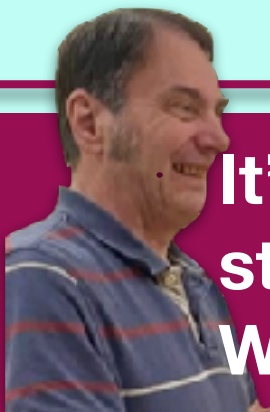


SUSSEX CHESS NEWS

2026



Future looks bright in their hands



**It's a titanic
struggle for
Wilson Cup**



**Conquest
delivers a
masterclass**

CLUBS**Bognor & Arun 11-12****Brighton & Hove 13-14****Chichester 15-18****Crowborough 19****East Grinstead 20-22****Haywards Heath 23-24****Horsham 25-27****Uckfield 28-30****Worthing 31****INFO****Who's Who 40****TOURNAMENTS****McArthur Cup 3****Paul Watson Trophy 3****Wilson Cup 4****COUNTY****Open Team 5****Tables 5 & 9****Results 6-9****Minor Counties 9****REPORTS****ECF delegate 10****Games 32-38****Obituary 39***Editor: Mick Plumb**Proofreading: Keith Davies***13****20****28****17**

Paul Watson Trophy

ELEVEN teams competed this year, which I believe is a record. The rating limited format encourages close matches and gives many clubs a decent chance of progress.

In the western semi-final, East Grinstead beat Bognor & Arun 3-1, but unfortunately Crowborough defaulted the other semi-final to Hastings & St Leonards. Hastings undoubtedly deserved their place in the final though, having defeated defending champions Lewes by 2.5 1.5 in the first

round, and then won a nail-biting local derby against Bexhill in the quarter final.

The final was evenly matched, East Grinstead finally winning with the only decisive game.

Board	East Grinstead	Result	Hastings & St. Leonards
1	Dan Rosen	0.5-0.5	John Sugden
2	Michael Dams	1-0	Henry Cove
3	Robert Wall	0.5-0.5	James Wheeler
4	Graham Robertson	0.5-0.5	Adrian Cove
		2.5-1.5	

Reports by Peter Farr

McArthur Cup

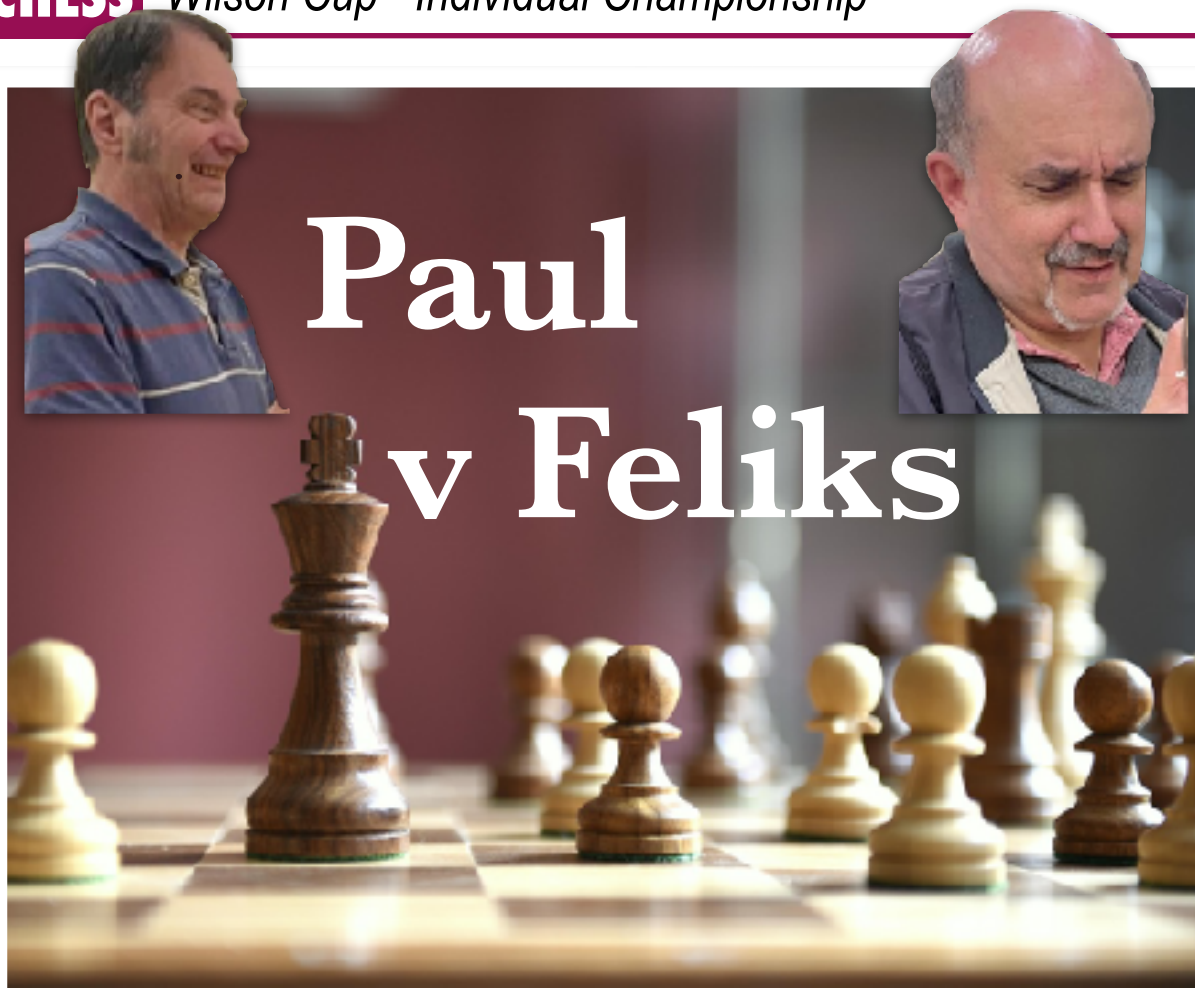
A STRONG group of eight teams contested this year. The first round was notable for Sussex University ambushing defending champions East Grinstead, winning 4-2 courtesy of victories on the top two boards.

However, the university were then defeated in the semi-final by Horsham, who had won their heavyweight first round encounter against Brighton & Hove.

The second semi-final, Hastings & St. Leonards v Lewes, was notable for being played on Good Friday, a date offered by Hastings with an accompanying promise of hot cross buns. These were duly delivered, freshly toasted, by the ever-excellent Marc Bryant. At the board, Lewes scraped through a close match by 4-2.

In the final, Lewes were short of their best two players, due to university and A level commitments, and lost a tight contest to Horsham, who ran out worthy winners by 3.5-2.5. Key to Horsham's overall success this year were the performances of Gavin Lock and Mark Broom on the top two boards, both scoring 2.5/3.

Board	Lewes	Result	Horsham
1	Matthew Masani	0-1	Gavin Lock
2	Peter Farr	0-1	Mark Broom
3	Calum Kinloch	1-0	James Mansson
4	Richard Welford	0-1	Anthony Higgs
5	Alex Von Der Becke	1-0	Philip Stimpson
6	Joseph Wright	0.5-0.5	James McGrath
		2.5-3.5	



There were only two entrants to the event this season. The two entrants were myself and Feliks Kwiatkowski. As there were only two players involved, both were admitted to the two-game final.

In the first encounter, I was to win with the white pieces. The opening was an Anti-Grünfeld.

In the second encounter, Feliks was also to win with the white pieces. The opening in the second game was a Sicilian Najdorf variation. The scores were now tied 1-1.

If either player wished, a further two games would have to be played. This rule was applied as one of the participants wanted to follow this course. Colours were drawn again for games 3 and 4.

In the third game, I had the white pieces and the result was a draw.

The opening was another Anti-Grünfeld. For the fourth game, it was Feliks' turn to have the white pieces. This game was to go my way as I emerged victorious. The opening was a Sicilian Najdorf. I was to win by 2.5-1.5.

Paul Batchelor/*Games 32-35*

County wins are hard to come by

FIRST up, Sussex played Kent away. The fixture was played on Saturday, October 25, at Our Lady of the Crays, Church Hatt. Kent were to prove very strong opposition - triumphing by 12-4, with Sussex wins being recorded by Jaimie Wilson and Mark Broom.

The second fixture saw Sussex at home to Surrey. Surrey were the reigning ECF national champions, having won the event earlier in July. Our fixture took place on Saturday, November 15.

We fared slightly better than in our opening fixture but still lost by 5.5-10.5. There was one Sussex winner, Sergey Korshunov.

For the third fixture, we were away to Middlesex, who won by 11.5-4.5. Sussex winners were Feliks Kwiatkowski, Alan Palmer and me.

We were to face Middlesex again next. This time, we were the home side. Middlesex were to win by the same margin - 11.5-4.5. There were two Sussex winners, Joseph Wright and Oliver Froom.

The penultimate Southern Counties fixture saw Sussex at home side against Kent. This was our closest fixture so far. We lost narrowly by 7.5-8.5. Winners for Sussex on the day were Oliver Froom, Peter Farr, Brian Denman and Cattum Brewer.

Lastly, we faced Surrey away. The fixture was played on Saturday, March 7, at The Cheam Parochial Rooms. Surrey won by 13-3, our heaviest defeat of the season. Simon Wrigley was the sole Sussex winner on this occasion.

Paul Batchelor

CHAMPIONSHIP - FINAL TABLE						
	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	Pts
1	Surrey CCA A	6	6	0	0	12
2	Middlesex CCA A	6	4	0	2	8
3	Kent CA A	6	2	0	4	4
4	Sussex CCA A	6	0	0	6	0

KENT 12 SUSSEX 4 October 25, 2025					
1 (B)	2370 (2407)	Taylor, Martin R	1 - 0	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2191 (2209)
2 (W)	2240 (2206)	Chandler, Cliff R	0 - 1	Broom, Mark	2110 (2126)
3 (B)	2187 (2147)	Snape, Ian L	0 - 1	Wilson, Jaimie	2119 (2144)
4 (W)	2165 (2140)	Hanreck, Alan E	½ - ½	Mansson, James C	2072 (2056)
5 (B)	2141 (2093)	Compton, Alistair	1 - 0	Newman, Stephen J	2048 (2014)
6 (W)	2132 (2117)	Roberts, Mike	1 - 0	Farr, Peter G	2037 (1991)
7 (B)	2109 (2120)	Talsma, Paul A	1 - 0	Batchelor, Paul A	2004 (1913)
8 (W)	2080 (2104)	Baltrunas, Evaldas	½ - ½	Wrigley, Simon	1960 (1958)
9 (B)	2035 (2036)	Stock, Tobias W	½ - ½	Pickersgill, Adrian O	1829 (1852)
10 (W)	1999 (1952)	Clear, David E	½ - ½	Palmer, Alan H	1820 (1834)
11 (B)	2004 (2004)	Sugden, John N	1 - 0	Edwards, Paul	1764 (1669)
12 (W)	1891 (1850)	Tucker, David S	1 - 0	Woods, Timothy J	1616 (1585)
13 (B)	2049 (2058)	Kolomvas, Dimitrios	1 - 0(def)	Default	
14 (W)	1991 (1963)	Keenan, Brendan	1 - 0(def)	Default	
15 (B)	1921 (1916)	Stanchev, Stoyko	1 - 0(def)	Default	
16 (W)	1850 (1857)	Allen, John P	1 - 0(def)	Default	

SUSSEX 5.5 SURREY 10.5 November 15, 2025					
1 (B)	2378 (2443)	Korshunov, Sergey	1 - 0	Banerjee, Supratit	2431 (2512)
2 (W)	2269 (2222)	Rutherford, Luke E	0 - 1	Buckley, Graeme N	2345 (2381)
3 (B)	2191 (2209)	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	½ - ½	Carroll, Thomas	2291 (2307)
4 (W)	2171 (2161)	Payne, Matthew J	½ - ½	Price, Gwilym T	2271 (2320)
5 (B)	2110 (2126)	Broom, Mark	0 - 1	Povah, Nigel E	2250 (2228)
6 (W)	2119 (2144)	Wilson, Jaimie	0 - 1	Baker, Chris W	2227 (2225)
7 (B)	2072 (2056)	Mansson, James C	½ - ½	Lalic, Susan	2225 (2207)
8 (W)	2067 (2081)	Rayner, Francis	½ - ½	Luk, Danbe	2214 (2210)
9 (B)	2048 (2014)	Newman, Stephen J	½ - ½	Stewart, Ashley	2164 (2214)
10 (W)	2037 (1991)	Farr, Peter G	0 - 1	Hawksworth, John	2202 (2158)
11 (B)	2004 (1913)	Batchelor, Paul A	0 - 1	Josse, Mark	2164 (2150)
12 (W)	1865 (2018)	Eldridge, Albert	½ - ½	Rosen, Daniel B	2108 (2074)
13 (B)	1927 (1905)	Cove, Henry	½ - ½	Osborne, Marcus E	2126 (2120)
14 (W)	1911 (1918)	Honarvarmahalati, Hooman	½ - ½	Frostick, Clive A	2097 (2139)
15 (B)	1829 (1852)	Pickersgill, Adrian O	0 - 1	Hasson, Peter	2096 (2084)
16 (W)	1801 (1859)	Wheeler, James M	½ - ½	Noyce, Robert	2038 (2026)

MIDDLESEX 11.5 SUSSEX 4.5 December 13, 2025					
1 (B)	2386 (2436)	Badacsonyi, Stanley	1 - 0	Adams, Henry	2212 (2247)
2 (W)	2374 (2349)	Gallana, Marco	0 - 1	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2191 (2209)
3 (B)	2307 (2318)	Bates, Richard A	½ - ½	Wilson, Jaimie	2119 (2144)
4 (W)	2347 (2319)	Tiruchirapalli, Venkataramanan	1 - 0	Mansson, James C	2072 (2056)
5 (B)	2344 (2267)	Lewis, Andrew P	½ - ½	Newman, Stephen J	2048 (2014)
6 (W)	2199 (2225)	Rida, Ruqayyah	½ - ½	Hedger, Alec	2031 (2094)
7 (B)	2011 (1963)	Mackenzie, Colin	0 - 1	Batchelor, Paul A	2004 (1913)
8 (W)	2241 (2239)	Hill, Alistair	1 - 0	Eldridge, Albert	1865 (2018)
9 (B)	2168 (2225)	Eames, Robert S	1 - 0	Cove, Henry	1927 (1905)
10 (W)	2176 (2181)	Stone, Andrew M	1 - 0	Honarvarmahalati, Hooman	1911 (1918)
11 (B)	2152 (2159)	Jain, Gautam R	1 - 0	Pickersgill, Adrian O	1829 (1852)
12 (W)	2134 (2137)	Mogilarov, Dimitar	1 - 0	Wheeler, James M	1801 (1859)
13 (B)	2117 (2080)	Gilfillan, Andrew	0 - 1	Palmer, Alan H	1820 (1834)
14 (W)	2058 (2061)	Davey, Mark	1 - 0	Edwards, Paul	1764 (1669)
15 (B)	2079 (2051)	Pedersen, Carsten	1 - 0	Wright, Joseph	1737 (1791)
16 (W)	2052 (2009)	Coles, Steven F	1 - 0	Woods, Timothy J	1616 (1585)

SUSSEX 4.5 MIDDLESEX 11.5 January 31, 2026					
1 (W)	2191 (2209)	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	½ - ½	Bates, Richard A	2307 (2318)
2 (B)	2119 (2144)	Wilson, Jaimie	0 - 1	Eames, Robert S	2168 (2225)
3 (W)	2110 (2126)	Broom, Mark	0 - 1	Wilks, Simon	2171 (2226)
4 (B)	0000 (2075)	Denman, Brian J	0 - 1	Stone, Andrew M	2176 (2181)
5 (W)	2072 (2056)	Mansson, James C	0 - 1	Bryant, Harry	2141 (2281)
6 (B)	2048 (2014)	Newman, Stephen J	0 - 1	Gilfillan, Andrew	2117 (2080)
7 (W)	2025 (2008)	James, Geoffrey H	½ - ½	Davey, Mark	2058 (2061)
8 (B)	2037 (1991)	Farr, Peter G	½ - ½	Pedersen, Carsten	2079 (2051)
9 (W)	1992 (1998)	Froom, Oliver	1 - 0	Coles, Steven F	2052 (2009)
10 (B)	1960 (1958)	Wrigley, Simon	0 - 1	Zadymov, Ihor	2042 (2058)
11 (W)	2004 (1913)	Batchelor, Paul A	0 - 1	Senior, Gary	2050 (2047)
12 (B)	1829 (1852)	Pickersgill, Adrian O	0 - 1	Teslya, Sergiy	2096 (2059)
13 (W)	1801 (1859)	Wheeler, James M	½ - ½	Mackenzie, Colin	2011 (1963)
14 (B)	1820 (1834)	Palmer, Alan H	½ - ½	Calvert, D Ian	1968 (1927)
15 (W)	1737 (1791)	Wright, Joseph	1 - 0	Rubeck, Jonathan	1917 (1928)
16 (B)	1764 (1669)	Edwards, Paul	0 - 1	Cowan, Xavier	1918 (1853)

SUSSEX 7.5 KENT 8.5 February 21, 2026					
1 (W)	2191 (2209)	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	½ - ½	Taylor, Martin R	2370 (2407)
2 (W)	2192 (2229)	Brewer, Callum D	1 - 0	Verbytski, Oleg	2207 (2332)
3 (W)	2110 (2126)	Broom, Mark	0 - 1	Jakhria, Kushal	2134 (2236)
4 (W)	2171 (2161)	Payne, Matthew J	½ - ½	Hanreck, Alan E	2165 (2140)
5 (W)	2119 (2144)	Wilson, Jaimie	0 - 1	Snape, Ian L	2187 (2147)
6 (W)	2072 (2056)	Mansson, James C	½ - ½	Roberts, Mike	2132 (2117)
7 (W)	2048 (2014)	Newman, Stephen J	0 - 1	Talsma, Paul A	2109 (2120)
8 (W)	1865 (2018)	Eldridge, Albert	0 - 1	Hartley, Luke	2005 (2008)
9 (W)	0000 (2075)	Denman, Brian J	1 - 0	Ponting, Andrew	1998 (1977)
10 (W)	2025 (2008)	James, Geoffrey H	½ - ½	Sugden, John N	2004 (2004)
11 (W)	2037 (1991)	Farr, Peter G	1 - 0	Brown, John	1903 (1934)
12 (W)	1992 (1998)	Froom, Oliver	1 - 0	Stanchev, Stoyko	1921 (1916)
13 (W)	1960 (1958)	Wrigley, Simon	½ - ½	Tucker, David S	1891 (1850)
14 (W)	2004 (1913)	Batchelor, Paul A	0 - 1	Morris, David R	1896 (1936)
15 (W)	1801 (1859)	Wheeler, James M	½ - ½	Douglas, Daniel	1786 (1862)
16 (W)	1829 (1852)	Pickersgill, Adrian O	½ - ½	Anstead, Jerry	1831 (1816)

SURREY 13 SUSSEX 3 March 7, 2026					
1 (W)	2345 (2381)	Buckley, Graeme N	1 - 0	Brewer, Callum D	2192
2 (W)	2238 (2286)	Han, Qixiang	½ - ½	Wilson, Jaimie	2119
3 (W)	2271 (2320)	Price, Gwilym T	1 - 0	Broom, Mark	2110
4 (W)	2250 (2228)	Povah, Nigel E	½ - ½	Mansson, James C	2072
5 (W)	2227 (2225)	Baker, Chris W	1 - 0	Denman, Brian J	0000
6 (W)	2164 (2214)	Stewart, Ashley	½ - ½	Newman, Stephen J	2048
7 (W)	2135 (2268)	Lishoy Gengis Paratazham, Dildarav	1 - 0	James, Geoffrey H	2025
8 (W)	2201 (2185)	Kueh, Audrey	0 - 1	Wrigley, Simon	1960
9 (W)	2202 (2158)	Hawksworth, John	1 - 0	Batchelor, Paul A	2004
10 (W)	2091 (2134)	Kilambi, Venkata Ananth Akshay	½ - ½	Pickersgill, Adrian O	1829
11 (W)	2057 (2111)	Dishman, Matthew	1 - 0	Palmer, Alan H	1820
12 (W)	2133 (2156)	Keane, Graham DJ	1 - 0	Wright, Joseph	1737
13 (W)	2126 (2120)	Osborne, Marcus E	1 - 0	Edwards, Paul	1764
14 (W)	2097 (2139)	Frostick, Clive A	1 - 0	Woods, Timothy J	1616
15 (W)	0000 ()	Not Named	1 - 0(def)	Default	0000
16 (W)	0000 ()	Not Named	1 - 0(def)	Default	0000

SUSSEX 6.5 CAMBRIDGESHIRE 9.5, May 9, 2026					
1 (B)	2191 (2209)	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	0 - 1	Haubro, Martin	2492 (2503)
2 (W)	2119 (2144)	Wilson, Jaimie	0 - 1	Mihalik, Agoston	2239 (2245)
3 (B)	2136 (2147)	Lowe, Daniel	0 - 1	Bott, Simeon	2130 (2166)
4 (W)	2110 (2126)	Broom, Mark	0 - 1	Davison, Chris	2150 (2130)
5 (B)	2067 (2081)	Rayner, Francis	1 - 0	Fleming, Nigel D	2043 (2028)
6 (W)	0000 (2075)	Denman, Brian J	1 - 0	Coleman, Robbie	2049 (2033)
7 (B)	2072 (2056)	Mansson, James C	1 - 0	Linton, Alexander	1932 (2041)
8 (W)	2048 (2014)	Newman, Stephen J	0 - 1	Fallon, Philip S	2011 (1990)
9 (B)	2025 (2008)	James, Geoffrey H	0 - 1	Sha, Linhao	1805 (1950)
10 (W)	2037 (1991)	Farr, Peter G	1 - 0	Hutchinson, Norman A	1939 (1913)
11 (B)	1960 (1958)	Wrigley, Simon	0 - 1	Scheffler, Konrad	1935 (1920)
12 (W)	2004 (1913)	Batchelor, Paul A	0 - 1	Bowers, Francis J	1870 (1888)
13 (B)	1927 (1905)	Cove, Henry	1 - 0	Calvert, George	1747 (1841)
14 (W)	1801 (1859)	Wheeler, James M	½ - ½	Hampton, Christopher	1855 (1853)
15 (B)	1820 (1834)	Palmer, Alan H	½ - ½	Caraway, Samuel	1806 (1816)
16 (W)	1764 (1669)	Edwards, Paul	½ - ½	Briginshaw, James A	1754 (1737)

Team's high fives

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Devon 8.5 Worcestershire 7.5		
	Devon 6 Cambridgeshire 10	
Sussex 6.5 Cambridgeshire 9.5		Cambridgeshire 8* Norfolk 8 * win on tie break
	Lincolnshire 7.5 Norfolk 8.5	

SUSSEX were invited again to take part in the Minor Counties event following the conclusion of the

Southern Counties Open section. The quarter-final draw pared us against Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire, as the away side, sought an in-between venue. Wanstead House in London offered to host this match, and this was accepted by both sides.

The match took place on Saturday, May 9, with Cambridgeshire going on to triumph by 9.5-6.5.

Five wins for Sussex were recorded by Henry Cove, Peter Farr, James Mansson, Brian Denman and Francis Rayner.

This was the highest number of Sussex winners for a Sussex side during the 2025/26 season.

Paul Batchelor

All change at the top

THERE were a number of key people changes at the English Chess Federation in 2025, the main one being a new chief executive, Richard Walsh from Lancashire, taking over from the retiring Mike Truran, who led the ECF very ably over the past few years, including steering the organisation through the covid years.

Richard is new to the Board, and something of an unknown quantity, to those south of Manchester at least, but he appears to have a good reputation.

Meanwhile, there is also a new finance director, Eugene Kornilovich.

It's a little depressing that of the 10 executive positions voted on at the 2025 AGM, all were uncontested. In some cases, where an incumbent was standing again, this

no doubt represented a vote of confidence, but I feel it's a worrying signal that it's hard to fill positions.

It's also not a great look that all 10 roles were taken by men (though the role of director of Women's Chess, not up for election this year, is thankfully held by a woman, and there are a few women officers reporting into board numbers).

More positively, ECF membership numbers appear to be holding up well, given some concerns with the new rolling membership scheme, while the finances also appear to be reasonably healthy.

Also, it appears that government cultural funding will continue until 2029 at least. As ever, there is debate in the ECF around how much to spend/invest in the future as opposed to holding money for a rainy day; a tale as old as time.

Peter Farr

It's a worrying
signal that it's hard
to fill positions

**SAD
LOSS:** Bill
Partridge,
who died
earlier
this year,
below,
and, right,
a club
night gets
underway



Fond farewell to club legend



UNBEATEN: Jaimie Wilson retained the Club
Championship

Jaimie Wilson held on to his Championship title for another year, with a highly impressive score of 13/14. Runner-up was Peter Christmas, with a no less impressive 10.5/12.

Jaimie Wilson also featured regularly for Sussex A throughout the season and came joint second in the Portsmouth Individual Championship, played in rapid format at Emsworth Chess Club.

Sidhanth Pai has emerged as a strong challenger to Jaimie - his grade has gone from 1164 to 2141 in just three years - and reached the final of the club Knockout tournament which he won the previous year. He faces either Steve Smith or Joe Pettitt in the final.

Sidhanth won the club's pre-Christmas Blitz tournament, overcoming Jaimie in a two-match play-off after they both finished on 4.5/5. Steve finished on 3/5, followed by Martyn Gillmor, Alan Matthews, Joe and Mick Plumb, all on 2.5/5.

Sidhanth capped his season off with an amazing performance at the British Chess Championships in Coventry, becoming a double British champion after winning the Under 14s and Under 14s rapid. He improved on his grade

of 1996 with a tournament rating of 2269.

Earlier in the year, he competed against the country's best under-12s in the 2025 UK Chess Challenge Terafinal. He found the initial rounds tough going but ended extremely strongly, winning his final four games to finish on 5/12. Sidhanth was joint winner of the U18 Major Sussex junior grand prix in Worthing with 4.5/6.

The club had an excellent result in its Paul Watson trophy semi-final match v Sussex University, winning 2.5-1.5, but lost to their next opponents, East Grinstead, 3-1, finding it tough against strong opponents whose average rating was 1,815 compared to our 1,725.

Halfway through the campaign, the club received the sad news that its former chairman, Bill Partridge, had died after contracting pneumonia. Bill was a significant figure in the club's recent history, being its former treasurer and chairman for many years and one of the club's strongest players.

A blitz tournament followed the annual meeting and was won by Mick Plumb with 5/5, followed by Jaimie, second, with 4/5 and third, Keith Davies and Martyn, with 3/5.

The club opted for a summer break this season and resumed on Friday, September 4.

Mick Plumb, chairman



TERRIFIC YEAR: Sidhanth Pai, who enjoyed success at the British Chess Championships ... as well as at Bognor & Arun



STOOPING TO CONQUEST: Grandmaster Stuart Conquest gives a simul display

Grandmasters turn on the style

VERY often in chess you can find a link to the greats of the past, say Bobby Fischer, if you look hard enough.

In a scene from the 1966 film *Funeral in Berlin*, shown recently on the BBC, a Russian, Colonel Stok, with a board and pieces, asks Harry Palmer (played by Michael Caine) if he plays chess. “Yes, but I prefer a game with a better chance of cheating” is the reply. The actor playing Stok was Oskar Homolka, and I don't know if he played chess, but he later moved to England and is buried in Fairwarp, East Sussex.

At an e2e4 congress in Crawley/Gatwick about 10 years ago I recall talking to his son, Vincent Homolka, who did play chess, in congresses and a London league. He had faced Bobby Fischer in a simul and discussed the game with him afterwards.

Brighton and Hove had a year with three simul, which began in late August, 2025, when GM Stuart Conquest (British Champion 2008), took on 15 club members, winning 12 and drawing three.

In the background, a tournament with several titled players, set up in conjunction with Sussex University, was in play.

In December, 2025, Callum Brewer gave a simul for pairs of players in a light-hearted pre-Christmas event where seasonal hats and jumpers were encouraged and someone generously brought in chocolates.

In March, 2026, we lost Peter Benson, 90, a longtime club member (more than 50 years according to Andrew Caswill, our club president). Peter was a regular at the Saturday afternoon sessions we held at previous venues, and was playing online chess a week or two before he passed away, his son told us.

In the Sussex League, Brighton and Hove 1 won Division 1 jointly with East Grinstead 1 in very rare circumstances. Both teams had identical records: Won 7 Drew 2 Lost 1 with game points 27.5 for and 12.5 against. Callum Brewer's 8.5/10 for our 1st team was the highest score in Division 1.

Our club historian, Brian Denman, returned to matchplay and drew with Sussex University's 2400-rated Sergey Korshunov, becoming the only person to dent Korshunov's 100 per cent record.

When hosting league matches, we must be the only club that offers three types of milk with your tea or coffee: soya, oat or standard.

Albert Eldridge is the new club champion (W6 D2).

Over four games played in June and July, club tournament controller, Paul Batchelor, won the individual Sussex County Championship 2026 (Wilson Cup) 2.5-1.5 (W2 D1 L1), against Feliks Kwiatkowski.

In late July, 2026, GM Gudmundur Kjartansson, 38, three times Icelandic champion and FIDE 2400-rated, was in Brighton to play in a tournament at Sussex University, and gave a simul at the club, scoring 15/15.

These grandmasters can be as ruthless as the seagulls in Brighton who are likely to swoop on your ice cream, chips or sandwich. I've seen it happen.

In early August, Geoff James (in the over-65s) and others from the club, took part in the British Championships at Warwick University, which is curiously located in Coventry. The new youngest-ever British champion is Shreyas Royal, and I trust my game against him at the Weald Congress in July, 2017, will feature in a book of his best games.

We now have 73 paid members, and annual membership is £80.

Rob Counsell, secretary

Winning ways for club that has strength in depth



HICHESTER Chess Club has had another good season and continues to meet at the

Fishbourne Centre near Chichester on Monday evenings throughout the year.

Steve Coe is the club's new chairman, taking over from Steve Smith. Penny Cullum generously agreed to take on the role of secretary from the start of the season.

Membership remains in the mid-thirties and we are fortunate to have a group of very strong young players in our membership.

The club has had a full programme of internal events as well as having four teams in the Portsmouth and District Chess League (PDCL).

A typical evening at Fishbourne Centre would see attendance in the mid-twenties, excluding visiting teams.

Members continue to support external congresses and events. At the start of the

season, the club, and league, had settled upon a new time limit of 60mins+30seconds. However, this proved not to be workable due to the number of extended games that resulted and threatened to run past the club centre's closing time. The time controls have reverted back to the previous limit of 70mins+10seconds.

The A team delivered another very strong performance in division 1 of the PDCL and were somewhat unfortunate to only finish as runners-up, despite having beaten the eventual winners (a very strong Fareham A team), twice during the season.

The Chichester B team played in the second division of the PDCL, which was very competitive this season with the addition of a strong Emsworth A side. The Chichester B team had a somewhat mixed start to the season before getting into their stride and emerging as narrow winners of

Division 2, with Emsworth A in second position.

This is the third year in a row the B team has won Division 2. The club entered two teams (C and D) in Division 3 of the PDCL with the focus being as much to provide inter-club match experience against new opponents to members as it was to perform competitively.

Both teams performed well in a competitive league which was not decided until the very last match. The C team narrowly won the division on 14 points with the D team finishing as runner-up on 12 points. These achievements clearly speak to the strength in depth that the club now enjoys.

In the Cole Cup, the A team beat Emsworth 4.5-1.5 in the first round of the competition. They then went on to meet the Chichester B team (who had had a first-round bye) in the semi-final, securing a convincing 4-1 win.

In the final, they played Portsmouth, where they lost narrowly, 3-2, in a closely contested match. Chichester B went on to play in the Cole Plate where they narrowly lost 2-3 in

the semi-final to a strong Chandler's Ford team.

Thanks to Bill McDougall, Steve Smith/Steve Coe, Alan Reed and Ryan Kinzett as captains of the league teams and to Jaimie Wilson and Steve Smith/Steve Coe for captaining the Cole Cup teams.

In addition to external matches, the club has enjoyed a very full programme of internal events and competitions.

The club ran a six-round Swiss Championship tournament controlled by Mike Webber.

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. However, this season a new winner emerged from a closely

fought competition to secure first place.

Congratulations to Remel Ramirez, who scored 5.5/6 to win our Club Championship for the 2025/26 season. Remel achieved a notable win over Rolandas Lukosius (previous two-time champion) in the penultimate round and a crucial hard-fought draw against defending champion Vinuda



The club has
enjoyed a very
full programme



TITLE DECIDER: Vinuda Gunatilake and Remel Ramirez meet in their final deciding match of this year's club championship

Gunatilake in the last round to secure the title.

Jaimie Wilson finished second in the competition with a score of 5/6. Other notable results were emerging talents Alfie Edwards who scored 4.5/6 to finish in joint third place to win the U1700 competition and James Wheeler with 3.5/6 to win the U1500 competition.

The Handicap tournament allows ongoing rated games in a tournament context right up to the end of July deadline. In all, 22 members played games in this competition. The winner for the second year running with a total of 118 points was Julius Cayago. Second place went to Steve Smith on 94 points. Thanks to Bill McDougall for his work as tournament controller.

It was a third year for our Box Tournament. Players who entered were those looking for more rated chess in an evolving setting within a dynamic format.

The players were divided into three 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 were promotions and relegations to mix it up.

This year's tournament was again closely fought, with a total of 58 matches played under full match conditions over two rounds. The winner, with a total score of 258.5, points was Jaimie Wilson.

Congratulations also to Alan Reed for finishing as runner-up with a score of 253 points and Kyall Guy for third place with 251.5 points.

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

Chichester players participated in a number of external events during the season and enjoyed significant success.

This included the British Chess Championship at Warwick University. Vinuda Guntilake participated in the main championship and scored a very credible 3.5/9 in this very strong tournament full of GMs and IMs.

In the Portsmouth Individual, in July, Jaimie Wilson shared second place, in the Fareham Rapidplay in June Jaimie Wilson and Bill McDougall shared third place in a field of approximately 50.

**Steve Coe, chairman
& Penny Cullum, secretary**



**STANDING DOWN: Former chairman
Steve Smith**

THE 2025-26 season came to an end for our 1st team in a similar fashion to recent campaigns with a successful relegation battle.

This time not due to our heroic efforts but from the misfortune of another team falling foul of the Sussex League rules and being deducted two match points.

However, the KO Cup was a better outcome with a close loss in the final to our neighbours, Uckfield.

The club would not survive without our juniors, who make up over 80 per cent of our membership.

Recognising this dynamic, we have moved to a rapid play only format with a four-round 10+5 tournament every club night with chocolate awarded as prizes.

The winner of our Autumn Grand Prix, reflecting the player with the best performance over any seven of the 13 individual tournaments was won by Jon Lawrance on 24½ points, ahead of two strong teenagers; Luke Freeman on 21½ points and Oliver Stockham on 21 points.

The Club Championship was run over the four weeks in May after all the team matches had been completed. This time, Luke Freeman came out on top with 14/16 and Jon Lawrance was runner-up on 13/16.

Success is tasting sweet for youngsters

In addition, we have several blitz nights during the season that are particularly popular. All this chess has the benefit of providing members with a significant number of rated games that go towards their ECF rapid and blitz ratings.

We run a junior club between 6.30pm and 7.30pm which involves half an hour of training followed by an organised game.

The UK Chess Challenge warm-up event was a particular favourite played over 11 Fridays and attracting 30 players. This gave all the players a great chance of winning a prize as we presented trophies for the best in each school year.

Special mention goes to the overall winner, Advita Singh, and Benjamin Osho who came a close second.

David Fryer,
secretary

Trophy triumph as numbers on the up

As chairman, I am pleased to report East Grinstead Chess Club continues to thrive and following a sharp decline in membership caused by covid, at the end of 2025 - 2026 we now have 27 paid-up members.

We have tried to vary the programme and in this respect we are fortunate to have an English International Master, Chris Baker, who took on playing simultaneously 14 boards and won most on a very enjoyable evening.

Chris also conducted a successful training

evening which was open to non-club members. A big thank-you to Chris for being a valued member of our club.

Our internal Rapid Play attracted 17 members and Graham Robertson and Eric Granzelius finished level on 23.5 points. Congratulations

to Graham, who won the competition for 25/26 based on tie break rules. Thanks to Eric for organising and collating results for grading.

We now have three teams in the Sussex Chess League with our 1st team having an excellent season, finishing joint top of Division 1, winning seven matches, drawing two and losing one.

Our second team was relegated from the first



CLUB FIRST: Three members of the 1st team picking up the Paul Watson trophy, the first time the club has won the competition



SIMUL SUCCESS: Chris Baker simultaneously playing 14 boards

division after being deducted two points for a default. The third team finished in mid table in Division 3. I would like to thank team captains Peter Kemp and especially Robert Wall, who somehow managed to run two teams while also being treasurer of the Sussex Chess league.

East Grinstead also fielded teams in both the McArthur Cup and Paul Watson Trophy. After winning the MacArthur cup for the past two years, East Grinstead were beaten by Sussex University.

We were, however, victorious in the Paul Watson Trophy for the first time in our history after a close fought victory against Hastings in the final. As you can see, quite a busy season

which has helped attract several new members to the club.

We are very fortunate in having a hard core of enthusiastic players and I would like to express my thanks to Peter Kemp, Robert Wall (team captains) and Eric Granzelius, treasurer, Rapid Play co-ordinator, membership secretary plus website administrator.

A special mention for Suzanne Marshall, who is always at club nights with a smile and ensures tea and biscuits are available. Also, I would mention Ian Dennis, our secretary, who is recovering from an ankle operation and we all look forward to him rejoining us in September.

We are also exploring the possibility of a 4th team coached by Adrian Waldock. Adrian is arranging a few friendlies and helping less experienced players use score sheets. Adrian also annotates very informative summaries on our Whatsapp group of Sussex Chess league match games. Thanks, Adrian, for your expert knowledge.

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

Bob Dyke, chairman



**TIE-BREAK
WIN: Graham
Robertson
receiving the
Rapid Play
shield 2025/26
and, left, a
typical club
night**

THE club experienced a very encouraging season. Our finances and membership were stable, with several post-season enquiries suggesting growth in 2026-27.

The 1st team finished third in Division 1 of the Sussex League, and might have done even better. Jeff Boardman

was the most effective player.

The 2nd team artfully evaded relegation from Division 3, with Matt File being the most successful player.

The 3rd team bounced back from the foot of the 4th division at one stage in the season, to finish half-way up, with James Falvey being the most valuable player.

The club lightning tournament was

Future's looking bright

won by Feliks Kwiatkowski. The club's internal rapidplay tournament was only thinly contested, with Benjamin Carter, Matt File and Feliks sharing the theoretical summit. The reason this competition was poorly favoured was because the combined open Club Championship and the U1750 Challenge competition were very keenly contested.

History was made when Benjamin Carter won *both* competitions, with 14 points out of 15 games played.



CUP TAKES: Benjamin Carter, who put in a highly impressive performance throughout the season

Why history? Well, the thing is that Benjamin was only born in 2014.

Although the club has been blessed with guest appearances by masters and grandmasters, Benjamin is the strongest talent ever known to have been organically associated with the club. If he keeps up the game, international titles are a certainty.

Feliks Kwiatkowski

Talented Benjamin quickly makes his mark on the club

H

AYWARDS HEATH has a new star in the making - Benjamin Carter, winner of two of the club's

tournaments. On the left is the newly-acquired Black King trophy, purposed originally for the rapidplay competition, and awarded to Benjamin both on that account and in consequence of its new purpose as the award for most improved player of the season.

In the centre is the historic Sir Clarence Sadd trophy for the Club Championship, while on the right is the possibly even more historic B. H. Wood trophy, for the Club Challenge competition.



HORSHAM'S 147th season has seen continued membership growth, plenty of rated chess (including the win of the McArthur Cup) and some of the quirky chess variants that make up our summer evenings.

Unfortunately, this season we were unable to sustain six teams in the Sussex League, but plenty of fighting chess was played by the remaining five teams spread across the divisions.

Our first team finished fifth in a very competitive division 1 with a score of 12 match

points.

Despite having several teams in the league for many seasons, it had been a long time since three found themselves all in the same division. This is what befell Horsham 2, 3 and 4 who all competed in division 2 with mixed results - our second team finished in the second promotion spot with 13 match points, while Horsham 3 and 4 occupied the relegation slots! It was similarly tough for Horsham 5 in Division 3, who finished second to bottom in another very competitive battle.

In the league knockout, we were soundly defeated in the first round by Uckfield despite outrating them on every board. Well played to them.

In the Paul Watson Trophy, we beat Sussex University in round 1 but were then seen off by East Grinstead in the quarter final. In the McArthur Cup, our fortunes changed, as we defeated Brighton & Hove and Sussex University both by scores of 4-2, before winning the final 3.5-2.5 against Lewes.

The Knight trophy for best performance representing Horsham went to club secretary Anthony Higgs with 9.5/13 or 73 per cent,

just ahead of club chairman, Ian Comley, with 6.5/9 or 72 per cent. The moral of this story is that joining the committee improves your chess - I look forward to volunteers stepping forward in droves...

As always, the club thanks all of our team captains who make it possible to play so much competitive chess at all skill levels.

This season, 41 players took part in the internal club championship Swiss tournament, which must be a record for this century at least! The Rook (club championship trophy) went right down to the

wire, when in the final round Ben Crosby held Mark Broom to a draw in the last game to finish.

This result meant that Anthony Higgs won the Rook with 9/10, half a point ahead of Mark and James Mansson. Ben's reward for his final round draw was securing the Bishop (grade limited challengers trophy) with a score of 6.5/10. Guy Turvey was hot on his heels with 6/10 to win the Knight (second grade limited challengers trophy).

It was great to see so many new players winning games and moving up the leaderboard.

In our club cup competitions,

James Mansson defeated Anthony Higgs in the Knockout final, with Peter Rankin winning the plate competition for those knocked out in round 1. The Quickplay Knockout trophy was retained by Anthony Higgs who emerged the winner after a tough final with James Mansson, while the plate competition was won by Daniel Miller.

Anthony also retained the Lightning tankard after a frantic evening of 10-second buzzer chess, with a familiar pairing against (you guessed it) James Mansson in yet another final!

**Championship
went right down to
the wire**

July saw the club experiment with our usual summer evenings of chess variants. Chess960 and exchange chess evenings were held, with plenty of head scratching and the occasional flight of genius... On the last night of the month, club members brought in their games from the season which Mark and Anthony demonstrated on the display board with some tips and advice for improving players.

We say goodbye to Ben Crosby as he heads off to university (though we look forward to visits in the holidays!) and to Alex Perry who is off to Mexico - we wish them both well. Sadly, we also lost James Ratcliffe earlier in the season as he moved away from Sussex.

New players this season are too numerous to mention all by name but it has been great to welcome them all along and hope they have enjoyed their first taste of over the board chess.

Ben and Samuel Shah played in the Major

Open of the recent British Championships, scoring 3.5 and 4 respectively, solid scores in a very competitive field.

Congratulations to Adhvik Nair as this year's winner of the Peter Alford Cup for best junior performance. Mike Forster and Andy

Collins go from strength to strength as coaches of the junior club, now assisted by Piers Pollard. More juniors may be attending the adult club sessions next season as they become stronger, a great result for the club.

Our AGM will kickstart the new season on September 1, the new season beckons (and 150 years is now not far off!) - we look forward to more quality chess plus the little tweaks and

improvements that keep the club healthy.

Please check our website

horshamchessclub.org.uk for news, club details and match reports.

Anthony Higgs
secretary



STEEPED IN HISTORY : The club's rich past is recorded in a club history available on Horsham's website

We'll miss you Mark



CLUB LEGEND: Mark Attree

THE last year did not start well as we suffered the permanent loss one of the former mainstays of our club and secretary, Mark Attree, who passed away after a cruel illness.

Many around the county will have played him, so hopefully a photo of him will spur your memory of him. I am sure you will acknowledge his strength as a player, but you may not know as we did his strength and character as a person.

As hinted last year, we did indeed enter a second team into the Sussex League. Fortunately, our first team was placed into division 3, so our second team was in division 4, which enabled us to play a good many more members throughout the year,

and as all captains will have experienced, a good number fell into competitive play as to the manor born and have started playing tournaments as well, while some begged not to be selected unless absolutely necessary as they felt it marred the fun of the game.

Fortunately, we now have enough members to accommodate the wishes of all. What we do not have are many car-driving players, so this report again amounts to an appeal for anyone with experience and a driving licence to also join us.

Both teams performed admirably in their divisions and we used 14 different players across the season. Both teams actually competed at the top of their divisions, which was a welcome surprise for all of us,

and we were in contention with both for first place and/or promotion until very late in the season, the first team coming third (six wins, one draw, three losses) and the second team fourth (four wins, two draws, three losses).

We entered as always the SCCA Paul Watson trophy (Paul having been my first chess teacher and mentor and crucially a teacher throughout my years at Varndean) and beat Bexhill 1 3-1 in the first round, but lost to Crowborough 1-3 in the quarter-final.

However, in the Sussex League Knockout Cup we had a magnificent year,

beating Horsham 3-1 in the first round, and edging Lewes 2.5-2 in the semi-final and also edging Crowborough 2.5-2 in the final.

This is the third time we have won this competition in our history, and is a tribute to the league's handicap system which enables a small club to compete realistically with bigger clubs.

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 ten wins, one draw and only two losses and on the club leaderboard are now in the

top 0.5% of the hundreds of thousands of clubs on there; we beat teams from Ukraine, Warwickshire, Mallorca, Holland, Columbia South Carolina, Manchester and Cheshire 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.

We are still keen to

recruit new players and as well as the annual local Lions fete and our Facebook page, we have added our presence to the Holy Cross Christmas Tree festival - but we 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

**Both teams
competed at the top
of their divisions**



CUP WINNERS: Brian Stockham, Joseph Wright, Beauden Archbold and Michael Stockham

comfortable (some with great experience and success) 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 included: Beauden Archbold, the top junior, Michael Stockham, 5mins blitz, Joseph Wright, Grand Prix, Brian Stockham, Standard Play (60mins) Rapid Play (30mins) and Handicap Split (too complicated to explain !) which still goes to show that regular attendance at sessions counts for as much as and definitely more than talent!

Due to a number of factors, the Knockout Cup final between Arran Airlie and Joseph Wright is still to be played, with the latter's marriage to another member, Farah Dianputri, a major cause for extended celebration as we wish them both well.

We face another new season with ever greater confidence. We have grown in numbers with ever greater financial strength and we were grateful to Uckfield Town Council for the award of a grant for the purchase of smart annotated wooden chess boards, so visiting teams in the coming season will see a welcome change from our usual plastic mat boards.

Brian Stockham, chairman

Title defence is an uphill struggle



BOARD DECISIONS: Members of Worthing Chess Club in action

THE first team struggled, having won the division 1 title the previous season after Dave Graham retired to the New Forest. We wish him well.

Hopefully, rising star Sidhanth Pai can fill his place. Sidhanth, who also plays for Bognor

& Arun, has just won the British U14 title as well as the rapidplay title.

Sadly, Worthing lost two stalwarts of the club in Donald Banks and Paul O'Brien and this may have an impact on the proposed 5th team, which will be discussed at the club's annual meeting.

Chris Jones

White: Paul Batchelor. Black: Feliks Kwiatkowski. Sussex County Championship Final, 2025-26. Game 1 of 4. June 20, 2026. Played at Preston Park. King's Indian Defence, Saemisch Variation, by transposition. Annotated by Feliks Kwiatkowski.

Paul and I were the only two contestants this season, so we moved straight to the 'final format', i.e. two games initially, and two more if the first two ended all square, and if the contestants were keen. Neither of us expected the epic which ensued.

1.d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. f3 c5;

[To explain the opening – I was planning to try a Grunfeld, and my usual reply to 3.f3 has been ... Nc6. Thinking that Paul had prepared against ... Nc6, and not having expected 3.f3 in the first place, I decided to try something else on the spur of the moment. We're not exactly talking master preparation now, are we?]

4. d5 d6 5. e4 Bg7 6. Nc3 e6; [We are now in the Saemisch King's Indian, in one of its Benoni-type positions, and indeed this is often reached by a Benoni move order. White could have chosen Be3 or Bg5 plans, but the move played is perfectly normal.] 7. Nge2 exd5 8. cxd5 O-O 9. Ng3 a6 10. a4 h5!?

[This is actually within known theory, although I was making it up as I went along. The idea is

to raise the potential threat to the stability of the g3 Knight. Paul had taken 5 minutes, while I had consumed 25, he being familiar with the position, while I was not. This time disparity was to play a role in what followed.]

11. Be2 Re8; [I later found out that this, while not bad, is not accurate, because the e-pawn can scarcely be put under pressure. The Rook belongs on f8 to support ...f5, and the f6 Knight often belongs on h7 to clear space for that idea. We live and we learn.] 12. O-O Nbd7 13. Nh1 Rb8 14. Nf2 ... ; [This is still theory, as I found later, but my next leaves the beaten track. I should have tried 14. ...

Nh7.]14...Nf8?! [White now has a small plus, but Black has activity.] 15. Rb1 N6h7! 16. Bd3 ... ; ['Computer says' that the immediate Bd2, followed by b2-b4, is more of a test.] 16. ... Bd7 17. Bd2 b5 18. axb5 axb5 19. b4 c4 20. Bc2 f5;

[Black's efforts have led to activity on both sides of the board. Black is now comfortable and should have pushed hard in this position. White, however, retained a significant time cushion.]

21. exf5 gxf5! 22. f4? ... ; [White should not surrender control of e4 like this – maybe just Kh1 instead.] 22. ... Nf6 23. Qf3 Qb6 24. Kh1 Qb7; ['Computer says' 24... Ng4 would have been more to the point, but chasing the weak d-pawn is acceptable.] 25. Rbe1?! ... ; [25.Nfd1

at once.] 25. ... Ng6 26. Rxe8+ Rxe8 27. Re1? Rxe1+ 28. Bxe1 Ne7 29. Nfd1 ... ; [This move now comes too late. We have arrived at a decision point. I fluffed the opportunity, wrongly rejecting 29... Nxd5, because I could not see through to 30.Ne3 Bc6 31.Ncxd5 Bxd5! 32.Nxd5 Qxd5 33.Qxd5+ Nxd5 34. Bxf5 Kf7 35. Bd7 Nc7, when Black's pawns are very fast.] 29. ... Qa8?! [I decided to press down the a-file, and considered offering a draw, due to my time trouble. Paul told me he would have taken it – if only, if only.] 30. Ne3 Qa3?! [Better was 30 ... Ng4, but objectively, Black is still better after the

move on the board. However, now, it's a complicated game.] 31. Qe2 Qxb4 32. Ne4 Qa3; [32.Na4 Qa3 33.Nb6 Be8 and Black is still better.] 33. Ng5 Qc1 [33. ... Qb2!] 34. h3 Nxd5? [This is immediate ruin. The machine suggests ... h4; followed by Ng6. Paul took his opportunity here, while I missed mine earlier.] 35. Nxd5 Nxd5 36. Bxf5! Nxf4 37. Qe7! Bxf5 38. Qe8+ Bf8 39. Qf7+ Kh8 40. Qxf8#. Checkmate. 1-0.

I have written before that the County Championship is very much about psychology, and I never quite shook off this awful experience in the rest of the match.

White: Feliks Kwiatkowski. Black: Paul Batchelor. Sussex County Championship Final, 2025-26. Game 2 of 4. June 27, 2026. Played at Preston Park. Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation, 6.Be3. Annotated by Feliks Kwiatkowski

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6;

[This defence is described by Kasparov as the Cadillac of chess openings. I had not realised that Paul plays this a lot, as

he later told me, in correspondence games. Again, I was making it up as I went along. I played what I remembered of one of the main lines.]

6. Be3 e5 7. Nb3 Be6 8. Qd2 Nbd7 9. O-O-O b5 10. f3 Be7 11. g4 O-O 12. g5 Nh5;

[A decision point. My rusty recollection was that 12. ... b4 was the main line.

According to Paul, the move he chose is also very playable, and it's hard to fault his opinion.]

13. Nd5 Bxd5 14. exd5 f5?!

[Right idea, wrong execution! Apparently 14. ... f6 is more accurate, as after the move Paul played, I have 15.Rg1 f4 16.Bf2 Bxg5 17.Bh3 ... , with lots of activity for the pawn.]

15. gxf6?! Bxf6 [We are back in the main line of the sub-variation.] 16. Na5 Qc7 17. Kb1 Bd8 18. Nc6 Nb6 19. b3?! ... ; [The start of a wholly misconceived plan. The machine suggests 19. Qb4 ... ; , with a small White advantage. I had lost patience – not good!]

19. ... Nf4 20. c4 bxc4 21. bxc4 Nd7 22. Kc2?! Nb8 23. Nxd8? ... ; [23.c5 ... , with some inadequate compensation for the minus pawn. The whole idea was to create a passed pawn, but it was overaggressive.] 23 ... Qxd8

24. c5 dxc5 [Black is now very much better, but got lost in the possibilities. We were each coming under time pressure. I just had to close my eyes and punt, because otherwise the mini-match would have been lost.] 25. Bc4 Qd6 26. Rb1 Nd7 27. Qa5 Kh8 28. Rhd1

Ng2?!

[Black is winning after ... Qg6+, an idea which lingered for a few moves after this.

The move Paul chose still wins, but it's more work.]

29. Bg1 Rxf3 30. Rb7 Rf4 31. Bf1 Nh4 32. Qc7 Qxc7?

[32. ... Qg6+, which is not hard to see, was still effective. Now White has only a small plus, but the d-pawn looks very big in time trouble.]

33. Rxc7 Rd8 34. Bxa6 Nf3 35. Bb5 Nf6 36. Bxc5 h6?? [36. ... Nd4+; , with excellent chances of a draw. As played, there is no escape.] 37. d6! Ne4 38. Be3 Rff8 39. d7 Nf3g5 40. Rb7 Ra8;

[Here we reached the time control.]

41. a4

[I sealed this as I correctly judged it would keep things together against any Black plan, and I could just grind out the ending. Paul looked at the position after I went home, and resigned without resumption.] 1-0.

White: Paul Batchelor. Black: Feliks Kwiatkowski. Sussex County Championship Final, 2025-26. Game 3 of 4.

July 11, 2026, Played at Preston Park.

King's Indian Defence, Saemisch Variation,

by transposition. Annotated by Feliks Kwiatkowski

1.d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. f3 c5 [A surprise! Paul stuck to his opening. I had looked it up in the

interval after my previous Black game and had a deviation in mind.]

4. d5 d6 5. e4 Bg7 6. Nc3 e6 7. Nge2 exd5 8. cxd5 O-O 9. Ng3 a6 10. a4 Nbd7 11. Be2 Rb8; [I decided to go straight for the ... b5 break.] 12. O-O Ne8 13. Be3 Nc7 14. Qd2 b5 15. Bh6 Bd4+?! [At this point, I wanted to keep my bishop, but it was best to play 15. ... Bxh6 16.Qxh6 Qf6; , with rough equality.] 16. Kh1

Re8 17. Bg5?! ... [Here 17.f4 looks strong, with a meaningful White plus.] 17. ... Bf6; [Here I offered a draw, which was accepted. In hindsight, I should have just exchanged bishops earlier and played on the Q-side. However, I wrongly thought that all the life went out of the position with the dark-squared bishops off.] ½ - ½ .

**Sussex County Championship Final,
2025-26. Game 4 of 4. White: Feliks
Kwiatkowski , Black: Paul Batchelor (with
his comments) July 26, 2026.**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Qd2 Nbd7 9.O-O-O Be7 10.f3 b5 11.g4 O-O 12.g5 Nh5 (12...b4 is a very sharp alternative) 13.Kb1 (13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.exd5 was game 2) 13...Nb6 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 Bf5 16.Na5 f6 17.Nc6 Qe8 (17...Qd7 and 17...Qc7 are more common) 18.h4 Ng3 19.Rh2 Nxf1 20.Rxf1 Bd7 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.h5 Bf5 After this black is equal 23.h6 g6 24.gxf6 Qxf6 25.Bg5 Qf7 26.Qb4 Qc7 27.Re1 Rac8 28.Ka1 Rf7 29.Rf2 Qb6 30.Qd2 Rfc7 31.Be3 Qb7 32.Qd1 Rc4 33.Kb1 (33.f4 is an

alternative) 33...b4 34.b3 Rc3 35.Re2 a5 36.Qe1 Qxd5 (36...a4 is even stronger) 37.Qf2 a4 (37...Rxb3 is stronger) 38.Rd2 Qa8

After my move Feliks' flag fell. There were still two moves to make before time control. I claimed the win. I had scored 2.5 points out of a possible four in the four game final. I had done enough to claim first place.



White: Benjamin Carter. Black: Feliks Kwiatkowski. Haywards Heath Chess Club internal rapidplay competition. April 2, 2026, Game 1. 25mins + 5 second increment. Alapin Sicilian. Annotated by Feliks Kwiatkowski

1.e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. cxd4 d6 7. Bc4 dxe5!? 7.... Nb6 is normal. I wanted to spice things up. Little did I know.] 8. Nxe5 ...; [8.dxe5 ... is thought to be more combative.] 8. ... e6 9. O-O Bd6 10. Re1 O-O 11. Nxc6 bxc6 12. Nc3 Nxc3 13. bxc3 c5 [This position is approximately equal. The computer now suggests 14.Qg4 ...]14. Rb1!? cxd4 15. Qxd4 Qc7 16. Bd3 Rb8; [I wanted to park the light-squared bishop on b7, without allowing simplification by Rxb7, followed by Be4. This may have been too time-consuming, and just 16 ... Bd7 looks adequate.]

17. Rxb8 Qxb8 18. Bg5 Qc7 19. c4?... ;[Here I had to be bold and drive back the bishop with ... h6. I could not calculate the consequences in the short time limit.[19. ... Bb7 20. Qh4 g6 [20. ... h6 and White can try 21.Bxh6 The computer finds no win, but it's scary as a practical try, plus I had only 4 minutes left at this point.] 21. Bf6 Re8? [This is a losing move – 21. ...Rb8 keeps latent back rank threats and buy time to maintain equality.] 22. Re3! Bf4? [Mate is now forced, but if 22. ...h5; then 23.g4 ... looks strong.] 23. Rh3 h5 24. Qg4? ...

[White fluffs it! There is no defence to Qxh5 After the move played, Black can escape with 24. ... Bxh2+ 25. Kh1 Be5, with a better game. But at this point, I had zero time, could not see the sequence and so ... I resigned.] 1-0.

White: Mark Broom Black: Adam Sefton, Notes by Mark Broom. This game was played in the final round of the September Sussex congress. I was on 3/4 and a win would give me a share of the places (as it turned out, joint second). My opponent was a strong junior, also seeking a win from this game. The game starts as a very conventional English opening, with a

reversed Sicilian structure.

1 c4 e5
2 g3 Nf6
3 Bg2 d5
4 cxd5 Nxd5
5 Nc3 Nb6
6 Nf3 Nc6
7 d3 Be7

8 0-0

Now my opponent played the aggressive

8 ... g5

This type of move is much more common than it used to be. It is important for white now not to be slow. Against this wing attack, I try to develop quickly and break in the centre.

9 Be3 g4

10 Nd2 Nd4

11 Rc1 c6

12 Nce4 h5

13 Nb3 Nf5

It is best not to let the bishop get to c5 and just proceed with h4.

14 Bc5 h4

15 d4

This move was the plan. White opens up the centre.

15 ... hxg3

16 hxg3 Bxc5

17 Rxc5

Sacrificing a pawn to keep up the momentum.

17 ... exd4

18 Re5+ Kf8

19 Qd2 f6

20 Rc5 Be6

21 Rd1

This is a mistake, which effectively throws most of the advantage away. 21 f3 was consistent.

21 ... Kf7

22 Na5

I have a tactical idea here.

22 ... Qe7

A mistake; the careful 22 ... Rb8 covers everything and the position is equal.

23 Nxb7

Here 23 ... Qxb7 loses to Rxf5 because of the fork of king and queen. Maybe my opponent thought the next move covered this sufficiently.

23 ... Nc4

24 Qf4 Qxb7

25 Rxc4

Instead 25 Rxf5 is crushing. This gives my opponent the chance to play 25 ... Qb8 and still be in the game.

25 ... Bxc4

Now white's attack will just win (with a little care).

26 Qxf5 Qe7

27 Rxd4 Bd5

28 Ng5+ Ke8

29 Bxd5 cxd5

30 Qxd5 Rc8

31 Re4 Rc1+

32 Kg2 Rch1

33 Qa8+ Kd7

34 Qb7+

Black resigns

**Mikolaj Rogacewicz v James Mansson,
Sussex League, division 1, February 17,
2026, Brighton v Horsham, 0-1. Annotator
James Mansson.**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 O-O
6.Be3 { This used to be White's main line in
the Sämisch, since it seemed to prevent ...c5.
However, it turned out Black could play that
anyway, as a pawn sacrifice! } (6.Nge2 { is
nowadays regarded as more critical, as White
keeps open the option of putting the bishop on
g5 or e3, depending on Black's choice of
defensive system. }) 6...c5! 7.Nge2 (7.dxc5
dxc5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bxc5 Nc6 { has been
shown to give Black adequate compensation. }
) 7...Nc6 8.d5 Ne5 9.Ng3 h5 { This is a typical
idea, exploiting the awkward position of the
knight on g3. } 10.Be2 h4 11.Nf1 e6 { This is
one of the key lines of the Sämisch Variation
of the King's Indian. White has various
choices here. My opponent goes for the most
solid. } 12.Bg5 { As my opponent's choice of
opening seemed - from looking at his games -
rather predictable, I was able to prepare a
surprise against this variation. } 12...exd5
13.Nxd5 Be6 { Black now sets a trap, into
which White falls. } 14.Nfe3? { "A natural
continuation of White's strategy - but a big
blunder. Make sure you're ready to exploit it."
(Gawain Jones) } 14...Nxd5! { "A key idea to
remember in this variation. We get too many
bits for the queen." (Gawain Jones) } 15.Bxd8
Nxe3 16.Qb3 (16.Qc1 Bh6) (16.Qd2 Bh6)
16...Nxg2+ 17.Kf2 Nf4 18.Be7 Nxe2!
{ "White can't recapture due to ...Bxc4+, so

we'll have four pieces for queen and rook. An
unusual imbalance, but here our minor pieces
dominate the board completely. White's pawns
will all drop." (Gawain Jones) } 19.Bxf8 Rxf8
{ My preparation ended at this point. Black's
four minor pieces prove stronger than the
White queen and rook, since only the White
queen is able to get active, and the White king
proves to be vulnerable. } 20.Qxb7 Nd4
{ Black first goes after the pawn on f3. } 21.b3
(21.Qxa7 f5) 21...Nexf3 22.Qe7 (22.Qxa7
Be5 { intending ...f5 }) 22...Be5 { Covering
d6 and bringing the dark-squared bishop to a
strong square. } 23.Rad1 (23.Qxa7 f5)
23...Bg4 { Bringing the other bishop to an
active position. } 24.h3 (24.Qxa7 f5) 24...Bh5
25.Rc1 (25.Qxa7 f5) 25...f5! { Having
positioned all his minor pieces, Black now
opens things up on the kingside. } 26.Ke3
(26.Qxa7 fxe4) 26...fxe4 { intending ...Nf5+
or ...Bf4+ } 27.Kxe4 (27.Qxa7 Bf4+) 27...Bf6
28.Qxd6 (28.Qxa7 Ng5+) 28...Ng5+ 29.Kd5 (29.Kf4 Be7+ (29...Be5+!)) (29.Ke3 Nf5+
(29...Re8+!)) (29.Kd3 Be2+ 30.Ke3
(30.Kd2 Ne4+) (30.Kc3 Ne4+) 30...Nf5+
(30...Re8+!)) 29...Bf3+ 30.Kxc5 Ne4+
31.Kd5 (31.Kb4 { avoids a quick mate, but is
hopeless after } 31...Nxd6 - +) 31...Nxd6+
{ This is natural and perfectly good, but Black
has a quicker mate without even having to
regain the queen! } (31...Nf2+ ! 32.Kc5
Nd3#) 32.Kxd6 (32.Kc5 Rb8! { forces
mate. }) 32...Rd8+! 33.Kc7 (33.Kc5 Be7#)
33...Ne6# 0-1

A true Sussex stalwart

JUST recently, I was informed of the death of Robert Elliston, **writes Brian Denman, county archivist.**

I found Robert a pleasant and very likeable man. He was the Sussex Association president from 2010-2022 and had many chess achievements and will be missed by many in chess circles.

Robert V Elliston (also known as Bob) died on December 29, 2024, but I have not seen a chess obituary written about him. He was born at Dartford in 1938 and while at Eltham College was a member of the Kent junior team. In 1955 he became a student at Brighton and showed real potential by coming close to winning the strong Brighton Chess Club Championship. However, for nearly 20 years after this he seems to have played little competitive chess.

In 1975, he married Margaret Kelly at Hastings and it appears this was the first year in which he joined the local chess club. He moved to Ticehurst and ran a pharmacy there. For many years he represented two chess clubs.

He played for Hastings in the McArthur Cup and other representative matches and competed in the strong internal championship.

He also represented Crowborough in the Mid-Sussex League. He became a regular player for the Sussex first team.

Robert won the Hastings Championship outright in 1981, 1983 and 1989, while sharing the title with Richard Almond in 2012. He reached the county final in 1984 and 2013, losing on both occasions against Feliks Kwiatkowski. In 2006 he won the East Sussex Queen competition and in 2011 and 2012 he came first equal with Geoffrey James in the county veterans' competition. He was also a strong correspondence player and represented Great Britain and England in matches. In 2005, he competed in the British Seniors Championship at Douglas, Isle of Man, and scored a creditable 4.5 points out of 7. He also represented Sussex Smart Controls in the 4NCL competition in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons.

He was elected to the position of president of the Sussex Chess Association in 2010. He was in post until 2022 when ill-health forced him to step down.

He had a pleasant and sincere personality and got on well with colleagues. He was a local councillor and on his death was greatly missed by people living in his neighbourhood.

President & Secretary	Paul Batchelor	Flat 81, Windsor Court, Tongdean Lane, Brighton BN1 5JS 01273 508128 p.batchelor@outlook.com
Treasurer	Jim Wheeler	12 High Wickham, Hastings, East Sussex TN35 5PB Tel: 01424 714369; 07875712005 james.wheeler9@btinternet.com
Open Team Captain	Paul Batchelor	
County Championship	Paul Batchelor	
Tournaments (McArthur Cup and Paul Watson Trophy)	Peter Farr	peterg1.farr@gmail.com
Sussex Junior Chess Liaison Officer	Jonathan Tuck	info@sussexjuniorchess.org
Adjudications Secretary	Paul Batchelor	
County Archivist	Brian Denman	b.denman@btopenworld.com
ECF and SCCU Delegate	Peter Farr	
Grading Officer	David Fryer	email: david@crowborough.org
Sussex Chess News Editor	Mick Plumb	7 Mill Road Avenue, Angmering, West Sussex 07816 488513 mickplumb@gmail.com