

County
team
finds
the
going
tough

Feliks' title again

Brighton's amazing run

SUSSEX CHESS

NEWS/2023

Cup and promotion at the double



Old friend now has a new face

THE Sussex County Chess Association website has had a major facelift, thanks to county chairman Paul Batchelor.

Paul, pictured top right, has taken over management of the website from webmaster Robert Elliston. The site has been updated with lots of new material.

The Tournaments page now has the rules for the three main competitions. The County Championship in particular now has an alternative smaller session of play which Paul feels most clubs should be able to accommodate. There are also regular news updates and links to all things regarding chess in Sussex.

Paul Batchelor

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Tournaments bring county together

Generally it was good to see a spread of clubs from across the whole county compete in the Paul Watson Trophy and McArthur Cup competitions, though a few more entrants next year would be helpful. The knockout format does bring scope for surprises, especially in the grade-limited Paul Watson Trophy. **Paul Batchelor**

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

There were two entries for the County Championship this year - Feliks Kwiatkowski and Andrew Briggs. The format was a two-game match final. The finish day of the event was April 1, 2023. In the first game, Feliks Kwiatkowski won with the white pieces. The next encounter resulted in a draw. The result was a win for Feliks Kwiatkowski, which meant he retained his title. *(Games 35-39)* **Paul Batchelor**

PAUL WATSON TROPHY

SIX teams entered the Paul Watson Trophy. The semi-finals saw Lewes beat Crowborough 4-0, and Bognor & Arun defeat East Grinstead on board count after a 2-2 draw.

In a very close final, Lewes drew 2-2 against Bognor and Arun, with Lewes prevailing on board count.

At the County AGM, the president, Paul Batchelor, presented a brand new trophy that he had very kindly donated, a fitting memorial for

Paul Watson, who was such a great servant of Sussex chess.

Bognor & Arun	2-2	Lewes
Jaimie Wilson	0-1	Henry Adams
Norbert Gyorke	1-0	Louis Buckland
Mike Spence	0-1	Matthew Masani
Warwick Turner	1-0	Gary Buckland

McARTHUR CUP

SIX teams also entered the McArthur Cup, although Brighton unfortunately had to withdraw.

In the semi-finals, Lewes beat Hastings & St Leonards 4.5 – 1.5, while Horsham overcame Chichester 3.5 – 2.5.

The final was another very close run thing, with Horsham travelling to Lewes and winning on board count after a very tense 3-3 draw.

Lewes	3-3	Horsham
Peter Farr	0-1	Gavin Lock
Jonathan Britnell	½-½	Mark Broom
Richard Welford	0-1	Michael Forster
Matthew Masani	1-0	James Mansson
Louis Buckland	1-0	Anthony Higgs
Alex Von Der Becke	½-½	Philip Stimpson



PETER FARR reports on the ECF's past year...and a bright future



Funding could help chess to cash in

FOR much of the last 12 months, it seemed to be a case of 'no news is good news' for the English Chess Federation, with membership levels reaching back towards normality, and finances consequently being restored to an even keel.

In this respect it is noteworthy that at the April finance meeting, Council voted to retain membership fees at current levels, despite the background of high inflation. It was suggested, though, that fees would need to increase at some point.

It has been felt for a while by some within the ECF that the Gold /Silver / Bronze membership category structure is overly complicated, and

proposals are due to be presented at the October, 2023, meeting with a view either to merging and creating two categories – though if there is no agreement on any new proposals, the status quo would remain. The key question is the cost of each new category and how this would compare to the existing ones, but we have no indication of this as yet.

Within the ECF Council there seems to be a wide range of views as to whether ECF membership fees are pitched correctly – many seem to feel the fees are cheap compared to those for other activities, but there are also a significant number of people who are concerned about the impact of any increases for lower income members.



As many people will have seen though, business as usual ECF activities have now been rather eclipsed by the announcement on August 22 of significant new government funding for English chess, principally via the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Those interested can read the announcement here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-investment-to-transform-future-of-english-chess-announced>

It is perhaps too early to understand the impact that this will have on English chess, but the amounts involved are certainly significant against the ECF's budget, and just the fact of government recognition of chess is a boost in itself.

This new-found interest by government

is partly as a result of the evident worldwide resurgence of interest in the game, mainly through the growth of online chess, but is also due to the work of Malcolm Pein in particular in banging on the

doors of the corridors of power. One imagines that Dominic Lawson's contacts and knowledge of government circles has also been extremely useful.

Exciting times ahead and also a new challenge for the ECF in making the most of new opportunities.

Not all is plain sailing however, with recent adverse publicity for the game firstly in the USA and also now in England concerning the treatment of female players. The ECF will need to take a strong lead in addressing the issues here, which will not go away through wishful thinking. There is a wider culture within chess that needs looking at. This will be important if the game is to move forwards and take advantage of the current upsurge of interest.

Just the fact of government recognition of chess is a boost in itself



LOOKING AHEAD: Significant funding could give chess a boost right across the board



PETER FARR reflects on Brighton's continued domination

Familiar faces secure title again

FACT FILE

The top-scoring players for the season, winning the prize tankards at the AGM, were:

Division 1: Paul Batchelor, Brighton & Hove 7.5/9 =

83.33%; Division 2: Feliks

Kwiatkowski, Haywards Heath 8/9 = 88.89%;

Division 3: John Pye, East Grinstead Bookshop 6/7 = 85.71%

Overall league best player tankard: Feliks Kwiatkowski, Haywards Heath 8/9 = 88.89%.

BRIGHTON & Hove 1 won division 1 for the second season in a row, with a large margin of five points over Hastings & St. Leonards 1.

Brighton benefited from a very consistent team turn-out, and dropped only a single drawn match to Hastings 1. There was a big pile of four teams for third to sixth places on 11 points, while the two second teams in the division struggled somewhat.

Division 2 was much more closely contested, with only two points separating the top four teams. Haywards Heath 1 eventually won out over Eastbourne 2 by virtue of a much better game points difference.

The crucial match turned out to be the Heath's 4-0 win at Eastbourne 2 in February. Worthing 2 finished a point behind in third, with Sussex University another point behind in fourth.

The University did particularly well, given that they rotated their squad a lot through the season.

Division 3 was dominated by Bexhill 3 and Crowborough 2, with Bexhill prevailing by two points and the 2-2 draw between the two sides just before Easter proving the key match. Collyers were third with East Grinstead bookshop 2 just behind in fourth.

The Junior Rapidplay was well won by East Grinstead Bookshop 2, who won all of their games.

Other stand-out performances during the season included Alex Taylor, who scored 7.5/9 for Collyers, and Jeffrey Boardman (Haywards Heath), Robert Counsell (Brighton) and Srikantha Shanmugam (Worthing), who all scored 5/6.

Finally, at the league AGM in June, it was agreed to change the name of the league to be simply The Sussex Chess League. This is just a reflection of the reality the league has grown geographically over the years so that it serves most of the clubs across Sussex.



Uncovering the county's back pages

AFTER the formation of the Sussex Chess Association in 1882 the committee set out to keep its members informed of its activities.

Sometimes they produced magazines and yearbooks, but also there were occasions when they made use of chess columns in local magazines.

Unfortunately, when the Sussex chess archives disappeared about ten years ago, much material was lost and this included any yearbooks produced between 1902 and 1929. In the 1930s Sussex material formed part of the Southern Counties' chess bulletins.

It appears that the Sussex Chess Association did not start producing its annual reports again until 1959 and I was afraid that much of the material in the 1960s and part of the 1970s was no longer available.

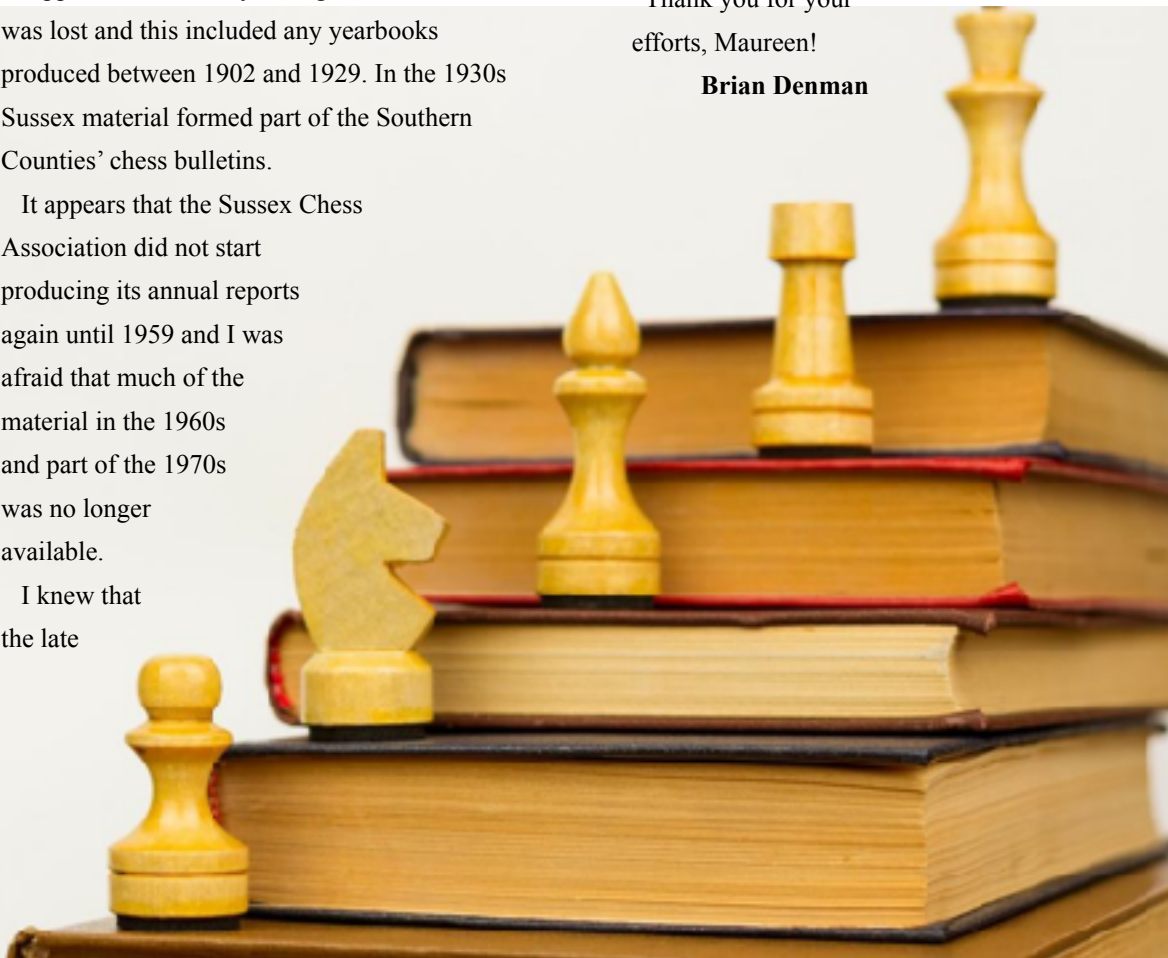
I knew that the late

John Cannon used to possess a complete set of these magazines, but about 10 years ago he told me that he could no longer find them.

Fortunately these magazines have now been rediscovered and I have to thank John's daughter, Maureen, for her resourcefulness. John was known to have enthusiastically collected a lot of material on different subjects in his home and she has spent many hours sorting it out.

Thank you for your efforts, Maureen!

Brian Denman



Wins hard to find for county

FOR our first fixture of the season we were pitted against a team that outrated us on every board. Middlesex were the home side. The venue was a new one, the Mind Sports Centre. This was to prove a tough encounter for Sussex. Middlesex won by 13-3. Sussex draws were recorded by six players. There was however no Sussex winner in this match.

Next we faced a formidable Kent side. We were outrated on all but one board (that player was unrated). Kent won by 11-5. This time, Sussex recorded six draws and two wins. The winners included Feliks Kwiatkowski, who claimed the scalp of GM Neil McDonald, and Mark Broom, who defeated Ian Snape.

We were then drawn at home to face a strong Surrey team. The match was to go the way of Surrey, winning by 10-6. Sussex recorded six draws and three wins. The three Sussex wins went to Peter Farr, Rolandas Lukosius and James Wheeler.

Fourth we faced Surrey away this time. Surrey won by 11-5. Sussex scored six draws and two wins, the two wins going to Paul Selby and James Wheeler.

The fifth fixture of the season was home to Middlesex. This one was closer than our opening

encounter, though we lost by 9-6. Sussex recorded six draws and three wins. Sussex winners were Jaimie Wilson, Henry Cove and myself.

The last fixture for the group stages was next. We faced Kent. I was hoping for something out of this one, but realised it would not be an easy one. Kent would not gift us with anything. As it happened, for once we had a rating advantage over our adversaries. Sussex went on to win by 8½-7½. Sussex recorded five draws (not six!) and five wins. Sussex winners on the day were Jaimie Wilson, Francis Rayner, Geoffrey James, Rasa Norinkeviciute and Adrian Pickersgill. Sussex finished fourth at the group stage.

Following the Southern group stages we were offered a place to play in the ECF minor counties section. We were drawn home to the Norfolk side. A halfway venue was sought by Norfolk. The venue was High Wych Memorial Hall, High Wych Road, Sawbridgeworth. This time we were of a similar rating to the opposition. Following a close match we were to lose by 8½-7½. Sussex had seven draws and four wins. Winners for Sussex on the day were Francis Rayner, Steve Newman, Rasa Norinkeviciute and Oliver Froom.

Paul Batchelor

FINAL TABLE								
	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	F	A	POINTS
1	Middlesex	6	5	1	0	63	32	11
2	Surrey	6	3	0	3	49	47	6
3	Kent	6	2	1	3	45.5	50.5	5
4	Sussex	6	1	0	5	33.5	61.5	2



SUSSEX CHESS 2023/OPEN TEAM, RESULTS

MIDDLESEX 13 SUSSEX 3, OCTOBER 29, 2022					
1	Batchelor, Peter J	2374	1 - 0	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2264
2	Richardson, John R	2345	½ - ½	Rutherford, Luke E	2235
3	Gallana, Marco	2327	1 - 0	Wilson, Jaimie	2206
4	McMichael, Richard J	2265	½ - ½	Farr, Peter G	2155
5	Stone, Andrew M	2155	½ - ½	Newman, Stephen J	2103
6	Mogilarov, Dimitar	2125	1 - 0	Lukosius, Rolandas	2089
7	Gilfillan, Andrew	2123	½ - ½	James, Geoffrey H	2082
8	Dydak, Mateusz	2107	½ - ½	Batchelor, Paul A	2010
9	Freeland, Alexander	2106	½ - ½	Cove, Henry	1990
10	Davey, Mark	2105	1 - 0	Lake, Chris	1840
11	Coles, Steven F	2067	1 - 0	Selby, Paul R	1779
12	Mackenzie, Colin	2015	1 - 0	Palmer, Alan H	1743
13	Calvert, D Ian	1993	1 - 0	Woods, Timothy J	1634
14	Fulton, Anthony R	2062	1 - 0	Default	
15	Tobisch, John	1906	1 - 0	Default	
16	Rubeck, Jonathan	1880	1 - 0	Default	

KENT 11 SUSSEX 5, DECEMBER 3, 2022					
1	McDonald, Neil R	2478	0 - 1	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2264
2	Taylor, Martin R	2379	½ - ½	Wilson, Jaimie	2206
3	Stebbing, Anthony J	2266	½ - ½	Farr, Peter G	2155
4	Snape, Ian L	2161	0 - 1	Broom, Mark	2145
5	Talsma, Paul A	2183	½ - ½	Newman, Stephen J	2103
6	Starley, Robert	2149	1 - 0	James, Geoffrey H	2082
7	Hanreck, Alan E	2184	½ - ½	Lukosius, Rolandas	2089
8	Roberts, Mike	2080	1 - 0	Norinkeviciute, Rasa	2065
9	Briggs, John Nicholas	2136	½ - ½	Batchelor, Paul A	2010
10	Robertson, Mark M	2082	1 - 0	Cove, Henry	1990
11	Sugden, John N	2058	1 - 0	Wheeler, James M	1909
12	O'Donovan, Paul J	0000	1 - 0	Selby, Paul R	1779
13	Johnson, Jim A	2016	1 - 0	Ewens, Graham	1765
14	Stanchev, Stoyko	1955	1 - 0	Palmer, Alan H	1743
15	Tucker, David S	1986	½ - ½	Woods, Timothy J	1634
16	Gluckman, Tim	1945	1 - 0	Default	0000



SUSSEX CHESS 2023/OPEN TEAM, RESULTS

SUSSEX 6 SURREY 10, DECEMBER 10, 2022					
1	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2264	0 - 1	Large, Peter	2376
2	Rutherford, Luke E	2235	0 - 1	Baker, Chris W	2288
3	Wilson, Jaimie	2206	0 - 1	Povah, Nigel E	2238
4	Farr, Peter G	2155	1 - 0	Hodgson, John H	2152
5	Salmons, Calum	2155	0 - 1	Frostick, Clive A	2102
6	Mansson, James C	2090	½ - ½	Noyce, Robert	2119
7	James, Geoffrey H	2082	½ - ½	Rosen, Daniel B	2059
8	Lukosius, Rolandas	2089	1 - 0	Babu, Rahul	1930
9	Higgs, Anthony RJ	2040	½ - ½	Hasson, Peter	2061
10	Batchelor, Paul A	2010	0 - 1	Dupré, Paul D	1983
11	Cove, Henry	1990	½ - ½	Young, Daniel J	1984
12	Pickersgill, Adrian O	1960	½ - ½	Heppell, Ian N	1994
13	Wheeler, James M	1909	1 - 0	Shepley, Julien M	1982
14	Lake, Chris	1840	0 - 1	Faulks, Nick W	1956
15	Selby, Paul R	1779	0 - 1	Edwards, Nicholas L	1921
16	Woods, Timothy J	1634	½ - ½	Stimpson, Philip M	1944

SURREY 11 SUSSEX 5, JANUARY 28, 2023					
1	Large, Peter	2376	½ - ½	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2264
2	Buckley, Graeme N	2367	1 - 0	Wilson, Jaimie	2206
3	Baker, Chris W	2288	1 - 0	Farr, Peter G	2155
4	Povah, Nigel E	2238	½ - ½	Broom, Mark	2145
5	Lalic, Susan	2244	1 - 0	Newman, Stephen J	2103
6	Keane, Graham DJ	2179	1 - 0	Mansson, James C	2090
7	Hodgson, John H	2152	½ - ½	James, Geoffrey H	2082
8	Haldane, Robin W	2089	1 - 0	Lukosius, Rolandas	2089
9	Rosen, Daniel B	2059	½ - ½	Norinkeviciute, Rasa	2065
10	Hasson, Peter	2061	½ - ½	Batchelor, Paul A	2010
11	Babu, Rahul	1930	1 - 0	Cove, Henry	1990
12	Heppell, Ian N	1994	½ - ½	Pickersgill, Adrian O	1960
13	Shepley, Julien M	1982	1 - 0	Ursell, Adam R	1863
14	Faulks, Nick W	1956	0 - 1	Wheeler, James M	1909
15	Stimpson, Philip M	1944	1 - 0	Lake, Chris	1840
16	Edwards, Nicholas L	1921	0 - 1	Selby, Paul R	1779



SUSSEX CHESS 2023/OPEN TEAM, RESULTS

SUSSEX 6 MIDDLESEX 9, FEBRUARY 25, 2023					
1	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2264	½ - ½	Bates, Richard A	2427
2	Rutherford, Luke E	2235	½ - ½	Tiruchirapalli, Venkataramanan	2340
3	Wilson, Jaimie	2206	1 - 0	Gallana, Marco	2327
4	Broom, Mark	2145	½ - ½	McMichael, Richard J	2265
5	Newman, Stephen J	2103	0 - 1	Stone, Andrew M	2155
6	James, Geoffrey H	2082	0 - 1	Mogilarov, Dimitar	2125
7	Honarvarmahalati, Hooman	0000	0 - 1	Gilfillan, Andrew	2123
8	Batchelor, Paul A	2010	1 - 0	Dydak, Mateusz	2107
9	Cove, Henry	1990	1 - 0	Skulte, Christopher	2105
10	Pickersgill, Adrian O	1960	½ - ½	Coles, Steven F	2067
11	Wheeler, James M	1909	½ - ½	Mackenzie, Colin	2015
12	Lake, Chris	1840	½ - ½	Fulton, Anthony R	2062
13	Edwards, Paul	0000	0 - 1	Calvert, D Ian	1993
14	Selby, Paul R	1779	0 - 1	Rubeck, Jonathan	1880
15	Woods, Timothy J	1634	0 - 1	Hayali, Laith	1787
16	-	-	0 - 0	-	-

SUSSEX 8.5 KENT 7.5, MARCH 11, 2023					
1	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2264	0 - 1	McDonald, Neil R	2478
2	Rutherford, Luke E	2235	0 - 1	Taylor, Martin R	2379
3	Wilson, Jaimie	2206	1 - 0	Snape, Ian L	2161
4	Farr, Peter G	2155	0 - 1	Starley, Robert	2149
5	Rayner, Francis	2117	1 - 0	O'Donovan, Paul J	0000
6	Newman, Stephen J	2103	0 - 1	Roberts, Mike	2080
7	Mansson, James C	2090	½ - ½	Sugden, John N	2058
8	James, Geoffrey H	2082	1 - 0	Tucker, David S	1986
9	Norinkeviciute, Rasa	2065	1 - 0	Clear, David E	1990
10	Batchelor, Paul A	2010	½ - ½	Keenan, Brendan	1960
11	Cove, Henry	1990	½ - ½	Stanchev, Stoyko	1955
12	Pickersgill, Adrian O	1960	1 - 0	Anstead, Jerry	1955
13	Wheeler, James M	1909	0 - 1	Allen, John P	1915
14	Edwards, Paul	0000	½ - ½	Charles, Cosmo	1870
15	Selby, Paul R	1779	½ - ½	Gluckman, Tim	1945
16	Palmer, Alan H	1743	1 - 0	Default	0000



Club faces tricky opening to new season

Membership boost helps soften bill blow

BOGNOR and Arun Chess Club were hit with a pre-season bombshell in the shape of a bill for accommodation more than double the cost of the previous season.

A modest increase in subs, plus a few new members and a council grant helped soften the blow but the club still had to dip into its reserves to balance the books.

The introduction of new blood has included a handful of juniors who have notched up some excellent results in their first year of over-the-board club chess.

The Club Championship has proved a bit more competitive than the past few seasons, with the holder, Jaimie Wilson, not having things entirely his own way, drawing three of his games, but remaining

unbeaten nevertheless.

A close second was Norbert Gyorke.

Norbert was defeated in the semi-final of this year's Knockout tournament by Mick Plumb, who went on to lose to Jaimie



CALLED TO THE BAR... Mike Spence, right, takes on East Preston Chess Challenge visitor Tony Peterson



THINKING TIME...

Norbert Gyorke, right, who played for Bognor in their match against new club Shoreham



Wilson in the final, having overcome Mike Spence in his semi-final.

A very competitive Summer tournament proved highly popular, players rewarded with extra points for defeating higher graded opponents. This was won by Mike Spence, with Jamie Wood second.

Eleven members competed in a Christmas blitz tournament, ably run by Jamie Wood, with help from Tracey Holmes. This was won by Jaimie Wilson, with 5/5 and Adam Rafael Holmes second, on 4/5.

Club players were able to participate in matches against other clubs in the

Portsmouth Chess League, helping to make up the numbers in the Chichester A and B teams. The A team, which has come to dominate division one in recent years, was eventually pipped by Fareham and finished second.

The B team, run by Bognor's Mike Spence, provided plenty of experience for players across the board and also finished second, in division two.

The club lost in the final of the Paul Watson Trophy, to Lewes, on tie-break.



The juniors have notched up some excellent results

CHAMPION FEELING...

Jaimie Wilson, whose unbeaten Championship campaign earned him the club title again

Bognor also enjoyed a friendly match away to newly established club Shoreham.

During the year, the club supported East Preston Village Festival with a chess challenge at

The Tudor Tavern, offering visitors a chance to try their hand at the game.

Mick Plumb



It's win-win as club retains its title

FOR the second year running, Brighton and Hove 1 took the Division 1 title in the Mid-Sussex League (eight wins, one draw), but then we do have a quarter of a million potential chess players in the city.

Team captain Paul Batchelor won the Division 1 best score tankard (7.5/9). In

A REAL HANDFUL ... Team captain Paul Batchelor, who won the Division 1 best score tankard, is pictured with the tankard and Division 1 trophy, the Mowatt Cup



Geoff and Luke battle for the Championship

Division 2, our 2nd team finished mid-table. Paul Edwards was captain and driver.

A team of four in a car is preferable to five, speaking as a passenger.

Before one match, an inexperienced clock-setter on the opposing team added 30 to the base seconds instead of the increment seconds on several clocks, an easy mistake to make, and it wasn't rectified until the games had been running a little while.

In the Club Championship, with one game still to play, either Geoff James (who first won in 1966) or Luke Rutherford (four times Sussex champion) could triumph. The Plummer Knight tournament was won by Jan ten Sythoff. One of the PK entrants turns 90 next year.

Ideally, unrated juniors need careful supervision, space and earlier sessions, none of which we could provide, so we took the decision to accept only rated juniors.

After our first season (2022-2023) in our freestanding cabin/art studio behind Ralli Hall, near Hove railway station, we became a little overcrowded in early summer.

Possible noise from dance classes ruled out more spacious rooms within the hall itself so we moved in early July, 2023, to the Queens Hotel on Brighton seafront, two minutes' walk west of the recently fire-damaged Royal Albion Hotel.

We meet on Mondays, 7pm-11pm, downstairs in the Sandringham Suite.

Annual subscriptions have risen to £75 and very generous donations from members have helped.

We have about 30 members now, and darker autumn evenings always bring people in. Paul Selby and Geoff travelled to Dieppe for the annual Open des Rois over-50 tournament (20-27 August 2023). Geoff was unbeaten.

Michael Cain organised the club's stand at the annual Brunswick Festival in Hove, Saturday, August 19.

On the gently sloping Brunswick Square lawns, with Regency architecture on three sides and the seafront road on the fourth, there were food stands, live music and bric-a-brac stalls. Thousands attended.

A few Brighton players were in the British Championships in Leicester, normally one of the last events of the season, with Sue Chadwick winning a prize for joint fourth (AM U1600).

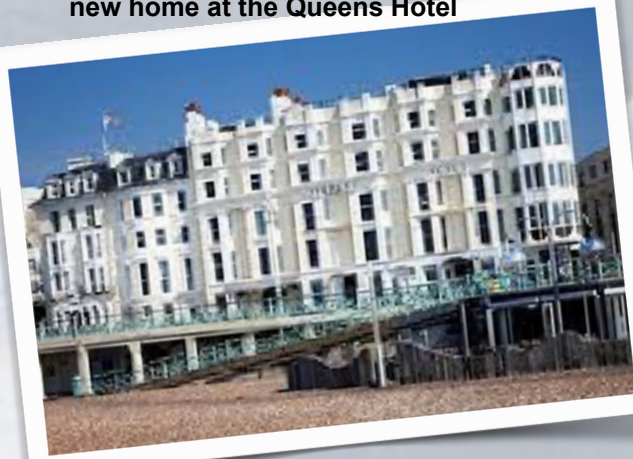
Perhaps one day the Championships will return

to Brighton or Hove.

Rob Counsell

We became a little overcrowded in early summer

SUITE MOVE ... Brighton's new home at the Queens Hotel



Chichester Chess Club has continued to grow and be a part of the current expansion of chess – this is great news and good for the future of the game. Integral to this expansion has been a cohort of juniors who are rapidly becoming strong players. We have needed to move to a larger room within our playing venue.

Ian Judd stood down last year as treasurer, to be replaced by Tom Howeson, and long-term member Ian Richardson has stood down as secretary, replaced by Andrew McDougall. Our thanks to these loyal retirees for their service. Welcome to the committee for this changing of the guard with Tom and Andrew.

Our A team ended a six-year winning streak when they finished as runners-up to Fareham in the top division of Portsmouth League competition. Our top four boards are rated over 2,000, however, Fareham had a couple of titled players join them and make life challenging on top boards. It is noteworthy that this league is now expanding to three divisions for the first time in a decade. Let's see how this goes, certainly a move in the right direction. Chichester will now field an additional team in the Portsmouth League for this upcoming season, increasing the amount of inter-club games for many more players.

Chichester also entered the McArthur Cup tournament, ending a 28-year absence. However, after a bye versus Brighton we narrowly lost to Horsham. The distances of travel involved to and from Chichester mean we have decided not to repeat this experiment.

This past season, the club had a six round Swiss tournament for the championship. This was deemed a great success. Bill McDougall is the Club Champion, winning the title for the third time with an impressive 5½/6. Andrew McDougall was runner-up and Rolandas Lukosius finished in third position, both scoring 4½/6, as did Jaimie Wilson. Our president,

Phil Wake, attended the final round and all members were delighted to see him. We will

Numbers up as club's title run comes to an end

miss Rolandas next season as he has moved for job reasons, and we hope he continues to play chess wherever he is and wish him well.

Mike Spence won the U1700 tournament within this and Lloyd Jolley won the U1500 - congratulations to both.

The club has enjoyed something of a renaissance with membership growing by around 50% over the year and regularly 20+ players being in attendance. From a membership well exceeding 30. This generates a great ambiance helped by the significant number of juniors. These are coached and mentored by John Hargreaves, for which many thanks, and their playing strengths have improved quite dramatically. Our thanks to the parents who have made this possible with their support. Leading among the juniors is recent arrival Vinuda Gunatilake, who won the EJCOA National competition to take the U16 title amidst widespread applause from Chichester and Sri Lanka. Well done Vinuda.

Massive work has been undertaken on the club website that is improved beyond recognition. This can now be used for most points of reference as required and contains information as diverse as players' ratings and safeguarding policy. Our thanks to Bill McDougall for significant work to enhance and update this useful resource.

Steve Smith



Bella's stellar performance



RECORD ENTRY... The 37th Crowborough Chess Congress in full swing



THE 2022-23 season opened with 48 players competing in the 36th Crowborough Chess Congress. Matthew Payne, from Worthing, won the Joe Berberich Trophy on 6/6 and Arjun Kolani finished as the best Crowborough player on 5/6 and picked up the Albany Cup.

Alongside the adult tournament, Sussex Junior Chess ran the Crowborough Grand Prix playing under the same conditions as the adults and attracted 79 players. The Crowborough Town Council Cup awarded to the best Crowborough junior was won by Bella Walsh.

Our club nights begin at 6.30pm with junior training followed by an organised game under tournament conditions. At 7.45pm the senior club commences with one game each night of 25 minutes plus 10 second increments. Thirty three players competed with Charlie Wannasin Bell coming out victorious in the Autumn tournament on 6½/9.

The juniors are split into two training groups, MR2 and MR3, and these tournaments were won by Suriya Velayudham and Rufus Wright respectively.

In addition to the club games we entered three teams in the Mid-Sussex Chess League. Our 1st team finished mid-table in Division 1 as did our Junior team in the Rapidplay League.

Our 2nd team had a successful season in Division 3, gaining promotion and will play in Division 2 next season. Top individual scores included Thomas Martin with 4/4 for the second team and Daniel Donaghy with a very creditable 4/6 for the 1st team.



WHAT A YEAR ... Thomas Martin, who, with 4/4, helped secure promotion to division two. He also won the Albany Cup, for best performance by a Crowborough player at the 37th Crowborough Chess Congress

December, 2022, was capped off with our Winter Blitz, won by Jon Lawrance and our first attempt at running a Chess 960 tournament which was won by Daniel Donaghy.

The start of 2023 was notable for a record entry to our 37th Crowborough Chess Congress,



attracting 76 players from across Sussex competing in two sections. The Championship was won by Russell Granat of Worthing Chess Club and the Challengers by Matthew Collins from Horsham. The Albany Cup for the best performance by a Crowborough player was won for the very first time by Thomas Martin, just pipping Elena Currah on tie-break.

Club nights continued between January to July, 2023, with junior training and tournaments as well as our Club Championship, won this year by David Fryer. Other highlights included a five-round Spring Blitz won by Luke Freeman and another Jon Lawrance victory in the Summer Blitz.

The season ended with two of our teams travelling to West Hamstead for the SCCU & London Club Championships. A well organised event that we would recommend to other Sussex clubs. The 1st team were in a tough section but

finished with a creditable two wins two draws and two losses. Points were shared evenly across the team with Daniel Donaghy scoring best with 4/6.

The 2nd team did better with a fourth place finish out of 18 teams, scoring three wins, two draws and just one loss. Daniel Longley took the Gold Medal for Board 2 with 5/6.

Finally, six of our players, assisted by our regular trainer, Jonathan Tuck, attended the 2023 British Championships in Leicester. The highlight results were:

- David Fryer, British Over 65s Championship, 5½/7 and 1st place
- Arjun Kolani, British Atkins, 4/5 and 2nd place
- Liam Finlay, British Under 1450, 4/6 and 3rd place
- Ashton Gadiot, Under 1600 Blitz, 6½/9 and 3rd place

David Fryer

Crowborough Spring Rapid, R5, May 20, 2023

White: Daniel Donaghy

Black David William Fryer

1-0

Annotator David Fryer

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 b5 { [#] } 6.Bf1 (6.Be2 { was played by Daniel without success in the previous encounter between the players: 0-1 Donaghy,D-Fryer,D Crowborough Club Championship 2023 }) 6...Nd4 7.c3 Nxd5 8.cxd4 Qxg5 9.Bxb5+ Kd8 10.Qf3 Bb7 11.Qxf7?? { [#] } (11.O-O { is the

main line }) 11...Be7?? (11...Nf6! { with the threat of 12...Qxg2 and 12...exd4 while covering d7 and e8 }) 12.Qe6 Nb6 13.Bc6 += Bxc6 14.Qxc6 exd4 15.O-O Qd5 16.Qc2 c5 (16...d3 17.Qd1 Qf5 18.Nc3 +=) 17.d3!6 Rc8 18.Bf4 Rf8 19.Bg3 g5 20.Re1 h5 21.Qe2 \$18 Qf7 22.h3 h4 23.Bh2 c4 24.Na3 cxd3 25.Qxd3 Qxf2+ 26.Kh1 Qxb2 27.Nb5 Bc5 28.Rab1 Qxa2 29.Nxd4 Bxd4 30.Rxb6 Qd5 31.Rd6+ 1-0



5...b5



11 Qxf7??



PLAY THROUGH THE GAME ONLINE



Club is gelling again after covid

ANOTHER year passes and as always I am grateful for the support of the elected officials and our 1st team captain without whom the

club could not function properly.

In addition, I am grateful that every club member has actively supported the club and attendance on club nights has been quite positive even when the 1st team might have already played an away game a few days before.

Following our move from the bookshop we have now settled into our new home at Glen Vue community centre and we have received several favourable comments from visiting teams on how good the location is for across the board

chess. It is spacious, quiet and accommodates us all together in one room.

Similar to other clubs, the past few years with Covid has been challenging and club membership has fallen as a result. To maintain interest we still run a number of internal competitions which offers the opportunity for all club members to play each other.

Our thanks go to Eric for all his efforts which has made club nights more challenging and enjoyable. Our 1st team, led by captain Robert Wall, fulfilled all our matches in the

Our members put up a creditable performance





HOME COMFORTS... East Grinstead enjoyed good attendance at their new venue

Mid-Sussex League and performed well against some strong competition.

We also played two friendly matches against Tunbridge Wells Chess Club, home and away, and hope this might become a permanent feature. We have good premises and are open to play friendlies against other clubs if anyone is interested in particular at a lower level so that it is not always the best players involved.

We also entered the Paul Watson Trophy competition and McArthur Cup and although we did not win I know our members put up a creditable performance. New for 2023 -2024 will be our own challenge cup, The Sir Patrick Moore Trophy, in recognition of Sir Patrick Moore one of the founders of the club in the 1950s. This will be open to everyone - participants do not need to be a paid-up club member - and suitable for players

with a grade upwards of 1600. Players from other Mid-Sussex clubs would be particularly welcome. More information can be obtained from Robert Wall, our 1st team captain, or via Facebook/our website.

We are a small friendly club who meet Mondays (Please note change of night) - September to April - at Glen Vue Community Centre, Railway Approach, East Grinstead. Visiting teams will be pleased to note the venue has ample free parking after 6pm and is within walking distance of the railway station.

Finally, I would particularly wish to offer my personal thanks to all club members and especially our club secretary, Suzanne, who is always there with a smile while ensuring a good supply of biscuits, tea/coffee.

Bob Dyke



Club upgraded to division one



Type to enter text



PROUD MOMENT...Graham Ewens, 1st team captain, with the club's haul of trophies

THE past season was a successful one for the club's first team, which finished as champions of Division 2 in the Mid- Sussex Chess League. The team will play in Division 1 next season.

Our number one board, Feliks Kwiatkowski, won tankards for the best match average in Division 2 and for the best match average across the league.

He also won the Sussex County Championship.

Our second team fared less well, finishing second to bottom in Division 3.

The club tends to use the second team to introduce members to competitive league games and consequently does not always field its strongest selection.

Despite the lack of victories, participants

enjoyed many interesting games.

The club's internal tournament, The Challenge Cup, open to players graded below 1750, was keenly contested and was eventually won by Roland Rattray.

The club was delighted that one of our members, Jeffrey Boardman, was elected (or possibly press-ganged) as chairman of the Mid-Sussex Chess League, to be re-named the Sussex Chess League. He chaired his first AGM for the league admirably in early September.

On a sad note, the club lost one of its long-standing members with the sudden death of Norman Hawkins in March.

Norman will be known to many, having given lengthy and loyal service to both East Grinstead and Haywards Heath chess clubs. He was a lovely, well

respected individual, a fact borne out by the large number of attendees at his funeral.

Haywards Heath is always looking to expand, and possibly field a third team, as in the period before lockdown.

New members can be assured of a warm welcome, irrespective of playing strength or age.

We meet upstairs at St Francis Social Club - within the grounds of The Princess Royal Hospital - on Thursday evenings between September and May.

The bar downstairs sells Harveys draught beer amongst others!

Membership and general enquiries can be made via Feliks Kwiatkowski - 078 3437 3437 feliks.kwiat@gmail.com

*Christopher Baldry /
Feliks Kwiatkowski*





ALL SMILES...Felix Kwiatkowski takes his turn to enjoy Haywards Heath's successful season

Those trophies explained...

From left, 1 The tankard for the best individual overall match average score across the Mid-Sussex Chess League; 2 the Gregory Cup for the Division 2 League Championship; 3 the tankard for the best individual match average score for Division 2; 4 the Wilson Cup for the individual County Championship



The club's 144th season was another successful one, with plenty of rated games being played at a variety of time limits. We were able to reinstate our 4th team in the league and welcomed many new players as the online chess boom seems to have brought many players either into or back to the game.

Horsham 1 and 2 competed in league division 1. The first team finished third, with captain James Mansson leading the way with 7/9 (a 2159 performance rating) and respectable showings by other team members. The second team unfortunately finished second from bottom despite an excellent 2-2 draw with the powerhouse Worthing 1 team. In division 2, Horsham 3 finished seventh with three match wins. Tim Pavlovic scored 5/8 with a 1918 performance rating.

In division 3, Horsham 4 managed a comfortable mid-table finish, as would be expected from their overall result of three each of wins, draws and losses. The best performance was 4/6 from Guy Turvey on board 4, closely followed by 3.5/7 from Jonathan Taylor across a range of boards. Team captain Roger Waddingham was helped greatly when one young opponent resigned mid-game in a strong position – 'girlfriend trouble' was the rueful captain's explanation, apparently some things are more important

Cup revenge tastes sweet

than chess...

We lost the League Cup final to Lewes but hit back a couple of weeks later by winning the McArthur Cup final against the same opponents on board count, ensuring some silverware.

We continued to host the Collyers sixth form college team for their home league matches and have inherited a couple of team members who will play at Horsham this coming season.

As always, we are indebted to team captains for their organisation and commitment. The club website builds a great picture of team successes across the season. We have been able to secure the use of an analysis room for double match nights.

In congress chess, Chris Heath won the Guildford Major with 4.5/5, while Matthew Collins won the Crowborough Challengers with 5/6 (see below).

In the club internal competitions, Mark Broom retained the Rook club championship title by beating Anthony Higgs in the final game, but Anthony got his revenge in the longplay and quickplay knockout finals by beating Mark in return.

This year the Bishop and Knight challengers trophies were decided in a Swiss format for the first time, with Alex Taylor winning the former and Guy Turvey the latter. James Mansson won the annual Lightning tournament for the second year running, and the rapidplay competition was won by Chris Heath.

At our forthcoming AGM we will award the Cannon Cup for the first time. This new trophy, in honour of Horsham doyen John Cannon and donated by his family, will be awarded by the chairman for club service after nominations from members.

Matthew Collins is this year's winner of the Peter Alford Cup for best junior performance by winning the Crowborough Challengers tournament in February. Mike Forster and Andy Collins continue to run the junior club before adults on Tuesday nights and the club is now oversubscribed!

We look forward to the next few months with confidence as numbers are up and enthusiasm high, fingers crossed for another excellent season.

Anthony Higgs





WINNING WAYS...Arran Airlie, Brian Stockham, Oliver Christian and Mark Attree

No ill feeling as our club struggled after covid...

WE did not report last year, because there was very little to report on. After the pandemic we restarted the club sessions in January, 2022, but session attendance was erratic and we had trouble even surviving.

We also lost our leading player, the highly respected Chaski Patrick, who



Weekly Wednesdays have revived our membership

had returned to live in the Midlands, so we decided not to enter the curtailed Mid-Sussex League season of competition. There is no truth to the rumour that we were miffed when the effect of the pandemic meant fixtures could not be completed in 2020 and we were unable to complete our last two matches. It is true that we were confident in winning those, but the algorithms decided anyway that we should be relegated to Division 3.

We had some good fortune in that previously due to fixed venue bookings, we were only able to meet at the Luxford Centre in Uckfield on fortnightly Wednesdays, which we felt had always been a problem. The opportunity arose for us to convert this to weekly Wednesdays, which we took immediately and gradually new members appeared and we became a little stronger.

We rejoined the Mid-Sussex League for the 2022/23 season in Division 3 and started very well indeed, but the algorithms proved to be right. It was less complacency, but more the loss of Chaski and our reduction in playing members which saw us start to lose matches and we eventually finished mid-table.

We lost to our regular opponents Lewes, the eventual winners, in the semi-final of the Knockout competition, but as always it was perhaps closer than the score suggests! We were also pleased to re-enter the Paul Watson Sussex CCA competition, but Lewes were triumphant there as well.

As a club, we have been online with Chess.com

found their way to lichess in that period, we have continued as a club on Chess.com.

During the last season we had 15 match wins, seven draws and one loss and are pleased to find ourselves on the club leaderboard in the top one per cent of the nearly quarter million clubs on the site, and of course we have played clubs all over the world. Several of our members have contributed there to Team England winning the World and European championships for three consecutive years.

We have not as yet restarted our previously successful Juniors club, but would be pleased to welcome players of any age to our weekly

Wednesday sessions at the Luxford Centre, where

we start from 7.30pm and the ultimate finish is for 10.30pm but attendees can obviously within that choose however long they want to play.

We are a friendly, welcoming club with several of the more experienced comfortable in coaching those less so. We would be particularly pleased to welcome a few more stronger

experienced players.

We run a number of club competitions through the year. The winners were: Arran Airlie, Grand Prix trophy; Oliver Christian, top junior; Mark Attree, Knockout Cup, and Brian Stockham, Standard Play (60 mins), Rapid Play (30 mins), Blitz (5 mins) and Handicap Split (too complicated to explain !), which only goes to show that regular attendance at sessions counts for as much as and probably more than talent!

We have played clubs all over the world

Brian Stockham



BRIAN DENMAN pays tribute to Michael David Nicholas, June 23, 1951-July 10, 2022

Sussex stalwart who fought long and hard to keep club alive

MIKE was born into a large family where chess played a significant part. Older brothers, Geoffrey and Ron, were strong players with Geoffrey winning the county championship three times and Ron winning the championship of the local Regency CC on a couple of occasions.

All three brothers went to Hove Grammar School, which had a strong team in the 1960s and reached a peak in 1963 by winning the Sunday Times national schools' competition.

Mike therefore had a good start to his chess career, but it was when he joined Brighton Chess Club and entered club chess that his game started to take off. In 1968 he reached the final of the West Sussex Queen competition, where he lost against brother, Geoffrey, who is the only player to have won this event and the county championship in the same

season. In the following year, Mike won both games in the final of the competition against D. E. Johnson of Horsham Chess Club.

After this Mike played several games as board one for Brighton's second team. He won the Brighton schoolboys' competition named after its instigator, Colonel Sir William Dupree, in 1971 and 1972. His county debut had been on board 47 against Hants in September, 1967, and in March, 1969, he had played as high as board 17 for a match against Bucks.

However, in this period this was the only time in which he had been able break into the top 20 of the county team. He was particularly good at lightning chess and in 1973 he won the county championship for this speed.

After this, he virtually gave up chess for a few years. His family life was to the fore after his



marriage to Ann in 1973 and the birth of his daughter, Cara, in 1979.

When he returned to competitive chess in the early 1980s, he became a stronger player than in his earlier period. In 1984 he won the East Sussex Queen competition and became one of few people to have won both the East Sussex and West Sussex tournaments. Boundary changes in the rules had made it possible for him to enter both events. His greatest success was to win the Brighton Club Championship in 1984 in which there was some strong opposition. Now he also became a regular in the top 20 for the county team and he began to climb up the order.

Meanwhile, Brighton Chess Club had been struggling for a few years and had financial problems. Since 1952, the club had paid a subsidised rent for the premises in 4 Pavilion Buildings. That all changed in the late 1970s, when the Brighton Estates Office decided that the club should pay a competitive rent, which it could not afford. In 1979, an agreement

was made with the Friends' Centre to share the premises.

The Centre would educate their students on the premises at times during the week and the club would be free to play chess at the weekends. This gave the club breathing space, but early in 1985 it was learnt that the Friends were to have their education grant cut and would have to withdraw from the lease.

This presented a difficult situation for the chess club and in this crisis Mike was elected as president. He sought allies and a copy of a letter that he sent to the Mayor of Brighton, Bob Cristofoli, dated September 4, 1985, survives, which gives an idea of how energetic he was.

His plans included trying to restart a chess column in the Evening Argus, approaching all local companies to offer block membership for block fees, holding regular weekend congresses and establishing a chess education programme with local schools. Mike also delved into the club's history and claimed



CUPS THAT CHEER... Mike Nicholas, far right, with, from left, Ian Kelly, Brian Denman and Lolla Izzard, taken at Brighton Chess Club around 1987



that it was the oldest in the country, though this was later proved to be wrong.

Despite Mike's efforts, the club was unable to obtain a council grant and it was forced to leave the premises in 1986. However, a significant ally had been found in Baron Oram, president of the Brighton Co-operative Society and former Labour MP for East Ham South. He kindly provided premises in a local Co-op social club for little expenditure. After this the club enjoyed stability for a few years and in 1990 Mike once again enjoyed success in the Sussex Lightning Championship coming first equal with Mark Rich.

In 1991, the club discovered that it had to move again, but for a second time Mike was on hand to find new premises, this time at the NALGO Club in Edward Street. Shortly after the move he announced that he would be giving up the club's presidency because of the demands of a new job. He had done particularly well to keep the club afloat at a difficult time and on May 8 he received a presentation from club members for all his efforts.

Few people would have imagined that within a few months Mike would be leaving the club. However, an argument developed with the new president and very quickly Mike and Ian Kelly had joined The Holt Chess Club. There was an uneasy rivalry between the two Brighton clubs and one can only imagine that the Sussex secretary and Holt's organiser, Paul Watson, would hardly have believed his luck. Now his club was a contender to win the Mid-Sussex League and the knock-out McArthur Cup competitions.

Mike himself probably benefited from the move. He was the top board player for the new club and it

seems that his game improved through facing stronger opposition. In club matches he drew with grandmaster, Nick Pert, and he recorded a win against Thomas Rendle, who was to become an international master.

In July, 2000, Mike's national grading reached the 200 mark for the first time and in the following year he hit his peak figure of 204. After that it dropped below 200 and slowly declined. In the 2000-01 season he played three games on board two for the county, the highest board that he ever reached.

The Holt Club received a severe blow in November, 2005, when its organiser, Paul Watson, suddenly passed away. It continued until the end of the 2006-07 season, but then disbanded.

Meanwhile, Mike's brother, Ron, had been running a club in Hove called Knoll Knights, which showed potential. The top board player, Donald Macfarlane, was of international master standard. Mike and Ian Kelly now joined this club, which soon gained promotion from the second division of the Mid-

Sussex League. It was still in the first division in its last season from 2014-15.

Ron's ill-health brought about its end and Mike now joined Worthing Chess Club, which was thriving with several junior members. Mike's grading now reached another peak and he climbed to 203 in July, 2015, and for the next six months held to the 200 level. He had stopped playing for the county after 2008, but still played chess of a good standard.

Mike's brother, Ron, suffered from poor health after giving up chess and his final years were spent in a nursing home. He passed away in April, 2021, but about this time Mike received the shocking diagnosis that he was suffering from motor neurone

Now his club was a
contender to win the
Mid-Sussex League



disease. He tried to continue playing at Worthing Chess Club for as long as he was able, but his last match competitive game was in November of that year. The disease took its terrible course and he died in the following summer.

As well as a chess player, he had been a family man and he left behind him his wife, Ann, his daughter, Cara, and grandchildren, Cameron, Beatrice and Amelia.

Last year, Feliks Kwiatkowski sportingly provided the score of a game of his in which Mike had found a brilliant queen sacrifice.

Three more games provide further examples of his tactical style. In the first game he employed his favourite Alekhine's Defence, winning quickly against Joe Gallagher, who is now a grandmaster. In the second game Mike played a pretty queen sacrifice against Stephen Hawes. Although this did not win with best play, Black failed to find the best defence amid the complications.

Finally, there's a win by Mike against Thomas Rendle. Unfortunately, we cannot be sure when exactly it was played, but the likely date puts it about 20 months before Thomas was awarded the international master title.

Hastings weekend tournament, 1984

White: Joe Gallagher

Black: Mike Nicholas

0-1

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 g6 5.Ng5 f6
6.c4 Nb6 7.e6 fxg5 8.d5 Bg7 9.h4 gxh4 10.Bd3
N8d7 11.exd7+ Bxd7 12.Rxh4 e6 13.Rxh7 O-O
14.Bxg6 Qf6 15.Qh5 Qxf2+ 16.Kd1 Qf1+
17.Kc2 Ba4+ 18.b3 Qxc4+ 19.Kd2 Rf2+
20.Ke3 Qd4# { Sources: 'Sussex Chess News' of
late March 1984 and Birmingham Evening Mail
of 14.7.1984. } 0-1

Sussex Jamboree, Brighton, May 4, 1985

White: Mike Nicholas

Black: Stephen Hawes

1-0

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nxd4 exd4 5.O-O c6
6.Ba4 Bc5 7.d3 d6 8.Nd2 Qf6 9.Qf3 Qg6 10.b4 Bxb4
11.Rb1 Bc3 12.e5 dxe5 13.Nc4 Ne7 14.Ba3 b5 15.Nd6+
Kf8 16.Bxb5 Bg4 17.Qxc6 \$1 Nxc6 18.Bxc6 a5 \$2
19.Nf5+ Bb4 20.Rxb4 axb4 21.Bxb4+ Kg8 22.Ne7+
Kf8 23.Nxg6+ Kg8 24.Ne7+ Kf8 25.Bxa8 Ke8
{ Sources: M D Nicholas, T Woo, and 'Sussex Chess
News' of July 1985. Mike Nicholas was representing
Brighton I and Stephen Hawes Horsham. } 1-0

White: Mike Nicholas

Black: Thomas Rendle

1-0

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 d6 4.Nf3
g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.O-O O-O 7.Nc3
c6 8.d5 e5 9.e4 cxd5 10.cxd5
Na6 11.Ng5 Nc5 12.exf5 gxf5
13.b4 Na6 14.Ne6 Bxe6 15.dxe6
e4 16.Qb3 Qe7 17.Bf4 d5

18.Rad1 Qxe6 19.Bh3 Rad8
20.Nb5 Ng4 21.Bxg4 fxg4
22.Be3 Rf3 23.Nd4 Qd6 { It is
unclear from the scoresheet to
which square the queen moved. }
24.Nxf3 gxf3 25.Rxd5 Qxd5
26.Rd1 Nxb4 27.Rxd5 Nxd5
28.Bg5 Rd6 29.Qc4 h6 30.Be7
Rd7 31.Qc8+ Kf7 32.Qxd7 Nxe7
33.Qxb7 Bd4 34.Qxe4 Bb6

35.Qxf3+ Ke6 36.Qh5 Nf5
37.Qg6+ Ke5 38.Kg2 Bd4
39.f4+ { Source for game: M D
Nicholas. The scoresheet does
not tell us the date of the game
or the competition. However,
we know that Mike Nicholas
won against Thomas Rendle on
board one of a Mid-Sussex
League match between The
Holt and Hastings 1 on 10th
January 2005. } 1-0



PLAY THROUGH THE GAMES ONLINE



STEVE SMITH pays tribute to Richard Lilly, a real character who enriched the lives of all those who knew him

A true artist ...on and off the board

IT is with great sadness that I report the death of Richard Lilly. He died peacefully after a short illness in the spring of 2022 at a residential home in Bognor Regis.

We will miss Richard for his interesting and Bohemian ideas of life in general and of running a chess club. Mostly we will miss his quirky approach to playing chess. He was something of an aficionado of the Alekhine, 1. ...

Nf6 in response to 1. e4 and he frequently played much above his grade and took some notable victories with this.

He would have been graded even higher still save latterly for losses caused by moments when his concentration waned, at least partly due to his medication regime.

Richard owned a substantial collection of chess books, the whereabouts of which is currently unknown.

Richard, who was also a long-serving member of Bognor and Arun Chess Club, had been an architect in his early professional life. He was an artist of considerable talent and specialised in line drawings, often in pencil. However, his preferred medium was Indian ink on high quality cotton-based paper.

Richard, my life is the richer for having known you. Rest in Peace.

Union's recovery position

AFTER a very difficult couple of years due to Covid, it is good to be able to report that the SCCU is back on an even keel, with all the main competitions back running normally, and with SCCU teams competing strongly in the ECF national stages of the

SCCU

County Championship; indeed, the Open final was an all-SCCU affair with Middlesex defeating Surrey on board count after an 8-8 draw.

In addition to the main county competitions, the

union resumed running over-the-board junior competitions and also ran a very successful SCCU / London Clubs championship in the summer, in which it was good to see teams from Crowborough and East Grinstead Bookshop take part.

Peter Farr



Mid-Sussex League Division 1, January 31, 2023

White: Jonathan Britnell

Black James C Mansson

0-1

Annotator James Mansson

Time control: 65 minutes plus 30 second increment

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bg5 e6 7. Qd2 a6 8. O-O-O Bd7 9. f4 b5 10. Nxc6 {My opponent was obviously unfamiliar with the theory of this line, as he spent a while deciding on this innocuous move and its dubious follow-up.} (10. Bxf6 gxf6 {leads to the complex main lines.}) 10... Bxc6 11. e5 {This does not work, as is demonstrated in the game. White should choose a less forcing move.} {?!} (11. Bd3 b4 12. Bxf6 gxf6 { transposes to a line usually reached after 10 Bxf6 gxf6.}) 13. Ne2 Qb6 {∞}) (11. Qe1 Be7 12. e5 (12. Bd3 Nd7 13. Bxe7 Qxe7 14. Qg3 O-O 15. f5 b4 16. Ne2 Nc5 17. fxe6 fxe6 {⌘}) 12... Nd5 13. Bxe7 Qxe7 14. Ne4 dxe5 15. fxe5 O-O 16. Bd3 Nf4 17. Rf1 Ng6 18. Qg3 Qh4)(11. Qe3 Be7 {∞}) 11... dxe5 12. Qxd8+ { This just leads to a bad endgame, as White cannot exploit the pin on the knight.} {?!} (12. fxe5 Qxd2+ 13. Rxd2 Nd7 14. Bf4 Be7 {followed by ...0-0 gives Black a preferable endgame, but less advantageous than the game, as White is better placed to defend his weaknesses.} {⌘})(12. Qe1 Qc7 13. fxe5 Ng4 14. Bf4 Bc5 15. Rd2 Rd8 {gives Black the initiative.} {⌘}) 12... Rxd8 13. Rxd8+ Kxd8 14. fxe5 h6 {This is why 11 e5 and 12 Qxd8+ is wrong. Black breaks the pin on the knight.} {!} 15. Bh4 (15. Bxf6+ gxf6 16. exf6 Rg8 {Black is temporarily a pawn down, but

will regain it because of his pressure on g2.})(15. exf6 hxg5 16. fxg7 Bxg7 {Black has the bishop pair and strong pressure on the White queenside.}) 15... g5 16. Bf2 (16. exf6 gxh4 {Black's pawns are split, but he has the bishop pair. Also, White's pawns, particularly his g-pawn, are vulnerable. Black threatens ...h3, or ...Rg8 and ...Bxg2. Moving the rook to g1 can be met by ...Bc5.}) 16... Nd7 17. Bd3 Bg7 {Black decided to complete his development before taking either the e- or g-pawn.} 18. Rd1 Kc7 {Black has a decision where to go with the king. The move played looks to guard the queenside.} (18... Ke7 {is the alternative, looking to support the central pawns with the king.}) 19. Ne4 Bxe5 20. g3 f5 {Black starts to get his pawns moving.} 21. Nc5 Nxc5 22. Bxc5 Re8 {This is a good square for the rook, supporting the advance of the pawns in the centre.} 23. a4 {White tries to mix things up.} {!} 23... bxa4 24. Bxa6 Rb8 25. c3 Bd5 26. Re1 Bf6 {!} (26... Bd6 27. Bxd6+ Kxd6 {is a simpler approach.}) 27. Ba3 Bb3 28. Bb4 e5 29. Ba5+ Kc6 30. c4 {White intends Bc3xe5 as well as the more obvious Bb5+.} 30... g4 {This is one way to deal with the threat, which also prepares to support the advance of the e-pawn. } 31. Bc3 Bg5+ {This is the point; Black unpins the e-pawn, allowing it to advance.} 32. Kb1 e4 33. Rf1 Rd8 {Black sets up the threat of ...Rd1# should the White rook leave the back rank, e.g. by playing Rxf5. This leaves White totally tied up.} 34. Bb5+ Kb6 {This is the most accurate as it holds up the advance of the c-pawn.} 35. Be5 e3 {White has no defence against ...e2 and ... Rd1+, and so resigned.} 0-1



Horsham Chess Club Knockout

February 28, 2023

White: James C Mansson

Black Jordy Savill

1-0

Annotator James Mansson

Time control: 65 minutes plus 30 second increment

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 { Black adopts the Budapest Gambit, aiming for sharp piece play. The danger is that this is neutralised, leaving Black with a passive position. } (3...Ne4 { is the sharper Fajarowicz Gambit, best met by } 4.a3 { to eliminate tricks based on ...Bb4+. }) 4.e3 { White adopts a less common approach against the Budapest. } (4.Bf4 { is the main line. }) (4.Nf3 { is a popular alternative. }) 4...Nxe5 5.Nh3 { White aims to control d5 by placing knights on c3 and f4. } 5...Bc5 6.Be2 Nbc6 7.O-O 8.Nc3 Re8 9.Nf4 a5 { Black aims to bring his rook on a8 over to the kingside via a6, but White manages to cross his plans. } 10.Na4 Bf8 (10...Ba7 { would stop the rook emerging via a6; there is the additional issue that White may be able to play c5, entombing the bishop, at some point. }) 11.b3 Ne7 12.Bb2 N7g6 13.Nd5 Ra6? { Black persists with his plan, but he should abandon it as not viable, and complete his development instead. } (13...d6 { was more solid, although rather passive. }) 14.f4! { This is often a strong thrust for White against the Budapest, as it helps gain space and restrict the Black pieces, in particular the knights. } 14...Nc6

15.c5! { White not only forces the rook back, but also frees c4 for the bishop, from where it puts pressure on the Black kingside. } 15...Ra8 16.Bc4 d6 17.Qh5! { White creates threats on the kingside, while freeing d1 for the rook on a1. There is no reason to worry about the pawn on c5, as taking it opens the d-file, allowing White to put greater pressure on the Black position. } 17...dxc5 18.Rad1 Bd7 { This passive move runs into all sorts of trouble. } (18...Bd6 { seemed the critical try, although Black still seems in difficulties against accurate play by White. } 19.Nf6+ gxf6 20.Bxf7+ Kg7 (20...Kxf7 21.Qxh7+ Kf8 22.Qxg6 Re6 23.Nxc5 Qe8 24.Qh6+ Ke7 25.Nxe6 Bxe6 26.Bxf6+ Kd7 27.Be5 Qf8 28.Qxf8 Rxf8 29.Bxd6 cxd6 30.e4 +- { and the rook and three pawns outweigh the bishop and knight. }) 21.f5 Nce5 (21...Re7 22.fxg6 hxg6 23.Qxg6+ Kf8 (23...Kh8 24.Qh6#) 24.Qg8#) 22.Bxe8 Qxe8 23.Nb6 cxb6 24.Rxd6 Qe7 25.fxg6 hxg6 (25...Qxd6 26.Qxh7+ Kf8 27.Bxe5 Qxe5 28.Qf7#) 26.Qd1+- 18 {White has a material advantage as well as a strong attack. }) 19.Rf3! { White brings the rook up into the attack. The threat is f5 and Rh3. } 19...Qc8 { Black threatens ..Bg4, but this is easily met. } (19...Nd4 { is an interesting try, but does not seem to work after } 20.exd4 b5 21.Nxc7! bxc4 (21...Qxc7 22.Bxf7+! Kxf7 23.f5+-) 22.Nxe8 Qxe8 (22...cxb3 23.Nxg7+-) (22...Bxa4 23.Nxg7+-) 23.f5+-) 20.Rg3 { White meets the threat in the simplest way. } (20.f5 { intending Rh3, is also strong. }) 20...Bd6? { This allows an immediate finish. However, Black's position is



PLAY THROUGH THE GAMES ONLINE

already very bad. } (20...Be6 { is met by } 21.f5 Bxf5 22.Rf1 (22.Nab6 cxb6 23.Nxb6 Qc7 24.Qxf5 +-) 22...Be6 23.Rxf7!! Kxf7 (23...Bxf7 24.Nf6+- gxf6 25.Rxg6+ hxg6 26.Qxg6+ Bg7 27.Bxf6 +-) 24.Qxh7 Nce7 (24...Nge7 25.Rxg7+ Bxg7 26.Qxg7#) (24...Nce5 25.Bxe5 Nxe5 26.Qh5+ +- (24...Nge5 25.Bxe5 Nxe5 26.Qh5+ +-) 25.Nxc5 +- { and Black can't meet the various threats. }) 21.Nf6+ ! gxf6

(21...Kh8 22.Qxh7#) (21...Kf8 22.Nxh7+ Kg8 (22...Ke7 23.Qg5+ f6 24.Bxf6+ gxf6 25.Qxf6#) 23.Qxg6 +- { forces mate. }) 22.Rxg6+ ! Kf8 (22...hxg6 23.Qxg6+ Kh8 (23...Kf8 24.Qxf7#) 24.Bxf6#) (22...Kh8 23.Bxf6#) 23.Qh6+ +- { This is the quickest. Black resigned, rather than be mated on the next move. } (23.Qh6+ ! Ke7 24.Bxf6#) 1-0

**Sussex County Championship Final,
Game 1, February 11, 2023, and March 12**
White: Feliks Kwiatkowski
Black: Andrew Briggs
Ruy Lopez: Schliemann Variation
Annotator Feliks Kwiatkowski

The County Championship lurched back into life after the pandemic, but in sharply truncated form. Andrew Briggs stepped forth as the only postulant, so we played in the traditional county final two-game format. The time control was 40 moves in 2 hours, then an adjournment. For mutual convenience, each game was played at my opponent's Brighton residence. The quality was far from brilliant, alas, due to age [mine] and the high-pressure nature of the event. The games are offered 'for the record'.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 f5 [This is the notorious Schliemann, which has a dubious reputation, but no clear refutation. I had not prepared it, as Black has no track record with the line, so fell back upon 'general

knowledge' of the following positional reply. For the curious, 4.Nc3 leads to the ultra-sharp main lines.] 4. d3 fxe4 5. dxe4 Nf6 6. O-O Bc5 7. Qd3 d6 8. Qc4 Qe7 9. Nc3 Bd7 10. Nd5 Nxd5 11. exd5 Nd4 12. Nxd4 Bxd4

[The players moved rapidly down one of the main positional lines. I had forgotten the nuances, inevitably. White can flick in a4 next move, which may lead to an infinitesimal advantage, but in truth White has nothing.]

13. Be3 Bxe3 14. Bxd7+ Qxd7 15. fxe3 O-O-O 16. Rf3 Rdf8 17. Raf1 Rxf3 18. Rxf3 Kd8

[It started dawning upon me that there are no concrete ways of making progress. I gave up the game in my mind as a draw, but resolved to concentrate on probing, while not making any stupid concessions. There is always the next game, after all.]

19. Qh4+ Qe7 20. Qa4 a6 21. Qb4 Kc8 22. Qg4+ Kd8 23. Qh5 g6 24. Qh6 Rg8 25. e4 Rg7 26. Qe3 b6 27. Qf2 Ke8 28. Qf1 a5 29. Qa6 Kd7 30. Qb7 Rf7 31. Rc3 Ke8 32. Qc8+ Qd8 33. Qe6+ Qe7 34. Qg4 Kf8 35. Rf3 Rxf3



36. Qxf3+ Qf7 37. Kf2 Qxf3+ 38. Kxf3 Kf7 39.
h4? h5 40. g4? ...

[On running the game through the computer to write these notes, the machine instantly fastened upon 39. [or 40] a4 ... ; as securing a serious advantage. The Black Q-side pawns are fixed and White can probe with his king, using White's "extra" available pawn moves on the Q-side to force concessions. How had I missed this? Tracking back, it means that Black should have been more cautious in the late 30s, for example 37. ... b5; or 36. ... Ke8.]

40. ... Ke7; 41. gxh5 gxh5 42. Ke3 Kd7

[Black sealed his obvious last move, and we adjourned. Now, it's 'just a draw'.]

43. Kd3 c6 44. c4 ...

[I extensively analysed 44.dxc6+ Kxc6 45.c4 b5! but could find nothing.]

44. ... c5! 45. Kc3 a4! [Only move!] 46. b3 Kc7

[Note that 46.b4 doesn't help! Black can let the a-pawn go, for he has a fortress after the White pawn lands on b5.]

47. Kb2 Kb7 48. Ka3 axb3 49. axb3 Ka7 50. Ka4 Ka6 51. b4 Ka7??

[Oh dear. Nerves? Momentary blindness?]

52.cxb4 is a trivial draw. As played, White forces either the opposition or a monster passed pawn.]

52. bxc5 bxc5 53. Ka5! ... [53. Kb5?? is a draw after ... Kb7.] Kb7 54. Kb5!

[Here Black resigned, for the d-pawn is indefensible – if 54. ... Kc7; 55.Ka6 ... etc.]

[1-0]

Sussex County Championship Final,

Game 2, April 1, 2023

White: Andrew Briggs

Black: Feliks Kwiatkowski

Ruy Lopez: Reti with b3

Annotator Feliks Kwiatkowski

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. b3 g6 ;

[White is known for 1.b3 ..., rather than 2.b3... . This makes all the difference. Yet again, I was forced back to 'general knowledge'.]

3. Bb2 Bg7 4. e3 b6 5. Be2 Bb7 6. O-O O-O 7. d4 c5 8. dxc5 bxc5 9. c4 d6 10. Nc3 Nbd7 11. Qc2 a5;

[I could have played ... Ne4 at move 10 or 11, with a simple, dull position. I failed to see that the c3 knight had to be exchanged off. Black's plan is to play ... a4; and/or to press down the b-file. For this to work, the c3 knight must be absent. Instead, I found myself suddenly hemmed in and defending a bad position.]

12. Rad1 Bc6 13. a4 Re8 14. Nb5 Qb6 15. Nd2 Qb7 16. Bf3 Bxf3 17. Nxf3 Nb8 18. Rfe1 Nc6 19. e4 Nd7 20. Bxg7 Kxg7 21. Qc3+ Kg8 22. h4! ... [Excellent! Black must now grovel with ... f6; , but I did not see that.]

22. ... Rf8; 23. h5 f6 24. Nh4? ... ; .

[This gives away the White plus. First 24.hg hg;, and only then 25.Nh4! A tragedy but, thankfully, for only one of us.]

24. ... g5!; 25. Nf5 Nde5 26. Qg3 Kh8 27. f4 Nf7;



[Objectively, Black has the advantage, but I did not see that during the game. All I understood was that I was not immediately losing.]

28. fxg5 Nxg5 29. h6 Rg8 30. Qd3? ... ; [A simple blunder.] 30. ... Ne5! 31. Qd5 Qxd5 32. exd5 Ngf3+ 33. Kf1 Nxe1 34. Rxe1 Rae8.

[Here, I valiantly offered a draw. It was all that was needed for the title, after all. Black is well on top. One possible sequence is 35. Nc7 Rb8 36. Nxe7 Rb7 37. Nxg8 Rxc7 38. Nxf6 Rf7.

White considered the offer and decided that discretion was the better part of valour.]

[½ - ½]

Mid-Sussex League Division 2, Haywards Heath 1 [away] v Bexhill 2. Board 1 of 4 March 3, 2023

White: Feliks Kwiatkowski, Haywards Heath 1

Black: Leo Woning, Bexhill 2

Sicilian Defence, Scheveningen Variation

Annotator Feliks Kwiatkowski

This game was part of the HH 2022-2023 campaign that saw us lever ourselves up to the top of the Division and into promotion. We played in the curious atmosphere of a tattoo studio.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. g3 ... ;

[Of course, 6.g4 ... is the only proper move. However, hardly anyone at club level plays the Scheveningen these days, so I had forgotten the theory. I duly fell back upon a line that is wholly innocent, provided that Black knows it.] 6. ... Be7; 7. Bg2 O-O 8. O-O a6 9. f4 Qb6?!

[This is not clearly bad, but the flexible ... Qc7 makes more sense.]

10. Kh1 Bd7 11. Nb3 Nc6 12. g4!? Rfd8?!

[We have passed through a decision point for each player. White could have tried 12.a4 ... ; or 12.Qe2 ...; planning Be3 I decided instead to be direct. In turn, Black should choose 12.g4 h6, with everything still to play for. As it is, Black has played two slightly questionable moves and finds himself under terminal constriction.]

13. g5 Ne8 14. Qe2 g6 15. Be3 Qc7 16. Qf2 Rdc8;

[According to 'the computer', Black's game is now so bad that he should give up the exchange for the sake of space with 16. ... b5;.]

17. Bb6 Qb8 18. Rad1 Nc7 19. a3 ...;

[19.a3 ... was played as a prophylactic move against ... Nb4 ideas and to challenge Black to find a plan. The computer prefers the direct 19.e5 d5; 20.Ne4 ...;]

19. ... Nb5; 20. Na4 Rf8 21. c4 Nba7 22. c5 Nc8 23. cxd6 Nxd6 24. Bc5 Na5 25. Nb6 Bb5 26. Nxa5 Bxf1 27. Rxf1 Qc7 28. b4?! ...

[White is still winning after this move, but 28.Nxa8 is perfectly safe. I was getting short of time, and Black had time in hand, so I was trying for easy options.]

28. ... Rad8; 29. Rc1 Nc8 30. Nac4 Bxc5 31.

bxc5 Rfe8 32. Qe3 Re7 33. e5 Kf8 34. Nd6 Nxb6 35. cxb6 Qb8 36. Qc5 Rdd7 37. Nc8 Ke8 38. Nxe7 Rxe7 39. Qc8+ Qxc8 [Here Black resigned without waiting for my next.] [1-0.]



Mid-Sussex League Division 2. Haywards Heath 1 [home] v Brighton 2. Board 1 of 4 December 8, 2022

White: Michael Gyure, Brighton 2

Black: Feliks Kwiatkowski, Haywards Heath 1 Sicilian Defence, Sveshnikov Variation

Annotator Feliks Kwiatkowski

This game features a curious case of chess blindness.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5 6. Nf5 ?! ...; [Always a little suspect.] 6. ... d5! 7. exd5 Bxf5 8. dxc6 bxc6 9. Qf3 Qd7 10. Bd3?! e4 !

[Best, once you see it. Taking on e4 runs into a pin on the e-file from the black queen. For instance, 11.Nxe4 Bxe4 12.Bxe4 Qe6 13.O-O Qxe4 14.Qxe4 Nxe4 15.Re1 O-O-O! .]

11. Qe2 Bb4 12. Bd2 O-O 13. Bc4 Bg4 14. Qe3 Rad8;

[This position is actually known to theory. White must try 15.h3 ... , when 15. ... Bc5! is very strong. Here is where the blindness unaccountably overtook my opponent.]

15. O-O?? Qxd2; [Oh dear.] 16. Qxa7 Bxc3 17. bxc3 Qxc3 18. Bb3 Nd5 19. h3 Bxh3 20. gxh3 Qxh3 21. f3 Qg3+ 22. Kh1 Rd6. [White resigned.] [0-1]

Sussex v Kent, away at Crayford. Board 1/16, December 3, 2023

White: Feliks Kwiatkowski, Sussex 1

Black: Neil McDonald [IGM] Kent 1 French Defence, Tarrasch Variation

Annotator Feliks Kwiatkowski

Read all about it: Man bites grandmaster!

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. c3 c5 6. Bd3 Nc6 7. Ne2 cxd4 8. cxd4 f6 9. exf6 Nxf6 10. Nf3 Qc7 11. O-O Bd6;

[This is one of the main lines of the ... Nf6 Tarrasch French, in which my opponent has extensive experience. It is all meant to be 'slightly inferior' as a defence, for example at the World Championship Finalists / Candidates' level. It is perfectly viable everywhere else. There are a number of ways to get an alleged small plus for White. You exploit the dark squares or the c-file, and/or you keep the Black QB cramped. Black will try for ... e5, so that will lead to an isolated d-pawn to exploit. You try not to over-reach.]

12. h3 O-O 13. Be3 g6!?

[Not known to my database in this specific position. The idea is known elsewhere. Black wants to fianchetto the queen as part of k-side counterplay.]

14. Bh6 Re8 15. Nc3 a6 16. Rc1 Bf4 17. Bxf4 Qxf4 18. Bc2 b5 19. Re1 Bd7 20. a3 Rf8 21. Qd3 Ne8 ; [The idea is to come to f5.] 22. Bb3 Kh8; [Yes, I was threatening 23.Nxd5] 23. Ne2 Qf6 24. Ng3 Nd6 25. Rc2 Qg7 26. Rce2? Rf4!?

[It is not that I had calculated the 'obvious threat' of ... Rxf3. I had overlooked it! After 26. ... Rxf3 27.gf Nxd4 Black has a comfortable game for the minor material deficit. The computer actually suggests that 27.Qxf3 Nxd4 28.Qf4 Nxe2+ 29.Rxe2 Nc4 30.Bxc4 bc 31.Qd6 is level/slightly better for White. That looks very suspect as an idea for a practical game. The scolding machine



suggests 26.Rc3 ... for a quiet advantage. Instead of sacrificing at once, Black opted to keep up quiet pressure.]

27. Rd1 Raf8; [The computer suggestion is 27.Rxe6 ... ;] 28. Qe3 Rxf3 29. gxf3 Nf5 30. Nxf5 gxf5+ 31. Kf1 Rg8?; [Black should try 31. ... f4 32.Qc3 Black has activity, but White looks objectively a little better.] 32. Ree1 Qf6 33. Qf4 h6 34. Qd6 Qg7 35. Rxe6! ... [The end is nigh! White's KB is a monster.] 35. ...Bxe6 36. Qxe6 Qg2+ 37. Ke2 Rg6 38. Qe8+ Kh7 39. Bxd5 Na5 40. Qf7+ Kh8 41. Qxf5 Nc4 42. Qf8+ Kh7 43. Be4 ...

[43.Qf7+ is allegedly mate in 11, but I expect you all saw that. Mate, or no mate, my illustrious opponent had seen enough, and resigned.] [1-0]

Sussex 1 home v Kent 1, Hassocks, Board 1 of 16. Mach 11, 2023

White: Neil McDonald [IGM] Kent 1

Black: Feliks Kwiatkowski, Sussex 1

Sicilian Defence, Sveshnikov Variation

Annotator Feliks Kwiatkowski

Read all about it: Grandmaster bites man!

I had hopes of coming away from McDonald last season with a profit, but it was not to be.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5 6. Ndb5 d6 7. Bg5 a6 8. Na3 b5 9. Nd5 Be7 10. Bxf6 Bxf6 11. c4 b4 12. Nc2 O-O 13. g3 Bg5;

[Note that if White takes twice on b4, Black obtains good play by ... Qb6 and ... Qd4.]

14. Bg2 Be6 15. O-O a5 16. Qd3 Qb8!? [This position is known to theory, yes, really.] 17. f4

Bd8 18. f5 Bxd5 19. exd5 ...; ["Computer says" Black is a little better already and suggests 19. ... e4! 20.Qxe4 Ne5 as viable, in addition to the text sequence.] 19. ...Qb6+ 20. Kh1 Nd4 21. f6!? ;

[White gambles. It's objectively difficult, but this is practical chess, with a harsh time limit.]

21. ... Bxf6; 22. Be4 h6 23. Rxf6 Nxc2 24. Qxc2 gxf6 25. Rf1? ... ;

[You've guessed it! "Computer says no!" The droid proposes 25.Qe2= ...; after 25. ... f5! 26.Qh5! fxe4 27.Qxh6 Can you believe it? Apparently, perpetual check is unavoidable, despite the extra rook, and Black must take care not to get mated. If 26.Bxf5 Qd8 and Black is much better.]

25. ... Kg7? [25. ... Qe3! – Black is better.] 26. Qe2 Rh8?

[26. ... Rg8 and Black is better. Obviously there are strong practical chances for White. After the move I chose, White is always at least a little better in theory and the position is hard to defend as a practical matter. I soon descended into a clear lost game.]

27. Qg4+ Kf8 28. Rxf6 Ra7 29. Kg2 Re7 30. Qf5 Qc5 31. b3 h5 32. Bf3 Ke8 33. Bxh5 Rf8 34. Re6 Qc7 35. Qf6 Rxe6 36. dxe6 Qe7 37. exf7+ Kd8 38. Qf5 Qd7 39. Qe4 Kc7 40. g4 Qd8 41. Qd5 Kd7 42. Qb5+ Ke7 43. g5 Qa8+ 44. Kg3 Rxf7 45. Bxf7 Kxf7 46. Qd5+ Qxd5 47. cxd5 Kg6;

[This is the last grovel, based on the passed e-pawn, but White is not to be fooled.]

48. Kg4 Kg7 49. Kf5 Kh7 50. h4 Kg7 51. h5 Kh7 52. h6 Kg8 53. g6 Kh8 54. h7 Kg7 55. Ke6 e4 56. h8=Q+ Kxh8 57. Kf7 ...

[Here I thought it reasonable to resign.] [1-0]



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