

SUSSEX CHESS



NEWS/2022

**Blitz
champ
Kamila
from
Ukraine**

County finds the going tough

Moving on from Covid

Final-day decider

Sussex welcomes new club

EDITORIAL

WELCOME to 2022 edition of Sussex Chess News. .. or should that be 2001-2022?

There was no publication last year - for obvious reasons - so as well as reporting on the past year's chess activities there will be time for some reflection, too, on the Covid-hit period prior to that.

I am indebted to all those contributors who made this edition happen. Let's hope we get some uninterrupted over-the-board chess for the foreseeable future!

A few clubs have reported the fact they have struggled to see a return to previous membership levels.

The regular routine of weekly over-the-board chess, once broken, is often a habit that's difficult to re-establish.



However, the overall signs are encouraging. We report on a new club that has started from scratch. And while online chess has proved invaluable in helping to fill the void of club-chess, the way most of our clubs have bounced back after Covid has demonstrated there is no totally satisfactory alternative to over the board chess.

Long may it continue!

*Mick Plumb
Editor*



CLUBS

Bexhill	28-29
Bognor & Arun	14-16
	
Brighton & Hove	34-35
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COVID AND BEYOND



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GAMES

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This year's tournaments to enter

The Paul Watson Trophy

Entry fee: £6 per team. The average team limit should be 1825. It used to stand at 150.

The McArthur Cup

Entry fee: £8. It is a six-board event.

The County Championship

Entry fee: £3.50.

Tournament contact details: See back page



County team faces a tough challenge

IN the opening fixture of the season, Sussex were drawn to play against Surrey. Surrey defaulted on boards 14 and 15, before the commencement of play. Sussex won by 8½-6½. Sussex winners were Jaimie Wilson, Peter Farr, James Wheeler, Chris Lake and Paul Selby. This was to be the highest number of winners for Sussex, in any match, of that season.

This was to be our highest number of winners for Sussex

Next we played Middlesex away. Middlesex proved very strong. They won by 10½-5½. Winners for Sussex were Luke Rutherford and Mark Broom.

Sussex played Kent in the third match of the season. Kent outrated us on every board. Despite this, we managed an 8-8 draw.

I recall the last two games to finish resulted in wins for Sussex (Peter Farr and Mark Broom). Winners for Sussex, on the day, were Peter Farr, Mark Broom and James Wheeler.

The fourth match was against Surrey at The Cheam Parochial Rooms, Cheam Village. The home side won by 9½-6½. I was the only Sussex winner on this occasion.

Our fifth outing was against Middlesex. Despite home advantage, Middlesex prevailed by 9½-6½. Sussex winners were Mark Broom and Chris Lake.

For the last match of the season we played Kent away. My thanks go to James Wheeler for stepping in as captain when I was not available. I was unable to travel, as I could not get anyone to look after my mother, in my place. Kent proved very strong and inflicted our most telling defeat. Kent won 12½-3½. The one Sussex winner was Geoffrey James.

I should like to also thank Dix Roberts for bringing the equipment to home matches and helping with setting up. Sussex finished fourth out of four teams in the Open section.

One sad note to finish on this year was the passing of Mike Nicholas. He was a loyal player for Sussex for many seasons. I was there at his last match in the national finals versus Kent, in 1998.

Paul Batchelor, Open team captain

■ Feliks Kwiatkowski recounts a dazzling performance by Mike Nicholas in a Sussex county championship game they played in 1986 - Page 36

FINAL TABLE											
	Team	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	PTS	BOARDS
1	Kent (2149)	x	10.5	13	8	x	9	9.5	12.5	11	62.5
2	Middlesex (2064)	5.5	X	7	10.5	7	x	11.5	9.5	6	51
3	Surrey (2034)	2	9	X	6.5	6.5	4.5	x	9.5	4	38
4	Sussex (2013)	8	5.5	8.5	X	3.5	6.5	6.5	x	3	38.5



SUSSEX CHESS 2022/Open team, results

Sussex (2006) 8.5 Surrey (2044) 6.5 November 6, 2021

1	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2268	0 - 1	Price, Gwilym T	2125
2	Wilson, Jaimie	2190	1 - 0	Haldane, Robin W	2148
3	Rutherford, Luke E	2193	+/-	Keane, Graham DJ	2193
4	Farr, Peter G	2163	1 - 0	Frostick, Clive A	2148
5	Mansson, James C	2103	0.5 - 0.5	Hasson, Peter	2073
6	James, Geoffrey H	2058	0 - 1	Galer, Sebastian E	2118
7	Boardman, Jeffrey	2028	0 - 1	Kueh, Audrey	2080
8	Roberts, David N	1983	0 - 1	Rosen, Daniel B	2020
9	Batchelor, Paul A	1983	0 - 1	Stimpson, Philip M	1968
10	Wheeler, James M	1938	1 - 0	du Pre, Paul D	1968
11	Lake, Chris	1825	1 - 0	Shepley, Julien M	1971
12	Palmer, Alan H	1795	0 - 1	Faulks, Nick W	1938
13	Selby, Paul R	1780	1 - 0	Eckert, Jonathan M	1818
14	Tebbs, Howard L	2110	+/-	N.N.	
15	Woods, Timothy J	1675	+/-	N.N.	
16	N.N.		---	N.N.	

Middlesex (2106) 10.5 Sussex (2028) 5.5 December 4, 2021

1	Bates, Richard A	2470	1 - 0	Wilson, Jaimie	2190
2	Richardson, John R	2365	0 - 1	Rutherford, Luke E	2193
3	Batchelor, Peter J	2378	1 - 0	Farr, Peter G	2163
4	Mogilarov, Dimitar	2155	0 - 1	Broom, Mark	2118
5	Gilfillan, Andrew	2118	1 - 0	Lukosius, Rolandas	2118
6	Coles, Steven F	2080	1 - 0	Norinkeviciute, Rasa	2095
7	Mackenzie, Colin	2013	0.5 - 0.5	James, Geoffrey H	2058
8	Walkusz, Miroslaw	2065	1 - 0	Cove, Henry	2013
9	Fulton, Anthony R	2028	0.5 - 0.5	Batchelor, Paul A	1983
10	Solomon, D Ajoy	1938	1 - 0	Lake, Chris	1825
11	Fincham, Leon HJ	1900	1 - 0	Palmer, Alan H	1795
12	Hayali, Laith	1765	0.5 - 0.5	Selby, Paul R	1780
13	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
14	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
15	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
16	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	



SUSSEX CHESS 2022/Open team results

Sussex (2012) 8 Kent (2173) 8 January 22, 2022

1	Wilson, Jaimie	2190	0 - 1	Murphy, Conor E	2500
2	Rutherford, Luke E	2193	0 - 1	McDonald, Neil R	2433
3	Farr, Peter G	2163	1 - 0	Chandler, Cliff R	2298
4	Broom, Mark	2118	1 - 0	Stebbins, Anthony J	2260
5	Lukosius, Rolandas	2118	0 - 1	Starley, Robert	2161
6	James, Geoffrey H	2058	0.5 - 0.5	Talsma, Paul A	2178
7	Roberts, David N	1983	0.5 - 0.5	Briggs, Steven	2118
8	Batchelor, Paul A	1983	0.5 - 0.5	Sugden, John N	2080
9	Wheeler, James M	1938	1 - 0	Ball, Laurence	2058
10	Lake, Chris	1825	0.5 - 0.5	Tucker, David S	2095
11	Palmer, Alan H	1795	0.5 - 0.5	Anstead, Jerry	2005
12	Selby, Paul R	1780	0.5 - 0.5	Gluckman, Tim	1885
13	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
14	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
15	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
16	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	

Surrey (2065) 9.5 Sussex (2057) 6.5 February 5, 2022

	Lalic, Peter D	2253	0.5 - 0.5	Wilson, Jaimie	2190
2	Price, Gwilym T	2125	0.5 - 0.5	Rutherford, Luke E	2193
3	Keane, Graham DJ	2193	1 - 0	Farr, Peter G	2163
4	Oozeerally, Tariq	2170	0.5 - 0.5	Broom, Mark	2118
5	Haldane, Robin W	2148	1 - 0	Lukosius, Rolandas	2118
6	Hodgson, John H	2103	1 - 0	Mansson, James C	2103
7	Rosen, Daniel B	2020	0.5 - 0.5	James, Geoffrey H	2058
8	Agrawal, Shivam	1976	0.5 - 0.5	Cove, Henry	2013
9	du Pre, Paul D	1968	1 - 0	Roberts, David N	1983
10	Shepley, Julien M	1971	0 - 1	Batchelor, Paul A	1983
11	Edwards, Nicholas L	1917	0.5 - 0.5	Wheeler, James M	1938
12	Faulks, Nick W	1938	0.5 - 0.5	Lake, Chris	1825
13	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
14	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
15	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
16	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	



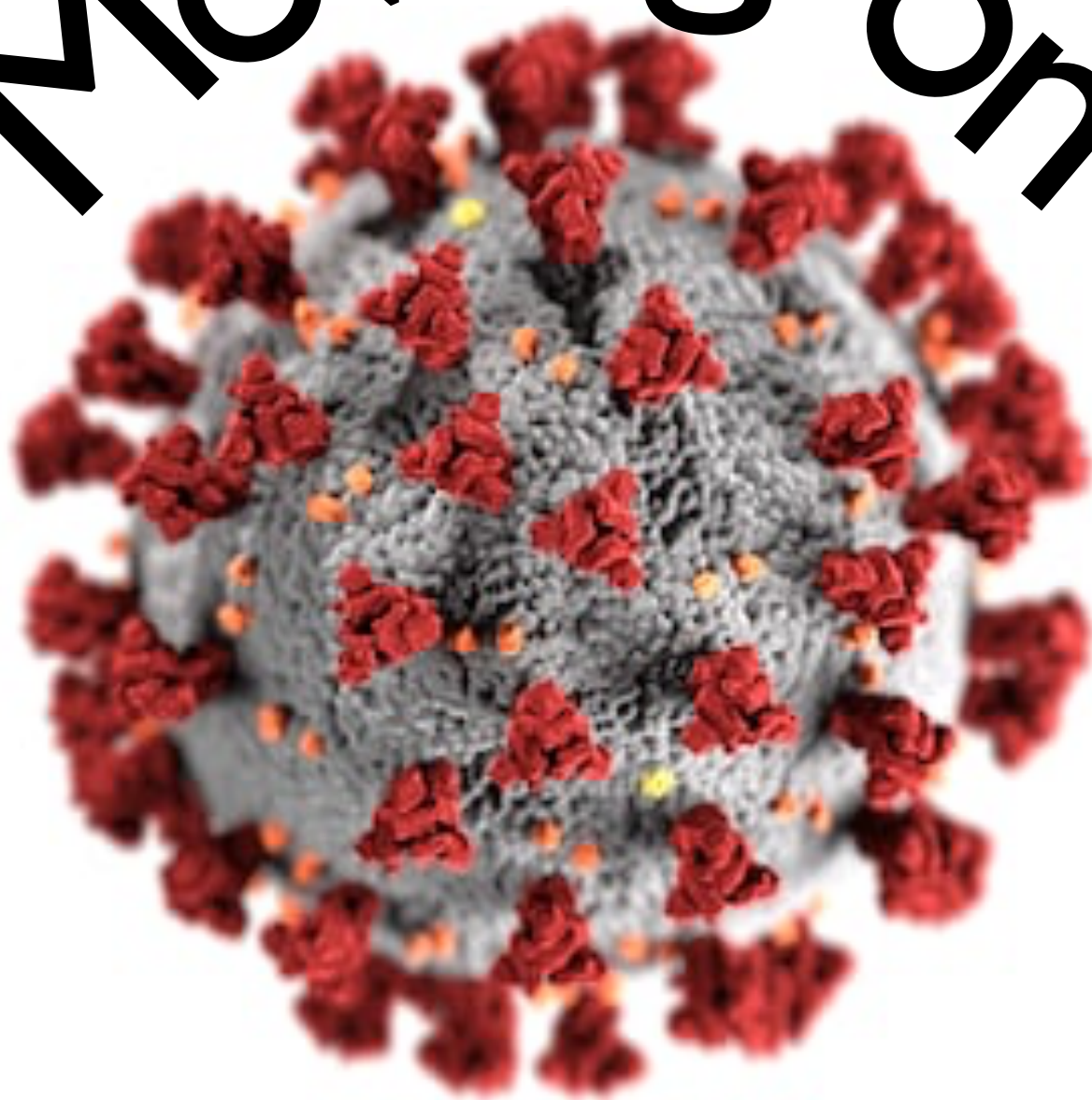
SUSSEX CHESS 2022/Open team, results

Sussex (2065) 6.5 Middlesex (2073) 9.5 February 26, 2022					
1	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2268	0 - 1	Bates, Richard A	2470
2	Wilson, Jaimie	2190	0 - 1	Gallana, Marco	2332
3	Rutherford, Luke E	2193	0 - 1	Mogilarov, Dimitar	2155
4	Farr, Peter G	2163	0.5 - 0.5	Dydak, Mateusz	2088
5	Broom, Mark	2118	1 - 0	Coles, Steven F	2080
6	Mansson, James C	2103	0.5 - 0.5	Walkusz, Mirosław	2065
7	Lukosius, Rolandas	2118	0.5 - 0.5	Fleming, Nigel D	2073
8	James, Geoffrey H	2058	0.5 - 0.5	Hayler, Andrew	2013
9	Batchelor, Paul A	1983	0.5 - 0.5	Calvert, D Ian	1993
10	Roberts, David N	1983	0 - 1	Solomon, D Ajoy	1938
11	Lake, Chris	1825	1 - 0	Fincham, Leon HJ	1900
12	Selby, Paul R	1780	0 - 1	Hayali, Laith	1765
13	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
14	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
15	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
16	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	

Kent (2173) 12.5 Sussex (1982) 3.5 March 12, 2022					
	McDonald, Neil R	2433	1 - 0	Wilson, Jaimie	2190
2	Taylor, Martin R	2358	1 - 0	Broom, Mark	2118
3	Stebbins, Anthony J	2260	1 - 0	Lukosius, Rolandas	2118
4	Snape, Ian L	2204	0.5 - 0.5	Farr, Peter G	2163
5	Starley, Robert	2161	0 - 1	James, Geoffrey H	2058
6	Hanreck, Alan E	2193	1 - 0	Wheeler, James M	1938
7	Talsma, Paul A	2178	1 - 0	Selby, Paul R	1780
8	Sugden, John N	2080	1 - 0	Palmer, Alan H	1795
9	Briggs, Steven	2118	1 - 0	Woods, Timothy J	1675
10	Bayford, Jim R	2065	+/-	N.N.	
11	Tucker, David S	2095	+/-	N.N.	
12	Modica, Jake M	1930	+/-	N.N.	
13	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
14	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
15	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	
16	N.N.		0.5 - 0.5	N.N.	



Moving on



Membership is well on the way to recovery after two years takes its toll



The English Chess Federation (ECF) has, like any equivalent organisation, spent much time dealing with the challenges of Covid over the past two years.

With very limited over the board chess for a long period and a consequent fall in membership and revenue (member renewals in 2020/21 were at only 60 per cent of the previous year), the ECF needed to cut costs as much as possible. By the 2021/22 year, membership had recovered to around 80 per cent of pre-pandemic levels, and ECF finances are in a fairly reasonable condition given the circumstances.

On the flip side, and very much unlike most sports organisations, the ECF has seen the very rapid

growth of online chess through the pandemic, mainly via platforms like chess.com and lichess. The

umbrella of the old British Chess Federation (BCF) organisation, which has otherwise effectively been a shell. These funds have thus been held at a distance from the ECF, and accessing and spending the money has thus not been straightforward from an administrative point of view, leaving aside the issue of whether it is right to spend capital which may not be replaced.

It has now been agreed to transfer funds away from the old BCF and to the chess trust, which will simplify administration and expenditure decisions. Whether the upshot will be more ambitious use of the funds in practice remains to be seen; this remains a key point of debate within the ECF.

Moving to more concrete areas, it is

challenge is the extent to which it is possible to translate this growth into more members for the

ECF and more over the board chess.

Some of the key discussions at the last few ECF meetings have revolved around this, including how much it is appropriate for the ECF to invest so as to nurture and capture benefits from the growing interest in the game, or to be more cautious in managing funds while short-term revenue has declined significantly.

These are not easy questions to resolve. While the ECF has reasonably significant funds available in theory, these are largely the result of legacies and have been held in trusts under the

sometimes asked what the ECF does for the money it charges members, and

here it is perhaps worth noting a number of actions over the past few years that the ECF has taken, and also some future plans.

These are extracts taken from a note to ECF council members circulated by the CEO, Mike Truran, in advance of last year's AGM.

Some of the main achievements during the last five years, according to Mike, include:

- Created a range of value-added member benefits (monthly magazine, new format yearbook, GoMembership, ChessKid, product discounts etc)

from covid



- Implemented a comprehensive online offering, including rating of online games
- Implemented a new monthly rating system with live and monthly four-digit ratings
- Implemented/enhanced central support functions (monthly rating, LMS, coaching directory, calendar, community pages, club finder etc)
- Secured the long-term future of the National Chess Library
- Successfully managed English chess through Covid, almost certainly the most challenging business environment we've faced in living memory



SAFE AND SOUND: The National Chess Library's future is secure

For the future, Mike proposals included the following:

- Strengthen the ECF's remit, operating model and financial position by offering additional member/supporter events and services that make ECF membership worthwhile, regardless of rating
- Develop and publicise chess on a wider national and international basis, including ECF broadcast services for major events, building our social media presence and engagement with the wider chess community
- Develop and support an inclusive and diverse environment in which all can participate
- Maintain and develop a range of benefits that make joining the ECF an attractive proposition independently of playing rated games
- Continue to organise flagship events both for the ECF and on behalf of the other British Isles federations
- Develop English chess's international presence

One other change which has recently been adopted and that will become apparent to clubs and ECF members over the past few months is the implementation of rolling memberships, which means that instead of a single annual renewal date for all, new members will have a membership that lasts a year

from whenever they first join. This is largely a fairer and more obvious system from the point of view of new members, though it does mean that, over time, club secretaries might need to be more alert in ensuring that their members do renew as and when.

Finally, ECF teams competed in the recent Chess Olympiad in Chennai, an event excellently organised by the Indian federation at quite short notice, following the decision to move it away from Russia. The England Open team came 14th, and the Women's team, 32nd, results broadly in line with team ratings. The outstanding highlight, especially from a Sussex point of view, was David Howell's score of 7.5/8, which secured the gold medal on board 3, a terrific achievement. In fact, David's rating performance was the highest of any player at the tournament.

Peter Farr, delegate

Rolling memberships for new members is a fairer system



Chi high - team claims another title triumph

THIS last season has proved a challenge. Some members did not return after the lockdown, and this has generated some problems.

Even with a reduced pool of players, the A teams was able to win the Portsmouth and District Chess League for the sixth consecutive season – an outstanding achievement thanks to match captain Bill McDougall and all who took part.

The B team finished at the foot of Division 2, providing a good number of players with inter-club experience.

In the Cole Cup, Chichester lost in the opening round to a strong Cosham side. In the Plate it won the next two rounds, beating Fareham B in the final – a good result indeed with an innovative team selection policy. Thanks to Jaimie Wilson as match captain.

Congratulations to Bill McDougall who won the Portsmouth League Individual tournament with a 100 per cent score.

Rivals Fareham chose to play last season in the Southampton League, which they won comfortably. A challenge match was duly arranged between Fareham and Chichester to contest a league winners

match. Fareham hosted this match, played over 12 boards, and proved an excellent event. Fareham ran out well ahead with a thumping 10-2 victory – food for thought for Chichester. John Wheeler provided an excellent arbiter for this match.

The reduced member numbers has made balancing the books something of a challenge. It is hoped that an increase in fees can be avoided going forward subject to numbers not falling further.

Several new members have turned up during the summer period and this has provided welcome new vitality and an enthusiasm to learn and improve.

The traditional all-play-all format for the club championship did not work well. The residual effects of the pandemic caused disruption and the theme for the upcoming season is one of integration – encouraging games between players of varied abilities across the club. In a move to improve cohesion across all grades of players it is likely that there will be a Swiss tournament to produce the next club champion. This tournament will also incorporate an U1700 tournament for the Peter Rayment Trophy.

Steve Smith, chairman



Hastings players take to

ONE of the significant changes in our chess club this year was the appointment of a new club secretary. At least it was significant for me, not least because it means that I have been asked to write these reflections on what has happened over the past year.

I am calling these “reflections” rather than a “report” because it is really a look back at the year from my personal perspective, and is not an official record of the many and varied events and achievements.

I am sure the other members will be puzzling over the games and matches that I have not mentioned. If they are particularly incensed, I suspect they may write their own record which will appear on our website. When you have read this, feel free to visit that site to read some alternative view of the past year.

Twelve months ago, we were starting to think about maybe reducing the Covid restrictions. Chess is a social game, played in close proximity in an

enclosed space. And it was therefore hit hard by Covid. This was made worse by the increase in online games (insert your chess website of choice here – mine is Chess.com but there are many others available).

As we started to play some over the board games again we found that many of our members were out of the habit. Our membership list has reduced, with many members simply disappearing. Coupled with that, our junior club has not yet restarted, and we are making plans to effectively rebuild it from scratch. There has also been an encouraging stream (well, perhaps more of a trickle) of new members.



MISSING IN ACTION: Players got out of the habit of playing over the board chess

There was, therefore, a lot of excitement in October, 2021, as the Scarborough Chess Congress was going to be open from 29 to 31. This is not very local for a club in Hastings but a number of us were there.

Not only that, one of our new members had a decisive victory in the Intermediate category – Ted Filby gained 4.5 points from his five games. The rest of us had much more modest results but I did get momentarily excited when I found one of the



the road for congresses

games from this tournament published on the internet.

In round 1 of the Open section, our Jim Wheeler played against David Shapland. You can relive that game here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n6cvsym> But my excitement at finding this game was, perhaps, a little dampened when I read David's comments. "I expected an even fight and that was exactly what I got. The game turned out to be relatively uneventful. The game is in the viewer below. It's not hugely interesting."

In fact, the game only lasted 17 moves and ended in a draw. But it does not matter that it was not "hugely interesting". It was a real game in a real tournament. We were back in action. Jim ended the tournament with 2 ½ points.

I would like to report on a more local Congress, as the historic Hastings Chess Congress should have taken place at Christmas. However, that was a casualty of Covid, and we need to wait a few more months for the Hastings Congress to come back.

I was on the road again with a number of our members, when we went to the St Albans Congress in April. My report on that trip is on our website here <https://tinyurl.com/2p8du2az>, so I won't repeat it today.

Alongside these road trips we have had regular internal rapid play matches, and our regular Friday club night has started to grow. We have also held our long-play tournaments. Friendly matches against other clubs are also reopening. On June 18 we hosted a match against Hammersmith Chess Club, and I am delighted to report that we did not lose any board and finished with a 9-1 victory. We

are playing against Wanstead and Woodford in September and Bexhill in October.

A Sussex report would also not be complete without a reference to the Mid-Sussex League, where we had two teams in Division 1. Jim Wheeler (player of the not hugely interesting game mentioned above) is the captain of our first team, and he did a splendid job with five wins and two losses, resulting in a third place in the league.

I was the captain of the 2nd team. I cannot claim to have done as splendid a job as Jim; but with a weaker team while also playing in the First Division I was very happy to achieve fifth place with two wins, one draw and four losses. And on a personal note, I was delighted to meet the other teams from around Mid- Sussex, and enjoyed the competition – thanks to all those we played against.

■ Postscript – Jim read the first draft of this report. (That sounds more organised than it actually is – it was in truth the only draft of this report). He commented "You can understand why I don't remember this game! I will try harder in round 1 at Scarborough this year." That's something to report on next year.

Martin Fletcher, secretary

In the Mid-Sussex League, we had two teams in division 1



Kamila is

**BLITZ
MASTERCLASS:
Kamila
Hryshenko
shows her skill**



All the way from
Ukraine to Bognor...

BOGNOR and Arun Chess Club welcomed former world champion Kamila Hryshenko to their club.

Kamila, the World Under-18 Blitz champion two years ago, escaped from war-torn Ukraine with her mother, Inna, and is being hosted by Chichester Chess Club member John Ashworth and his family.

Kamila played club champion Jaimie Wilson in six 3+2 blitz games, winning five and losing once. She also played club member Mike Spence. Kamila and her mum made their

escape from Kramatorsk by train to Bucharest and were accommodated by the Romanian Chess Federation while awaiting their visas.

Jaimie's status as club champion was never in doubt - he enjoyed a 100% record in the club championship with 17/17.

During the summer, the club participated in East Preston Festival with a Chess Challenge ... after a three-year absence due to Covid. Club members



out of this world!

Jaimie Wilson, Bill Partridge, Adam Raphael Holmes and Mike Spence took on visitors to the Tudor Tavern, together with Chichester Chess Club chairman Steve Smith. Also joining the fun were former Bognor members Celia Buckley and Terry Peffer. Seven boards were kept busy throughout the morning.

The club has a thriving junior section, with youngsters going on to make their mark on a bigger stage. As the Sussex Junior Chess Grand Prix season came to an end in Worthing, Adam Rafael Holmes participated in the Under-18 Major for the first time and lost only two

FESTIVAL FEVER: The club participated in East Preston Festival with a chess challenge



games out of six. He gained three draws and a win. This was enough to secure him two prizes – a grading award for performance on the day and second place in the year-long age competition, for him the Under-13s.

He took home cash, a medal for achieving at least five grand prix in the season and a hologram rook inside a perspex case for a second place prize.

In the Under-18 Minor, Vishal Leo Thomas scored 3/6 - an excellent result for his first tournament. In the Under-11 Minor, Dominic Bourdaire scored 3.5, a great result, too.

Rahul Leo Thomas scored a highly creditable 2.5. He accepted a draw in his third game though he was up Q+R v Q+P+P - victory would have given him 3/3. In round 4 he played the eventual 6/6 winner.

Bognor players, once again, participated in the Portsmouth League jointly with Chichester - the A team successfully defending its division one title and the B team, under captain Mike Spence, providing a great platform for other players to experience competitive inter-club chess.

The combined Chichester/Bognor team won the Cole Cup Plate, beating Fareham B 3.5-1.5. Jaimie Wilson (captain), Jasper Wilson, Chris Squires, Mike Spence and Isaac McDonald made up the winning team.

It was Jaimie v Jamie in the club's Blitz tournament, fought by 17 of the club's players. Jaimie Wilson and Jamie Wood - who also ran the



PROUD MOMENT:
Kamila Hryshenko with club champion Jaimie Wilson and John Ashworth

competition, with help from Tracey Holmes - each finished on 4.5/5 points, with Jaimie emerging as the outright winner in a play-off.

The club's Knockout tournament was also won by Jaimie Wilson, who defeated Mike Spence in the final.

A summer tournament provided rich entertainment, players given an incentive based on the number of games they play and the quality of the opposition they face. It was won by new club player Norbert Gyorke.

Jamie Wood, who submitted results for grading, and Jaimie Wilson, who has run the club tournaments and collated results, have done an invaluable job throughout the season.

Mick Plumb

The combined
Chichester/
Bognor team won



Timely changes for county move rate

THE last two years have of course been very difficult for the Southern Counties Chess Union (SCCU), with many of the SCCU Executive meetings preoccupied with Covid and its ramifications.

The Counties Championship was not run at all in 2020, but the SCCU did run an online competition in the winter of 2020-21, in which Essex, Kent, Berkshire and Surrey participated. Also, a national counties championship was held in the summer of 2021, in which Sussex did not compete.

In general, while a lot of effort went into discussion and development of the online tournaments, it was hard to see these as anything other than a stop-gap. Issues around appropriate fair play protocols meant that many teams and players approach such events with caution.

The Mid-Sussex League ran some online competitions quite successfully in 2020 and 2021, but these were short time control and I feel that the local and relatively casual nature of these meant that fair play issues were less consequential.

The SCCU counties championships resumed for the 2021-22 season, albeit with reduced numbers

(Essex did not compete in the Open in particular), and seemed to go reasonably well, within fairly light Covid regulations, helped by the easing of restrictions by the government in the new year.

The hope is for the SCCU competitions to be back to normal in the coming season. The last executive meeting agreed that the SCCU individual championships would be awarded to Southend, but that for 2023-24, the Weald Congress, if played, or Hastings International Congress could be candidates.

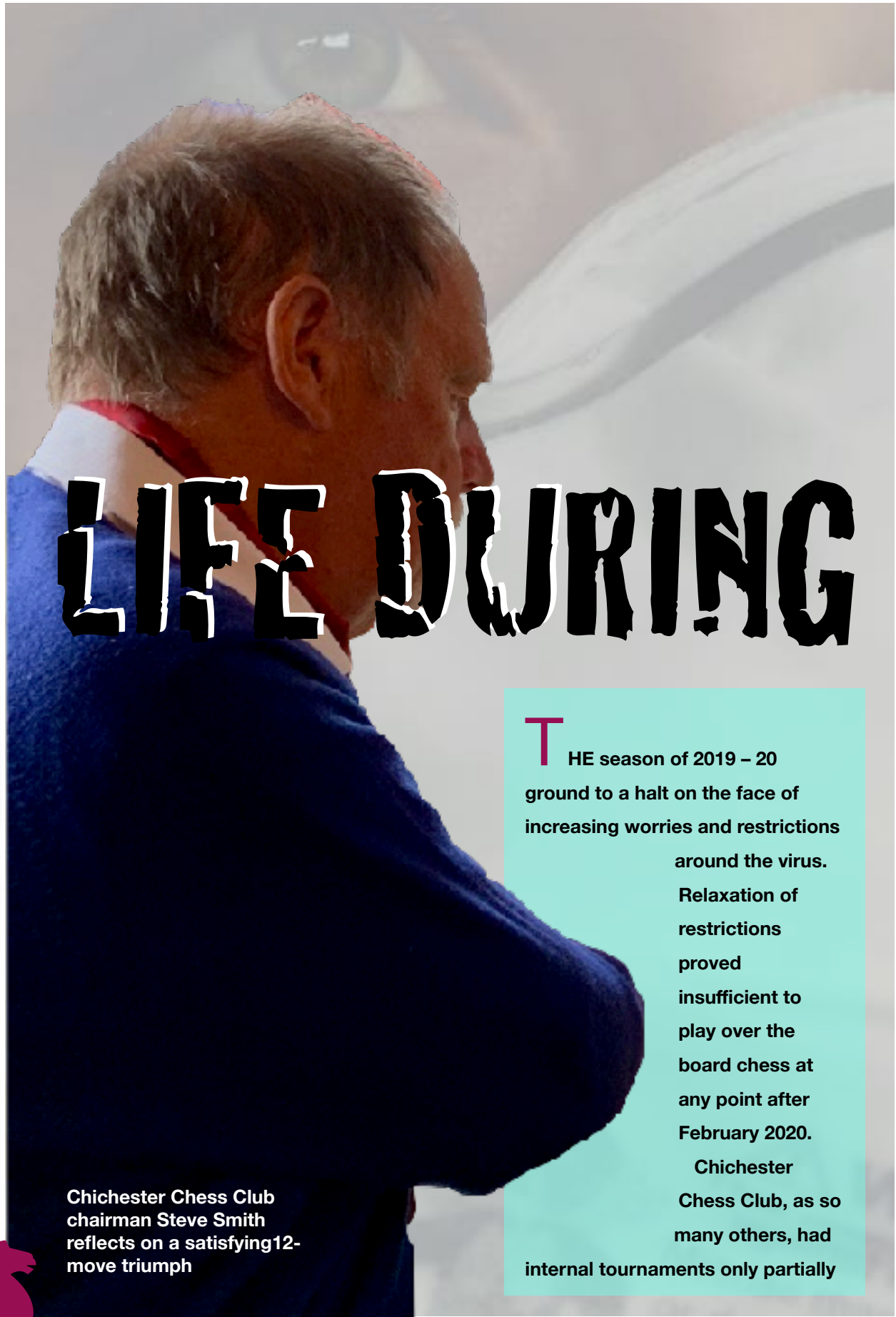
The County Championship time control has been changed to G120/10 for 2022-23. The rationale is that the current use of an intermediate time control is a hangover from the use of analogue clocks and can be disturbing/confusing as the extra time is not added until one player shows zero. The proposal would not change the playing period significantly, however, the opportunity to win on time at the first time-control is missed. The new time control is also closer to that now used in the national stages, which is G135/15.

Mark Murrell, of Essex, retired as president of the SCCU in July, 2022, and the new president is Satish Gaekwad of Kent, who was previously deputy president.

The hope is
for SCCU
competitions to
be back to normal

Peter Farr





LIFE DURING

THE season of 2019 – 20 ground to a halt on the face of increasing worries and restrictions around the virus. Relaxation of restrictions proved insufficient to play over the board chess at any point after February 2020. Chichester Chess Club, as so many others, had internal tournaments only partially

Chichester Chess Club chairman Steve Smith reflects on a satisfying 12-move triumph



completed and likewise League fixtures were postponed indefinitely.

Online chess is different. It throws up some brilliancies, like those seen in the Caplin Hastings Online held in January, 2021, when British Masters demonstrated some fantastic capability and breathtaking skills.

On a more humble level, I

LOCKDOWN!

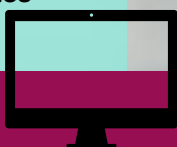
found online chess has been excellent at identifying any decay in opening knowledge and so it has proved several times. After one particularly heavy defeat I resorted back to my chess library to brush up a few lines. My study was well rewarded in the following entertaining, if not totally accurate, game.

N.N v Steve Smith January 20, 2021 Time limit: 5 minutes

+ 8 second increments

1.d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bg5 – the

move that did the damage on a previous occasion. 5 ... Ne4, correct and in fact the mainline and the preferred move even at GM level. Now the fireworks start. 6.Nxd5?! Nxd5 7. Nxd5 c6 8.Qa4 (Nc3 loses a pawn but not the game), ... b5, wild but probably ok 9. cxb cxd5 10.b6+ Bd7 11.b7 Bxa4 12. Bxa8=Q Qa5 0-1



PLAY THROUGH THE GAME ONLINE



We're back

THE Mid-Sussex League finally restarted over the board chess in January, 2022, some 21 months after curtailing the 2019-20 season.

The league managed to keep busy in the intervening period, by running some online tournaments that at least helped fill the gap for a good number of our players, the first being held from early 2021.

Thanks to a combination of the lichess site and the ECF's league management system, setting up and running online tournaments proved relatively straightforward, and there were relatively few technical hitches.

The first 2021 league was an-all-play-all, split into two divisions, plus a junior league, with 20 teams competing in all.

The headline results were:

Division 1: 1st Worthing 1, 2nd Horsham 1.

Division 2: 1st Crowborough 2, 2nd Horsham 2.

Junior Division: 1st Collyer's, 2nd Worthing.

There was then a Summer League, using a six-round Swiss format for the main league and an an-all-play-all for the juniors, with the following results:

Main League: 1st Horsham, 2nd Crowborough.

Junior Division: 1st Crowborough, 2nd Eastbourne 1.

Finally, we held an Autumn League at the end of 2021, again with a six-round Swiss format for the main league and an an-all-play-all for the juniors:

Main League: 1st Worthing 1, 2nd Horsham.

Junior Division: 1st Collyer's, 2nd Crowborough.

The 2021-22 season then finally got underway in January this year, with the relaxation of Covid restrictions, but with teams reduced to four boards. Sixteen teams in total played in two divisions of the league for this shortened season, plus



in business!

a junior rapidplay league of four. This compares to 32 teams that played in the 2019/20 season, plus five rapidplay teams. It is clear that participation in the league was significantly reduced from the last normal season, but nevertheless it was a relief to get back to some normal over the board chess.

The season was completed without any notable controversies, and it was pleasing that there were no individual board defaults during the whole season.

Division 1 was closely fought, with Brighton and Hove winning the title by beating Hastings 1 3-1 in the last match of the season. Horsham 1 were 2nd on game points difference to Hastings 1, who were third. Key to Brighton's performance, a stellar score of 6.5/7 for Luke Rutherford on board 1 and an almost equally good 6/7 for Paul Batchelor.

Division 2 was convincingly won by a rejuvenated Crowborough, who won all

of their games, with Bexhill 1 in 2nd, and Horsham 2 in 3rd. Henry Shaw of Crowborough won the Division 2 best performance tankard with an impressive 5/5.

The junior rapidplay league was well won by Crowborough Juniors, for whom Oliver Stockham scored 4/4 and Daniel Longley 4.5/5, while East Grinstead Bookshop 1 were in 2nd place.

We are planning to run a full season for 2022-23, starting in October, the only difference being a retention of four-board matches for this season at least.

Hopefully, a good number of the teams missing from last season will be able to play again.

Finally, the league's website, at <https://www.midsussexchess.org.uk/> has been moved to a new platform and given a fresh new look by David Fryer, who has done a brilliant job in setting this up.

Peter Farr



SHOREHAM Chess Club is very new and only started meeting regularly in its new home in October, 2021. We are blessed in that we meet every Wednesday at the Shoreham Yacht Club - the setting can be idyllic with its impressive views out over the river and we are based (predominately) in the restaurant area and thus very close to the bar.

Before then? A few friends used to meet at the Wellington pub and as autumn approached it was obvious that an inside venue had to be found. The Yacht Club has been brilliant and it has meant that we have been able to advertise locally and pick up quite a few interested participants. Our WhatsApp group boasts

New club is less than a year old but already offers a packed programme

Yacht's the

over 20 members, but, usually, about eight to 14 people come on a Wednesday.

The club is now officially recognised and there are four trustees to the 'business' - but we are still struggling to successfully create our own bank account (I may have sent a picture of myself as opposed to a photo of my signature!) But, soon, we will be able to ask for subscriptions. Up until now it is free to come along!

We've already staged a successful tournament in December, 2021, and had 21 chess players from across the



PLAY GETS UNDERWAY: Members meet every Wednesday





ANYTHING YOU KANN DO... Duke goes through the Caro Kann opening with members

way to do it!

county come. Local artist Michale Quaia has made a unique prize which Russell Grant from Rustington and Andrew Fleming from Becks Hill will share until next year.

We hope to follow a programme of events which will attract even more chess players. It is envisaged that the first Wednesday of each month will be an 'in-house blitz tournament'. The second will be free play. We hope to have an Adur League (Worthing/Brighton and Shoreham) playing each third Wednesday of the month (this has been trialled and will, hopefully, take

We have been really pleased with progress

off over the winter months) and- lastly, on the fourth Wednesday, have one of our players lead a presentation taking any one aspect of chess they can talk about.

We've got a lot of work yet to do but have been really pleased with the progress we are making. Players come with a lot of knowledge about how to play or very little. But it's really nice that they keep coming

Please do pop along to see us in operation - every Wednesday at the Yacht Club. **Simon Thorpe**



We're enjoying the Vue



MAKING THE RIGHT MOVE: East Grinstead members talking on an away team during a friendly match

LIKE most other clubs, covid has played havoc with restarting the club and encouraging members to return. It was a club decision to move to new premises so we were anxious to play at our new home at Glen Vue Community Centre.

Our new home offers a much more spacious and quieter location, located in one large room. All members attending have been fully vaccinated and windows opened to ensure good ventilation. All members felt comfortable preferring not to wear masks and thankfully we all kept Covid-free. If in doubt, members were encouraged to take a test before attending.

I am pleased to confirm by the end of the season we had 14 paid-up members - 12 fewer than our previous season - of which two paid in full but for health reasons never played. A few new faces joined and I hope they continue as we move

forward. Everyone in the club wants East Grinstead to continue and we do have several excellent players who can now enjoy across the board chess.

From our numbers we managed to enter one team in the Mid-Sussex League and managed to fulfil all our fixtures. This, together with our internal leagues and friendlies, has kept club nights as varied as possible.

I am grateful to everyone in the club who has supported this season, especially our excellent secretary, Suzanne Marshall, for always remembering the milk, tea and biscuits, our first team captain, Robert Wall, and internal competition controller Eric Granzelius, plus, of course, everyone taking part in the Mid-Sussex League. If anyone reading this wants to try out our new venue then contact details are on the website.

Bob Dyke, chairman





AFTER over 30 years in the Mid-Sussex League, The Args have sadly had to resign.

Unfortunately, Jim Graham, one of our strongest players, has had to retire from chess owing to ill-health, which comes after we heard that Mick Harris is also unfit to continue.

In recent years we had a series of retirements and a couple of deaths, therefore, we cannot commit to a new season with only four players left - Peter Farr, Roy Page, Tim Pavlovic and Paul Kington.

However, looking on the bright side, we do still possess all the chess

equipment and hope to hold occasional chess evenings at The Jolly Tanners and may even possibly have a friendly four-board match!

The club, founded by Bob Huston, Dennis Collard and Mike Garson, had a chequered career, but did attract strong players like Dave Graham, Trevor Norton and Peter Farr, who produced some successes.

The Args peaked at second in Mid-Sussex League division 1, managed to win the Knockout Cup and ended by winning division two convincingly in 2019-20.

Thanks to all who played for us and to all our friends in the league.

Paul Kington

Club says
farewell to
league ...
but
pledges to
carry on
playing



143 years old ... and still going strong!

The 143rd season of Horsham Chess Club started with some informal meetings during the summer of 2021 as Covid restrictions gradually eased.

These relaxed sessions were also a good way to welcome new players who had either taken up chess during the pandemic or returned to it.

From the pool of players available we were able to enter three teams in the Mid-Sussex League and run our full set of internal competitions.

Horsham 1 and 2 competed in league division 1, with the first team being defending champions from the season cut short by the start of the pandemic. This year we fell just short of retaining the title and were runners-up with five match wins and two defeats - congratulations to the winners Brighton. James Mansson scored 5.5/7, a strong performance in a tough division. With the matches being reduced to four boards,

every result was vital this year and many fixtures went to the wire!

As ever, Horsham 2 was one of a very limited number of second teams (just one other) mixing it with the big boys, with some inevitable reversals but never too one-sided. In the penultimate match of the year against the other second team, a win would have seen them

finish fifth out of eight but they were unable to secure more than a draw which meant a 7th place finish - we now hold our breath as to what this will mean for the coming season!

This year we fell just short of retaining the title

One of Horsham 2's drawn matches became the only points dropped by the league winners, Brighton. Phil Stimpson on board one scored 2.5/5 with a 2186 performance rating and Alex Taylor (generally on board two) scored 3/4.

In division 2, Horsham 3 finished third with three match wins, three drawn matches and only one loss, to runaway winners Crowborough.



John Marshall scored 5/6 with a 2079 performance rating. Another feature of this division was the Collyer's sixth form college team playing all their home matches at the Horsham club - great to see some of their team taking part in Horsham internal competitions as well.

Thanks go to the league captains for their organisation, setting up of matches and reporting on the club website. Ensuring everyone gets a good spread of games whilst fielding competitive teams is a tricky balance but one they do excellently.

In the club internal competitions, Mark Broom won the Rook club championship trophy and Nick Warren the Bishop challengers cup. Pete Rankin won the Knight all-play-all.

Mike Forster won the Knockout cup and Nick Warren the Knockout Plate, while the quickplay knockouts were unfinished at the time of writing. James Mansson won the annual Lightning tournament, and the close season rapidplay

competition was won by new member Thomas Lynn. Next season we are hopeful of securing occasional use of another room at our Methodist Church venue for casual games and post-match analysis.

Mike Forster restarted the junior club and has a healthy turnout of young players. Thanks to Mike and also to Andy Collins for helping.

The Peter Alford Cup for junior competitive play went to Nayan Keats Rastogi. Mike's son Matt (an ex-Horsham junior now at university) recently scored 4/9 in the British Championship and gained rating points.

We said goodbye to former member Dick Newman, who passed away on June 29, aged 102. Dick was a club member into his mid-nineties and was still playing chess online with his sons only days before his death - quite amazing (to quote his daughter).

Anthony Higgs, secretary

**Worthing v Horsham
March 14, 2022
White David Graham 0
Black Mark Broom 1**

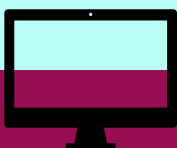
David Graham is a good friend of mine and we have played many times. Most have been drawn, but all of the decisive games have been in his favour; until this one!

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 Kxf7 { the

Cochrane gambit } 5.d4 Be7 6.Nc3 Re8 7.Bc4+ d5 8.Nxd5 Be6 9.O-O Bxd5 10.exd5 Bd6 11.Bg5 Nbd7 12.Bd3 Kg8 13.c4 Be7 14.Qf3 Nf8 { Up until now both sides have played sensible moves. We both thought that white's next was a mistake } 15.Rfe1 Nxd5 16.Bxe7 { White has a better alternative here, which seems to lead to a draw by repetition } (16.Re2 Nb4 17.Rae1

Nxd3 18.Qxd3 Ng6 19.Re6 Qd7 20.Qe4 Kf8 21.Qf5+ Kg8) 16...Nxe7 17.Qxb7 Qxd4 { Things are now very difficult for white, and while a couple of the later moves are inaccurate, it is very difficult to play } 18.Be4 Rab8 19.Qxc7 Rxb2 20.Qf4 Ne6 21.Qg3 Re2 22.Bd3 Nf4 23.Red1 Nxd3 0-1

Mark Broom



PLAY THROUGH THE GAME ONLINE



SINCE our last report, despite the Covid pandemic and lockdowns, the club has expanded its activities considerably, with two teams having played last season for the first time in the Mid-Sussex League and the setting-up of a junior club which meets once a week between 6 pm and 7 pm, followed by a two-hour session for senior members. These meetings are at the Albatross Club on the seafront, the club's venue for a time back in the 1960s. Meetings at our venue at 21 Holliers Hill were reduced to just Saturday afternoons because of falling attendances but Tuesday afternoons have been resumed as numbers finally began to improve some time after Covid restrictions were lifted.

One of our new members, Sharon Merchant, besides being one of the junior club organisers, also set up an impressive club website and became an official arbiter in 2022.

In the Mid-Sussex Online League, which operated during Covid restrictions, our first team finished fifth from six, managing one win and two draws but the league contained the strongest clubs

in the league. Thanks to the club gaining a number of new strong players, we were able to enter two teams in the league for the first time. Bexhill 1 had two wins and a draw out of seven matches in Division 2, finishing in a creditable second place. The second team, consisting mainly of players inexperienced in match play, had a difficult season, several times just failing when seeming set to win. They did, however, manage to avoid finishing in bottom place,

We are strength

having gained two draws from their seven matches.

Next season we hope to enter three teams, as even after Covid our numbers have remained fairly stable with the several new members replacing the sad loss of a number of our most senior members (none from Covid).

We managed to continue our rivalry with Eastbourne, a home match resulting in a tie. In the away match, Bill Tracey, our captain, managed to draft in 17 players, remarkable in that our total membership at the time was only 24. Eastbourne played some of their strongest players this time,

and we suffered a 10-7 defeat but some losses looked at one stage as though they could be going the other way.

It was just possible to complete our two internal tournaments before Covid struck in March, 2020. The Championship was won by Steve Blewitt for the third time, with 8/9; second was Bill Tracey with 7/9, and third Roy Webb with 6/9. In the Gordon Cup, David Slidel romped home with 8/8, followed by Alan Townson on 4½/8. In third place was Ted Baker, who sadly passed



ONLINE SUCCESS: Bexhill Chess Club's impressive new website



going from to strength



BEACH BLITZ: the De La Warr Pavilion terrace hosts another chess event

away earlier this year. He is sorely missed, being one of nature's gentlemen, and too nice to play chess, although he was a judo black belt in his youth.

In the Covid-affected 2021/2022 season, the champion was new member Janis Petersons, with Steve Blewitt second and another former champion, John Kimber, third. The winner of the Gordon Cup was 12-year-old Sebastian Merchant, the second junior to win the trophy in five years. His nine-year-old brother, Sam, was second, with David Pratt third.

Sam Merchant has played for Sussex this season. In the Under-9s, on board 1, he had two wins from three games and in the Under-11s, on board 6, he had three wins and three losses. A future England junior player?

Last November we held our first Open Rapidplay Swiss Tournament to celebrate the club's 125th anniversary. This attracted about 40 players and was won by Woman Fide Master, Rasa Norinkeviciute, with our member, Andrew Fleming, second. Rasa was presented with the new Moyra Mitchell Cup, kindly donated by Alan Ticehurst in memory of our most senior member. Bexhill Mayor Paul Plim, who presented the prizes, has proved a most useful contact, as the club's next open tournament in November will, at his instigation, be held in Bexhill Town Hall (free of charge)! It is hoped to attract an entry of about

60, including many juniors. There will be many cash prizes.

In 2021, Sharon and Steve Merchant organised an all-day event entitled Chess on the Beach, which invited passers-by on the seafront to play chess against club members. This was quite a success and in July, 2022, they were more ambitious in arranging with the management of the De La Warr Pavilion to hold another event on the terrace facing the beach. As part of the proceedings, there was a Beach Blitz tournament in a modified Swiss format which attracted many entrants, including numerous juniors, from various clubs in the county as well as passers-by. The event was obviously enjoyed by the participants, with many medals being awarded to the leading players and others who performed above expectations.

All in all, and despite Covid, Bexhill Chess Club has managed to thrive over the last two years and the future looks to be very promising, thanks to the enthusiasm of our members.

Joseph Sharp, secretary

The Mayor has proved a most useful contact



Our club is feeling on top of the world!

ON Friday , March 13, 2020, we played our final over the board match before lockdown against Eastbourne.

The result was of little consequence, but this match marked the remarkable start of lockdown chess that did not end until the return of over the board chess at the club again on Friday, September 10, 2021.

For the 17 months in-between, the club actually or should I say virtually flourished, with Zoom commentary and online lichess events most days of the week.

With 145 paid-up members and great support from Wealden District Council we came out of lockdown not only financially secure but as Worldwide Junior Champions achieved on Saturday, December 19, 2020.

Division A	Country	Points
1 Crowborough Chess Club	ENGLAND	179
2 Team Krasyliv	UKRAINE	178
3 Sharp 16 Diamonds	PHILIPPINES	172
4 FDCH	ECUADOR	156
5 Don Bosco & Rising Star Chess	TANZANIA	156
6 Cuttack_Little_Chess_Champions	INDIA	130
7 Arriba PERÚ	PERU	130
8 Seleccion INMaculada	PERU	128
9 Team Minnesota Scholastic	USA	125
10 Santísimo Selección	PERU	125





BACK ON BOARD: Players in the Crowborough Chess Congress during February

With our return to over the board chess it was obvious that our younger players had improved in leaps and bounds and especially Daniel Donaghy, who took the 2021 Club championship at his first attempt despite never playing competitively other than online.

With Arjun Kolani, the Under 14 British champion, and Henry Shaw joining our 1st team it was no surprise that we swept all before us in the return of the Mid-Sussex Chess League Division 2, including best performance tankard for Henry.

To complete a successful 2022, our junior team were unbeaten in lifting the Rapid League trophy.

The postponed Crowborough Chess Congress was held on Saturday, February 26, 2022, with a bumper 80 entries, and returned

We have 145 paid-up members and have had great support from the council

to its normal slot in September, as well as next February.

We say goodbye to two club members who disappear off to university - Henry Shaw and 2022 club champion Benedict Weis. We wish them well and hope to see them back occasionally during term breaks.

David Fryer, secretary



IT'S rather an understatement to say it's been a tough couple of years, but Lewes Chess Club are still here, and we battle on.

When we last contributed to this esteemed publication (2019) things seemed to be heading in the right direction for the club: we'd picked up two pieces of silverware in the Mid-Sussex Chess League (MSCL) in 2018-19 and a number of our juniors were achieving in league, club, individual, county, and even national events.

Then along came Covid and everything changed.

While at the point at which the 2019-20 MSCL season was abruptly terminated in March, 2020, neither of Lewes's main teams were doing especially well, our juniors were one of two teams in contention for the

Rapidplay trophy and hence were still on for the hat-trick, having won it the previous two seasons. In the end, and with placings confirmed as they were at the point matches were cancelled, Lewes lost out to Crowborough on game points.

Meanwhile, in the Paul Watson Trophy, another historically strong competition for Lewes, we were one match away from meeting arch-rivals Horsham in the final before this event too was suspended. The possibility of completion was kept alive for a further 2½ years before the Sussex County Chess Association (SCCA) AGM decided, in August 2022, to abandon the 2019-20 competition.

The 2020-21 season was, for Lewes, an unusual if not altogether wasted year; it was certainly unique. Our venue, St Mary's Supporters Club, was keen to open whenever lockdown relaxations permitted and a few members opted to attend the club for what used to be called chess, but increasingly was becoming a rare sub-species - over the board chess. Except that, for us, it wasn't really over

the board at all, more a kind of a Putin's table style of chess, with each player in charge of a board and therefore responsible, upon calling out the move, for moving both their own and their opponent's pieces whilst not coming near the other player or board at all.

Clocks were permissible, not mandatory; they were, in truth, more than most players could manage. The game, in this form, would probably be more familiar to visually impaired players and reminds me of games I played in the 1990s at

Willesden & Brent Chess Club against the late and

much respected Hans Cohn (for an obituary of the latter, see <https://www.thejc.com/news/world/obituary-hans-cohn-1.463861>)

When, then, at the beginning of 2021, the ECF introduced its new Fide-style

rating system, there wasn't a great deal going on. A few of us, opposed to this pointless gimmick, might even have afforded ourselves a wry smile as the grades – or ratings we should say now, sat static for month after month when part of the argument for change was that they'd keep moving!

By the start of the 2021-22 season, those members (the majority) who continued to support the club despite limited playing opportunities, were keen to get back to some sort of over the board chess, and welcomed the tentative steps taken by the MSCL to re-start the league. In the event, Lewes were able only to muster one team (and that now four boards instead of the previous five) in the short MSCL season played from January to May, 2022. To finish fourth of eight teams in Division 1 was a reasonable effort, the team winning three matches and losing four. In truth, though, Lewes were merely head of a bunch of also-rans, as there were fewer points separating us from the bottom team four places below, than the team one place above! Such match

The club's top juniors continue to accrue trophies



Juniors have done the club proud

and game victories as we were able to achieve were much helped by the addition of MSCL stalwart Peter Farr, who joined us – temporarily? - from The Args. Those players who represented us four times or more were, in addition to Peter, Richard Welford, Jonathan Britnell (U17), and Alex Von der Becke. In total, 11 members represented us at least once, but this was still well under half all members. Lewes are a little in no-man's land: comfortably able to field one team, lacking a sufficient core for two.

It was felt, somewhat disappointingly after being a founder participant and despite having eight junior members, the club couldn't, for the first time, sustain a team this season in the Rapidplay Division. Three of our juniors nevertheless played each one or more games in the main league.

Turning, then, to the exploits of our juniors in events beyond the club and MSCL, the club's top few juniors continue to accrue trophies and otherwise post eye-catching performances in tough sections. Promising new member Louis Buckland won the Sussex Junior Chess (SJC) Worthing U18 Minor in May, 2022, with a perfect 6/6 and finished fifth overall in the U14 Sussex Grand Prix (GP) despite playing in only two events (the best four results counting from a possible six). Fellow Lewes junior George Adams was U14 Sussex GP runner-up, from three events. Jonathan Britnell became U18 Sussex rapidplay champion in November, 2021, with fellow Lewes junior, Henry Adams (U16), finishing clear second. With two further second-place finishes and a second-equal from four events played, Jonathan ran out

comfortable winner in the U17 Sussex GP. Other members who competed in SJC events in 2021-22 were Austin Mitchell (U12) and Jacob Wynn (U15).

This report is posted just in time to catch results from the 2022 British Chess Championships, held once again in Torquay, and here is highlighted Louis Buckland's 4½/7 in the U14, Henry Adams becoming joint winner, of three, on 5/7 in the Week 2 U1900; also Henry's 4½/9 performance in the Major Open, and younger brother George's 3/9 in the same event.

As we move into the 2022-23 season, things are still far from what they were. However, Lewes Chess Club's membership level has held up well and, if anything, the secretary is receiving more enquiries about the club than ever before. Six all-new members joined in 2021-22, bringing our total to 26. Once again the club will not be able to field more than one team in the MSCL in the forthcoming season, but we hope to provide playing opportunities for as many members as possible by entering in addition the cup events and reviving our internal club competitions.

The club enjoys a fantastic venue at St Mary's Supporters Club, with separate rooms for quiet chess and social chess, a bar, and other typical social club facilities such as darts and snooker. All Lewes Chess Club members are members also of our venue. Our central location, easy parking, and plenty of space mean, among other things, we continue to host the MSCL and SCCA AGMs.

Matthew Britnell, secretary



Final-day decider clinches the title

LIKE many clubs, Brighton and Hove's membership numbers have fallen since the pandemic began, halving to 25. Ten years ago, we had enough members and drivers to field six teams of five in the Mid-Sussex League.

Club historian Brian Denman told me recently that our club in its present form will shortly be 100 years old. Its official day of opening was October 4, 1922. He said that at that time we had premises inside the Royal Pavilion and the club was very popular. I remember visiting about 40 years ago in rooms which are today part of the Pavilion gift shop.

For the last 11 years we had rooms on the first floor of the bridge club in Third Avenue, Hove, and were sad to leave at the end of March when it was to be redeveloped.

Choosing a new venue led to conflicting views on location and ambience. Some members prefer a

convivial atmosphere, with perhaps a bar for refreshments, while for others match conditions are paramount.

My preferred venue, a village hall, had easy links to the A23/A27 for visiting teams and was by pure coincidence five minutes' walk from where I live, but others considered it too far from the town centre. Making his debut there on our one visit was a strong young Ukrainian player, Oleksandr, who arrived as a refugee. He joined a group of us who played in an informal rapidplay in early June hosted by Shoreham in their modern venue overlooking the River Adur.

We looked at many possible venues, including a well-attended tryout evening upstairs at the King and Queen, a large Mock Tudor pub that's Grade II listed by English Heritage, near the Pavilion, with a cavernous hall on the ground floor and a courtyard. It was extremely busy that St Patrick's night.

We eventually settled on Ralli Hall, near Hove railway station, towards the end of the 2021-22 Mid- Sussex League season, with time to host one match, against Eastbourne.

Geoff James, of the 1st team, writes: "We have had one success in winning the Mid-Sussex League



SEA SUCCESS: Sue Chadwick with her trophy in Torquay





TIME TO CELEBRATE: First team captain Paul Batchelor and Luke Rutherford with the Division 1 trophy and two tankards

first division trophy. Undefeated throughout, we clinched the title in the final match by beating Hastings 3-1, finishing with six wins and a draw.

Luke Rutherford, on top board, won two tankards for best score in division one and best league score of 6.5/7. Paul Batchelor also played in every match, scoring a creditable 6/7.”

Geoff took part in the World Seniors Team Championship at the end of June in Acqui Terme, a town in north-west Italy, known since Roman times for its hot sulphur springs. Geoff had time to visit the Roman remains. In his first game he drew against former British champion Paul Littlewood.

At Torquay in mid-August, Geoff was joint third and Sue Chadwick was joint ladies champion at the British Championship 65+ tournament. One of Sue's opponents accidentally set off his medical alarm by leaning against the table early in the game, resulting in a forfeit which he wasn't happy about but had to accept. In the British Championship itself, Calum Salmons won the U-2050 rating prize.

Mid-August also brought news of the passing of Mike Nicholas, the president of our club 1985-91.

Rob Counsell



Online chess is no substitute



FOR me, the past year had little ‘real chess’ activity. What there was of it was spoiled by the rust of lockdown and the ravages of age. There was plenty of 5-minute online chess. The requirement for near-instant reaction obviously spoils the quality of the product. Apart from training in opening variations and in handling time trouble, it’s probably not actually good for one’s game. **Feliks Kwiatkowski**

White: Feliks Kwiatkowski. Black: Michael D. Nicholas. Alekhine’s Defence.
February 22, 1986.
Sussex County Championship 1985-86,
preliminary rounds, replay game.
[40 moves in 120 mins.]

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 Nc6 ;
[Mike liked Alekhine’s Defence. This is the Modern Variation, with ... Nc6. It’s in the classification ‘playable but dubious’. That means it’s dangerous, but only if you don’t know it’s coming. On that day, I didn’t know it was coming.]

5. c4 Nb6 6. e6 fxe6 7. Bd3 e5 8. Ng5 Nxd4;
[I shan’t trouble you with the theory. You can look up for yourselves all the things I should have done. Suffice it to say, Black is already better. Just enjoy the game.]
9. Nxh7 Be6 10. Bg6+ Bf7 11. Bxf7+ Kxf7 12. Ng5+ Kg8 13. Be3 e6 14. f4 exf4 15. Bxf4 e5 16. Bc1 Be7 17. Ne4 Qf8 18. Rf1 Rxh2!!
[While letting White take the Queen with check is the computer’s immediate choice, it took Mike all of four minutes to find the move.]
19. Rxf8+ Rxf8 20. Qg4 Nxc4! [Here I saw the light and resigned.] 0-1.

White: "Belgianmaster" Black: Feliks Kwiatkowski. Trompowsky Attack.
August 25: 5-minute online game, lichess

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 c5 3. d5 Ne4 4. Bh4 g5
[The usual move these days is 4.Bf4 Beyond that, this game neither needs nor deserves comment, save to explain that White played on a queen down due to the time factor. The official record shows that



I had only 2 seconds left when I mated the opponent, while he had nearly a whole minute spare.]

5. Bg3 Qb6 6. Qc1 Qh6 7. h4 Nxc3 8. fxg3 Qd6
9. Kf2 Bg7 10. Nc3 Be5 11. Rh3 g4 12. Ne4 Qg6
13. h5 Qf5+ 14. Nf3 gxh3 15. Nxc5 h2 16. e4 Qf6

17. Nd3 Bd4+ 18. Ke2 h1=Q 19. c3 Bb6 20. e5
Qf5 21. Qd2 Qe4+ 22. Kd1 Qxf1+ 23. Nfe1 Rg8
24. Kc2 Rxc3 25. b3 d6 26. Kb2 Bf5 27. Rd1
Qxd5 28. exd6 Nd7 29. dxe7 Rc8 30. a4 Bxd3 31.
Nxd3 Qfxg2 32. Qxg2 Rxc2+ 33. Ka3 Bc5+ 34.
Nxc5 Qxc5+ 35. b4 Qxc3 mate 0-1.

White: Feliks Kwiatkowski.

Black: "Anatoly_Donchenko".

Sicilian Defence: Classical

Scheveningen Variation.

August 12: 5-minute online game, lichess

I think this was the real Anatoly Donchenko, a veteran IM with an online blitz rating of 2499 at the time of this game. He should be really ashamed of himself for the following display.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3
a6 6. Be2 e6 7. O-O Qc7 8. f4 b5 9. Bf3 Bb7 10. e5
dxe5 11. fxe5 Nfd7 [This line with an early ...b5
is known to be a little suspect for Black.] 12. Bxb7
Qxb7 13. Qh5 g6 14. Qh4 Be7 15. Bg5 ... [This
is the human move. The computer move is 15.Ne4
... , yes, seriously.] 15. ... Bxc5 16. Qxg5 Nc6??
[The computer suggests the simple 16. ... Qa7
17.Rad1 Nc6 18.Ne4 0-0 19.c3 Nxe5, when White

has an attack for the pawn, with supposedly equal chances.]

17. Rxf7?? ...

[Remember, this was a 5-minute game. Further, I was seduced by a previous blitz game in which the computer suggested this in a very comparable position. However, comparable is not identical! The simple 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Qh6 ... would have given an overwhelming attack.]

Kxf7 18. Rf1+ Ke8?? [18. ... Kg8 and there is nothing to show for the rook.]

19. Nxe6? ...

[19.Ne4 ... would have been very strong. Now Black should have tried 19. ... Qa7+ 20.Kh1 Ndx5 21.Nd5 ... when White has a continuing attack, but 'computer says' it's just a draw.]

19. ... Ndx5 20. Nd5 Ra7? [Black can still play 20. ... Qa7+.] 21. Nf6+ Ke7 22. Nc5 Qc8 23. Nfe4+ Ke8 24. Nd6 mate. 1-0

White: Feliks Kwiatkowski.

Black: "Chyngyz_Davletov".

Centre Counter Defence.

September 1: 5-minute online game, lichess

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qa5 4. d4 c6 5. Bc4
Nf6 6. Nf3 Bg4 7. h3 Bh5 8. g4 Bg6 9. Ne5 e6
[This is a reasonably normal position from the
Centre Counter. Now 10.h4 or 10.Bd2 would have
been sane.] 10. Qf3 Be4 [I was tired and
overlooked the pin.] 11. Qf4? ...

[Surprisingly, White need not resign instantly. The recommended try is 11.Qe3 Bd5 12.Bd2 ... , the point being that 11. ... Bxh1 is met by 12.Nxf7 ... with a raging attack.] 11. ... Bxh1 12. g5 Nbd7 13. gxf6 Nxf6? [13. ... Nxe5 is a simple win for Black. Black could not handle the complications in the time allowed.] 14. Bd2 Bd6 15. O-O-O Bd5 16. Nxd5 Bxe5 17. Qxe5 Qd8 18. Nc7+ Kd7 19. Nxa8 Qxa8 20. Bb4 Nd5 21. Bxd5 cxd5 22. Qd6+ Kc8 23. Rd3 Black resigned. 1-0.



White: Richard Bates IM [Middlesex 1]. Black: Feliks Kwiatkowski [Sussex 1]. English Opening [by transposition]. February 26: Board 1, Sussex 1 v Middlesex 1, at Hassocks.

[The time limit was 35 moves/100 minutes, followed by all remaining moves in 20 minutes, with a 10-second increment from move 1.]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.c4 e5 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 cd 7.Nxd4 Nc6 8.Nc2 d6 9.Nc3 Nd7 10.Bd2a5 11.Qc1 Re8 12.Bh6 Bh8 [White was playing simple, quiet moves, probably just waiting for me to go wrong. The computer actually prefers 12. ... Bxc3 23.bc Nce5, asserting a small Black advantage, but I did not want to give up my King's Bishop.]

13.Rd1 Nc5 14.Ne3 ...

[Surprisingly, the retreat

14.Be3, threat Bxc5,

would have applied a lot of pressure.] 14. ... Be6

15.Ncd5 Rb8 16.Nf4

Bd7 17.h4 b5

['Computer says' Black

is very slightly better, so it was taking things *too* quietly.]

18.h5 Ne5 [18. ... Nd4 may have been stronger.] 19.

Qc2 bc 20.hg hg 21.Nxc4 Bf5! 22.e4 Bg4 23.Rd5 Nxc4

[Black has increased his advantage. However, the computer suggests that 23. ... Ncd7, preparing to swap one Knight and then to occupy e5 with the other, would have increased the advantage even more.]

24.Qxc4 Rb4 25.Qf1 Qb6 [This was chosen rather than ... Bxb2, for development and continuing pressure.] 26.Rg5 Bd7? [Playing quietly did not work out. White now seeks complications and immediately provokes a clear blunder. 26 ... Be6! with Black pressure.]

27.Nd5 Qb8 28.Nxb4 Qxb4 [The joke is that, even after the blunder, Black has very reasonable compensation for the exchange. However, time

trouble was becoming a serious factor for us both.] 29.Rd5 Bc6 30.Rd2 Nxe4 [The computer condemns this. Earlier, 29. ... Be6 would have been preferable. Instead of Nxe4, 30. ... a4 is suggested, with only a small White plus.]

31.Rc2! Bb5 32.Qe1?! ... [32.Qd1!] 32. ... Bd3?!

33.Bd2? [This gives away White's edge totally. 33.Qxb4 ... was preferable.] 33. ... Qa4 34.Rc3 ...

[White returns the exchange to simplify the game, as the remaining Black pieces will be somewhat uncoordinated.]

34. ... Nxc3 35.Bxc3 Bxc3 36.Qxc3 ... [The time control has been passed. If this had been a tournament, I would have been tempted to offer a draw, but here I felt an obligation to keep trying.]

36. ... Bb5 37.a3 Bd7 38.Re1 Rc8

39.Qd3 Bb5 40.Qe3 e6 41.Be4 Bd7?!

[41. ... Qc4] 42. Qg5 ... [42.Qb6!]

42. ... Be8 43.Qf6 Qd7 44.Kg2 Qd8 45.

Qf4 e5 46.Qd2 a4 [Four minutes left, plus the increment.] 47.Rd1 Bc6

48.Bxc6 Rxc6 49.Qd5 Qc7 50. Qb5 Rc2

51.Rh1 Qc6+ 52.Qxc6 Rxc6 53. Rh4

Ra6 54.Rb4 Kg7 55.f4 Kf6 56.Kf3 Ke6 57.Ke4 f5+

58.Kd3 d5?! 59.fe Kxe5 60.Ke3 g5 61.Kf3 Kd6? [61.

... g4+] 62.Rb8 d4 63.Ke2 Kc5 64.Kd3 f4? 65. Rg8!

... [Now White has solved his problems.] 65. ... fg

66.Rxg5+Kc6 67.Rxg3 Kc7 68.Rg7+ Kb8 69.Kxd4

Rb6 70.Kc3 Rb3+? [70. ... Rc6+ holds.] 71.Kc2

Rb6? [The computer says this is certain ruin and suggests 71 ... Rb5 by its own mysterious logic.

Either way, Black is a pawn down and grovelling.]

72.Rg4 Ra6 73.Kc3? [The computer says Rc4 is a

win. The White pieces aim to win the Black a-pawn.]

73. ... Kc7 74.Rb7+ Kb8 75.Rb5 .

[That was the last move recorded. The game went 5 or 10 more moves, in which I might theoretically have held on, but instead duly let the White pieces win the a-pawn, and resigned. Bates cleverly tacked back and forth with his pieces until I blundered. The game is a fair reflection of the way the season went.]1-0.

The game is a fair reflection of the way the season went

looks like White Type to enter text



SCCA Patrons 2022-23

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TOP OF THE TABLE: The girls U11 team celebrate their national success

Sussex leads the way as girls clinch top title

WHAT a relief it was to get back over the board this season! Starting in September, 2021, and finishing in May, 2022, Sussex Junior Chess, with its incredibly hard-working group of volunteers, was able to run its full calendar of events.

Being the first county to be up and running after the pandemic enabled us to entertain the superstars of junior chess from all over the south of England and beyond.

During the previous year we were able to provide a full



timetable of online training and fun tournaments. Eight of our experienced trainers, including an international master and British Ladies champion, set up targeted weekly group sessions with more than 100 juniors attending.

This season has been incredibly successful for our juniors with the highlights including:

The girls' U11 team won the National EPSCA title. The talented girls team finished top of the table in a storming finish to the day. Twenty eight points from a maximum 36 were enough to beat Surrey (24) and Oxfordshire (23). Captain Seha Konara won a tense final game of the whole tournament, lasting more than two hours, to seal a magnificent victory.



BACK IN ACTION:
Juniors were delighted to resume over the board chess following the Covid lockdown

Three of our U11 squad - Andy Nguyen, Nayan Keats-Rastogi and Luke Freeman - qualified to represent their country after being invited to Liverpool to take part in





VARSITY VICTORS: Former Sussex juniors helped Oxford to victory over Cambridge
Photo: John Saunders Photography

the England trials. They followed this up by scoring an impressive 5.5 out of 6 between them to help SE England to victory against a strong Welsh team.

Arjun Kolani continued his impressive development; he followed up winning the U14 online British championship and online British Rapidplay championship in August with winning the over the board championship in October, 2021.

Some of our junior players from recent seasons, Daniel Sutton, Dominic Miller, and FM Tom O’Gorman



STREETS AHEAD: Juniors show their skill at East Grinstead





helped Oxford to an impressive 5.5 to 2.5 victory over Cambridge in this year's "Varsity Match".

The Sussex team, which competes monthly in an Online Battle Arena, has enjoyed continued success against the best counties in the country.

One of the great initiatives set up during the pandemic continues to be popular with juniors all over the country.

We have also had numerous success stories that did not quite make the headlines. Hundreds of juniors played countless matches over the board for the first time since the pandemic.

THINKING TIME: Juniors back on board, and, below, action from the Worthing Grand Prix

For many of them who had only ever played online, it was their first experience of over the board play. Watching them all playing chess with big smiles on their faces was certainly a highlight for the SJC team.

Steve Merchant



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