, on Monday evenings, from 7.15pm.

The centre offers excellent facilities for chess, as well as having a great many other 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

Jointly with Bognor & Arun Chess Club, we entered four teams in the Portsmouth League.

The A team won the League Championship with two matches to spare. The B team won the second division championship for the second year in the succession.

This was a much closer affair with us just edging out Fareham B by two game points.

The D and C teams finished third and fourth respectively in the third division.

The Club Championship was won, for the second season in succession, by Bill McDougall with a score of 7/8 points. The Under 130 Championship was won by Mick Plumb with a score of 8½ /10.

Keith Davies won The Handicap Competition, for The Peter Rayment Trophy, for fifth time in the six years that the competition has been running.



FIVE OUT OF SIX: Keith Davies, winner of the Peter Rayment Trophy again

We are looking forward to our very successful association with Bognor & Arun continuing in the Portsmouth League, with the club continuing to thrive at Fishbourne.

Philip Wake,
secretary

Crowborough

PROUD MOMENT:

Awardip, the new British Under 13 Chess Champion being congratulated by David Howell and Jonathan Tuck at the British Championships in Bournemouth in August



Awardip rounds off a fantastic season at the Brits

THE 2015/16 season started with the 30th Crowborough Chess Congress in September and ended with the British Chess Championships in Bournemouth. During the season, the Senior Club entered three teams into the Mid-Sussex Chess League, completed our internal championships and ran several blitz nights as well as a social training evening.

The Junior Club was also busy with weekly training and rapidplay games, Sussex Junior Chess events, UK Chess Challenge as well as representing Crowborough in national and international events.

Here are just a few of the highlights and apologies to all those successes not mentioned but further details can be found on our website and Twitter feed.

The Crowborough Chess Congress was won jointly by Ian Snape and Matthew Payne with Peter Kemp winning the Albany Cup for the best Crowborough player while Gerald

Michaud won the Under 160 grading prize. Thomas Martin won the Crowborough Town Council Cup for the best score by a Crowborough player in the junior events.

In the Mid-Sussex Chess League, our 2nd team, captained by Chris Dunn, were promoted to the 2nd Division with Gerald Michaud winning the Tankard with a tremendous 92% score. Our 1st team just avoided relegation while our new 3rd

Both now go through to the TeraFinal which is an extraordinary achievement

team were mid-table in the 4th Division. The Longplay Club Championship was won by Gerald Michaud, with Gary McCulloch winning the Challengers.

The Rapidplay tournaments had two very exciting and close head to head finals, Peter Kemp beating Amardip Ahluwalia 1½-½ in the Championship and young Elena Currah collecting the Challengers Trophy also with a 1½-½ scoreline against runner-up Michael Redman.

The Winter 10 Second Blitz was won by Peter Kemp with a perfect 6/6 while David Fryer took the Summer 3m+2s Blitz with an unbeaten 11 wins and 3 draws.

The Regency Chess Junior Prize Board was presented each term to the winners of the junior tournaments with the five winners during the year being; Grace Lamb, Liam Scott, Elliott Hookway, Thomas Martin and Oliver Faulkner.

In the UK Chess Challenge, Thomas Martin won the Club Qualifier and a large Crowborough contingent played in the Sussex and Kent MegaFinals with the qualifiers

going on to play at the Southern GigaFinal.

At the GigaFinal Amardip Ahluwalia won the Under 12 Boys and Giovanni Currah won the Under 11 Boys. Both now go through to the TeraFinal which is an extraordinary achievement as there are fewer than 60 places in this grand final from a starting entry of 50,000 players.

We were represented at the British Chess Championships in Bournemouth by David Fryer playing in the Seniors Championship and Amardip Ahluwalia, Giovanni Currah, Elena Currah and Evie Seddon in their respective junior events. The highlight was Amardip picking up the Under 13 British Championship title with a wonderful 6½/7.

David Fryer
secretary, Crowborough CC

STUDY IN CONCENTRATION:
Giovanni Currah qualifies for the TeraFinal UK Chess Challenge in August, 2016



East Grinstead

Book shop move writes new chapter in history

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.

It is pleasing to report we ended the season with more members than when we started and, on average, around 16 players turned up on a regular club night.

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 now 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 newer members who runs the official East Grinstead Twitter site.

For the third year, we have also decorated a Christmas tree in the annual Christmas Tree Festival with this year's entry entitled "Twas The Knight Before Christmas". 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 Robert Fisher and Norman Hawkins, plus all those who turned out to play.

Robert was recently admitted to hospital and until he is well enough Ian Dennis will act as 1st team captain. Robert has led the 1st team for a number of years and his commitment and enthusiasm has been exceptional.

All at the club wish him a speedy recovery. Norman is also stepping down but will continue to organise our internal league which has proved exceptional popular.

The competition required 12 internal matches to be played, which was closely won by a new member, Chris Seeger.

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



CHESS TREE: East Grinstead's Christmas Tree Festival entry

Bob Dyke, chairman, East Grinstead Chess Club

Horsham

Anthony snatches Rook as flag falls on season

HORSHAM enjoyed another busy and exciting season. We began with the Championship Simultaneous, when Peter Harbott took on 13 players and achieving a draw with 6.5 points.

As in recent years, Horsham ran six teams in the Mid-Sussex Chess League (MSL), but unfortunately we lost a number of regular players quite early on and this put some pressure on captains for the remainder of the season.

In MSL division 1, Horsham 1 were in strong form, ending up in second place with 7/9, behind a rampant Brighton team. Our second team also performed well and finished sixth of 10 teams, with 3.5/9. Horsham 3 and Horsham 4 were competing in the tough division 2, where Horsham 3 finished third, with 5/8 and Horsham 4 face relegation, after coming last, with 2/8. Horsham 5 delivered a solid mid-table performance in division 3, scoring 3.5/7 and finished fourth of eight teams, while Horsham 6 played fighting chess in division 4, but were victims of a shortage of players and finished bottom with 1.5/8.

The Mid-Sussex Chess League is the mainstay of our match chess, but we also play in three knockout competitions. The MSL Knockout is a handicap competition taking into account grading differentials, and we needed to draw to progress past Brighton, but lost 4-1.

The Sussex County Paul Watson Cup requires each team to average 150 or under. We beat Lewes 3-1 in the first round, but then lost 3-1 to Woodpushers 3-1 in the final. In the McArthur Cup we, as usual, met Brighton in the first round, but broke with tradition by beating our long-time rivals 4-2 and progressed to the final to play Hastings. At the time of writing, the final has not been played. Tim Pavlovic won the Knight trophy for the top

Horsham performance in club matches, with 3.5 points from four games.

Horsham has a busy schedule of competitive chess within the club and silverware was well spread out. There are three all-play-all competitions, with the Rook deciding the Club Championship. Anthony Higgs snatched this honour from James Mansson on the last night. Alex Freeland, who joined this year during his university sandwich year, won the Bishop, and Roger Waddingham won the Knight in convincing style.

Mike Forster won the Knockout in an exciting and double-edged final against Gavin Lock, and at the time of writing the Plate competition is still to be decided, between Tim Pavlovic and Matt Forster. Paul Taylor won the 15 minute Quickplay Knockout and Peter Harbott the Plate. Brian Donnelly won the ten seconds per move Lightning competition and the Peter Alford Cup for juniors was retained by Zevon Rustom. Our very popular end of season Invitational competition was won by Nick Warren, with 4.5 points.

In tournament chess, Ian Comley won a Hastings weekend competition in November, scoring 4.5/5, and at the Weald Congress in July Phil Stimpson came equal second in the Major and Lucy Bennet-Stevens tied for first place in the Sussex Girls Anne Gammans Cup. As usual, Horsham players made a significant contribution to county matches. Twenty members played 75 games and scored 32.5 points.

Julie Denning is to be congratulated on being appointed SCCU president. She joins a select list of former Sussex presidents, the last of whom were Horsham's Brian Locke (1977-78) and Crawley's Chris Howell (1995-97).

Ian Comley

Lewes

Good and bad news in a season of mixed fortunes



SCHOOL SUCCESS:
Jonathan Britnell

LEWES Chess Club enter the 2016-17 season in both worse and better shape than at the same time last year.

On the minus side, both our teams, Lewes 1, playing in division 1 of the Mid-Sussex Chess League, and Lewes 2, playing in division 2, were relegated in 2015-16.

While Lewes 1 have struggled increasingly to hold onto division 1 status in recent years, the team remains

There has been a rise in the number of members this season

(we hope) too strong for division 2; we seem destined for yo-yo status unless we can attract (or develop) some new 160-180+ players who want to play regularly.

Lewes 2 were on paper much the same strength as previous seasons so relegation was an unexpected and unwanted surprise; the team usually finishes mid division.

On the plus side, there has been a rise in the

number of members this season, particularly juniors of whom we now have six, up from one the season before, historically none at all. All are between U9 and U11 (U10 to U12 for 2016-17). Four of our juniors attend the nearby Wallands Primary School, which enjoyed its greatest ever chess success in 2015-16 winning the Sussex Primary Schools Cup with a team comprising three Lewes Chess Club members, Jonathan Britnell on board 1, Solomon Mitchell, board 2, and Jacob Wynn, board 3.

Added to that, Jonathan qualified for the National Chess Junior Squad in April by achieving 4/6 at the U11 Liverpool Squad Trials while Solomon qualified as a U9 for the Delancey Schools Chess Challenge Terafinal having won his section of the Southern Gigafinal with 5/6, picking up £100 for his efforts. Both have also represented the county in competitions around the country. All our juniors now have at least a rapidplay grade, having competed in Sussex Junior Chess events.

In other tournaments, Lewes failed to progress beyond the second round of the MSCL KnockOut Cup and even more disappointingly, failed for the first time in six years to reach the final of the Sussex County Chess Association Paul Watson Trophy, an event Lewes won on three of those occasions including the last two. At the time of writing, our 2015-16 internal Quickplay and Club

ALL SMILES: Giovanni Currah (Sussex Junior Chess and Crowborough Chess Club), Oliver Manchester (Sussex Junior Chess and Crowborough Chess Club), Jonathan Britnell (Sussex Junior Chess and Lewes Chess Club), Alec Hedger (Sussex Junior Chess and Worthing Chess Club) and Xavier Laurillard (Sussex Junior Chess and Guildford Chess Club). Inset, Solomon Mitchell.



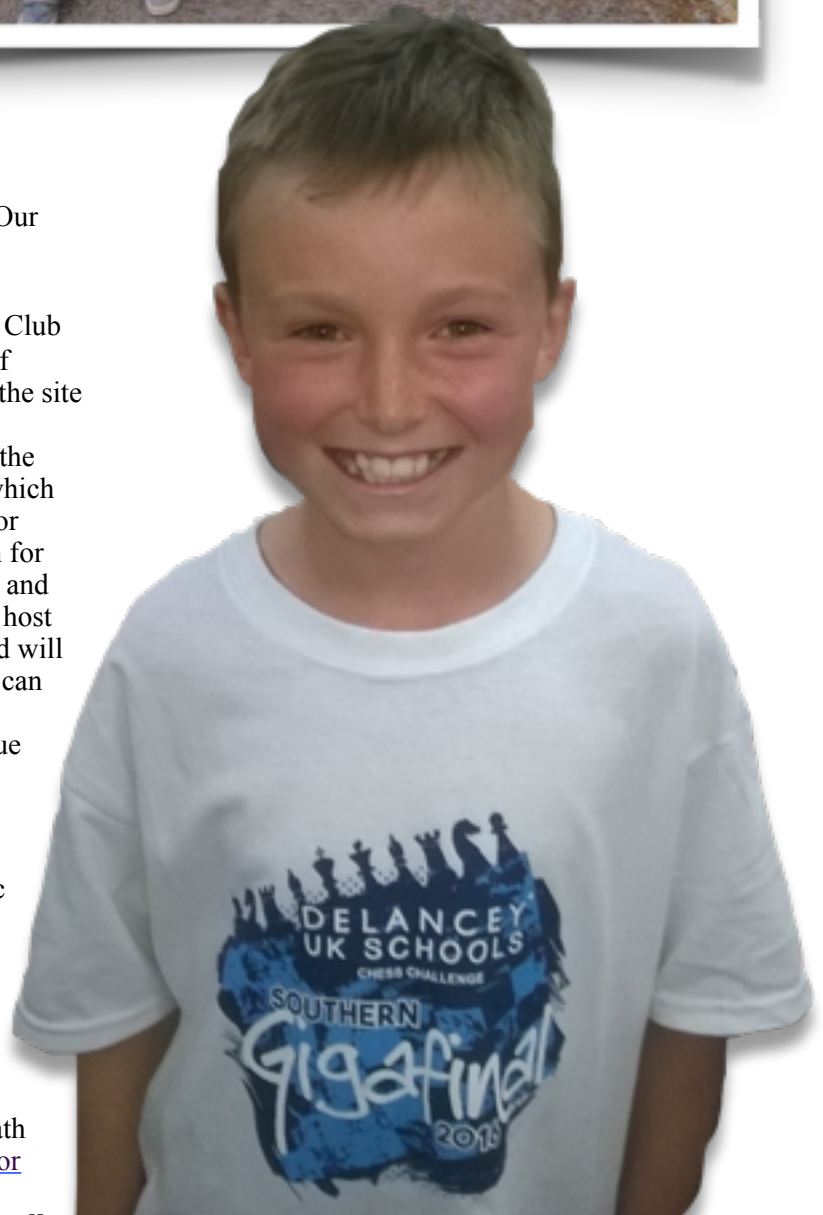
Championship events are still in progress. Our chairman, Richard Welford, is current club champion.

The club meets at St Mary's Supporters Club on Tuesday evenings. Following a period of uncertainty in which the redevelopment of the site was a strong likelihood, that possibility has receded so we continue to be able to enjoy the excellent facilities which include a bar in which we can play and socialise, a quieter room for serious chess, and a lovely secluded garden for warm summer evenings. For these reasons, and our central location, we've been pleased to host the MSCL AGM over the last few years and will welcome the meeting back in 2016-17. We can but hope more people, both for chess and other pastimes, would make use of the venue and so better safeguard its long-term viability.

Lewes Chess Club's members are well represented on other chess bodies: Dominic Lawson for a second year as president of the English Chess Federation while more locally, Matthew Britnell is secretary of the MSCL and Barry Maufe is webmaster.

Longer standing members were saddened earlier this year to hear of the death at the age of 90 of former member, [Professor Laurence Lerner](#).

Matthew James Britnell



Uckfield

Juniors helping move club in right direction

WE are a young club in more ways than one, having only competed in the Mid-Sussex League (MSL) since 2007.

Over those years, we have been boosted by the involvement and encouragement of senior players from other clubs still active, but throughout we owe an absolute debt of gratitude to Ken Swanton and his daughter, Sue Carter, who have been the backbone of the club and always there.

We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at the Luxford Centre in Uckfield (just round the corner from The Picture House), with Ken there from around 6.30pm and we close often around 10.30pm.

We are looking forward to the future with greater optimism

Our teams have moved up and down the divisions of the MSL, and though we have never made division 1 (yet !), we have won an MSL Knockout tournament.

These last two seasons have been a rebuild, having lost several senior players and had a couple of seasons where our teams regularly defaulted on boards.

However, we have used the coaching work I have been doing in schools as the local Sussex Junior Chess Academy director to encourage more young players into longplay adult competition and we are very satisfied with the last two seasons' results.

Last year, our first team went to the last match of the season in contention for promotion to division 3 of the MSL and this year won that division, our second team mainly comprises junior players and magnificently achieved second place and promotion last year from division 4 and this year has fought hard in managing to stabilise in division 3.

Better still, we did not lose one board by default throughout the last two years! In addition, last year we re-entered the Paul Watson Cup and travelled to Woodpushers in Hove and Bognor and Arun with a team lower in ratings only needing to draw, but achieved for us spectacular 2.5/1.5 wins; sadly when we hosted the final that result was reversed to deserved winners Lewes, though they will for sure agree it was a thrilling match! This season, unfortunately, due to organisational changes, our planned entry fell by the wayside.

We are looking forward to the future with greater optimism. As a club, we are keen on results on the night and exciting chess, rather than players sitting on a position in the hope that their computer will save them in an adjournment.

For that reason, we always challenge opponents to quickplay finishes, and the culture may be changing as last year only 7% took up the challenge, whereas this year 11% have done so.

This year, we have also run season-long all-play-all tournaments on club nights - standard play, rapidplay; blitz; handicap split and knockout, as well as having ever popular seasonal party nights with fun chess games. If you want to join us and the fun, please do not hesitate to come along!

**Brian Stockham,
club captain**

Burgess Hill Junior Chess Club

Making the right moves

THIS club has been running only a few years, but has made massive progress. Many thanks are due to the leadership of Peter Barton, who has marshalled a group of parents from local academy and county chess events to start and then run this new club.

I am the local SJC academy director and initially members were attracted to the club from these efforts to promote the game in local schools, with some success having been achieved by individuals and indeed Burgess Hill schools.

Many chess events are now run at Birchwood Grove School, and each year the massive Sussex MegaFinal of the UK Chess Challenge now takes place at Downlands School in Hassocks, both schools having won Sussex junior titles. This year, the Burgess Hill junior club has been boosted by the addition to the coaching staff of Chris Jones, an experienced coach who can take the advanced children even further.

Over the last few years, we have had more than 50 local children taking part in club events, among which we have run a Grand Prix-ranking tournament, lightning and blitz tournaments, as well as a KO and Plate tournament. We had numerous children qualify for and attend the aforementioned Sussex Megafinal, from which last

year no less than 17 children qualified for the Southern Gigafinal in Reading, which is effectively a national semi-final and three qualified for national final stages; this year we had nine qualify for the Gigafinal and again three have qualified for the national final stages.

The Sussex Junior Chess Bruce Dienes Awards are presented at the end of every season to juniors much more for commitment, progress and perseverance than achievement and last year Matthew Barton won the main award, with Thomas Lawrence and Thomas Martin being given secondary awards. As a benchmark, only three other children from other clubs and areas of Sussex achieved that level.

Many more of our juniors have been selected in the last few years to play for Sussex in competition. We also enjoyed a return match with our Kings team versus the Worthing Knights junior club, which ended in an honourable draw after our success at home last year.

If anyone out there wants to learn the game and develop, but also have a load of fun too. The club meets on a Monday evening between 5pm and 7pm at the King's Centre in Victoria Road, Burgess Hill. Any junior player would be welcome.

Brian Stockham, Club Coach

Haywards Heath

THIS past season we settled in successfully at our new venue, the Saltworkz Cafe, on the eastern side of Haywards Heath.

The first team avoided relegation from Division 1 of the Mid-Sussex League, while our 2nd team evaded the wooden spoon in Division 4. Our most notable achievement was to win the Mid-Sussex League Knockout Trophy, our final match being a win on points – i.e. not on handicap – over a Brighton team almost at full strength.

Oh – an afterthought. The County Championship returned to its rightful place, in the hands of one of our members.

Feliks Kwiatkowski, secretary

The Args

THE Args lost 3-2 to Brighton in the Knockout, including a rare defeat for Peter Farr. In Mid-Sussex League division 2, we managed to win three matches out of eight, which was once again enough to avoid relegation narrowly.

Peter Farr won all his eight games, showing a complete dominance at this level. Individual results: Peter Farr 8/9, Jim Graham 5/9, Paul Kington 5.5/9.

Mike Garson, Dennis Collard and Mike Card contributed a few draws, but would certainly do much better if we could only manage to get relegated! We have only six players now so would welcome any new members of reasonable grading who would be happy playing in a lovely pub!

Paul Kington

Under 180

OUR first match was away to Surrey, who proved stiff opposition as they won by 11.5-4.5. However, Sussex did have some winners in Laurence Butt and myself.

The next match was home to Essex. This was to see a reversal in our fortunes, as we were to win by 9.5-6.5. Winners for Sussex that day were Tim Woods, Mick Reddie and Laurence Butt.

Our final match was home to Middlesex. Another win would mean a place in the national stages. This was however not to be. We lost by 10-6. We did have three winners in Robert Lanzer, Thomas Finn and Calum Salmons.

Thanks to Tim Pavlovic and Robert Lanzer for help with equipment and setting up. During the season we scored one match point and 20 game points. Seventeen players were to represent Sussex this season.

I would like to mention that new players would be very welcome to join us. We were, on occasion, short during the past season. Please, get in touch, if you wouldn't mind extending your chess to the weekend.

Paul Batchelor
mailto:p.batchelor@outlook.com

Under 160

THE Under 160 team lost all 4 matches this season, but were very unfortunate to lose two of these by a single point.

Despite having a good season elsewhere I'm afraid that your captain could do little right for the county this year - must do better next term!

We need to strengthen for next season which will involve the clubs or individuals informing us of

of new players, especially juniors.

I should like to thank all those who took part ensuring that this team never defaulted a single game!

Congratulations to the following for the best results: Colin Parker 3.5/4; Robert Lanzer and Paul Selby 2.5/4; Julie Denning, Alan Palmer, Mike Reddie and Dona Strauss 2/4

Paul Kington

Adjudications

THE Panel is J. Mansson, L. Rutherford, G. James, M.Nicholas, F. Kwiatowski, B.Cafferty, G. Anthony, P. Kemp, R. Elliston and D. Roberts.

There were only four positions to consider this season. No appeals were made.

Robert Elliston
SCCA Adjudication
secretary

Individual Knockout

SADLY, the number of entrants for the Sussex Individual Knockout Championship continues to fall.

With the previous season's champion, Brian Denman, ruling himself out owing to ill-health, only five (compared with eight the season before) were willing to contest the county's top individual honour: Jerry Anstead, Andy Briggs, Bernard Cafferty, Michael Dean and Feliks Kwiatkowski.

In the preliminary round, Andy Briggs defeated an outgraded Michael Dean to set up a semi-final pairing with Bernard Cafferty. The other semi-final was between Jerry Anstead and Feliks Kwiatkowski.

Again, the higher-graded players triumphed, producing the expected final (over two games) between

Feliks and Bernard. In the first game, Feliks, as white, won in 34 moves, but considered himself fortunate to hold the draw in the second, as he felt sure he was lost out of the opening.

Congratulations to Feliks on becoming the Sussex Champion again, for the second time in three years. He has expressed the understandable hope that future tournaments will attract some younger players and this is a plea to club secretaries to draw it to the attention of their strongest juniors so that it ceases to decline through becoming the preserve of older generations (not the phrase Feliks used).

Joe Sharp,
tournament controller

	SURREY	24.10.15	SUSSEX
1	Gavin Wall 228 (W)	1 0	Julien Carron e222
2	Steve Berry 220	½ ½	Feliks Kwiatkowski 197
3	Nigel Povah 210	0 1	Mark Broom 193
4	Ian Sharpe 211	½ ½	Jaimie Wilson 188
5	Roger Emerson 205	0 1	Peter Farr 185
6	Graham Keane 193	½ ½	James Mansson 185
7	Neil Bridge 193	1 0	David Roberts 181
8	Angus French 185	1 0	Roland Lukoshius 177
9	Sam Porter 185	½ ½	Robert Fitzgerald 174
10	John Bennet 182	1 0	Paul Taylor 173
11	Julian Way 180	1 0	Paul Batchelor 169
12	Nick Faulks 166	0 1	Tim Pavlovic 161
13	Julien Shepley 179	1 0	def
14	Keith Richardson 176	1 0	def
15	Phil Stimpson 173	1 0	def
16	Seb Galer 164	1 0	def
		11 5	

	SUSSEX	21.11.15	ESSEX
1	Julien Carron 222e (B)	1 0	Artur Syguslski 203
2	Gareth Anthony 201	0 1	David Sands 200
3	Feliks Kwiatkowski 197	1 0	Tim Hebbes 188
4	Bernard Cafferty 193	1 0	Kevin White 186
5	Geoffrey James 191	0 1	David Spearman 185
6	Howard Tebbs 192	½ ½	Jeff Goldberg 182
7	Jeff Boardman 189	½ ½	Terry Whitton 178
8	Jaimie Wilson 188	1 0	Larry Marden 177
9	Bob Elliston 188	½ ½	John White 172
10	Callum Brewer 188	1 0	Vladimir Parols 176
11	Peter Farr 185	0 1	Ian Hunnable 174
12	James Mansson 185	½ ½	Jim Howson 167
13	Martin Costley 184	1 0	Gavin Strachan 160
14	Anthony Higgs 179	1 0	Elliott Cocks 157
15	Adrian Pickersgill 178	½ ½	Philip Staniland 156
16	Rolandas Lukoshius 177	0 1	Christopher Hampton 156
		9½ 6½	

	SUSSEX	30.1.16	MIDDLESEX
1	Feliks Kwiatkowski 197 (B)	0 1	Jochem Snuverink 231
2	Mark Broom 198	0 1	Richard Bates 225
3	Gareth Anthony 197	½ ½	Simon Spivack 200
4	Bernard Cafferty 196	½ ½	Carsten Pedersen 195
5	Callum Brewer 192	½ ½	Etan Ilfeld 198
6	Jaimie Wilson 191	0 1	Maria Manelidou 194
7	Robert Elliston 190	0 1	Daniel Farkas 192
8	Jeffrey Boardman 189	1 0	Nevil Chan 183
9	Peter Farr 185	½ ½	Colin Mackenzie 188
10	Martin Costley 185	½ ½	Steven Coles 181
11	Anthony Higgs 183	1 0	D Ian Calvert 176
12	David Roberts 175	1 0	Guy Batchelor 171
13	Adrian Pickersgill 174	½ ½	Anthony Fulton 176
14	Paul Batchelor 174	0 1	William Taylor 171
15	Robert Fitzgerald 173	1 0	George Dickson 166
16	Timothy Spanton	0 1	Robert Kane 163
		7 9	

	KENT	27.2.16	SUSSEX
1	Neil McDonald 229 (W)	1 0	Brian Tarhon *188
2	Andrew Mayhew 218	½ ½	Feliks Kwiatkowski 198
3	Martin Taylor 217	1 0	Mark Broom 198
4	Philip Morris 215	½ ½	Gareth Anthony 197
5	Ian Snape 209	1 0	Geoffrey James 196
6	Anthony Stebbings 206	1 0	Howard Tebbs 193
7	Paul Talsma 205	1 0	Callum Brewer 192
8	Mark Robertson 199	1 0	Jaimie Wilson 191
9	Jim Bayford 191	½ ½	Robert Elliston 190
10	Leon Wooldridge 188	0 1	Jeffrey Boardman 189
11	J Nicholas Briggs 186	0 1	Peter farr 185
12	Gordon Botley 183	1 0	Martin Costley 185
13	David Tucker 182	½ ½	Dix Roberts (r) 175
14	Jonathan Landau 176	½ ½	Anthony Higgs 183
15	Alan Atkinson 173	½ ½	Adrian Pickersgill 175
16	Bernd Plumhoff 168	0 1	Paul Batchelor 173
		10 6	

	SURREY	31.10.15	SUSSEX
1	Alan Scrimgour 175 (W)	½ ½	Adrian Pickersgill 178
2	John Foley 176	½ ½	Paul Taylor 173
3	Keith Richardson 176	0 1	Paul Batchelor 169
4	Phil Stimpson 173	½ ½	Tim Spanton 167
5	Owen Phillips 170	1 0	Bob Lanzer 158
6	Daniel Young 168	½ ½	Paul Selby 156
7	Victor Odunaiya 168	1 0	Alan Palmer 155
8	Nick Edwards 164	0 1	Laurence Butt 152
9	Seb Galer 164	½ ½	Mick Reddie 150
10	Yang-Jian Zhou 166	1 0	Tim Woods 144
11	Paul Barasi 167	1 0	def
12	Graham Alcock 169	1 0	def
13	Nick Faulks 166	1 0	def
14	Alireza Anvarinaeni 158	1 0	def
15	David Sedgwick 157	1 0	def
16	Nick Grey 151	1 0	def
		11½ 4½	

	SUSSEX	28.11.15	ESSEX
1	Anthony Higgs 179 (B)	0 1	Larry Marden 177
2	Adrian Pickersgill 178	½ ½	Vladimir Parols 176
3	Paul Batchelor 169	0 1	Ian Hunnable 174
4	Tim Pavlovic 161	½ ½	John White 171
5	Amardip Ahluwalia 159	½ ½	Colin Ramage 169
6	Bob Lanzer 158	½ ½	Paul Kenning 169
7	Paul Selby 156	0 1	David Millward 168
8	Alan Palmer 155	½ ½	Christian Westrap 162
9	Laurence Butt 152	1 0	Gavin Strachan 160
10	Mick Reddie 150	1 0	Elliott Cocks 157
11	Tim Woods 144	1 0	Chris Hampton 156
12	L John Cannon 136	½ ½	Richard Weeber 154
13	Brian Izzard 128	½ ½	John Philpott 135
14	Kevin Gee 134	1 0	def
15	Sue Chadwick 105	1 0	def
16	Andrew Shoulders 34	1 0	def
		9½ 6½	

	SUSSEX	13.3.16	MIDDLESEX
1	Adrian Pickersgill 174 (W)	½ ½	Steven Coles 181
2	Paul Batchelor 173	½ ½	D Ian Calvert 175
3	Paul Taylor 172	½ ½	Dydak Mateusz 171
4	Amardip Ahluwalia 166	½ ½	V Ray Harper 166
5	Michael Reddie 159	0 1	Anthony Fulton 176
6	Tim Spanton 158	½ ½	George Dickson 166
7	Robert Lanzer 157	1 0	Robert Kane 163
8	Paul Selby 156	½ ½	William Phillips 163
9	Thomas Finn 156	1 0	Jonathan Kay 159
10	Alan Palmer 155	0 1	Leon Fincham 156
11	Calum Salmons 141	1 0	David White 147
12	def	0 1	Andy Hayler 170
13	def	0 1	Guy Batchelor 170
14	def	0 1	Greg Breed 156
15	def	0 1	Jagdeep Dhemrait 149
16	def	0 1	Nigel Colter 143
		6 10	

	SURREY	7.11.15	SUSSEX
1	Francis Fields 158 (B)	½ ½	Bob Lanzer 158
2	David Sedgwick 157	0 1	Paul Selby 156
3	Neil Maxwell 157	1 0	Alan Palmer 153
4	Ian Deswarte 156	0 1	Michael Reddie 150
5	H Trevor Jones 154	1 0	Paul Kington 150
6	Anshu Ramaiya 154	0 1	Colin Parker 149
7	Nick Grey 151	1 0	Paul Richardson 149
8	John Moore 149	½ ½	Tim Woods 144
9	Norman Blake 146	½ ½	Ollie Weiss 144
10	Peter Lawrence 143	½ ½	Michael Harris 137
11	John R McKenna 142	1 0	Julie Denning 137
12	Graham Wallis 142	1 0	John Marshall 136
13	Peter Horlock 138	½ ½	William Partridge 136
14	Richard Tillett 132	½ ½	Don Banks 135
15	Pramoth Ragavan 131	0 1	Lucy Bennet-Stevens 132
16	Arushi Ramaiya 118	½ ½	Dona Strauss 131
		8½ 7½	

	KENT	9.1.16	SUSSEX
1	Ian McAllan 159	0 1	Bob Lanzer 158
2	Andy Waters 159	1 0	Paul Selby 156
3	Ximan Mao 150	0 1	Daniel Brooks 155
4	John Cook 157	½ ½	Alan Palmer 153
5	Peter Childs 154	½ ½	Michael Reddie 150
6	Cos Charles 153	1 0	Paul Kington 150
7	Andrew Craig 153	0 1	Colin Parker 149
8	Barry Beavis 151	1 0	Tim Woods 144
9	Mike Wood 151	½ ½	Julie Denning 137
10	Gary Sharp 149	½ ½	John Cannon 136
11	Bob Lane 148	½ ½	William Partridge 136
12	Chris Marshall 147	1 0	Don Banks 135
13	David Fowler 143	1 0	Brian Howard 135
14	Geoff Bishop 143	1 0	Lucy Bennet-Stevens 132
15	Mike Wiltshire 139	1 0	Dona Strauss 131
16	David Orr 127	1 0	Brian Izzard 128
		10½ 5½	

	SUSSEX	30.1.16	MIDDLESEX
1	Bob Lanzer 157 (B)	0 1	Paul Kennelly 165
2	Paul Selby 156	½ ½	Charles McAleenan 160
3	Daniel Brooks 158	0 1	Russell Campbell 160
4	Alan Palmer 155	1 0	Keith Jones (r) 147
5	Michael Reddie 160	½ ½	Greg Breed 156
6	Paul Kington 149	½ ½	Andrew McGuinness 152
7	Colin Parker 149	½ ½	John Sargent 152
8	Paul Richardson 148	½ ½	Steven Walsh 151
9	Tim Woods 145	0 1	Ian Cross 150
10	Michael Harris 136	½ ½	Jagdeep Dhemrait 149
11	Julie Denning 129	½ ½	Mark Fountain 144
12	W John Marshall 135	½ ½	Nigel Colter 143
13	L John Cannon 131	½ ½	Steve Sonnis 141
14	William Partridge 134	0 1	Frank Zurstiege 139
15	Don Banks 139	0 1	Roger Scowen 137
16	Dona Strauss 131	½ ½	John Woolley 136
		6 10	

	SUSSEX	27.2.16	ESSEX
1	Bob Lanzer 158 (W)	1 0	Elliott Cocks 157j
2	Paul Selby 156	1 0	def
3	Alan Palmer 153	½ ½	Christopher Hampton 156
4	Cassie Graham 152	½ ½	Peter Burgoyne 152
5	Michael Reddie 150	0 1	Richard Weeber 154
6	Paul Kington 150	0 1	Josh Winiberg 152
7	Colin Parker 149	1 0	Rob Hewitt 146
8	Paul Richardson 149	0 1	Malcolm Kingsley 144
9	Tim Woods 144	1 0	Zeynel Polat 142
10	Michael Harris 137	½ ½	Phil Foley 142
11	Julie Denning 137	1 0	Ian Morgan 141
12	W John Marshall 136	0 1	John Wright 141
13	L John Cannon 136	0 1	Peter Nickals 139
14	Don Banks 135	0 1	Ian Woodward 136
15	Lucy Bennet-Stevens 132	0 1	Ng, Han Loong 135
16	Dona Strauss 131	1 0	Paul Haddock 122
		7½ 8½	

	SUSSEX	28.11.15	SURREY
1	Julie Denning 137 (B)	1 0	Krishna Mehendale 139
2	W John Marshall 136	0 1	Martin Rosenbach 139
3	Brian Howard 135	0 1	Adrian Waldock 138
4	Minori Davies-Arai 134	0 1	Nick Driver 136
5	Lucy Bennet-Stevens 132	½ ½	Michael Ifalore 132
6	Dona Strauss 131	½ ½	David Charters 132
7	Alex Von Der Becke 126e	½ ½	Richard Tillett 132
8	David Curtis 124	0 1	Pramoth Ragavan 131
9	David Wallis 120	½ ½	Mike Gunn 129
10	David Simpkins 119	½ ½	Ken Chamberlain 125
11	Andrew Meyer 118	0 1	Graham Andrews 123
12	Roger Waddingham 115	½ ½	Daniel Muir 123
13	Steve Alker 90	0 1	David Moss 121
14	David W Bennett 88	0 1	Barry Miles 117
15	Gary Whitmore 83	½ ½	Steve Johnson 105
16	David Gray 66	1 0	James Lawrence 119e
		5½ 10½	

	HERTS	23.1.16	SUSSEX
1	Simon Charles 138 (W)	½ ½	J Marshall 136
2	Cecil Sloan 138	½ ½	J Denning 137
3	Andrew Maclaren 138	1 0	D Strauss 131
4	Alan Gore 129	0 1	D Curtis 124
5	Mir Wali 137	0 1	D Simkins 120
6	Richard Pearson 129	1 0	D Britton 117
7	Austin McMahon 132	0 1	R Waddingham 115
8	John Peate 125	1 0	G Whitmore 83
9	Corinne Mountford 134	1 0	def
10	Simon Cage 132	1 0	def
11	Stephen Dicks 124	1 0	def
12	Terry O'Sullivan 114	1 0	def
13	Peter Dunks 120	1 0	def
14	Tim Sampson 118	1 0	def
15	Keith Woodhouse 115	1 0	def
16	def	0 0	def
		11 4	

	SUSSEX	20.2.16	MIDDLESEX
1	Mick Harris 136 (W)	½ ½	Steve Sonnis 138 141
2	W John Marshall 135	0 1	Richard Dunn 137 137
3	Alex Von Der Becke 134	½ ½	Jo Farrell 137 140
4	L John Cannon 131	½ ½	Peter Hawran 134 141
5	Minori Davies-Arai 129	0 1	Wilson Ransome 133 134
6	Julie Denning 129	0 1	Michael Price 132 130
7	Brian Izzard 128	1 0	Cormac O'Caolaidhe 131 131
8	David Wallis 124	½ ½	Andrew Costeloe 129 126
9	Keith Osborne 122	1 0	Alistair Morton 127 128
10	David Curtis 122	0 1	Des Byrne 122 114
11	David Britton 119	0 1	Evan Beachley 122 120
12	Andrew Mayer 116	0 1	Mark Huba 119 122
13	David Simpkins 116	1 0	Peter Pickering 118 116
14	Roger Waddingham 116	1 0	Brian Foster 116 112
15	Gary Whitmore 81	1 0	John Miraghaie 100 97
16	David Gray 66	1 0	def
		8 8	

	SUSSEX	12.3.16	ESSEX
1	Lucy Bennet Stevens 141 (B)	½ ½	Ian Woodward 141
2	Mick Harris 136	½ ½	Simon Moth 136
3	Dona Strauss 131	0 1	Mike Cresswell 135
4	Minori Davies-Arai	½ ½	Mark Rivlin 133
5	Julie Denning 129	½ ½	Charlton Siddo 133
6	Brian Izzard 128	1 0	Ben Harte 132
7	David Wallis 124	0 1	Andy Forrester 131
8	David Curtis 124	½ ½	Keith Cook 129
9	David Britton 119	0 1	Dominic Leigh 128
10	Andrew Mayer 116	0 1	Paul Haddock 124
11	David Simpkins 116	0 1	Mark Ashley 119
12	Zevon Rustom 107	0 1	Vladimir Chtym 118
13	Steven Alker 90	0 1	Tony Loh 107
14	def	0 1	Mike Bradford 133
15	def	0 1	Malcolm Crane 114
16	def	0 1	Robin Smith 99
		3½ 12½	



**Sussex County Championship
Final 2015-16, Game 1, Hastings,
February 6, 2016. Feliks
Kwiatkowski v Bernard Cafferty,
Caro-Kann Defence**

1.e4 c6; 2.d4 d5; 3.Nc3 de; 4.Nxe4 Nf6; 5.Nxf6+ ef; [This is the first time I recall Bernard playing this line against me. That was the point – the variation is sub-optimal, but it is not overtly ‘bad’. White can fall into difficulties if he doesn’t know where the danger is coming from. I remembered that the danger lies in an advance of the Black K-side pawns. I resolved to play conservatively and to just take care not to be overrun. If that meant giving up some or all of the White opening advantage, I was psychologically ready to accept that - after all, I had been caught in the opening.] 6.c3 Bd6; 7.Bd3 Nd7; 8.Qc2 c5; [Usually, Black castles before undertaking ideas like ... Nd7 and ... c5.] 9.Ne2 cd; 10.Nxd4 Ne5; [The bishop is driven off its good diagonal, but White’s pawn structure is permanently better, so I was content.] 11.Be2 0-0; 12.0-0 Bg4; 13.Bxg4 Nxg4; 14.h3 Ne5; 15.Nf5 Bc5; 16.Be3 Bxe3; 17.Nxe3 a5?!; [The White policy has succeeded. Black’s chances in this variation come from piece activity and a K-side pawn push. If you have exchanged off your pieces, they cannot get active. Also, the K-side pawns haven’t moved. Now ... a5 struck me as dubious, for you should not push pawns on the side where you are weak. My impression was that Black’s ambitions were now restricted to swapping down to a draw.] 18. Rfd1 Qc7; 19.Rd5 Rad8; 20.R1d1 g6; [Here, I was not concerned about too much calculation – I was just trying to keep pushing gently. If Black holds, then he holds.] 21.Qa4 ... ; [White has options of Qb5 or swinging to the K-side.] 21. ... Nc6; 22.Qb5 Rfe8; 23.Rxd8 Rxd8; 24.Rxd8+ Nxd8; 25.Nd5 Qe5; 26.Qxa5 ... ; [The exposed pawn falls. Now to consolidate.] 26. ... Nc6; 27. Qc5 Kg7; 28.b4 Qe2; 29.a3? ...; [This wastes a move. I had actually seen my idea next move but was reluctant to invest the pawn.] 29. ... h5; 30.a4! Qd1+; 31.Kh2 Qxa4; 32.Nc7 ... ; [The famous capacity for co-operation between queen and knight now comes into focus.] 32. ... Ne5; 33.Qe7 Nd7; [If 33. ... Qd7; White may try 34.Ne8+ Kh6; 35.Qf8+ ...; However I

couldn’t find a clean win after 35. ... Kh6. You are welcome to try. I was simply going to play 35.Qxd7 Nxd7; 36.Nd6 ... ; when White will be a safe pawn ahead in the knight ending.] 34.Ne6+ ... [This was the point I had seen some moves back. Mate soon follows, so Black resigned.] 1-0.



**Sussex County Championship
Final 2015-16, Game 2,
Haywards Heath, April 23, 2016.
Bernard Cafferty v Feliks
Kwiatkowski Reti’s Opening**

1.Nf3 c5; 2.b3 Nc6; 3.Bb2 d6; [The County Final does strange things to your head. This was an awful game, by both players. My brain simply shut down from stress, and all the sensible ways of countering the White opening just fled from my consciousness. There is nothing wrong with obvious ideas like ... e6, ... d5 and ... Nf6.] 4.e3 e6?!; [Here ... e5 looks respectable, so that if 5.d4 cd; 6.ed e4;] 5.c4 Nf6; 6.Nc3 Be7; 7.Be2 d5; [Yes, Black has lost a move. Shameful, but it gets worse.] 8.cd ed; 9.d4 cd; 10.Nxd4 Qb6; [There seem to be no good moves here, so Black may as well try the bad ones.] 11.Nxc6 bc; 12.0-0 Ba6; 13.Na4 Qb7; 14.Rc1 Bxe2; 15.Qxe2 0-0; [White has easy play against the weak ‘c’ and ‘a’ pawns. I expected to lose.] 16.Rc2 Rac8; 17.R1c1 Rfe8; 18.Bd4 Nd7; 19.Nc5 Nxc5; 20.Bxc5 Bf6; 21.Qd2 Be5; 22.Bd4 Bd6; 23.Qa5 Bb8; 24.g3 f6; [If Black attempts pseudo-activity, bad things happen. For instance: 24. ... Re6?? 25.Qxd5 cd; 26.Rxc8+] 25.Qa4 Re6; 26.Rc5 Be5; 27.Kg2 a6; 28.Ra5 Ra8; 29.Rc5 Rc8; 30.Ra5 ...; [White here shocked me by offering a draw. Of course, I practically tore Bernard’s arm off shaking his hand to secure the County title. Stress must have got to him too. As he saw after the game, White should continue to manoeuvre – for instance 30.Bxe5 fe; 31.e4 ... ; looks strong.] Agreed ½ - ½ .



**London Chess League 2015-16,
Division 1, Wimbledon 1 v King's
Head 1, Board 4/12, February 3,
2016, Andrew Harley (Wimb) v
Feliks Kwiatkowski (KH), Sicilian
Defence, Alapin Variation**

[The curiosity here is that I was playing against the co-author of a textbook on this very variation. I looked at it afterwards and found that, despite the passage of much time, the book has held up pretty well.] 1.e4 c5; 2.c3 Nf6; 3.e5 Nd5; 4.Nf3 Nc6; 5.Bc4 Nb6; 6.Bb3 d5; 7.ed[e.p.] c4!; [My opinion is that the sequence initiated by this move offers Black the best chances for active equality.] 8.Bc2 Qxd6; 9.0-0 Bg4; 10.Qe2 Qf6; 11.Be4 0-0-0; 12.Na3 ...; [The more usual ideas are Re1 or h3.] 12. ... Ne5! [It is a typical theme of the variation to permit Bxb7+. Here I could see that I would need to give up a pawn, and that I would get good value for it.] 13.Bxb7+ Kxb7; 14.Qxe5 Bxf3; 15.Qxf6 ef; [15. ... gf; was also worth a ponder, but the move I chose gives White a bad minor piece and mobilises the second Black rook.] 16.gf Bxa3; 17.ba Rhe8; 18.Rb1 Kc6; 19.a4!? ...; [White now strives for activity.] 19. ... Nxa4; 20.Rb4 Nb6; 21.d4!? ...; [Wow! Why this? Well, if now 21. ... cd [e.p.]; then 22.Be3 ...; and the bishop is out, with serious White counterplay. The joke is that Black may actually be objectively winning. I couldn't calculate anything good then, because I was dog-

tired from the journey into London from Haywards Heath, so I took the practical course, and kept the bishop buried. If you and your computer can find a win, well bully for you.] 21. ... Re2; 22.Be3 Rd5; 23.Ra1 a5; 24.R4b1 Rc2; 25.Rc1 Rxc1+; 26.Rxc1 Rb5; 27.Rc2 Rb1+; 28.Bc1 Nd5; 29.Kg2 f5; [The strategy was to keep up the pressure without letting the White pieces out of their cage.] 30. f4 Kb5; 31.f3 Ka4; 32.Kf2 Rb6; 33.Bd2 Rh6; 34.Kg3 Rb6; 35.Kf2 Rb1; 36.Bc1 Kb5.

[Now here we ... adjourned!!! Yes, the London League still has adjournments. I like them. White pondered and sealed. When we resumed play, on March 9, Harley's choice was not a surprise. In the interval, I had failed to find any forced winning plan, so I resolved to just creep around until something happened. It's perfectly possible that White can defend – but the job is too miserable for most in such positions.]

37.Kg3 Kc6; 38.Kh4 h6; 39.Kg3 Kd7; 40.h3 Rb6; 41.Bd2 Ke7; 42.Bc1 Kf6; 43.Bd2 Kg6; 44.Kh4 Rb1; 45.Bc1 Kf6; 46.Kg3 a4; 47.Kh4 Kg6; 48.Rg2+ Kh7; 49.Rc2 f6; 50.Kg3 g5; 51.Bd2 Kg6; 52.Bc1 Kh5; 53.Bd2 Rb7; 54.Bc1 gf+!; [Yes! The tripled pawns! 55.Bxf4? Rg7+ wins. The awful pawns don't matter in this position, as the key point is that the Black king can now penetrate.] 55.Kf2 Kh4; 56.Rb2 Rxb2; 57.Bxb2 Kxh3; 58.Bc1 Nxc3; 59.Bxf4 h5; 60.a3 Nd5; 61.Bc1 f4; 62.Bd2 c3; 63.Be1 Kh2; 64.Ke2 Kg2; 65.Bxc3 h4! White resigned. 0-1.



**London Chess League 2015-16, Division 1, Drunken Knights 2 v King's
Head 1, Board 2/12, November 23, 2015, Mark Rich (DK) v Feliks
Kwiatkowski (KH), Sicilian Defence**

[A 'quickie' against a player with a Sussex background.] 1.e4 c5; 2.Nc3 Nc6; 3.f4 g6; 4.Nf3 Bg7; 5.Bb5 Nd4; [This is the modern form of the Grand Prix Attack. 5.Bc4 is the older edition, capable of leading to much brutality.] 6.Bc4 e6; 7.e5 d5; 8.Nxd4 cd; 9.Bb5+

Bd7; 10.Bxd7+ Qxd7; 11.Ne2 f6; [This works out well, but 11. ... d3 seems highly disruptive in retrospect.] 12.Nxd4 fe; 13.fe Bxe5; 14.Nf3 Bg7; 15.0-0 Nf6; 16.d3 0-0; [White has failed to lure me into any indiscretions and I felt comfortable. For instance, 17.Ne5 Qc7 is

adequate. I will leave it to you to work out what is wrong with 18.Bf4 ...] 17.Bg5 Qc7; 18.Qe2 Rae8; 19.Ne5 Ne4; 20.Rxf8+ Rxf8; 21.de Qxe5; 22.Be7 Qd4+; 23.Kh1 Rf2; 24.Qb5 Qxb2!. White resigns: 0-1. [The point is that 25.Qe8+ ...; is met by 25. ... Rf8.]



**McArthur Cup Semi-Final,
May 3, 2016, White Gavin
Lock 2154, Horsham, Black
IM Julien Carron 2356,
Brighton**

1.d4 Nf6; 2.Bg5 Ne4; 3.Bf4 d5; 4.e3 c5; 5.Bd3 Qb6; 6.Bxe4 dxe4; 7.Nc3 Qg6 (the model game in this line is the famous Adams win 7... Qxb2; 8.Nge2 Bg4; 9.Nxe4 Bxe2; 10.Kxe2 cxd4; 11.Qd3 f5; 12.Ng5 Nc6; 13.Ne6 Rc8; 14.Rhb1 Qc3; 15.Qxc3 dxc3; 16.Rxb7 Kf7; 17.Nd4 Kf6; 18.Bc7 Nxd4+; 19.exd4 a6; 20.Ra7 e6; 21.Rb1Be7; 22.Be5+ 1-0, Adams - Xie, Hastings 1996) 8.Nge2 (rapid development is the key) 8... cxd4 (8...Qxg2; 9.Rg1 Qf3; 10.dxc5 is the computer suggestion, while 10.Qd2 e6; 11.O-O-O, with d4-d5 to come is also very strong, and is what I would have played); 9.exd4 e6; 10.Qd2 Bb4; 11.O-O-O Nd7; 12.Qe3 Nf6; 13.f3 (Played with a particular exchange sacrifice in mind); 13...Qxg2 (critical and consistent, but this also turns out to be excellent for W - 13...exf3; 14.gxf3, with an open g-file, is treacherous for B and after 13...O-O; 14.fxe4 b5 W is also clearly better, with a strong centre and an extra pawn); 14.fxe4 Ng4; 15.Qd3 (sacrificing the exchange for an attack on the dark squares. 15.Qg3 Qxg3 16.Bxg3 keeps the exchange, but is timid and after 16...Bd7-c6 is easy for B to play) 15...Nf2 (15...Bxc3 is a major alternative, but W is winning in all lines, e.g. (a) 16.Nxc3 Nf2; 17.Qd2 Qf3; 18.Rhf1 or (b) 16.Nxc3 Qf2; 17.Bg5 f6; 18.Rd2); 16.Qb5+ Bd7; 17. Qxb4 (17.Qxb7 was also highly tempting, eg (a) 17...Rc8; 18.Qxb4 Nxh1; 19.Rg1 Qf3; 20.d5 and (b) 17...Rd8 18.Rhg1 Qf3 19.Rg3 Qh5 20.Qxb4, are both crushing) 17...Nxh1; 18.Rg1 Qf3; 19.Rxg7 (threatens Bg5, but 19.Nb5 is much more incisive after (a) 19 Bxb5: 20.Qxb5+ Kf8; 21.Bd6+ Kg8; 22.Rxg7+ Kxg7; 23.Qg5# or (b) 19...Kd8 20.Rxg7 Bxb5; 21.Qxb5) 19...h6; 20.Bxh6 O-O-O (20... a5 21 Qxb7 Rc8; 22 Bf4 was Black's best defence, but it's still insufficient); 21.Bf4 (returning to the key diagonal with huge mating threats) 21...e5; 22.Bxe5 Rh6; 23.Nd5 (23.Qa5 also wins easily, after ...Rc6; 24 Qxa7); 23...b6; 24.Qc4+ Rc6 (24... Bc6 was what I expected, when 25. Qa6+

Bb7; 26 Ne7+ Kd7; 27 Qxb7+ Ke8; 28. Rg8 would be mate); 25.Ne7+?! - absolutely crushing, but very near to the time control and overlooking 25 Qa6#) 25...Kb7; 26.Nxc6 Qe3+; 27.Kb1 Bxc6; 28.d5 Bb5; 29.Qxb5 Qd2; 30.Nc1 - and with W having just made the time control, B resigned. Summary - an exciting game against a strong IM opponent. Although the game was not perfect, it was a memorable and important win.



**Mid-Sussex League, division 1, ,
November 10, 2015, Phil
Stimpson, Horsham 2 (W) v
Gavin Lock, Horsham 1**

1.e4 e6; 2.d4 d5; 3.Nc3 Nc6; 4.Nf3 Nf6; 5.e5 Ne4; 6.Bd3 Bb4; 7.Bd2 Nxd2; 8.Qxd2 f6; 9.a3 Bxc3 (or 9... Ba5; 10.exf6 Qxf6; 11.Bb5 Bd7; 12.Bxc6 Bxc6; 13.O-O O-O; 14.Rfe1 Be8; 15.Re3 Bh5; 16.Rae1 Rae8, and B's position was acceptable, Wan - Bauer, 2016); 10.Qxc3 fxe5; 11.dxe5 O-O; 12.h4 Bd7; 13.Qd2 Qe7; 14.Qe3 (14.Bxh7+ doesn't lead to a win for W 14... Kxh7; 15.Ng5+ Kg8; 16.Qd3 g6; 17.Qxg6+ Qg7); 14... Na5 (aiming to begin queenside play immediately - 14... Be8 is the traditional way of activating the bishop - 15.c3 Bh5; 16.Nd4 Nxd4; 17.cxd4 Qf7; 18.Rc1 c6; 19.f3 Bg6; 20.Be2 h6; 21.g3 Bh7; 22.Kf2 Qe7; 23.Kg2 Rf7; 24.Rc3 Raf8; 25.b4 a6; 26.h5 Qg5; 27.Qxg5 hxg5; 28.Kf2 Be4; 29.Rf1 Kh7; 30.Kg1 Bf5; 31.g4 Bxg4; 32.fxg4 Rxf1+; 33.Bxf1 Rf4; 34.Be2 Rxd4; 35.Kf2 Kh6; 36.Rf3 Rxg4; 37.Rf8 Rf4+; 38.Rxf4 gxf4; 39.Bg4 b6; 40.Kf3 Kg5; 41.Bxe6 d4; 42.Bc4 a5; 43.bxa5 bxa5; 44.e6 1-0, was Hjartarson - Rozentalis, 1994); 15.O-O-O c5; 16.Ng5 h6; 17.Nh7 Rfc8; 18.Rh3 c4; 19.Nf6+ Kh8 (19...gxf6; 20.Qxh6 is obviously very bad for B, with no decent defence to Rg3+); 20.Bg6 (20.Be2 {might be the better option, though it certainly looks less active. Nonetheless B would be better after 20... c3; 21.Rg3 cxb2+; 22.Kxb2 Ba4); 20... c3 (B's attack launches first); 21.b4 Nc4; 22.Qxc3 a5; 23.Nxd7 (23.bxa5 Rxa5 and B's attack plays itself) 23... axb4 - the most accurate, ensuring that the a-file is opened (23... Qxd7 allows W to temporarily stem the tide by closing the queenside with 24.b5 Qxb5; 25.f4 Ra6); 24.axb4 Qxd7; 25.Rd4 Qa4; 26.Rxc4 Rxc4; 27.Qe3 Qxb4 and 0-1 as there is no defence to the mating threats.



P.M. Stimpson – A.R.J. Higgs, Horsham Club Championship, December 29, 2015
(Notes by A.R.J. Higgs)

MY games with Phil are usually good contests that swing back and forth, this one was no exception.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.Be2 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.O-O O-O 8.a4 Qc7 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 Nbd7 11.Qd2 Rfe8 12.Rfd1 a6 13.a5 c5 14.d5 b6? [Black has played the opening rather indifferently and has a solid but passive position. In an attempt to create some play on the b-file I saddle myself with an uncomfortable weakness on a6] 15.axb6 Nxb6 16.Be2 Qb7 17.Ra5! [I'm trying to provoke a premature f4 when Black can use his e-pawn and pressure on d5/e4 to attack White's centre. Phil doesn't waste any time on weakening pawn moves and goes straight for the weakness] 17...Nfd7 18.Rda1 c4 19.Bd4 Rec8 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qd4+ Kg8 [Now any sort of knight manoeuvre via either d1 or b1 to attack c4 is very strong for White, but fortunately for me Phil chooses a continuation which is still ok but less clear-cut] 22.f4 Rc5 23.Rxc5 Nxc5 24.e5 Re8 25.Bf3 Nbd7 26.Ne4? [A positional error, leading to a classic good knight vs bad bishop scenario. Instead 26.e6! Nf6 27.exf7+ Kxf7 28.Nd1 wins the c4 pawn and White should be able to untangle and consolidate before Black can achieve anything meaningful] 26...Nxe4 27.Bxe4 Nc5 28.Bf3 Rb8 29.Ra2 Qb4 [Black has finally equalised and for the first time in the game I felt that I was building an initiative] 30.Kh2 c3!? [Objectively this move is not any better or worse than the alternatives, but with the clock running down it is difficult to calculate the consequences of 31.bxc3 Qb1. White chooses to liquidate] 31.Qxb4 Rxb4 32.bxc3 Rxf4 33.exd6 exd6 34.Kg3?! [After this natural move White is in trouble thanks to a lovely finesse. Instead 34.Be2 eliminates the a-pawn and leads to the type of position that is very difficult for Black to win in practice] 34...Rc4! [Now 35.Be2 Rxc3 is check, and the only way to hold c3 allows a rook exchange which magnifies the difference in quality between the minor pieces] 35.Ra3 Ra4 36.Rxa4 Nxa4 37.c4? Nc5! [Phil would have done better to let the c-pawn go as he would

quickly block the queenside before he can sacrifice this pawn on c5 to clear the square] 38.Kf2 Kf8 39.Ke3 Ke7 40.Kd4 Kd8 41.Kc3 a5 42.Kb2 Ke7 [Reaching the time control. Black's plan is simple – create a passed pawn on the kingside and White will be unable to cope with both this and the a-pawn. The superb knight doesn't even need to move for the rest of the game!] 43.Kc3 Kf6 44.Kd2 Ke5 45.c3 Kf4 46.Bd1 Kg3 47.Bf3 f5 48.Kc2 g5 [White is completely helpless] 49.Kd2 g4 50.hxg4 fxg4 51.Bd1 h5 52.Ke3 Kxg2 53.Kf4 g3 54.Bxh5 a4 0-1



Sussex Chess 2016
Horsham 1 v Worthing 1,
January 26, 2016
Mike Forster - Mike Nicholas
(Notes by Mike Forster)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bb3 dxe5 6.Qh5 e6 7.dxe5 Nc6 8.Nf3 g6 [Tempting to drive the queen back but weakens the dark squares] 9.Qh3 Na5?! [Questionable. White already has a lead in development. After this move it becomes significant and White is clearly better] 10.Nc3 Nxb3 11.axb3 [White threatens simply Bg5 and Rd1, with mounting threats] 11...Nd5 12.Ne4 f5 [Trying to complicate to stop Bg5, but with a lead in development the opening of lines will only help White] 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Bg5 Bg7 15.Rd1 Qe7 16.0-0 [With threats of Ne5, Rfe1, and attack!] 16...h6 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Qg3 Rg8 19.Nxf6+ Qxf6 20.Qxc7 Qe7 21.Qc3 [So long as the queens stay on, Black's king cannot find safety] 21...Bd7 22.Ne5 Bb5 23.Rfe1 Rd8 24.Rxd8+ Qxd8 25.Ng4 Rf8 26.Rxe6+ and Black resigned. After Kd7 Re1 the threats include Rd1+, Qg7+ and Ne5+ 1-0



**B. Cafferty - S Blewitt,
Last round Hastings CC
Champ. May 5 , 2016**

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 b3 g6 3 Bb2 Bg7 4 c4 c5 5 Nc3 0-0 6 g3 d5 7 Bg2?!

As I had to play to win this game to come level with Francis Rayner on 6/8, I avoided the usual 7 Nxd5 when White, after the exchange of two minor pieces hopes to develop pressure on the points c5 and b7. At first sight after Black's next move, it would seem White is getting a form of the Yugoslav system in the King's Indian Defence with colours reversed.

7...d4 8 Na4 Qc7 9 d3 Bd7 (a different kettle of fish entirely from the Yugoslav system as Black exploits not having a Nc6 to block the defence of c5.) 10 e3?! Bxa4 11 bxa4 dxe3 12 fxe3 Ng4? 13 Bxg7 Nxe3?

Black had played moves 8-13 at some speed, but a short reflection over each would have revealed an improvement to one stage - answer at the end!

14 Be5! Qa5+ 15 Qd2 Nc2+ (taking the B with check would leave Black a piece down as the N cannot get out) 16 Ke2 Qxd2+ 17 Nxd2! Nxa1 18 Bxa1 Nc6 19 Bxc6! bxc6 20 Ne4 f6

The forcing sequence has left White with a slight material plus, since at first sight there is weak doubled isolated a-pawn. A closer inspection shows that the pawn is actually very strong. Once the WN is established on c5 then there is no entry point on the b-file for Black's rooks, which will be chivvied from b6 by a4-a5.

21 Nxc5 Kf7 22 Rf1 Rfd8

The sequel sees Black's rooks floundering on the back rank. Advancing the g- and h-pawns might offer the rooks a slight chance to get into the game.

23 Kd2 h6 24 Kc2 Rab8 25 Bc3 Re8 26 a5 g5 27

a6! Rbc8? 28 Rb1 Rb8 29 Rb7! Ra8 30 Bd4 Red8 31 Nb3! Ke8 32 Bxa7 Rd7 33 Nc5

Now 33...Rxa7 wins material but loses the game after 34 Rxd7 Rxa6 35 Rxe7+ etc. Black tried 33...Rdd8 but after 34 Ne6 resigned.

❑ ANSWER to the query above: Black should have attacked e3 by 12...Bh6, a much more awkward move to meet.



**A P Briggs - B
Cafferty, First
round Sussex
KO Champ.**

1 b3 d5 2 Bb2 Bg4 3 f3 Bf5 4 e3 e6 5 Bd3 Bg6 6 f4 Nd7 (Bird's opening?) 7 Nf3 Nc5 8 Bxg6 hxg6 9 d3 Ne7 10 Qe2 Nf5

An unorthodox position arising from an unorthodox opening. What are the knights doing one square forward from their usual squares?

White now spent ten minutes over his next move, an outright blunder.

Commenting after the game, Andy Briggs said he had examined only two candidate moves, the immediate pawn push actually chosen and the preparatory 11 Nbd2.

Of course, the open h-file is a clue to the fact that he should have gone for the third move, 11 0-0.

11 e4? Ng3! 12 hxg3 Rxh1+ 13 Kf2 dxe4 14 dxe4 Nxb3!

A swift execution. Getting the bishop to c5 with check is paramount.

15 Qb5+ c6 16 Qxb3 Bc5+ 17 Bd4 Bxd4+ 18 Ke2 Bxa1 19 Qxb7 Qd1+ 20 Ke3 Re1+! 21 Nxe1 Bd4#



John Kalber (97) v Andrew Keil (119), Bognor summer handicap, May 13, 2016, Notes by John Kalber

WE play the openings without recourse to any study, simply relying on judgement gained from Master games, books and experience. Basically common sense moves allied to personal whim!

This game, uniquely – was played on our joint birthday 13-5-16 at Bognor!

White Black
J Kalber(97) A Keil (119)

1. d2-d4 d7-d5
2. c2-c4 e7-e6
3. Nb1-c3 b7-b6
4. Ng1-f3 Bf8-d6
5. b2-b3 Ng8-f6
6. e2-e3 Nb8-d7
7. Bc1-b2 Bc8-b7
8. Bf1-d3 O-O
9. O-O Rf8-e8
10. c4xd5 Nf6xd5
11. Nc3xd5 Bb7xd5
12. e3-e4 Bd5-b7
13. Qd1-c2 e6-e5
14. Rf1-e1 Qd8-f6
15. Ra1-c1 Ra8-c8
16. h2-h3 a7-a6 ... I have open lines and I am restricting Andrew's game.
17. Qc2-e2 c7-c5 ... The position now demands that I gain a passed pawn and dominate the centre!
18. d4-d5 b6-b5 ... A misconception I think. Too early to 'break out' perhaps.
19. a2-a3 Qf6-e7
20. a3-a4 c5-c4
21. b3xc4 b5xa4 .. The better choice maybe, but there is too little support for this pawn.
22. Qe2-d1 Bd6-b4 If - a3 - his position is safer, but I feel I have the edge.
23. Re1-e2 Nd7-c5... This is not a 'mistake' but is an error of judgement! The attack is
an illusion –it looked good-to Andrew, but I was pleased!
24. Nf3xe5 a4-a3
25. Bb2-a1 a6-a5
26. Ne5-f3 a5-a4 ... A lot of my moves are simply 'worriers' and distract opponents.
27. Bd3-c2 Rc8-a8...
28. Rc1-b1 Bb4-a5

29. Nf3-d4 Qe7-d7... My position is clearly stronger because the 'worriers' are working!
30. e4-e5 Bb7-a6
31. Qd1-c1 a3-a2 ... If Bxc4, then Bxh7+ and the storm clouds lower!
32. Rb1-b2 Ba5-c3... I'd got tired mentally and I thought I'd better keep the WB.
33. Rb2-Bc3 a5. a6 Now ... BxB was a must! But ... For me. the A2 pawn can wait!
This Rook move is another 'worrier'. Poor Andrew is getting fidgety!
34. Bc2-f5 Qd7-c7 He just hadn't see this – a problem we all suffer. Instead of Qd7-c7 ... BxB had been a must! At our level, 'worrier' policies work!
35. Rb6-c6 Qc7-a7 ... Andrew really is worrying .with good reason.!
36. Qc1-c2 g7-g6
37. Bf5-g4 Ba6-b7?
38. Nd4-b5 Qa7-b8 The Nc5 is helpless.
39. Rc6xc5 Ba5-b4
40. Nb5-d6 Bb4xc5 I was really mentally tired by now (I am 85) and happy to be in a simple winning position. When mentally tired big, big mistakes are made. By me!
41. Nd6xe8 Qb8xe8
42. Qc2xa2 a4-a3
43. e5-e6
This shrieks 'Play me!' So – I did!
Qe8-a4
44. e6xf7 Kg8xf7
45. Bg4-e6 Kf7-e8
46. Be6-g4 Ke8-d8
47. Qa2-d2 Qa4xc4
48. Bg4 Kd8
49. Qxh7 Qc1+
50. Kh2 Bd6+
51. g3 Qc7
52. Bf6+ Resigns

My thanks, as always, to everyone who has taken the time and trouble to submit articles, games and pictures for this year's Sussex Chess News. I am also indebted to Keith Davies, who kindly proofread the content.
The Editor

WHO'S WHO

President	Robert Elliston	Cherry Tree Cottage, 2 Marlpit Gardens, Ticehurst, East Sussex, TN5 7BB. Tel: 01580 200609
Deputy President	Robert Williams	7 The Mount, 45 Meads Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 7PX . Tel : 01323 639766
Secretary	Dix Roberts	6 Foxleigh Close, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4AX 01403 260033 dix@foxleigh.globalnet.co.uk
Treasurer	Peter Kemp	48 Burleigh Way, Crawley Down, West Sussex, RH10 4UQ Tel: 01342 717050
Open Team Captain	Dix Roberts	6 Foxleigh Close, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4AX 01403 260033 dix@foxleigh.globalnet.co.uk
U-180 Team Captain	Paul Batchelor	98 Mackie Avenue, Brighton 01273 508128 p.batchelor@outlook.com
U-160 Team Captain	Paul Kington	13 Smugglers Way, Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 0PP 01403 730018 paul.kington@hotmail.co.uk
U-140 Team Captain	Dave Britton	davebritton13@gmail.com
Correspondence Team Captain	James Mansson	jmansson@argo-software.co.uk
Tournaments	Joe Sharp and Dix Roberts	Sussex Individual County Championship - Joe Sharp, 125 Ashford Road, Hastings TN34 2HY. jclsharp@btinternet.com McArthur Cup - 6 Foxleigh Close, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4AX 01403 260033 dix@foxleigh.globalnet.co.uk
Sussex Junior Chess Liaison Officer	Tim Yu	info@sussexjuniorchess.org
Adjudications Secretary	Robert Elliston	Cherry Tree Cottage, 2 Marlpit Gardens, Ticehurst, East Sussex, TN5 7BB. Tel: 01580 200609
Webmaster	Robert Elliston	robertvelliston@aol.com
County Archivist	Brian Denman	b.denman@btopenworld.com
ECF and SCCU Delegate	Julie Denning	Glenholm, Brighton Road, Woodmancote, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9ST. Tel: 01273 492408 email: julie.denning1@btinternet.com
Grading Officer	Julie Denning	Glenholm, Brighton Road, Woodmancote, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9ST. Tel: 01273 492408 email: julie.denning1@btinternet.com
Sussex Chess News Editor	Mick Plumb	7 Mill Road Avenue, Angmering, West Sussex 01903 415079 07816 488513 mickplumb@googlemail.com