

# SUSSEX CHESS NEWS

2025

## Club goes global



## Players take on opponents from all over the world



**Julie's Budapest  
gambit is tricky  
opening to season**





## CLUBS

**Bognor & Arun 12**

**Brighton & Hove 13**

**Chichester 14-16**

**Crowborough 17-18**

**East Grinstead 19-20**

**Haywards Heath 21**

**Horsham 22-23**

**Uckfield 24-25**

**WINNING WAYS:** Club nights at Chichester have had record attendances, East Grinstead's cup winners, centre, and Bognor club champion Jaimie Wilson, below



## INFO

**WHO'S WHO 28**

## TROPHIES

**McArthur Cup 3**  
**Paul Watson Trophy 3**  
**Wilson Cup 3**

## COUNTY

**Sussex League 4-5**  
**Open Team 7-11**

## REPORTS

**ECF delegate 6**  
**Games 26-27**

## WILSON CUP - INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

THERE were four entrants for this tournament. Russell Granat was drawn to play Luke Rutherford, Feliks Kwiatkowski drawn to play Matthew Payne.

Luke withdrew, leaving Russell to proceed to the final. Feliks drew with white versus Matthew. In the second fixture, Matthew was able to score a win with white. He went on to play Russell in a two-

game final. The first game was won by Russell as white. The second game was also a white victory, to Matthew, this time round. Both players decided they would not seek further hostilities. They agreed to share first place.

**Paul Batchelor**

## PAUL WATSON TROPHY

AS last year, there were 10 teams in the Paul Watson Trophy, which continues to have a good participation rate, and once again there were a number of very close matches, **writes Peter Farr.**

In the semi-finals, Bexhill 1 beat Uckfield 2.5 – 1.5, and Lewes beat Sussex University 4-0.

In the final, Lewes made up for 2024's final defeat to Bognor & Arun by winning 2.5 – 1.5 against Bexhill.

**Match card for the final:**

Board:	<b>Bexhill</b>	Result	<b>Lewes</b>
1	Luke Chapman	0-1	Henry Adams
2	Michael Hubbard	0-1	Louis Buckland
3	Andrew Fleming	0.5-0.5	Andy Mitchell
4	Harry Morter	1-0	Gary Buckland
		<b>1.5-2.5</b>	

## McARTHUR CUP

AN increase from six to nine entries in this year's competition was very encouraging, **reports Peter Farr.**

East Grinstead narrowly won their semi-final with Horsham 3.5-2.5, in a tense struggle with only one decisive result. Hastings & St. Leonards out-gunned Bexhill 1 by 4.5-1.5 in the other semi-final, and retained the trophy with a 4-2 win against Hastings & St. Leonards in a heavyweight contest in the final. Gareth Anthony and Daniel Rosen won the key games for East Grinstead.

**Match card for the final:**

Board:	<b>Hastings &amp; St. Leonards</b>	Result	<b>East Grinstead</b>
1	Mark Rich	0.5-0.5	Chris Baker
2	Daniel Lowe	0-1	Gareth Anthony
3	Francis Rayner	0.5-0.5	Peter Kemp
4	Rasa Norinkeviciute	0-1	Daniel Rosen
5	John Sugden	0.5-0.5	Robert Noyce
6	Henry Cove	0.5-0.5	Michael Dams
		<b>2-4</b>	



# Chess moves make it a difficult opening

**W**HEN I took on this role for the 2024/25 season I had no idea that I'd find myself playing in a major international tournament during September, which coincided with the fixture secretary's busiest period.

Not a combination I would recommend to anyone! This resulted in a great deal of email correspondence between Sussex and Budapest, but it all worked out in the end.

We welcomed six additional teams for the season, including the re-entry of a team from Uckfield, partly balanced by the withdrawal of two teams. This net gain of four resulted in a total of 37 teams and led to a decision to re-instate a fourth division. These teams were accommodated as 11 in division 1, 10 in Division 2 and eight each in divisions 3 and 4, with all the new entries in division 4.

One issue I had in setting up the fixtures was ensuring that I knew the best contact at each club. I request strongly that clubs identify their contact person when submitting their entries and then ensuring that all inputs to the fixtures secretary come through this one person. It is easy for things to fall through a crack when two or more people from the same club submit

information. Indeed, this did happen last summer. The season proceeded well, with all matches completed. The mild winter helped, avoiding matches being postponed at short notice for weather-related reasons. There were, however, a couple of rule infringements that resulted in penalties being applied.

One infringement was with Rule 4.2.2 with players becoming ineligible for a lower team after four appearances for higher teams. I'm aware that such ineligibility can arise between a team selection being made and the match actually taking place. Indeed, I very nearly fell foul of this myself, necessitating the withdrawal of a player after arriving at the venue.

Less fortunate was Eastbourne 4 who were then penalised, with the overall match result reversing in their opponent's favour. As well as team captains remaining alert to this, it would be helpful if individual players kept note of their matches if they play for more than one team, and alert the relevant captain if they see an infringement arising.

The other rule infringement concerned Rule 5.2 on team order. I don't believe compliance with this rule has routinely been monitored, but one clear infringement, by Horsham 4, was brought to my attention. The offending player won their





## Fixtures secretary JULIE DENNING reports on an incident-packed season

game, and this stood for rating purposes, but for league purposes it was agreed that the game point be transferred to the opponent. In this instance the match result was not affected. As with Rule 4.2.2, this requires close monitoring to ensure compliance, particularly as was the case here of a rapidly improving younger player and monthly rating lists.

It's not clear in the rules who is intended to monitor these situations throughout the season, but it's pointless having rules if they are not applied.

So long as there not significant changes in team entries, I envisage the league retaining four divisions for the coming season, with regular promotion and relegation from this past season.

I need to end my report on a personal note. When I stepped back into this role mid-way through the 2023–24 season I envisaged that I would continue in it for the foreseeable future, so long as the league wanted me to.

Unfortunately, due to totally unforeseen change of circumstances, there's a strong possibility that I will not be available to continue playing club and league chess during the coming season.

However, it is not my wish to leave the league in the lurch at such short notice. Consequently, unless someone else wishes to step forward to take on the role, I am putting myself up for re-election, even if I end up as a non-player.

## Roll of honour

**Div. 1 Mottram Cup: Worthing 1**

**Div. 2 Gregory Cup: Bexhill 2**

**Div. 3 Cup (older): Worthing 2**

**Div. 4 Cup (newer): Brighton & Hove 4**

**Junior RP: East Grinstead Bookshop 1**

**KO: Bexhill**

**Tankards:**

**Div. 1: Luke Rutherford, Brighton & Hove 1, 8 / 10 (80%)**

**Div. 2: James Lumsden, Bexhill 2, 5.5 / 7 (78.37%)**

**Div. 3: Peter Larwood, Worthing 2, 6 / 7 (85.71%)**

**Div. 4: Arran Airlie, Uckfield, Adrian Waldock, East Grinstead 3 and Joseph Wright, Uckfield 5 / 7 (71.43%)**

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**Overall: Michael Dams, East Grinstead, 8 / 9 (88.89%)**

**Junior RP: Smrithi Manoj, Crowborough Bishops, 4 / 5 (80%)**



PETER FARR reflects on the impact of some key decisions

# Grassroots chess receives a welcome cash boost

**I** ATTENDED the ECF AGM in October, 2024, and also the ECF finance meeting in April, 2025.

The minutes of both meetings are available on the ECF website for those interested in more detail.

I just summarise here a few of the key issues arising with the ECF over the past year

Overall, the ECF appears to be in a reasonable financial state, and while the streamlining of the main membership categories from three to two was not universally welcomed, there does not seem to have been

significant impact on membership numbers, which in fact seem to be increasing (one has to be a little cautious with the numbers here as the move to rolling membership renewal dates has made direct year on year comparisons difficult).

The April meeting agreed relatively modest inflation rate increases in membership fee; it was noted that over the past few years fees have risen by about 20% over a period when RPI has risen by 40%, so some catch-up was needed. The ECF is needing to put some resources into its IT systems; although these work quite well in practice, they do not link together well and the reality is that they are held together by some dedicated volunteers, and some more robustness is required. So we can expect more expenditure on this over the coming years.

On a brighter note, the ECF has been

disbursing funds arising from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) grant, including local initiatives in support of grassroots chess, while after a brief hiatus following the termination of the original grant, Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor and

herself a chess-player, is now planning to provide support more targeted at development of our most talented younger players.

Finally, after a several years of relative stability, there are a number of changes occurring at the top of the ECF, most notably with the retirement of Mike Turan as chief

executive, after a long stint. There will be more than usual interest in the ECF elections at the AGM this October. These roles are often time-consuming and difficult, and the ECF is almost entirely run by volunteers. Hopefully, there will be enough continuity to ensure a smooth transition to a new leadership team; there are already some interim appointments in place and one suspects that some will become permanent.

There are a number of changes at the top of the ECF

**FUNDING SWITCH:**  
Chancellor Rachel Reeves



# Counties' show of strength means it becomes another tough season

**F**OR the first fixture Sussex were to play the Middlesex Open team. Middlesex proved very strong, running out 10½ -5½ winners. Sussex wins were recorded by Kit Blades and Henry Cove.

Next came the Surrey versus Sussex encounter. This proved to be a much closer fixture, Sussex narrowly losing by 8½ -7½. Sussex winners were Mark Broom, Jaimie Wilson, Geoff James, Francis Rayner and James Mansson.

Following these two fixtures Sussex faced Kent. I had expected another tough close encounter, but this proved not to be the case. I was pleasantly surprised when Sussex came out on top by 11-5. Sussex wins were recorded by Feliks Kwiatkowski, Matthew Payne, Peter Farr, James Mansson and me.

Fourthly, Sussex faced Surrey. The match proved to be the toughest one so far. Surrey was to secure a 14-2 victory over Sussex. Despite this, there was one Sussex player who won their individual encounter, Feliks Kwiatkowski. Next Sussex faced Middlesex for the second time in the season. This was a very one-sided affair, Middlesex winning by 12½ -3½. No Sussex wins were recorded in this fixture. Lastly, Sussex faced Kent in the final fixture at the Union stage. I was not able to make this fixture as I had surgery two days before the match.

Thanks to Jim Wheeler for stepping in as acting captain for this one. Kent won by 9½ -6½. Sussex

wins were recorded by Mark Broom, Steve Newman, Henry Cove and Albert Eldridge.

**Paul Batchelor**

## ...and no Minor miracle repeat

**S**USSEX were offered the opportunity to play in the Minor counties event which was accepted. Last season we had even been national champions. What would happen this time round?

At the quarter-final stage we were drawn to play Somerset. A half-way venue was secured near to Salisbury. Sussex came out on top by 11-5. Winners were Luke Rutherford, Feliks Kwiatkowski, James Mansson, Peter Farr, Adrian Pickersgill and me.

Next, we were to play Cambridgeshire at Wanstead, London. Sadly, we were not to have such a good run as last season.

Cambridgeshire won by 9½ -6½. Sussex wins went to Luke Chapman and Henry Cove. Bottom board was a default win to Sussex.

**Paul Batchelor**

### CHAMPIONSHIP - FINAL TABLE

	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	Pts
1	Surrey CCA A	6	4	1	1	9
2	Middlesex CCA A	6	3	2	1	8
3	Kent CA A	6	2	1	3	5
4	Sussex CCA A	6	1	0	5	2



# SUSSEX CHESS 2025/OPEN TEAM, CHAMPIONSHIP/RESULTS

SUSSEX 5.5 MIDDLESEX 10.5 OCTOBER 26, 2024					
1 ( B )	2245 (2256)	Rutherford, Luke E	0 - 1	Gallana, Marco	2366 (2368)
2 ( W )	2239 (2211)	Granat, Russell G	½ - ½	Tiruchirapalli, Venkataramanan	2314 (2340)
3 ( B )	2147 (2123)	Wilson, Jaimie	0 - 1	Stewart, Ashley	2235 (2190)
4 ( W )	2140 (2118)	Broom, Mark	½ - ½	Mogilarov, Dimitar	2172 (2134)
5 ( B )	2118 (2116)	Blades, Kit	1 - 0	Dydak, Mateusz	2050 (1982)
6 ( W )	2087 (2062)	Farr, Peter G	½ - ½	Davey, Mark	2099 (2086)
7 ( B )	2063 (2059)	Boardman, Jeffrey	½ - ½	Fleming, Nigel D	2084 (2053)
8 ( W )	2069 (2048)	James, Geoffrey H	0 - 1	Coles, Steven F	2057 (2066)
9 ( B )	2064 (2051)	Newman, Stephen J	0 - 1	Jain, Gautam R	2143 (2143)
10 ( W )	2058 (2076)	Mansson, James C	½ - ½	Calvert, D Ian	2026 (1942)
11 ( B )	2016 (2014)	Norinkeviciute, Rasa	½ - ½	Mackenzie, Colin	2023 (2033)
12 ( W )	1985 (1997)	Batchelor, Paul A	0 - 1	Fulton, Anthony R	2022 (2031)
13 ( B )	1908 (1952)	Cove, Henry	1 - 0	Lees, Fraser A	1975 (1950)
14 ( W )	1867 (1855)	Pickersgill, Adrian O	0 - 1	Rubeck, Jonathan	1913 (1895)
15 ( B )	1802 (1868)	Honarvarmahalati, Hooman	½ - ½	Robinson, Adam	1958 (1896)
16 ( W )	1756 (1759)	Selby, Paul R	0 - 1	Billenness, Greg	1855 (1882)

SURREY 8.5 SUSSEX 7.5 NOVEMBER 16, 2024					
1 ( W )	2334 (2296)	Price, Gwilym T	½ - ½	Rutherford, Luke E	2245 (2256)
2 ( B )	2304 (2340)	Buckley, Graeme N	½ - ½	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2222 (2189)
3 ( W )	2248 (2311)	Lalic, Peter D	1 - 0	Payne, Matthew J	2182 (2191)
4 ( B )	2266 (2233)	Lalic, Susan	0 - 1	Broom, Mark	2140 (2118)
5 ( W )	2143 (2202)	Agrawal, Shivam	0 - 1	Wilson, Jaimie	2147 (2123)
6 ( B )	2184 (2175)	Patel, Zain	½ - ½	Farr, Peter G	2087 (2062)
7 ( W )	2190 (2121)	Osborne, Marcus E	0 - 1	James, Geoffrey H	2069 (2048)
8 ( B )	2127 (2251)	Han, Qixiang	0 - 1	Rayner, Francis	2064 (2079)
9 ( W )	2166 (2181)	Brooks, Phil J	1 - 0	Newman, Stephen J	2064 (2051)
10 ( B )	2140 (2137)	Keane, Graham DJ	0 - 1	Mansson, James C	2058 (2076)
11 ( W )	2138 (2105)	Rosen, Daniel B	1 - 0	Batchelor, Paul A	1985 (1997)
12 ( B )	2159 (2196)	Varney, Zoe	1 - 0	Cove, Henry	1908 (1952)
13 ( W )	2084 (2075)	Noyce, Robert	1 - 0	Wheeler, James M	1818 (1782)
14 ( B )	2097 (2007)	Scott, David A	½ - ½	Pickersgill, Adrian O	1867 (1855)
15 ( W )	2042 (2045)	Young, Daniel J	1 - 0	Honarvarmahalati, Hooman	1802 (1868)
16 ( B )	1993 (2015)	Lee, Peter	½ - ½	Edwards, Paul	1789 (1732)



# SUSSEX CHESS 2025/OPEN TEAM, CHAMPIONSHIP/RESULTS

SUSSEX 11 KENT 5 NOVEMBER 30, 2024					
1 ( B )	2245 (2256)	Rutherford, Luke E	½ - ½	Taylor, Martin R	2406 (2363)
2 ( W )	2225 (2220)	Brewer, Callum D	½ - ½	Lindner, Daniel	2264 (2218)
3 ( B )	2222 (2189)	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	1 - 0	Snape, Ian L	2231 (2187)
4 ( W )	2182 (2191)	Payne, Matthew J	1 - 0	Talsma, Paul A	2147 (2105)
5 ( B )	2140 (2118)	Broom, Mark	½ - ½	Hanreck, Alan E	2158 (2165)
6 ( W )	2147 (2123)	Wilson, Jaimie	½ - ½	Starley, Robert	2144 (2148)
7 ( B )	2087 (2062)	Farr, Peter G	1 - 0	Roberts, Mike	2117 (2135)
8 ( W )	2069 (2048)	James, Geoffrey H	0 - 1	Baltrunas, Evaldas	2124 (2082)
9 ( B )	2064 (2051)	Newman, Stephen J	½ - ½	Morrison, Julian	2048 (2031)
10 ( W )	2031 (1990)	Froom, Oliver	½ - ½	O'Donovan, Paul J	2057 (2032)
11 ( B )	2058 (2076)	Mansson, James C	1 - 0	Hartley, Luke	1994 (2007)
12 ( W )	1985 (1997)	Batchelor, Paul A	1 - 0	Keenan, Brendan	1987 (1984)
13 ( B )	1908 (1952)	Cove, Henry	½ - ½	Fearnley-Sander, Ben	1933 (1932)
14 ( W )	1867 (1855)	Pickersgill, Adrian O	½ - ½	Tucker, David S	1933 (1891)
15 ( B )	1802 (1868)	Honarvarmahalati, Hooman	1 - 0 (def)	Default	
16 ( W )	1789 (1732)	Edwards, Paul	1 - 0 (def)	Default	

SUSSEX 2 SURREY 14 JANUARY 18 2025					
1 ( W )	2245 (2256)	Rutherford, Luke E	0 - 1	Large, Peter	2372 (2370)
2 ( B )	2239 (2211)	Granat, Russell G	0 - 1	Price, Gwilym T	2334 (2296)
3 ( W )	2222 (2189)	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	1 - 0	Buckley, Graeme N	2304 (2340)
4 ( B )	2103 (2132)	Adams, Henry	0 - 1	Banerjee, Supratit	2250 (2393)
5 ( W )	2147 (2123)	Wilson, Jaimie	0 - 1	Lalic, Peter D	2248 (2311)
6 ( B )	2140 (2118)	Broom, Mark	0 - 1	Lalic, Susan	2266 (2233)
7 ( W )	2087 (2062)	Farr, Peter G	0 - 1	Povah, Nigel E	2250 (2231)
8 ( B )	2069 (2048)	James, Geoffrey H	0 - 1	Baker, Chris W	2227 (2230)
9 ( W )	2064 (2079)	Rayner, Francis	0 - 1	Brooks, Phil J	2166 (2181)
10 ( B )	2058 (2076)	Mansson, James C	0 - 1	Osborne, Marcus E	2190 (2121)
11 ( W )	2064 (2051)	Newman, Stephen J	0 - 1	Keane, Graham DJ	2140 (2137)
12 ( B )	2016 (2014)	Norinkeviciute, Rasa	0 - 1	Toon, James M G	2146 (2113)
13 ( W )	1985 (1997)	Batchelor, Paul A	½ - ½	Rosen, Daniel B	2138 (2105)
14 ( B )	1908 (1952)	Cove, Henry	0 - 1	Varney, Zoe	2159 (2196)
15 ( W )	1867 (1855)	Pickersgill, Adrian O	½ - ½	Noyce, Robert	2084 (2075)
16 ( B )	1818 (1782)	Wheeler, James M	0 - 1	Lee, Peter	1993 (2015)



# SUSSEX CHESS 2025/OPEN TEAM, CHAMPIONSHIP/RESULTS

MIDDLESEX 12.5 SUSSEX 3.5 FEBRUARY 1, 2025					
1 ( W )	2416 (2432)	Badacsonyi, Stanley	½ - ½	Rutherford, Luke E	2245 (2256)
2 ( B )	2367 (2318)	Bates, Richard A	1 - 0	Wilson, Jaimie	2147 (2123)
3 ( W )	2345 (2322)	Richardson, John R	1 - 0	Broom, Mark	2140 (2118)
4 ( B )	2235 (2190)	Stewart, Ashley	½ - ½	Farr, Peter G	2087 (2062)
5 ( W )	2218 (2214)	Sagall, Roy	1 - 0	James, Geoffrey H	2069 (2048)
6 ( B )	2174 (2190)	Stone, Andrew M	1 - 0	Mansson, James C	2058 (2076)
7 ( W )	2172 (2134)	Mogilarov, Dimitar	1 - 0	Newman, Stephen J	2064 (2051)
8 ( B )	2121 (2110)	Gilfillan, Andrew	1 - 0	Froom, Oliver	2031 (1990)
9 ( W )	2141 (2055)	Quinn, John M	½ - ½	Batchelor, Paul A	1985 (1997)
10 ( B )	2057 (2066)	Coles, Steven F	½ - ½	Honarvarmahalati, Hooman	1802 (1868)
11 ( W )	2124 (2068)	Pedersen, Carsten	1 - 0	Pickersgill, Adrian O	1867 (1855)
12 ( B )	2084 (2053)	Fleming, Nigel D	½ - ½	Wheeler, James M	1818 (1782)
13 ( W )	2050 (1982)	Dydak, Mateusz	½ - ½	Palmer, Alan H	1825 (1820)
14 ( B )	2023 (2033)	Mackenzie, Colin	½ - ½	Edwards, Paul	1789 (1732)
15 ( W )	1912 (1905)	Solomon, D Ajoy	1 - 0	Woods, Timothy J	1685 (1638)
16 ( B )	2022 (2031)	Fulton, Anthony R	1 - 0 (def)	Default	

KENT 9.5 SUSSEX 6.5 FEBRUARY 22, 2025					
1 ( B )	2406 (2363)	Taylor, Martin R	½ - ½	Rutherford, Luke E	2245 (2256)
2 ( W )	2221 (2241)	Chandler, Cliff R	½ - ½	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2222 (2189)
3 ( B )	2196 (2193)	Verbytski, Oleg	½ - ½	Lowe, Daniel	2182 (2157)
4 ( W )	2158 (2165)	Hanreck, Alan E	½ - ½	Wilson, Jaimie	2147 (2123)
5 ( B )	2173 (2134)	Jakhria, Kushal	0 - 1	Broom, Mark	2140 (2118)
6 ( W )	2120 (2150)	Compton, Alistair	1 - 0	James, Geoffrey H	2069 (2048)
7 ( B )	2144 (2148)	Starley, Robert	0 - 1	Newman, Stephen J	2064 (2051)
8 ( W )	2147 (2105)	Talsma, Paul A	1 - 0	Froom, Oliver	2031 (1990)
9 ( B )	2117 (2135)	Roberts, Mike	0 - 1	Cove, Henry	1908 (1952)
10 ( W )	2124 (2082)	Baltrunas, Evaldas	1 - 0	Pickersgill, Adrian O	1867 (1855)
11 ( B )	2048 (2031)	Morrison, Julian	0 - 1	Eldridge, Albert	1850 (1911)
12 ( W )	2057 (2030)	Stock, Tobias W	½ - ½	Honarvarmahalati, Hooman	1802 (1868)
13 ( B )	2046 (1996)	Sugden, John N	1 - 0	Palmer, Alan H	1825 (1820)
14 ( W )	1958 (1991)	Clear, David E	1 - 0	Wheeler, James M	1818 (1782)
15 ( B )	1909 (1921)	Stanchev, Stoyko	1 - 0	Edwards, Paul	1789 (1732)
16 ( W )	1933 (1891)	Tucker, David S	1 - 0	Woods, Timothy J	1685 (1638)





# SUSSEX CHESS 2025/OPEN TEAM, MINOR COUNTIES/RESULTS

SUSSEX 11 SOMERSET 5 MAY 10, 2025					
1 ( B )	2245 (2267)	Rutherford, Luke E	1 - 0	Liu, Jack	2321 (2258)
2 ( W )	2222 (2191)	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	1 - 0	Wong, Arturo V snr	2101 (2106)
3 ( B )	2182 (2136)	Lowe, Daniel	½ - ½	Edgell, Ben P	2218 (2093)
4 ( W )	2140 (2110)	Broom, Mark	½ - ½	Hill, Andy	1988 (2020)
5 ( B )	2147 (2121)	Wilson, Jaimie	½ - ½	Gibbs, Dominic V	2036 (2071)
6 ( W )	2064 (2067)	Rayner, Francis	½ - ½	Thurlow, Kevin J	2004 (2009)
7 ( B )	2058 (2080)	Mansson, James C	1 - 0	Chaplin, Peter E	1996 (2000)
8 ( W )	2087 (2059)	Farr, Peter G	1 - 0	Footner, Andrew F	1974 (1916)
9 ( B )	2064 (2039)	Newman, Stephen J	½ - ½	Miller, George I	1956 (1964)
10 ( W )	2016 (2018)	Norinkeviciute, Rasa	½ - ½	Klein, Raimund	1919 (1922)
11 ( B )	1985 (2004)	Batchelor, Paul A	1 - 0	Gregory, Andrew M	1857 (1883)
12 ( W )	1908 (1927)	Cove, Henry	0 - 1	Harvey, GA	1848 (1806)
13 ( B )	1867 (1844)	Pickersgill, Adrian O	1 - 0	Acibar, Arnold	1801 (1801)
14 ( W )	1818 (1801)	Wheeler, James M	1 - 0	Baker, Mark R	1763 (1724)
15 ( B )	1756 (1766)	Selby, Paul R	½ - ½	Radford, Ben	1740 (1734)
16 ( W )	1789 (1764)	Edwards, Paul	½ - ½	Neagle, David C	1749 (1707)

CAMBRIDGESHIRE 9.5 SUSSEX 6.5 JUNE 7, 2025					
1 ( B )	2331 (2332)	Martyn, Rafe	1 - 0	Rutherford, Luke E	2245 (2267)
2 ( W )	2260 (2283)	Shafi, Declan	½ - ½	Brewer, Callum D	2225 (2221)
3 ( B )	2256 (2231)	Mihalik, Agoston	½ - ½	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2222 (2191)
4 ( W )	2186 (2190)	Pickard, Charles	½ - ½	Rogacewicz, Mikolaj	2153 (2136)
5 ( B )	2136 (2234)	Varnam, Liam D	1 - 0	Wilson, Jaimie	2147 (2121)
6 ( W )	2100 (2126)	Iyengar, Ilya	½ - ½	Broom, Mark	2140 (2110)
7 ( B )	2112 (2127)	Cole, James	1 - 0	Mansson, James C	2058 (2080)
8 ( W )	2058 (2126)	Redman, David J	1 - 0	Newman, Stephen J	2064 (2039)
9 ( B )	1981 (1960)	Kemp, Paul R	½ - ½	Batchelor, Paul A	1985 (2004)
10 ( W )	1846 (1912)	Peresenchuk, Danylo	½ - ½	Froom, Oliver	2031 (1983)
11 ( B )	1821 (1883)	Bowers, Francis J	0 - 1	Chapman, Luke	1763 (2015)
12 ( W )	1847 (1865)	McMahon, Paul	0 - 1	Cove, Henry	1908 (1927)
13 ( B )	1890 (1849)	Ilett, Raymond J	1 - 0	Honarvarmahalati, Hooman	1802 (1861)
14 ( W )	1786 (1806)	Caraway, Samuel	½ - ½	Pickersgill, Adrian O	1867 (1844)
15 ( B )	1654 (1805)	Sha, Linhao	1 - 0	Wheeler, James M	1818 (1801)
16 ( W )	0000 ( )	Default	0(def) - 1	Edwards, Paul	1789 (1764)



# Feeling champion!

**UNBEATEN ...**  
Jaimie Wilson won the Club Championship and reached the final of the Knockout tournament

**J**aimie Wilson was once again crowned club champion, with an unbeaten 11.5/12 record in the Championship.

But in many ways the story of the season was the rapid rise of Sidhanth Pai, who ran Jaimie close in the club's premier tournament.

In January, 2023 Sidhanth's grade was calculated at 1164, which rose to 1778 by the end of that season. By August, 2025, it had shot up to 2064, a remarkable rise up the ranks.

Sidhanth joined Jaimie in the final of the club's Knockout tournament, which eventually went Sidhanth's way after a rapid play and blitz decider. A summer tournament - rewarding players with extra points based on the number of games they played and the calibre of opponents - proved highly popular and kept momentum going once the major tournaments had come to an end.

In the Summer tournament, which rewards players for the number of games they play as

well as results, was won by Keith Davies, with strong competition from Peter Christmas - these two players shared the trophy the previous season.

Bognor has enjoyed an upsurge in junior membership in the past two seasons but this has been offset by the departure of a number of experienced players, together with increased hall hire costs.

Players have joined forces with Chichester Chess Club for some matches in the Portsmouth League. Fareham won division one, with Chichester finishing second; Chichester came first in division two, with their two other teams finishing second and third in division three. The season's highlight was winning the Cole Cup, Jaimie captaining the side to a 4-1 victory over Cosham.

Bognor and Arun went to East Grinstead in the first defence of their Paul Watson Trophy, won the previous season. But they came up against tough opposition, with the home side fielding two 2,100s, losing 3-1.

**Mick Plumb**



## Mixed league fortunes as secretary ROB COUNSELL reports

READ recently that in the 1930s, when Brighton and Hove played in part of the Royal Pavilion, the club secretary objected to an old woman bringing her dog to the club. The solution? She was allowed to pay a subscription for the dog to become a member, but a desperate captain then picked him for a friendly match. The authors speculated that he played the Collie System.

Our membership this year has risen to 60 (no hounds included), higher than I can recall in my 15 years at the club. Our Monday sessions at the Queens Hotel on Brighton seafront have drawn 20+ attendees regularly. Two members (Dona S and Peter B) turned 91 and 90 respectively this year.

Our rent is subsidised by generous member donations. One such donation funded two Sunday sessions a month for those who prefer afternoon tournament games.

There were mixed fortunes in the Sussex League for our four teams. Luke Rutherford scored 8/10 for 3rd-placed team 1, the best individual score in division 1. He won the Club Championship this year (7/7). Teams 2 and 3, both captained by Paul Edwards, fared rather differently in Division 2. Promoted as champions of Division 3 last season, team 3 lost eight and won just once, thus finishing bottom. As a member of the team, I often missed tactical chances found by the engine after the game, and was then outclassed.

Team 4, organised by Callum Brewer, won division 4. Callum gave a simul display in late July (winning most of his games).

In the Southern

# Club is backbone of county team

Counties Chess Union County Championship (Open section) Brighton and Hove players formed roughly a third of the Sussex team that played Surrey, Kent and Middlesex.

Several members travelled to Liverpool for the British Championships in early August. Hotels and the playing venues were all situated very close to Lime Street station.

In late August, Sussex University organised a tournament open to all, in association with our club and Sussex Junior Chess. Alongside it will be an invitational tournament for a GM, several IMs, and

our own Callum Brewer.

We hope to run four internal tournaments this year, organised by Paul Batchelor. From September, full subscriptions are £80.



**ROOM WITH A VIEW:** The Brighton club's venue





Chairman STEVE SMITH reflects on a busy year

# Vinuda rises to the challenge

**C**HICHESTER Chess Club has had a good year. This is now very much an end of an era with Steve Smith standing down as chairman, having been in post since 2008. Secretary Andrew McDougall has moved out of the area and he will be greatly missed; especially having been a fixture at or near the top of the A team for around 20 years.

Membership remains in the mid-thirties and there is a very healthy cohort of active juniors. The club has had a full programme of internal events as well as having four teams in the Portsmouth and District Chess League. A typical evening at Fishbourne Centre would see attendance in the mid-twenties, excluding visiting teams. Members continue to support local congresses.

The club, and league, had settled upon a 70 '+ 10' regime, with game scoring mandatory until a 5 minutes-remaining threshold. Proposals are afoot to change this playing regime across Portsmouth and District Chess League. The

proposed increased increment to 30 seconds is intended to allow a better standard of play in the endgames and requires recording of all moves in a game. We await developments in this regard.

## League teams

In the PDCL the A team were runners up in division 1, the champions being a very strong Fareham team who lost only a single match, to Chichester A.

In division 2, a strong Chichester B won the division narrowly over Fareham C (their B team being in division 1).

In division 3 we had the C and the D teams. The philosophy here remains to provide as much inter-club match experience and opportunity to play different chess players. The C team won this division by a significant margin. The D team finished bottom. A good time was had by all.

In the Cole Cup, the A team narrowly beat Chandlers Ford in the first round, beat Fareham A



## with tournaments to suit players of all abilities

on tie-break (a cracking result) and beat Cosham A 4-1 in the final. The B team lost to Fareham A and then lost narrowly to Plate winners Chandlers Ford in the next round.

My thanks to Bill McDougall, Mike Spence, Allan Reed and Lloyd Jolley as captains of the league teams and to Jaimie Wilson and Mike Spence for captaining the Cole Cup teams.

The club has enjoyed a very full programme of internal events and competitions.

### **The Championship**

The club ran a six-round Swiss tournament again controlled by Steve Smith. Round 1 was seeded but beyond that there was the usual share of unexpected results. This tournament was strong and began with no less than eight former champions in the mix.

Vinuda Gunatilake is the new club champion. Vinuda scored 6/6, defeating three former champions en-route to the title. A magnificent achievement. Andrew McDougall was runner-up, losing only a single game to Vinuda. Other juniors fared well, most notably Laurence Ellett. Congratulations to the podium.

There were 34 championship entries, which is the highest number for many years and promises well. Mike Webber has volunteered to run the Championship for 2025-26. The club is flourishing with this format with the overwhelming

number of games being played on specific round dates. This has generated a fantastic esprit de corps and undoubtedly contributed to membership growth. Engine- assisted analysis continues to be popular with the membership enabling a “game of the round” to be posted by the controller.

### **The Handicap**

This tournament allows ongoing rated games in a tournament context right up to the end of July deadline. In all, 26 members played games in this



**END OF AN ERA: Retiring chairman Steve Smith**







### **GAMES GALORE: A club night at Fishbourne Centre, near Chichester**

tournament and while the number of games played was significantly down on previous years, the standard of competition was not. The winner is Mike Eason. Well done Mike on your win - by a meaningful margin it should be noted. Thanks to Bill McDougall for his work as tournament controller.

#### **The Box Tournament**

A second year for this tournament. Players who entered were those looking for more rated chess in an evolving setting within a dynamic format. The players were divided into four boxes and sorted in ratings order. The basic scoring format was retained. A bonus calculation gave the weaker players a small advantage and playing all your games helped your score. Games played were converted into a percentage and this all melded into scores. Between rounds there are promotions and relegations to mix it up. This worked well because scores were very close and unpredictable.

Congratulations to Graham Ellis on his win in this year's tournament. Graham was promoted twice – a unique experience to date. Also, a special mention to Jaimie Wilson as runner-up

and Remel Ramirez completing the podium. The tournament was once more deemed a success, and we have entries for next season already! Sincerest thanks to Steve Coe as controller of this tournament. Some 69 games were played under full match conditions and, free of team obligations, there were very few draws.

Again, the club organised a Christmas Mayhem Buzzer Tournament – thanks due to controller Bill McDougall - and a great time was had by all; winner was Jaimie Wilson.

During the year and in best erudite tradition, a series of mini-tutorials was held before start of play to look at various motifs. The session on Stalemate proved exceeding popular, showing that a game can sometimes be rescued from the direst situation. Likewise, some Smother mates never cease to amaze with what can be achieved as if by magic. How can chess ever be dull with combinations like these?

The club members have actively participated in many congresses, attending such diverse venues as Fareham, Frome and Portsmouth and Isle of Wight. In May, Bill McDougall played in the Frome Open.

The club looks to build on these achievements in the upcoming season.





# Gerry helps to steer us to safety

**O**UR season can be summed by the phrase ‘a narrow escape’. Just because we were never challenging for the Sussex League Championship does not mean we did not have an exciting and ultimately successful season.

However, at Christmas time this did not look likely as despite the sterling efforts of our young guns; Luke Freeman (season performance 2174) and Elena Currah (season performance 2105) we were floundering at the foot of the table with nil points.

With two teams due to be relegated, our task looked hopeless and with the perennial problem of finding drivers for away games and compounded by our next two away matches due to be played on Fridays, our own club night, the task was even harder.

But with the return of Gerry Michaud to the club in January, 2025, and a hot streak from stalwart Jon Lawrance, we won the next three matches.

This still did not guarantee survival and after two narrow losses in our final matches we were left relying on other results. At one point it looked possible and even likely that there would be a four-

way tie at the bottom with all four teams equal on match points and game points.

In the end we survived – just. (See tables on following page)

Our cup teams were ultimately unsuccessful, however, our one Sussex League trophy was achieved by Smrithi Manoj, who picked up the best individual performance in the Junior Rapidplay League.

In the less frantic environment of our club nights we continued with our format of a junior club with training and organised games followed by the Senior Club rapid play tournaments.

Our junior UK Chess Challenge preliminary tournament played throughout January to March was

split into two sections. Winner, years 7-13, was Shravan on 26 points with Woody runner-up on 19 points. Section years 1-6 was won by Casper on 22 points with his brother, Bertie, close on his heels with 20 points.

The Club Championship was won by long-time member Michael Redman. This could be Michael's last season as he is planning to move to colder climes. We wish him the best of luck and many chess successes in Canada. **David Fryer, secretary**

We were  
floundering at the  
foot of the table



# The great escape....

**Sussex League Division 1 League Table after five matches**

Team	Play	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Points
East Grinstead	5	4	0	1	13½	6½	8
Worthing	5	3	2	0	12	8	8
Brighton & Hove	5	3	1	1	11	9	7
Lewes	5	2	3	0	11	9	7
Hastings & St Leonards	5	2	2	1	11½	8½	6
Horsham 1	5	1	3	1	11	9	5
Eastbourne	5	1	2	2	9	11	4
Haywards Heath	5	0	3	2	9	11	3
Horsham 2	5	0	2	3	8	12	2
Bexhill	5	0	2	3	7	13	2
<b>CROWBOROUGH</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6½</b>	<b>13½</b>	<b>0</b>

**Final League Table**

Team	Play	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Points
Worthing	10	6	3	1	23½	16½	15
East Grinstead	10	7	0	3	25½	14½	14
Brighton & Hove	10	6	2	2	23½	16½	14
Hastings & St Leonards	10	6	2	2	23	17	14
Horsham 1	10	4	3	3	21½	18½	11
Lewes	10	4	3	3	19½	20½	11
Bexhill	10	3	2	5	16½	23½	8
Haywards Heath	10	1	4	5	17½	22½	6
<b>CROWBOROUGH</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>
Eastbourne	10	2	2	6	16½	23½	6
Horsham 2	10	1	3	6	16	24	5



# Club's success is team effort

**A**s chairman, it is with some amount of pride I can submit this annual report on behalf of East Grinstead Chess Club. At our AGM in 2024, the club members felt we should enter a third team in the Sussex League so that we could accommodate all those wishing to represent the club both home and away.

Our club members did us proud and I am pleased to report our 1st team came 2nd in division one, the 2nd team gained promotion from division two to division one and our 3rd team promotion from division 4 to division three.

In addition, we took part in the Paul Watson Trophy, losing in the semi final 2-2 to Lewes, who went forward by winning on the top two boards. Finally, we got through to the final of the McArthur Cup and beat Hastings by 4-2 to win the trophy. This is the second time we have won this trophy in successive years. Well done to everyone involved.

We are also in the second year of

our special competition, The Patrick Moore Trophy, in memory of the well known TV astronomer who was one of the original founders. The competition is open to both new and existing members of grades 1800 and above. Again, eight players signed up and this year there were joint winners, Chris Baker, Peter Kemp and Dan Rosen. Each player will share the cup for the next 12 months.



**SPEED KINGS: Robert Wall, grade 1500 and above, and Robert Dyke, under 1500 grade, winners of the internal rapid play**





**MOORE SUCCESS: Peter Kemp and Dan Rosen, joint winners of the Sir Patrick Moore trophy. Chris Baker was not available.**

I appreciate the support of everyone in the club who works so hard to keep the club running smoothly. I especially want to mention our team captains, Peter Kemp and Robert Wall. Peter captains the 1st team and Robert somehow managed to run the other two teams and two cup competitions.

Robert is also treasurer for the Sussex League. Eric Granzelius efficiently runs the internal competitions and now acts as treasurer. Following last year's AGM we now have a new secretary, Ian Dennis, and Ian makes sure our minutes are correctly recorded.

A special mention for Suzanne Marshall, who is always here with a smile and ensures tea and biscuits are always available. A big thank-you also for the members who turn up regularly to support the club and have made it so successful this year.

We are a small friendly club which meets every Monday - September to May. Our premises at Glen Vue Community Centre offers an ideal space to play chess in a comfortable and quiet location. Anyone thinking of joining us please see our website for further details.

**Robert Dyke**  
chairman





## Feliks Kwiatkowski reports on a busy season...and a notable game

**T**he club completed its season in encouraging shape. We are snug in our settled venue at the St. Francis' Social & Sports Club, where I remind everybody there is cheap Harvey's beer.

The 1st team survived in Division 1 of the Sussex League. Our 2nd team survived in Division 3, while our 3rd team, also in Division

3, hastened to the eager embrace of Division 4 for next season.

Economic security enabled the purchase of several fine new match sets, which I am sure will be a joy to sling around in the coming season. We were graced by the advent of a talented junior, Benjamin Carter, of whom I am sure much will be heard in the coming years.

**White: Viv Cole, Haywards Heath 1 Black: Russell Granat, Worthing 1. Sussex League Division 1, 2024-5, March 17, 2025.**

**Worthing 1, home, v Haywards Heath 1. Board 3.**

1. e4 Nc6; 2. Nf3 e5; 3. Be2 ... [Black tries the irregular Nimzowitsch Defence to the e-pawn, but is rebuffed by the simple Nf3, when transposition to e4/e5 lines is probably soundest. In turn, White tries some irregularity of his own. 3.Be2 is officially known as the Tayler Opening. It is not aggressive, but it obliges the opponent to think for himself.] 3. ... Nf6; 4. d4 Nxe4; [White believes that 4. ... exd4; 5.e5 Ne4; is sounder.] 5. d5 Ne7; 6. Nxe5 Ng6; 7. Qd4 f5?; [Simply ... Qf6=, surely?] 8.Nxg6 hxg6; 9. Qe5+ Kf7; [9. Nc3 or Nd2 would have been more ambitious. After ... Kf7, Black is a little more comfortable.] 10. Be3 Bd6; 11. Qd4 Qe7; [11. ... Re8 was more aggressive, but Black is still comfortable.] 12. Nd2 Be5; 13. Qc4 Bxb2?; [Black lets himself

be bamboozled. Simply 13. ... Nxd2 is adequate. After the move played, 'computer says' that White has an easy time after 14. d6+ ... .] 14. Nxe4 Qxe4; 15. d6+ Ke8; 16. Rb1 Be5; [Surprisingly, if here ... Qxg2; 17. Kd2 ... ; gives White an active game.] 17. Qxe4 fxe4; [The computer likes 17.dxc7 anyway.] 18. dxc7 d5?!; [White points out that this is dubious, and that the simple ... b6 was practically level.] 19. Rb5! ... [Now White has 'that little something'. 19... Bxc7 would have kept the damage to the minimum.] 19. ... Be6?; 20. Rxb7 Rc8; 21. Bxa7 Rxc7; 22. Rxc7 Bxc7; 23. Bd4 Kf7; 24. Kd2 Bf4+; 25. Kc3 Bg5?!; [Both ... Rc8+ and ... Bd7 would have been better, although White remains on top. Now the White plus becomes very serious.] 26. a4! Bf6?!; 27. Bxf6 Kxf6; 28. Kd4 e3!; [Desperation, the idea being that, if now 29.fxe3 ... ; then 29. ... Ra4+ picks up the a-pawn. The computer still assesses White as much better, but why give up the

big passed pawn?] 29. Kxe3! Ke5; 30. f4+ Kd6; 31. Kd4 ... ; [31.a5! is more brutal, but White is now winning anyway.] 31. ... Bd7; 32. a5 Rb8; 33. Ra1 Rb4+; 34. Ke3 Re4+; 35. Kf3 g5; 36. a6 Rxf4+; 37. Ke3 ... ; [37.Kg3 ... is superior, for Black can now grovel with 37. ... Bc6; 38.a7 d4+; , although it's still lost.] 37. ... Re4+; 38. Kd2 Ra4; 39. Rxa4 Bxa4; 40. c4 ... ; [This opens up the long diagonal and emphasises that Black is ruined whatever the reply.] 40. ... dxc4; 41. a7 ... [Black resigns, for ... Bc6 is met by 42.Bf3 ... (1-0).] Have you spotted a truly curious point in this game? After playing the provocative 3.Be2 ... ; the White light-squared bishop did absolutely nothing else in the game, except wait around.

*Notes by Viv Cole and Feliks Kwiatkowski. This was one of the high points of the season for Haywards Heath, as the loser was the County Champion at the time.*

**MORE GAMES - 26-27**

With six teams now all competing in the Sussex League,

# Clocking on for

**H**ORSHAM'S 146th season got off to a good start on the domestic front as we unveiled 20 brand new sets and eight new digital clocks for members to use. Meanwhile, on the international front, Julie Denning started her season by representing Guernsey in their Women's Olympiad team, a fantastic experience out in Budapest!

We were able to expand our Sussex League presence to six teams, matching our previous highest league participation levels. Sadly, we could not maintain the same level of results as last year, with the first team failing to retain their title in a very competitive Division 1 and the second team propping up the table.

The third, fourth and sixth teams all battled hard and enjoyed their chess but the standout performance in Division 3 was the fifth team, which overtook the fourths to finish second and win promotion. This raises the possibility of three Horsham teams in Division

2 next year ...

The Knight trophy for best league performance went to James Ratcliffe with 90%, with Ian Edgson (81%) and Daniel Miller (79% from an amazing 12 games) also performing strongly.

In knockout team chess we fell at the first hurdle in the league knockout and SCCA Paul Watson Trophy, but made it through the first round of the McArthur Cup before losing a very tight semi-final against a strong East Grinstead team.

Thanks as always to all of our captains who do such a great job of giving Horsham players of all standards a chance to represent Horsham in competitive chess.

In the internal club Swiss championship, 37 players competed across 10 rounds in 156 games- 48% were white wins, 37% were black wins plus 15% draws. The Rook (club

championship trophy) was too close to call early on. In round 7

Mark Broom emerged ahead of the pack and he continued unbeaten to stay ahead and win the Rook with



**GUERNSEY PRIDE:** Julie Denning represented the island in their women's Olympiad team



club could have three teams battling it out in division two

# another season

8/10 just ahead of Anthony Higgs and James Mansson on 7.5.

The Bishop (challengers trophy) was led by James Ratcliffe from rounds 4 to 7, only for Ian Edgson to overtake James with a win in their head-to-head in round 8. Ian kept the lead in the final rounds to win the Bishop on 6.5/10 just ahead of James on 6.

Finally, the Knight (second challengers trophy) had many players leading early on. Round 7 saw Jonathan Taylor and Hamish Hockings take the lead, and after a draw in round 9 the two scored 5/10 and were equal on tiebreaks so share the trophy.

In our club cup competitions, James Mansson defeated Marian Trofin in the Knockout final, with James McGrath winning the plate competition for those knocked out in round 1.

The Quickplay Knockout was won by Anthony Higgs, while the plate competition was won by Marian. Anthony also won the Lightning tankard after a three-way final against James Mansson and Daniel Miller, while Alex Taylor won the Rapidplay competition.

As has now become the norm, we finished our season with several chess variants and unusual evenings as the summer approached. Anthony won the Chess960 evening, whilst Mark dominated the King-of-the-Hill blitz with 9.5/10.

A Racing Kings arena competition saw Peter Rankin victorious, and a Hand & Brain round robin tournament was won by Daniel Miller and Jordy

Savill in the very last game to finish. The season ended with a more sedate analysis evening, with Mark and Anthony running through some club members' games and giving some (hopefully!) helpful advice...

Sadly, we had no pub chess over the summer break as the Malt Shovel has closed down after many years as our usual watering hole.

Some tentative steps have been made into other establishments in search of a suitable venue for

celebrating and commiserating in equal measure... We also say goodbye to Alex Taylor, who after eight years at the club (including his role as tournament controller) is now moving to Thailand - we wish him well.

The Peter Alford Cup for best junior performance of 2025 goes to Iaroslav Sinkevich for his all-round improvement and excellent scores in the end of season events.

Mike Forster and Andy Collins continue to do a fantastic job as junior club coaches, bringing on several players who are representing Sussex at county junior events. James Ratcliffe continues to climb up the rating list with excellent performances.

We will reconvene for our AGM in early September and look forward to another busy season. Please check our website [horshamchessclub.org.uk](http://horshamchessclub.org.uk) for news, club details and match reports.

We are looking into possibly holding a congress in Horsham in 2026 so stay tuned...

**Anthony Higgs, secretary**

We are looking  
into holding a  
congress in 2026





**WINNING WAYS:** Jayden Hill, Arran Airlie, Oliver Christian, Joseph Wright and Brian Stockham

# Club goes back a very long way

**T**HE last year has again been one of change. Our long-standing secretary, Mark Attree, and treasurer, Steve Perris, to both of whom we owe a great debt of gratitude, had to step down due to illness, and have been replaced respectively by Joseph Wright and Ian Archbold. We have had a positive year as we re-entered the Sussex League proper for the first time since pre-pandemic and in division 4 we started really well,

leading the division for a good part of the season and remaining in contention for the title throughout. That had not been the expectation as we were considering rotating other members in just for the experience, but to aspire towards at least promotion we felt we had to try and maintain the same team season-long, which was fortunately possible. However, in the end we finished third, by just one point from the two promoted teams, losing





a couple of matches by just the half or one point, but eventually with a higher game points score than any other in the division, which bodes well for the future.

Both Arran Airlie and Joseph Wright had a share in the division's top player tankard at the League AGM. In the Sussex League Knockout we lost 1.5-4.5 to our traditional *bête-noires* at Lewes in the first round quarter-final.

In the Sussex County Chess Association Paul Watson Trophy, we beat Bexhill 2 in the quarter-final 4-0 and went to Bexhill to play their first team in the semi-final fully expecting revenge, but pushed them closer than we expected, only losing 1.5-2.5 - but it was close!

We have been online as a club at Chess.com for many years now and in the last year we again registered a positive total, with four wins and three losses and on the club

leaderboard are in the top 0.6% of the hundreds of thousands of clubs on there; we played teams from Kuwait, Haiti and the Mississippi as well as some with more exotic names.

Club strength online has grown a little, but it is appreciated that many do not favour the three days per move approach, albeit faster chess is available each week in our club sessions over the board as well as separately to the club members online, so this longer correspondence-style play enables analysis and longer considered activity for those with busy lives.

As hoped for last year, we have attracted some new players by recruiting at the local Lions fete and with a new Facebook page, but would still 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 stronger experienced players (drivers would be useful, too). We run a number of club competitions through the year. Winners were: Jayden Hill, top Junior; Arran Airlie, Knockout Cup; Oliver Christian, Handicap Split (too complicated to explain!); Joseph Wright, Grand Prix trophy; and the author of this report, Standard Play (60 mins), Rapid Play (30 mins) and Blitz (5

mins), which still goes to show that regular attendance at sessions counts for as much as and definitely more than talent!

We face a new season with much greater confidence. We have changed our financial structure without a substantial

raise in fees by offering discounts if subscriptions are paid in advance, which has seen us achieve much greater stability. We are seriously contemplating entering an additional team in the Sussex League in the new season, as well as a junior team.

Our confidence has been boosted with research which has proven a much longer history for the club than we previously thought, as a chess club has existed in the town since 1887 when it was part of The Uckfield Institute in the High Street, which was eventually replaced by the still active Uckfield Club.

That has also fuelled a sense of responsibility for us to do our best to maintain our club and drive the mission to see it flourish.

**Brian Stockham, chairman**

We face a new season with much greater confidence



**White: F. J Kwiatkowski, Sussex 1 Black: Graeme Buckley IM, Surrey 1. Sussex 1 v Surrey 1, January 18, 2025. Hassocks. Board 3/16. All moves in 120 mins. ; 10 sec. increment.**

*Sicilian Defence, Sozin variation*

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Bc4 [The respectable move is 6.Bg5 ... ]  
6. ...Qb6 7. Ndb5!? a6 8. Be3 Qa5 9. Nd4 e6 [If  
9. ... Nxe4 10. Qfe with complications.] 10. O-O  
Qc7! [Black has no problems, and sets about  
establishing a plus against my planless play.]

11. Be2 Be7 12. f4 O-O 13. Qe1 Nxd4 14. Bxd4 e5  
15. Be3 exf4 16. Rxf4 Be6 17. Rd1 Nd7 18. Qd2  
(18. Qg3) 18... Bf6 (18... Bg5) 19. Rf2 Bxc3 20.  
Qxc3 Qxc3 21. bxc3 Rfc8 [I wanted to foment  
fiddling chances with my bishops, before Black  
could cash in on my weak pawns. Black got careless  
and overconfident, so I achieved success beyond my  
expectations.] 22. Rxd6 Rxc3 23. Bd3 Ra3 24. Rd2  
Rc8 25. Kf2? ... [The machine suggests 25.e5 ... ,  
and if ... Nxe5 26.Be4 ...] 25. ... Kf8 ?! [Just 25. ...  
Rxa2.] 26. Bf4 Rxa2 27. Rd4 Ke8 28. Bd6 f6 29.  
Rb4 Rc6 [29. ... b5 is simpler with a strong Black  
plus.]

30. e5! fxe5?! [Still ... b5, and Black looks better.  
Now the bishops suddenly become active, with each  
side short of time.] 31. Bxh7 b5 32. Bg6+ Kd8 33.  
Bxe5 ... [I suspect Black had missed that this is  
possible, due to the pin.] 33. ... Kc8? 34. Bxg7 Kc7  
[White now has a strong plus.] 35. h4 Bc4 36. h5  
Nf6 37. Rb1 ... [The Rook is useless where it  
stands, and must be re-routed.] 37. ... Ra3 38. Re1  
Ng4+ 39. Kg1 a5 [Note that White must take care  
not to blunder into a back-rank mate – the a1 square  
must be watched. At this point, I had 8 minutes left,  
plus the increment, while Black had 22 seconds,  
plus the increment. This influenced the rest of the  
game. ] 40. Re7+ Kb8 41. Re8+ Kc7 42. Re7+ Kb8  
43. h6 Nxh6 44. Bxh6? ... [Winning a piece and

retaining a winning game, but NOT the best move!  
Rd8+ followed by Bf4+ forces mate.] 44. ... Ra1+  
45. Kh2 Rf1 46. g3 Be6 47. Be4 Ra6 48. Bf4+? ...  
[Wins material, but 48. Rd8+ Bc8 49. Rb7+ forces  
mate.] 48. ... Rxf4 49. gxf4 ... [Still Rd8+...] 49. ...  
Bc8 50. Rd5 Rb6 51. Bd3 Ba6 52. Ree5 b4 53.  
Bxa6 Rxa6 54. Rxa5 ... [And here Black decided  
that not even I could mess up the position, and  
resigned. Never mind the quality, feel the win.]  
1-0.

**White: F. J Kwiatkowski. Black: Matthew Payne. Sussex County Championship 2024-25, Round 1. February 8, 2025, at Worthing. 40 moves in 120 mins. and adjourn.**

*French Defence, Tarrasch Variation*

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 c5 4. exd5 Qxd5 [This is  
probably the soundest way of meeting the Tarrasch  
Variation.] 5. Ngf3 cxd4 6. Bc4 Qd8 7. O-O Nc6 8.  
Nb3 Nf6 9. Nbx4 Nxd4 10. Nxd4 a6 11. Re1 Qc7  
[We arrive at a position that could be reached after  
the traditional 6. ... Qd6. There are a number of  
reasonable moves that can now be tried. 12.Bb3  
Bd6; 13.Nf5!? Bxh2+ has been worked out over  
many games to a near-certain draw, so I went with  
one of the other ideas.]

12. Bf1!? ... [The idea is that the bishop can work  
on the b1-h7 diagonal.] 12. ... Bd6 13. Nf5!?  
Bxh2+ 14. Kh1 O-O [ I shall just mention that 14.  
... Kf8 is a sober alternative.] 15. Nxg7! Rd8 16.  
Bd3! Kxg7 17. Qd2 Ng8 18. Qg5+ Kh8 19. f4 ...  
[This is a known position, where ...f6 has been  
played at master level, with some White advantage.  
Black can also try 19. ... Bxf4 20.Bxf4 ... This  
wins a White pawn, at the cost of conceding the  
bishop pair and an open King. Black took the  
professional decision to bail out into an ending.] 20.  
...Qe7! [TN] 20. Kxh2 Rd5 21. Qxe7 Nxe7 [White  
is now just better, and I could have applied pressure  
with 22.Be4 ... , followed by 23.b3 ... I expect

Black can hold, but it's delicate. So why didn't I do that? Well, we were playing at a venue with some truly abnormal features, and I let the playing conditions get to me.] 22. Bd2?! Bd7 23. Bc3+ Kg8 24. g4 h5?! [Probably unnecessary. Maybe 24. ... Bb5 25.Be4 Rd7 ; with only a small plus.] 25. Be4?! ... [Missing 25.Kg3 ... ; threat Rh1.] 25. ... hxg4! 26. Bxd5? ...; [Still 26.Kg3 ...] 26. ...Nxd5 [Now Black has no problems at all.] 27. Bd2 ... [27.Bd4 ... would have kept a little something, giving up a pawn to keep the Bishop active.] 27. ... Rc8 28. Rac1 f5 29. c4 Nf6 30. Bc3 Ne4 31. Be5 Bc6.

Agreed drawn on Black's proposal ½ - ½

**White: Matthew Payne. Black: F. J Kwiatkowski. Sussex County Championship 2024-25, Round 1 replay. April 24, 2025, at Haywards Heath Chess Club. 36 moves in 90 mins. and adjourn.**

*Sicilian Defence, Sveshnikov Variation*

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. Nab1!? ... [This is starting to become fashionable, instead of the usual Nd5.] Be7 10. Bxf6 Bxf6 11. a4 b4 12. Nd5 O-O 13. Bc4 Bg5 14. O-O a5 15. Qd3 Bb7 16. c3 bxc3? [The start of an unwise plan.] 17. Nbxc3 ... [Now 9.Nab1 is fully justified, as a knight which frequently stands offside in the usual 9.Nd5 lines comes to a good square.] 17. ... Nb8? [17... Rb8 is still a fight,] 18. Ne3?! ... [Just 18. Nb5 or 18.Rfd1 gives an easy game.] 18. ... Bxe3? [18. ... Nd7 or 18. ... Na6 was still a fight.] 19. fxe3 Na6 20. Rad1! Qc7? [White was seriously better but this was a blunder which I cannot explain. End of game. ] 21. Nb5 Qe7 22. Qxd6 Qg5 23. Rxf7 Qxe3+ 24. Kh1 Rxf7 25. Qd8+! [Black resigns. ] 1-0 .

**Mansson, James C - Noyce, Robert C  
Sussex League Division 1 , March 10, 2025**

Time control: 65 minutes plus 30 second increment  
- Match played at East Grinstead **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nxd5 4.d4 g6** Black chooses a risky line of the Scandinavian. **5.c4 Nb6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.h3 0-0 8.Be2 Nc6 9.Be3 e5 10.d5 Ne7 11.g4 f5 12.Qb3** White has tremendous pressure on Black's position. **12...Kh8?** [12...e4 looks a better try.] **13.0-0-0 e4 14.Ng5 h6 15.Ne6 Bxe6 16.dxe6 Qb8 17.c5 Nbc8** Black pieces are driven back into horribly passive positions. Objectively, he is lost, but White still needs to play carefully. **18.Bd4** This is fine, but putting the rook on d7 at once is more incisive, as ...c6 then just loses a pawn. [18.Rd7! c6 19.Qxb7 Qxb7 20.Rxb7 f4 21.Bd2 Nd5 22.Nxd5 cxd5 23.Bb5+-] **18...c6 19.Bxg7+ Kxg7 20.Rd7 b6 21.Rhd1 Qf4+** Black offered a draw, but White naturally declined! [21...bxc5 22.Qc2! Qe5 23.gxf5 gxf5 24.Na4+- followed by Nxc5.] **22.Kb1 Qxf2 23.Ba6!** White threatens Bxc8, winning a piece. Even though Black can meet the immediate threat, the possibility of Bxc8 at some point remains a problem for him. **23...Re8 24.gxf5 gxf5 25.Ne2!** White prepares by Qc3+ and Rg1+. **25...Qxc5** Black has no defence, so he decides to grab the pawn and hope. [25...Qf3 26.Qa4+-] **26.Qg3+ Kh7** [26...Kf6 27.Nf4+-; 26...Kf8 27.Nf4+-; 26...Kh8 27.Qh4+-] **27.Rg1 Rg8** This allows an immediate finish, but White was clearly winning in any case. **28.Qxg8# 1-0.**

**James Mansson**



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