

The History of Horsham Chess Club 1879 – 2009



By John Cannon

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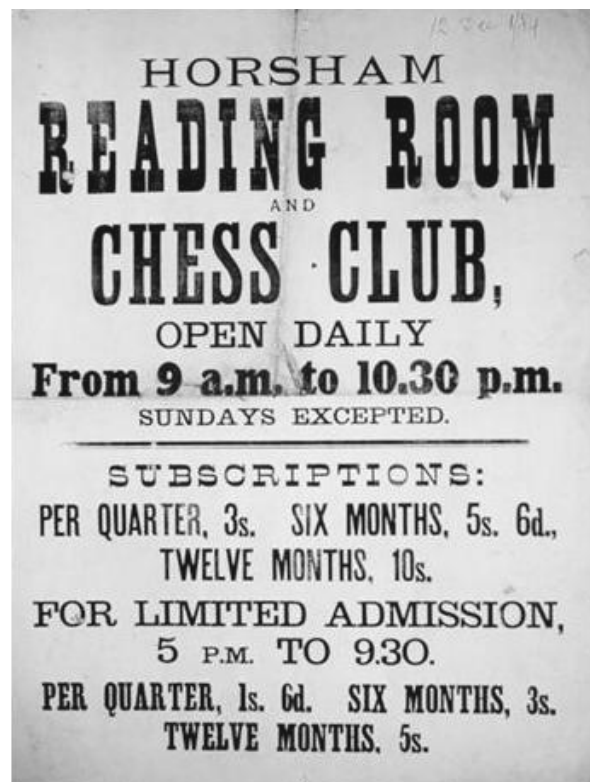
Introduction

The July 2008 account of Horsham Chess Club, written at the end of my fifty years of membership, following a suggestion made by several members, has now been updated to autumn 2009. Friends were of considerable assistance in this project (see acknowledgements) and there was much burning of the midnight oil.

John Cannon, October 2009

Formation and Premises

In 30th October 1879 the West Sussex Gazette reported that an association had been formed the previous Saturday (Oct.25th), which it was felt could not be termed a literary institute, but would be known as “Horsham Reading Rooms and Chess Club”. This is the earliest known press reference to Horsham Chess Club, although a reading room and a chess room had been incorporated in the Horsham Literary and Scientific Society as early as 1847. Horsham Chess Club was the fourth to be formed in West Sussex, following the short-lived Littlehampton Club in 1873, Chichester in 1877 and Petworth in 1878 or early 1879. These all predated the famous Hastings and St Leonards Chess Club, which celebrated its 125th anniversary in some style in June 2007, but the 1842 Brighton Chess Club was many years ahead of all of them, and is one of the oldest in Britain. In the 1880s Horsham Chess Club rented a room in Market Square, and for most of the period from 1891 until the start of World War 1 in 1914, it met at the Young Men’s Christian Institute in Park Street, which closed in 1916. In 1898, a second Horsham club was formed, at the YMCA, which was then in North Street.



Hand-dated notice of 12th December 1884

By about 1906, there was little chess activity with either club, but in 1907, the main club reformed, at Linden’s Temperance Hotel in North Street. By 1909 it was again showing signs of decline, but was again revived, in 1912, also at the Institute. Complete continuity cannot be traced between the start of World War 1 and January 1920, when the main Horsham club was re-established, this time at the YMCA, which was still in North Street. In 1922 the tenancy of the YMCA building expired, and for a while the organisation occupied temporary premises in London Road, before moving, in late 1922 or early 1923, to new premises in East Street. In 1950, the Horsham club found new accommodation at the Tudor Café in Denne Road, and in September 1951 another move was made, to unfurnished accommodation at the YWCA Cottage, 25 the Causeway. In 1952, the club returned to the YMCA, and it was still meeting there when I joined in November 1958, increasing the membership to twelve!

January 1960 saw a move to “better premises” at Horsham Bridge Club, also in East Street, which was at that time owned by the chess club treasurer, Donald Binney. After five years, the expanding bridge club required its rooms full-time, and the chess club moved, on a short-term basis, to the Telstar Café in Queen Street, which was owned by another chess member, the former Brighton Regency player Steve Keene.

Two seasons at the Queen’s Head Hotel in 1965-67 were not an unqualified success for either the hotel or the club, since members’ drinking didn’t come up to the hotel’s expectations (!), finishing times were somewhat dictated by the need to lay the tables for breakfast at the end of play, and the room sometimes became excessively smoky. In 1967 the club returned to the Telstar Café for two more seasons, and on 22nd September 1969 came the move to Horsham Methodist Church, when the café changed hands. The majority of Mid-Sussex League clubs have moved premises at least once during the past twenty years (some several times), but on 20th September 2009 Horsham Chess Club completed forty years of tenure at the church, which is its lengthiest home and is generally agreed to be one of the nicest venues in the county.



The earliest known photograph of club members, taken in 1938.

Left to right: Percy Ingram; Jack Smith; Walter Bale; M.B.Neil; H.A.N.Grant; Gerald Sydes; C.W.Roberts and G.H.Allison



A Living Chess Tournament

A “Grand Bazaar and Fête Champêtre” took place on May 28th and 29th 1890, in Horsham Park, and included a Living Chess Tournament, a Pastoral Play, an Old English Maypole Dance, a Café Chantant, a Photographic Studio and the Horsham Town Band. The opening was performed by Viscountess Hampden, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Sussex and more than £400 was raised towards the creation of a Horsham School of Art. It was reported that, in grand weather, the influential attendance, including the élite of a wide district, enjoyed a variety and character of amusements that surpassed anything of the kind previously witnessed in Horsham. The following is an account of the Living Chess Tournament, taken from the Sussex Agricultural Express (later the Sussex Express) of 31st May 1890:

“A novelty was offered to the residents of Horsham, in the shape of a chess match with living players, this having been arranged by Miss Kate Sadler. The ‘pieces’ were attired in costumes of the mediaeval period and were manipulated by Messrs. R. Hunt and S. Baxter. The games were successfully played and created much interest. The immense chess board, set out with the red and white figures in bright and glittering raiment, formed an artistic coup d’oeil. Previous to the match of Wednesday afternoon, the Rev. Canon Hodgson, a former Vicar of Horsham, read the following prologue, which had been written by his [ecclesiastical] brother.”

*In Horsham Park two Sussex experts meet,
In the game with living chessmen to compete.
See where the men of white the white king leads,
While equal troops of black their king surround.
Each monarch, with a warlike threatening sound,
His line prepares for stern and fatal deeds.
See, see the dubious strife that now begins,
Each in his own opinion sure to win.
I am here to see their stratagems are fair,
And like their men they act upon the square,
Showing that chess is life's epitome,
Where, too, above board every move should be.*

Robert Hunt, a Horsham Chess Club member and father of club stalwarts Stanley 1869–1945 and Cyril 1876–1964 (see pages five, six, fifteen and twenty-three for more details of Stanley and Cyril), was co-founder, with **his** brother Richard, of the well-known Hunt Brothers department store in West Street. Robert Hunt was also a local councillor, a vicar’s warden and a governor of Collyer’s Grammar School. According to the West Sussex County Times and Standard, he could rightly be styled the “father” of chess in West Sussex. S. Baxter, the stronger of the two contestants, sometimes played for Sussex, and both Hunt and Baxter were in the Horsham team that contested the first ever McArthur Cup final in 1889. The parallel drawn in the Rev. Hodgson’s lines, between chess and life, is reminiscent of that in Edward Fitzgerald’s 1859 English translation of the much earlier Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam:

‘Tis all a Chequerboard of Nights and Days, where Destiny with Men for Pieces plays. Hither and thither moves and mates and slays, and one by one back in the Closet lays.’



Friendly Matches

Between 1888 and 1996, upwards of a dozen local papers around Sussex featured regular chess columns, for periods varying between one and eighty-six years, and these are now a valuable source of information. They confirm that friendly matches have played an important role in Horsham Chess Club's history. The Sussex Daily News, which was published in Brighton, is particularly helpful, since in 1928 Ted Adams, a long-standing Horsham member and one-time secretary and chairman, took over the chess column (established in 1919) from H. W. Butler, a doyen of the Sussex chess scene. Ted continued as chess editor until the column ceased in 1956 – a remarkable run for such a commitment.

The earliest Horsham friendly match on record is believed to have been an 8 ½ - 5 ½ win against Henfield in May 1883, which was followed in the October, by a 2-12 defeat against the St Nicholas club of Brighton. By October 1887, Horsham had fourteen members, and that year matches were played against Petworth, Steyning, Chichester and Storrington. However, in the Sussex Chess Journal of 15th September 1890, the editors H.W.Butler and F.Monk named twelve Horsham members and commented on the lack of club activity, writing: *"This centre can put a very strong team in the field. In the McArthur Cup [see page seven] it defeated St.Nicholas, but was in turn beaten by Storrington. With this exception little chess was done"*.

With the move to the Young Men's Christian Institute in 1891, the club entered a more successful period, and it has been described as the strongest club in West Sussex over the following few years. Interest in the Horsham club also increased in 1893, when a new chess column started in the West Sussex Times and Standard, which continued until 1916 and contained regular reports about chess in Horsham. The Sussex Chess Archives for 1894 mention that Horsham then had twenty-six members, and matches with Brighton Chess Club were of great local interest. These continued annually until 1899 and, from 1898 to 1904, matches were also played between Horsham and the newly-formed YMCA Chess Club, with brothers Stanley and Cyril Hunt playing on opposite sides, Stanley for Horsham YMCA and Cyril for Horsham Chess Club. By 1906 there appears to have been little chess activity in the town, but matches against the YMCA resumed when the Horsham club was revived in 1912.

Committee meeting minutes of 1927 include a resolution to arrange a match with the "Women's County Club", but nothing is known of that club, nor whether the proposed match took place. A Sussex Daily News report of 10th February 1930 mentioned that a ladies chess club has been formed in Horsham. This was a branch of the Horsham Ladies Club, and it seems likely that matches would have been played between the two Horsham clubs. Around that time, H.W. Butler wrote to his fellow chess journalist, Ted Adams of Horsham (see above), that he hoped the ladies would seek a match with Hove Chess Club, which had between eight and twelve lady members. (For a considerable time between the two world wars, Sussex chess was enriched by the presence of Russian exile, Vera Menchik, who was Women's World Champion from 1927 until her death in a London air raid in 1944, and had been a prominent member of the Hastings and St Leonards Chess Club for some years from 1921 onwards.)

Over the years, Horsham has played friendly matches against a surprisingly large number of clubs. In addition to the obvious principal north Sussex and coastal clubs, these have included the following, a number of which are now defunct: Christ Church Chess Club in Brighton; Hove; Southwick; Tunbridge Wells; Dorking;

Henfield; Cranleigh; Petworth; Lodsworth; the Milland Chess Club at Midhurst (of which Prof. Joad of the BBC Brains Trust had been a member) and Wilson's Grammar School. The latter Camberwell day school, which also played against Brighton Chess Club, had been evacuated for 5 ½ years during W.W.II, and the pupils boarded at one of two Camp Schools in Barns Green, where they lived in Nissan huts and used some facilities at Christ's Hospital. (Incidentally Grandmaster Emeritus Harry Golombek OBE had been a pupil of Wilson's Grammar School, although by the 1940s he was working as a code breaker at Bletchley Park)

Existing Horsham Chess Club records commence with details of a series of committee meeting minutes and uncontiguous secretaries' reports dating from 1927, and although these tend to be rather brief, they nevertheless make interesting reading. In the 1936 and 1937 reports, my late father, who had been taught chess by Jack Smith (see pages seven and fourteen), was thanked for his kindness in taking many of the members to away matches, and in September 1938 Harry Dyer, the secretary, wrote "*I am sure we all regret that Mr Cannon, who for many years has been of great assistance to the club, has left the district, and we send him our best wishes*". [By pure coincidence rather than malice aforethought, I returned to Horsham, with my own family, exactly twenty years later, in September 1958.]

In his 1936/37 report of friendly matches, the secretary wrote something of a cri de coeur: "*We were not very successful in these games. I am sure many losses were caused by members not playing serious chess*"! The 1943/44 report mentions the difficulties caused by the wartime black-outs, the many members engaged in Home Guard, Observer Corps, A.R.P. and fire-watching activities, and the absence of others on active service. The British winter of 1946-47 was blamed for severely disrupting matches and club competitions. [According to the internet, that winter saw "*probably the worst snowfalls since 1814*".] In 1951-2 Horsham combined with Dorking Chess Club to win a match against Southwick by 6 ½ - 5 ½. Horsham club records from the 1960s onwards **are** detailed, and prominent among the activities documented therein is a memorable series of twenty-five friendly matches (average number of boards 11 ½) against Redhill, between 1968 and 1992, which Horsham won overall by 15-10.

Three wins by Horsham players over a hundred years ago.

White **J.Randall**, Lodsworth Black **Robert Hunt**, Board 5, 27th January 1898

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nd4 4 Nxe5 Qg5 5 Nxf7? Qxg2 6 Rf1?? Qxe4+ W resigns

White **E.G.Reed**, Brighton, who became Sussex Champion nine times.

Black **T.Durant**. "played some time ago", according to a press quote of 17/1/1903.

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 exd5 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 Be3 Bd6 6 Bd3 Bg4 7 Nbd2 Nbd7 8 c4 dxc4 9 Bxc4 0-0 10 Rc1 Nb6 11 Bd3 Qd7 12 0-0 Rae8 13 Bb1 Nfd5 14 Re1 f5 15 Nb3 Bb4 16 Nc5 Qf7 17 Bd2 Rxe1+ 18 Qxe1 Bxf3 19 Bxb4 Re8 20 Qd2 Qg6 21 g3 Re2 22 Qd3 Qh5 23 Bc3 Nf4! 24 Qxf5 Nh3+ 25 Kf1 Rxf2+ 26 Ke1 Re2+ 27 Kd1 Nf2 mate

White **Cyril Hunt** Black **M.Conway**, Kent, 1906 correspondence match, Board 12

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Bc4 d5 4 Bxd5 Nf6 5 Nc3 Bb4 6 Nge2 c6 7 Bc4 Bg4 8 0-0 Bxc3 9 bxc3 Nxe4 10 Rxf4 Nf6 11 Ba3 Be6 12 Bxe6 fxe6 13 Nd4 Kf7 14 Nxe6! Kxe6 15 Qe2+ Kf7 16 Re1 h5 17 Qe6+ Kg6 18 Qf5+ Kh6 19 Rd4 Nbd7 20 Be7 Qe8 21 Re6 Qg6 22 Qf4+ Qg5 23 Qd6 Nf8 24 Bxf6 gxf6 25 Rxf6+ Ng6 26 h4 resigns

The McArthur Cup

The McArthur Cup team competition for clubs was started in 1889, a year after the death of Sgt.-Maj. William McArthur, who had been based in Chichester with the 35th (Royal) Sussex Regiment during the 1870s and 1880s, and was a chess problemist, with 200 problems to his name. Whilst in Chichester, McArthur became Sussex county secretary and a joint founder of Chichester Chess Club. Horsham Chess Club competed in the McArthur Cup at the outset, losing the inaugural final to Lewes. Horsham's first win came in 1892, when they beat Central Hastings in the final, and the following year Horsham lost a close final against Eastbourne, a result that was avenged in the 1895 final. The Sussex Chess Association had been formed in 1882, mainly by players from Brighton, Chichester, Eastbourne and Hastings, and although Horsham Chess Club remained in contact after the



Sgt.-Maj. William McArthur c.1887

late 1890s, it was 1914 before they re-entered the McArthur Cup. There were several rule changes in the competition, and at some point up until the mid-1960s, Brighton and Hastings players on an official list of "First-class Players" were unable to take part. After this restriction was removed, the competition effectively became the Sussex open team championship. Horsham has won the McArthur Cup eight times, in 1892; 1895; 1931; 1933; 1934; 1939; 1952 and 1969, and lost fourteen finals, in 1889 (the first year of competition); 1893; 1926; 1928; 1946; 1947; 1948; 1962; 1963; 1965; 1968; 1974; 1976 and 1977. In the final of the 1938-9 season, Horsham drew with Bexhill on 21st October 1939 and won a replay on 20th October 1940.

No account of Horsham's McArthur Cup exploits is complete without mention of Jack Smith, a former Horsham secretary, chairman from 1954 to 1992, and a Sussex Chess Association vice-president, who had remarkably been a Horsham member for seventy years, from the age of seventeen in 1923 until his death at 86 in 1992. Jack's first documented Horsham club match had been in November 1924, and his début for Sussex came in November 1929. In total, Jack played in fifteen MacArthur Cup finals, and he was a member of all six victorious Horsham teams between 1931 and 1969, an achievement that was recognised by the presentation of a shield at the club's 1969 AGM. Further details of Jack's chess career are included under "Individual Sussex Competitions".

The **Hardstone Cup** was donated in April 1952, by Stephen A. Hardstone of Bognor Chess Club, in memory of his late wife. It was held by the winner of the West Section of the McArthur Cup, and was won by Horsham in 1952 (ahead of Worthing, Bognor, Rustington and Chichester), 1953 and 1954. Horsham later competed in the North Section of the McArthur Cup, but ceased to enter in 1980, since the North Sussex Section virtually duplicated Mid-Sussex League matches against Crawley, Haywards Heath and East Grinstead (and later Crawley Argumentatives). That year the club also ceased to enter the National Club Championship, because truly representative teams were no longer available at weekends.

No fewer than eleven members played for Horsham "A" in the 1968-69 McArthur Cup, but missing from the photograph that follows is Leonard Walls (see under "Trophies"), who died suddenly in December 1968, after playing in two of the

North Sussex Section matches. Horsham “A” defeated Worthing 3 ½ - 2 ½ in the semi-final, before being appreciably outgraded in the final, by a Brighton team that contained three players who were or were shortly to become Sussex champions. The match card read:

19 th April 1969	<u>Brighton</u>		<u>Horsham “A”</u>
Board 1	Julian Simpole 194 (W)	0-1	Richard Power 199
2	Geoffrey James 206	0-1	John Cannon 189
3	Gerald Rain 162	1-0	Jack Smith 149
(reigning Sx. champion) 4	Geoffrey Nicholas 188	0-1	Tony Hart 171
5	Ben Thomas 178	1-0	Fred Cullington 163
6	Romilly Ilersic 175	½-½	Rolf Alexander 184
	1103	2½-3½	1055



Horsham A's 1968-69 McArthur Cup-winning team.

*Standing, left to right: Fred Cullington; Ben French; Brian Locke; Steve Keene and Tony Hart.
Seated: Richard Power; Len Skinner; John Cannon (captain); Jack Smith and Rolf Alexander.*

Seen in the above photograph, both Ben French and Brian Lock generously gave their time and expertise for the benefit of the chess community at large. In addition to a term as Horsham Match Secretary, Ben was Sussex County Secretary in 1964-67; sole Sussex Grader in 1963-1972 (helping extensively with Southern Counties grading); Sussex Match Captain in 1967-69; Sussex Tournament Controller in 1970-72; Editor of “Sussex Chess News” in 1964-71 and Editor of the Southern Counties Chess Union’s “Union Chess Fare” in 1966-69. Brian Locke had been Horsham Treasurer in 1968-74, Southern Counties Chess Union Secretary in 1973-76; Southern Counties President in 1977-78 and Southern Counties and Horsham Grader from 1975 until his sudden death at 53 in March 1983. Peter Leat, a third regular Horsham member (pictured on page 10), who died in a road accident in 1986, had been the Sun Alliance programmer who set up the SCCU computerised grading system in the mid-1970s. Len Skinner, who is also in the photograph and who now lives in Wales, was the principal co-author of the definitive 1998 anthology “Alexander Alekhine’s Chess Games, 1902-1946”.

The Mid-Sussex League

The Mid-Sussex League was founded in 1923 by five clubs (Haywards Heath; Hassocks; Burgess Hill; Balcombe and Ansty) all within an eight-mile radius of Haywards Heath, and a league trophy was donated by Geoffrey Mowatt. Horsham was admitted in 1934 and won the Mowatt Cup in 1936, 1937 and 1938. World War II brought an end to league activity until 1955, when it resumed only in the form of an annual Mid-Sussex Jamboree for club teams. This was held at Haywards Heath until 1962, after which it moved to Brighton, was renamed the Sussex Jamboree, and continued until the sad demise of the indomitable organiser and Sussex secretary, Paul Watson, in late 2005. Horsham first won the Sussex Jamboree in 1965 (the Mowatt Cup for the best score over the top four boards of nine), and they repeated this success the following year, also winning the Gregory Cup, which was awarded for the best score over all nine boards. In 1968 the Mowatt and Gregory Cups were returned to the newly resurrected Mid-Sussex League, where they were initially used for first and second places in Division 1, prior to the Gregory Cup becoming the Division 2 trophy in 1972-73. A new trophy, donated for the Sussex Jamboree by the Rev. John Bickerstaff of Brighton, was won by Horsham in 1970 and 1983 (shared). Horsham found it progressively more difficult to raise weekend teams in the summer, and latterly ceased to enter.

League play was resumed in 1967, and Horsham rejoined in 1968. The club had been strengthened when the Sun Alliance Insurance Company moved to Horsham in 1964, although not all members of the firm's own chess club joined Horsham, and some who did so returned to play for the Sun Alliance when the firm's own club entered the Mid-Sussex League in 1972. By 1975 the Sun Alliance had four league teams, but within four more years these had been reduced to one. If one includes Christ's Hospital Chess Club (which had joined in 1972), there were, for five seasons in the 1980s, **four** Horsham chess clubs playing in the Mid-Sussex League (!), since Collyer's Sixth Form College had entered in 1980 and last competed in 1985.

Horsham were Division 1 champions in 1974 (the first season that the league operated a second division); 1979; 1989 and 2001, and in 1979 and 1989 they also won the annual challenge matches against representative teams from the rest of the league. In the 1979 challenge match, Horsham had been outgraded over the six boards by a total of 141 points, but won 3 ½ - 2 ½. Horsham's eight wins in eight Div.1 matches in 1978-79 signalled the first 100% score for ten years (and only the second since the league had resumed thirteen years earlier), and their total of game points set a league record. Horsham, who have always had a team in the top division of the league, first entered a second league team in 1973, a third in 1998, a fourth in 2001, a fifth in 2008 and a sixth in 2009. During the 2007-08 season, Horsham 1 performed remarkably well in losing only four games out of fifty and finishing runners-up to Hastings 1 in Division 1, ahead of Brighton and Hove 1 and Crowborough 1.

Since the 1970-71 season, a league tankard has been held annually by the player with the highest overall percentage score in league matches, and since 1989-90 there have been four additional tankards, one for each of the four divisions. Five Horsham players have held league tankards: Dave Hurricks, 6/7 in Div.1 in 1989/90 (the first holder of the Div.1 tankard); Mick Hill, 8/8 in Div.4 in 1996/97 (shared); Peter Harbott, 7/8 in Div.1 in 2002/03; Julie Denning, 6/6 in Div.4 in 2005/06 and Stefan Lewins, 7/8 in Div.4 in 2007/08. In 1994/95 Dix Roberts, who was then playing for Sun Alliance, won the league tankard with 9/9 in Div.2, and he joined the Horsham club four years later.

The league Knockout Shield, which was started in 1976, was won by Horsham in 1998, at their third attempt (photograph bottom of page 11).



Mid-Sussex League Div.1 champions in 1978-79, with the Mowatt Cup
Standing left to right: Julian Goodare, Peter Leat and Paul Kingston.
Seated: Stephen Hawes, Derek Leach (captain) and John Cannon.



Mid-Sussex League Div.1 champions in 1988-89, with the Mowatt Cup
 Back row left to right: John Brookes; Matthew Gillings and Paul Kington.
 Front row: Stephen Baines; John Cannon (captain) and Stephen Hawes.
 (John Brookes gained the Correspondence Grandmaster title after leaving Horsham.)



Winners of the Mid-Sussex League Knockout Shield in 1998
 Standing left to right: Ian Comley; David Jones; Anthony Higgs; and Mick Hill.
 Seated Richard Newman; Clive Richardson; Roger Waddingham (captain);
 Peter Harbott and John Cannon.



Mid-Sussex League Div.1 champions in 2001-02, with the Mowatt Cup.

Standing, left to right: Dix Roberts; Peter Harbott and Stephen Hawes.

Seated: James Mansson, John Cannon (captain) and Brian Donnelly

Miscellaneous Events

During eighteen **National Club Championship** matches played between 1966 and 1980, Horsham met fourteen different clubs, eight of which were from other counties, and claimed the scalps of at least two larger clubs, namely Croydon and Guildford. The win against Croydon earned Horsham a second round clash with London League giants Athenaeum, which unsurprisingly proved to be a bridge too far! (Founded in 1873 and six years older than Horsham, the Athenaeum is London's oldest surviving chess club.) Matches don't come any closer than the 1978 first-round tie against Seaford, then a force to be reckoned with. The adjudication of two games made the score 3-3, but with Seaford winning on boards one and six and Horsham on three and four, the board count was tied at 7-7. Horsham were then awarded the match under the elimination rule, but Seaford appealed against not one but both adjudications! The appeals were unsuccessful, but took so long that the controller was obliged to give Horsham a bye into the third round, where they met Southampton.

Chess was one of a number of activities contested between Horsham and Crawley in a Council-run "**Queen's Silver Jubilee Inter-District Sports**" on 6th June 1977, when Horsham Chess Club triumphed by 7 ½ - 4 ½.

In October 1991 Horsham ran a successful Saturday six-round **Open Quickplay Tournament** that was sponsored by the pharmaceutical firm Ciba Geigy and attracted entries from sixteen clubs. Joint winners of the main prize were Gary Kenworthy and Mark Rich. A more enterprising weekend congress planned for April 2005 ran into problems with the venue and timing, and was cancelled.

Sussex County Matches

The Horsham club has always been well represented in Sussex county matches (and in the Sexton Cup matches of yesteryear), with fourteen Horsham players turning out for the county in 2008-09, and playing a record eighty-three games. Several Horsham players were involved when Sussex won the SCCU Championship in 1994, the national Minor Counties Championship in 1983, 84, 85 and 87 and the national Under-175 Championship in 2003 and 2006. Following recent publicity in the magazine "Chess", the SCCU Bulletin and Sussex Chess News and at the SCCU and website, it transpired that my present total of 454 county matches to date (20 for Northumberland and 434 for Sussex, played over a period of 58 years), appears certain to constitute a national record. Geoffrey James of Brighton, who has played regularly for Sussex (nearly always in the first team) over 51 years, may be the nearest challenger.

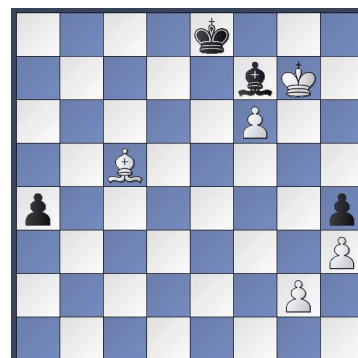
One key dramatic upset came to mind in connection with the above Sussex national successes. Whilst winning the Minor Counties Championships were excellent achievements for Sussex, unlike the 1993-4 Southern Counties Chess Union Championship, they were not won against the strongest county first teams. In the deciding 1993 – 1994 Southern Counties away match against Kent, the reigning English County Champions, only three Sussex players were not outgraded, and Kent enjoyed a grading advantage of 175 points over the twenty boards. The team as a whole excelled themselves that day, and there were six very meritorious Sussex winners in the 10 ½ - 9 ½ victory, including Horsham's Stephen Hawes. The following flawed game was almost the last to finish, amidst great excitement.

Kent 1 v Sussex 1, 1st March 1994, board 17/20

White **L.M.Wooldridge** 178 Black **John Cannon** 159

Danish Gambit

1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 c3 dxc3 4 Bc4 cxb2 5 Bxb2 d5 6 Bxd5 Nf6 7 Nc3 (7 Bxf7+ Kxf7 8 Qxd8 Bb4+ 9 Qd2 Bxd2+ 10 Nxd2 favours black) 7....Be7 8 Qb3 Nxd5? (8....0-0 9 0-0-0 is correct) 9 Nxd5 c6 10 Nxe7 Qxe7 11 Qg3 f6 12 e5! fxe5 13 Ne2 Nd7 14 0-0 0-0 15 Rfe1 b6 16 Rad1 Bb7 17 f4! e4 18 Nc3 Nf6 19 Nxe4 Nxe4 20 Rxe4 Qc7 21 Rde1 Rf7 22 Qg5? (Fritz has pointed out that 22 Re8+ Rxe8 23 Rxe8+ Rf8 24 Qb3+ Qf7 25 Re7! would have won) 22.... h6 23 Qh4 Raf8 24 Re7 Qc8 25 Qg3 Rxe7 26 Rxe7 Rf7 27 Rxf7 Kxf7 28 Qxg7+ Ke8 29 Qg6+ Ke7 30 Bf6+ Kd6 31 Qf7 c5 32 Be5+ Kc6 33 Qg6+ Kb5 34 Qb1+ Ka6 35 f5 Qc6 36 Qf1+ c4 37 Bc3 Qe4 38 f6 Bd5 39 Bd2 Qd4+ 40 Qf2 Qxf2+ 41 Kxf2 h5 42 h3 c3 (Kb7 is tricky but won for White) 43 Bxc3 Bxa2 44 Ke3 Kb7 45 Kf4 Kc6 46 Kg5 Bf7 47 Kh6 Kd7 48 Kg7 Ke8. I expected 49 g4 and would have resigned, but play (now in the quick-play finish and surrounded by onlookers) continued 49 Bd4?? a5 50 Bxb6?? (g4 still wins outright)....a4 51 Bc5?? (g4 still wins outright) 51....h4 and suddenly W can no longer win!! (diagram) 52 Ba3 Be6 53 Bb2 Bf7 54 Kh6 Bd5 55 Kg7 Bf7 56 Be5 (Ba3 leads to a similar conclusion) 56.... a3 57 g4 hxg3 58 Bxg3 a2 59 Be5 Bh5 60 h4 Bf7 61 Kh6 Kf8 62 Kg5 Kg8 63 Kh6 Be8 64 Kg5 Kh7 65 Kf5 Bf7 66 Bc3 Kh6 67 Ke5 Kh5 68 Kd6 Kxh4 69 Ke7 Bh5 draw



After Black's 51st move

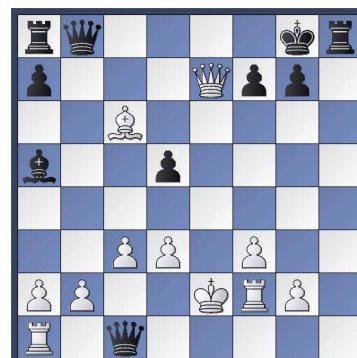
The first Sussex county match to be played in North Sussex took place in February 1968, at the Crawley College for Further Education. A number of others have since been held in Crawley, and in the past decade, Horsham Methodist Church has gradually become a regular venue for some of the county's numerous matches.

Horsham members have also regularly represented Sussex in the Ward-Higgs Counties Correspondence Championship. It is difficult to believe that the following distinctly unusual game, won by fifteen times Horsham club champion Stephen Hawes, was played by correspondence!

Ward-Higgs Trophy 1976-77.

White **K.R.Charlton**, Surrey Black **Stephen Hawes**.
Ruy Lopez, Bird's Defence

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nd4 4 Nxd4 exd4 5 0-0 h5!? 6 d3 Bc5 7 Nd2 c6 8 Bc4 d5 9 exd5 cxd5 10 Bb3 Bg4 11 Qe1+ Ne7 12 Ba4+ Kf8 13 f3 Bf5 14 Rf2 b5 15 Nb3? Bd6 16 Bxb5 Qb8 17 Qa5 Bxh2+ 18 Kf1 h4 19 Nxd4 h3 20 Nxf5? Bc7! 21 Qb4 h2 22 Qxe7+ Kg8 23 Bc6 h1(Q)+ 24 Ke2 Ba5 25 c3 Qxc1! 26 resigns



Final position

Individual Sussex Competitions

The Sussex Individual Championship has always been run as a knockout competition, other than in the years 1883 to 1925 and 1969 to 1975, when it was decided by all-play-all groups. There were no competitions in 1915, 1918 and 1940 to 1945. Rather surprisingly, there has only been one Horsham winner to date, namely Jack Smith in 1953 and, as was traditional, he played on top board for the county the following season. Horsham has though had ten losing finalists – two from the early years - T. Durant in 1901 and H. Cyril Hunt in 1911; Jack Smith in 1939 and 1948; H.A.N. Grant in 1946 and J.P. Ingram in 1947 (W.A.Winser of Hastings being the winner of these last four finals); John Cannon in 1962, 1964 and 1968; and Stephen Hawes in 1978.

The **West Sussex Queen** competition originated in 1891, and was restricted to entrants not on an official list of "First Class Players" (nowadays players graded under 180), and there have been eight Horsham winners: Rev. E.I. Crosse in 1895; J. Robinson in 1896; Stanley Hunt in 1900; L.E. Stonham in 1910; Jack Smith in 1933; Gerald H. Sydes in 1947; Steve Keene in 1960 and Richard Power in 1965. Harry Dyer won the **Sussex Correspondence Championship** in 1939, as did Richard Power in 1965 and 1966 (shared). The Horsham club hosted the **Sussex Lightning Championship** for thirteen successive years, from 1979 to 1991, for which the Sun Alliance donated a prize. The first three events were held at Collyer's School, and Stephen Hawes, who had won the title in Brighton in 1978, repeated that victory in 1985.

Stephen Hawes in play against Christ's Hospital's **M.J.Rice**, whilst defending his Sussex Lightning Championship title at Collyer's Sixth Form College on 30th March 1979.



Games

The following ten games, spanning just over a hundred years, were won by established Horsham top-board players, the last nine of whom created a virtually unbroken eighty-one year sequence, from February 1927, when Jack Smith first appeared on board one for Horsham (against Dorking), to the present day, with the 2007-09 club champion, Gavin Lock, firmly established in the position. (Both Stanley and Cyril Hunt also played on board one for Horsham on occasions.)

Henfield v Horsham, 23rd November 1907, Board 1

White A.A. Bowley Black Dr S.F. Smith

(From the West Sussex County Times and Standard, 30th November 1907)

French Defence, Exchange Variation

1e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 exd5 exd5 5 Nf3 Bd6 6 Bd3
0-0 7 0-0 c6 8 Ne2 Bg4 9 Ng3 Qc7 10 Re1 Nbd7 11 b3
Rfe8 12 Be3 Ne4 13 c4 Bb4 14 Rf1 f5 15 cxd5 cxd5 16
a3 Bd6 17 Bc1 f4 18 Nh1 Ndf6 19 Bb2 Ng5 20 Be2
(diagram) 20....Rxe2! 21 Qxe2 Nxf3 22 gxf3 Bh3 23
Re1 Qf7 24 Qd3 Qh5 25 Re5 Bxe5 26 dxe5 Qg5+ 27
Ng3 fxg3 28 fxg3 Nh5 29 Qxd5+ Kh8 30 Kf2 Rd8 31
resigns.

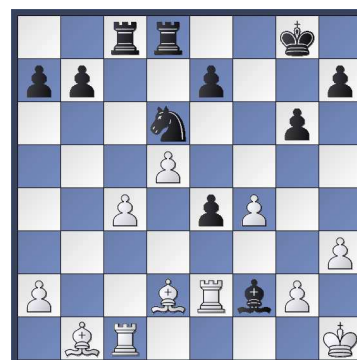


After white's 20th move

During World War II, Jack Smith served with the Eastern Fleet, and in 1944 he won the Imperial Services Championship in Colombo. The following game from the event was published in “The Times Weekly”.

White **Sub-Lt. Steinbach R.N.N.**, The Netherlands Black **Writer Jack Smith R.N.**
Queen's Pawn Opening, Grünfeld Defence

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 e4 Nxc3 6
bxc3 c5 7 Be3 Bg7 8 Qd2 0-0 9 d5 Qa5 10 Rc1 Rd8
11c4 Qxd2 12 Bxd2 Nd7 13 Nf3 Nf6 14 Bd3 Bg4 15
Ne5 Bd7 16 f4 Ne8 17 0-0 Nd6 18 h3? (g4) ...f5 19
Nxd7 fxe4 20 Nxc5 Bd4+ 21 Kh1 (Kh2 is
better)...Bxc5 22 Bb1 Rac8 23 Rfe1 Bf2 24 Re2
(diagram) 24....Nxc4! (a winning combination) 25 Rxc4
(if 25 Rxf2 Nxd2 26 Rxc8 Rxc8 27 Rxd2 Rc1+ 28 Kh2
Rxb1 wins) 25...Rxc4 26 Rxf2 Rxd5 27 Kh2 Rb5 28
Rf1 Rb2 29 Be3 Rcb4 and B soon won



After white's 24th move

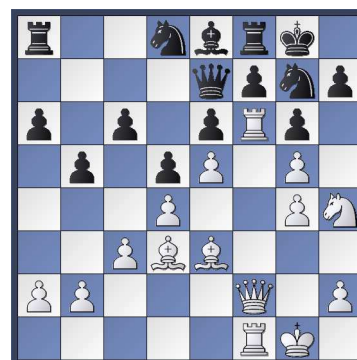
Mid-Sussex League, Winter 1937

White Percy Ingram Black unknown

(From the Sussex Daily News, 2nd December 1937)

Bird's Opening, Irregular

1 f4 e6 2 d4 d6 3 Ngf3 Nc6 4 e4 Nf6 5 Bd3 Bd7 6 c3 a6
7 Qc2 Be7 8 Nd2 g6 9 Nc4 Nh5 10 Be3 Bf6 11 0-0 0-0
12 e5 d5 13 Nd2 Be7 14 g4 Ng7 15 Nh5 Bxf5 16 fxf5
Be8 17 Rf6 Qd7 18 Raf1 Nd8 19 Nf3 c6 20 Nh4 Qe7 21
Qf2 b5 (diagram) 22 Bxg6! hxg6 23 Nxg6 fxg6 24
Rxf8+ Qxf8 25 Qxf8+ Kh7 26 Rf3 resigns



After black's 21st move

White **John Cannon** 190 Black **Julian Simpole** 213
Sicilian Defence, Closed System

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 d6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.Nf3 g6 6.0-0
Bg7 7.d3 e6 8.bxc6 Bxc6 9.Qe1 Ne7 10.Qh4 Qd7 11.
Rb1 0-0-0 12.Bd2 f5 13.b4 cxb4 14.Rxb4 h6 15.Qf2
Kb8 16.Rfb1 e5 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.Be3 Nc8 19.Nb5 a6
20.Na7 Nxa7 21.Bxa7+ Ka8 22.Bc5 fxe4 23.dxe4 Rhe8
24.Qe2 Re6 25.Bf2 Rd6 26.Qe3 Rd1+ (diagram –
playing for 27.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 28.Ne1 Kb8, but after 29.
Qa7+ Kc8 30.Qa8+ Kd7 31.Rxb7+ wins. If 26....b5 27.
a4 bxa4? 28.Rb6!) 27.Ne1 Rxe1+ 28.Rxe1 b5 29.Qb6
Bf8 30.Rb3 Rc8 31.Qxa6+ Kb8 32.Reb1 Rc7 33.Rxb5+
Bxb5 34.Rxb5+ Rb7 35.Qa7+ resigns



After black's 26th move

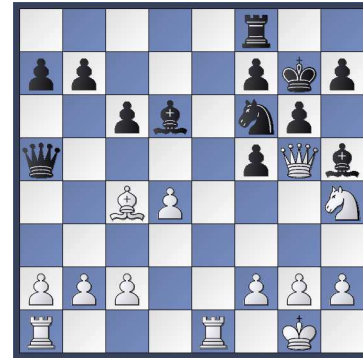
1965-1966 Sussex Championship

White **Richard Power**

Black Prof. Bernard Scott (the title holder)

Caro-Kann Defence, Main Line.

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nf6 5 Nxf6 exf6 6 Bc4 Bd6 7 Qe2+ Be7 8 Nf3 0-0 9 0-0 Bd6 10 Re1 Bg4 11 Qe4 Bh5 (f5) 12 Nh4! Nd7 13 Qf5 g6 14 Qh3 Qa5 15 Bh6 f5 16 Bxf8 Rxf8 17 Qe3 Nf6 18 Qg5 Kg7 (diagram) 19 b4! Bxb4 (if 19....Qxb4 20 Nxf5+ Kg8 21 Bb3, leaving the black N attacked, wins) 20 Re5 Qd8 21 Nxf5+ Kh8 22 Nh6 Bd6 23 Re8! Bxh2+ 24 Kh1 resigns



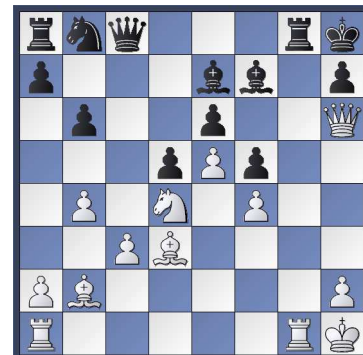
After black's 18th move

Lloyd's Bank Masters, London, Round 3, 24th August 1979

White **Stephen Hawes** 202 Black **S. Kerr** 185, Australia

Sicilian Defence, Irregular

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 b3 b6 4 d4 cxd4 5 Nxd4 Bb7 6 Bd3
Bc5 7 c3 Nc6 8 Bb2 Nf6 9 0-0 d5 10 Nxc6 Bxc6 11 e5
Nd7 12 b4 Be7 13 f4 0-0 14 Nd2 f6 15 Qh5 f5 16 Nb3
Nb8 17 Nd4 Be8 18 Qh3 Bf7 19 g4 g6 20 gxf5 gxf5 21
Kh1 Kh8 22 Qh6 Qc8 23 Rg1 Rg8 (diagram) 24 Nxf5!
exf5 25 e6 Qb7 26 Be4!! Nc6 27 Bxd5 resigns (This
game appeared in several chess periodicals, and won a
competition run by The Times. The finish is included
in a junior chess training book.)



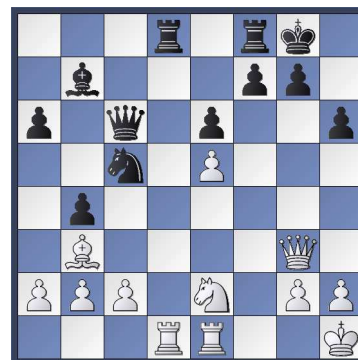
After black's 23rd move

Mid-Sussex League Div.1, 20th December 1994, Board 1

White **Feliks Kwiatkowski** 205, Haywards Heath Black **Matthew Gillings** 185

Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bc4 e6 7 0-0 Be7 8 Bb3 0-0 9 f4 b5 10 e5 dxe5 11 fxe5 Nfd7 12 Qh5 Nc6 13 Nxc6 Qb6+ 14 Be3 Qxc6 (if 14...Qxe3 15 Kh1!) 15 Rf3 Bb7 16 Rd1? (16 Kh1 is better) 16...Bc5 17 Qg5 h6 18 Qg3 Rad8 19 Kh1 (threatening Bxh6) 19...Bxe3 20 Rxe3 Nc5 21 Re1 b4 22 Ne2 (diagram) 22... Ne4 23 Qe3 (if 23 Qf3 Qc5! wins) 23Nc3 24 resigns



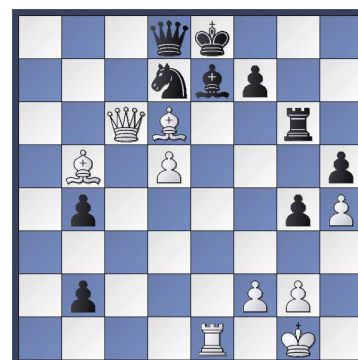
After white's 22nd move

Hastings Masters, round 7, 3/1/08

White **James Mansson** ELO 2161 Black **Ian Thompson** FM ELO 2312

Queen's Pawn Opening, Semi-Slav Defence

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 d5 4 d4 c6 5 Bg5 h6 6 Bh4 (the sharp alternative to Bxf6) 6...dxc4 7 e4 g5 8 Bg3 b5 9 Be2 Bb7 10 h4 g4 11 Ne5 h5 12 0-0 Nbd7 13 Qc2 Nxe5 14 Bxe5 Rg8 15 Bg3 Nd7 (allows W to break in the centre, with a strong attack against the B king) 16 d5! e5 17 dxc6 Bxc6 18 a4 a6 19 axb5 axb5 20 Rxa8 Qxa8 21 b3 b4 22 Nd5 Bxd5 23 exd5 cxb3 24 Qc6 Qd8 25 Bd3! Qf6 26 Bb5 Qd8? (Qxc6 is less clear, but after 27 dxc6 Nb6 28 Bxe5 Bg7 29 Bd6, W is still winning) 27 Re1 Be7 28 Bxe5 Rg6 29 Bd6 b2 (diagram) 30 Bxe7 (missing 30 Rxe7+! Qxe7 [30...Kf8 31 Rxd7+ also loses] 31 Qc8+ Qd8 32 Bd7 mate) 30b1=Q 31 Rxb1 Rxc6 32 Bxd8 Rc5 33 Bxd7+Kxd7 34 Bg5 Rb5 35 Kf1 Kd6 36 Ke2 Kxd5 37 Kd3 f5 38 Be7 b3 39 Kc3 f4 40 Bg5 Rc5+ 41 Kxb3 Ke4 42 Re1+ Kf5 43 Re8 f3 44 gxf3 Rb5+ 45 Kc3 Ra5 46 Rf8+ Kg6 47 fxg4 hxg4 48 Rf6+ Kg7 49 Rf4 g3 50 Kb4 resigns



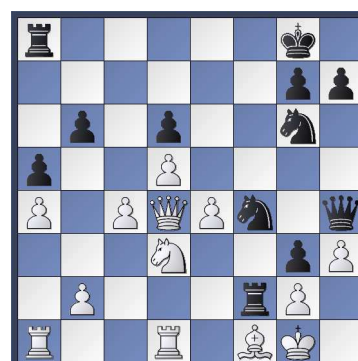
After black's 29th move

Horsham Chess Club Knockout Cup final, June 2001

White **James Mansson** 170 Black **Brian Donnelly** 178

Sicilian Defence, Boleslavsky Variation

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 f3 e5 7 Nb3 a6 (to get out of "book") 8 Be3 Be6 9 Nd5 Bxd5 10 exd5 Ne7 11 c4 Ng6 12 Qd2 Be7 13 Bd3 0-0 14 0-0 Nh5 15 Rfd1 (needed on the f file?) 15...f5 16 Bf1 b6 (to hold up W's counterplay) 17 a4 (Nc1 and b4 better) 17...a5 18 Nc1 f4 19 Bf2 Bh4 20 Na2? (encourages B's next move) 20...e4! (gains e5 for the g6N and weakens f3) 21 fxe4 Bg3! 22 Bxg3 (hxg3 is suicidal) 22...fxg3 23 h3 Rf2 24 Qd4 Qh4 25 Nc1 Nhf4 26 Nd3? (diagram, 26 Ra3 is better, but B is still winning i.e. 26...Ne5 27 Qe3 Nf3+ and now a) 28 Kh1 Qxh3+ and mates b) 28 gxf3 Nxh3+ 29 Bxh3 Qxh3 wins or c) 28 Qxf3 Rxf3 29 Rxf3 Rf8 30 Re3 g5 wins) 26...Rxg2+! 27 Bxg2 Ne2+ and B won



After white's 26th move

White **Gavin Lock** ELO 2190 Black **Marcus Osborne** ELO 2223, Coulsdon
English Opening, Symmetrical Variation

After black's 25th move

Lastly, in lighter vein, here are two error-strewn but entertaining games from the Brighton and Hove Gazette in the 1970s, the first of which is a clash between two exponents of a romantic opening that had its heyday in the nineteenth century. (As noted elsewhere, Steve Keene was a good friend to Horsham Chess Club, having twice made his business premises available indefinitely, when the club was seeking a new home.)

White **Steve Keene**, Horsham Black **Alan Hooke**, Haywards Heath,
King's Gambit, Muzio Gambit Variation

After white's 16th move

White **Stephen Hawes** 202 Black **Graham Keane** 195
Robatsch Defence

1 e4 g6 2 Bc4 d6 3 d4 Bg7 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 Qe2 Nc6 6 h3 Nd7? 7 Bxf7+! Kf8? (7 Kxf7!
8 Ng5+ Ke8 9 Ne6 Nxd4! after which W has 10 Nxd4 Kf8 11 Bh6 Nxe2 12 Ne6+
Kf7 13 Nxd8 Rxd8 14 Kxe2 =) 8 Bb3 Nxd4? 9 Nxd4 Bxd4 10 Qc4 resigns

Internal Club Competitions

Since the 1960s, the Horsham club has annually reviewed its internal competitions in order to insure that they reflect the needs of a fluctuating membership. Currently eight competitions are held and over three hundred internal competition games during were played during 2008-09. The fact that Horsham is one of the few Sussex clubs to run such a range of internal competitions has, in recent seasons, influenced some members of other Sussex clubs to join Horsham.

Simultaneous Displays

The earliest Horsham simultaneous display on record took place in December 1906, when the former Sussex Champion H.W.Shoosmith faced nineteen opponents, beating eighteen and losing only to Stanley Hunt. Then on February 24th 1909 Shoosmith took on thirteen opponents (including Robert and Cyril Hunt and L.E.Stonham), giving odds of a knight to the weakest five players, and conceding but a single draw. The 1907-08 season had seen something akin to a simultaneous display at the Horsham club. From 1907 to 1910, Horsham had the services of a distinguished London chess player, Dr S.F.Smith, who lived in Slinfold from 1907 to 1910. In 1895 he had won the prestigious City of London club championship and he nearly beat H.E.Atkins, nine times British Champion and the current holder, in the 1910 British Championship. During the 1907- 08 season, Smith competed in the Horsham club championship and, under a remarkable arrangement reported by the West Sussex County Times and Standard of 25th January 1908, he played nine of the other competitors simultaneously, winning seven games, drawing with L.E.Stonham and losing to Stanley Hunt's father, Robert. Apparently two or three other players had opted to play Smith in the normal way, but it is not known whether he won the championship.

In January 1909 events took an even more bizarre turn, when Dr Smith gave a ten-board display, apparently again playing off some tournament games in the process, but this time giving a **range** of odds! "First-class players" received a pawn and move, "second-class players" a knight and "third-class players" a rook. Smith won eight games and lost to Cyril Hunt and L.E.Stonham, who both received odds of a pawn and move. In March 1909 only five players turned up to a third display by Smith, who won all the games, again giving odds, but the West Sussex County Times and Standard reported that "*interest in the tournament* [presumably the club championship] *is flagging.*" The next Horsham simultaneous display on record was given in December 1943, by a strong Canadian player, Private J.N.Williams, who was for a time stationed in Worthing, and is thought to have been the J. Noel Williams, who competed in the Canadian Championship in 1959. He took on eight Horsham opponents, losing to a Mr Bale, but it is not known if any games were drawn.

In the 1960s, Horsham staged six displays by leading British players: Leonard Barden, IM Jonathan Penrose, IM Bob Wade O.B.E and IM and honorary GME Harry Golombek O.B.E. (all British Champions), IM Cenek Kottnauer and FM Owen Hindle. (That there has been major dilution in the value of FIDE titles over the years can be demonstrated by comparing the 1950 totals of 27 GMs and 93 IMs with the 373 GMs and 1,434 IMs in 1980, i.e. prior to the fall of the Iron Curtain - statistics supplied by Bernard Cafferty.) Simultaneous displays were more common in the 1960s and 1970s, and some Horsham players also took part in those given by Bob Wade at Guildford in 1965; Bill Hartston at Hastings in 1974; GM Lajos Portisch at Copthorne in 1975 (see page 22); GM Tony Miles at Brighton in 1976; GM Ray Keene at Brighton in 1976; and IM Mike Basman at East Grinstead in 1979. It was a case of déjà vu in April 2007, when GM Chris Ward gave a simultaneous display over twenty-nine boards at Horsham.



*The former Czechoslovakian **IM Cenek Kottbauer** in 1967. P 21 W 16 D 5 L 0*



***IM Bob Wade OBE** in 1965. P 20 W 15 D 3 L 2*



***FM Owen Hindle** in 1966. P 20 W 13 D 3 L 4*



***Leonard Barden**, later The Guardian Chess Correspondent, in 1964. P 21 W 16 D 4 L 1*



***GME Harry Golombek OBE**, The Times Chess Correspondent, in 1968. P 20 W 16 D 3 L 1*



IM Dr Jonathan Penrose, ten times British Champion, in 1965. P 21 W 16 D 5 L 0



In 1975, the Hungarian **Grandmaster Lajos Portisch** (nick-named “The Hungarian Botvinnik”), who was then the world number five, one place below Boris Spassky, made a countrywide tour, giving lectures and simultaneous displays at ten hotel venues. In total he played 249 games, with the impressive overall results of 197 wins, 43 draws and 9 losses (87.75%). At the Copthorne Hotel, Crawley on 21st February, Portisch first demonstrated two of his games from the recent Hoogoven International Tournament, which he had won and, following refreshments, he then took on thirty opponents from Sussex and Surrey, including eight from Horsham, with other club members among the numerous spectators. (In fact more than half the Horsham club attended the event.) The evening produced one of Portisch’s best results of the tour, and he remained unbeaten, winning twenty-six of the games and drawing the remaining four. Rather remarkably, three Horsham players drew - John Cannon, Julian Goodare and Chris MacArthur, with the fourth draw being scored by Colin Harding of Haywards Heath. Portisch opened with 1 d4, 1 c4 and 1 Nf3 in sequence all round the room. He then used the same positional crush technique as did the former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik in simultaneous displays, mostly playing Queen’s Gambits and English Openings to secure small space advantages and drive his opponent’s pieces backwards, before infiltrating with his own forces, for decisive attacks. A Brighton and Hove Gazette report considered that a number of Portisch’s opponents had played too passively, which is regarded as a cardinal sin against a master in simultaneous play.



Five Horsham members are included in the above photograph:
*Playing, left to right: Stephen Hawes, John Cannon and Julian Goodare.
 Spectating: extreme right John Scholey, next to Derek Leach.*

The Club's Trophies

Information about the Horsham club trophies prior to W.W. II is rather sketchy, but possibly the earliest was a silver King in the 1890s. In Jan.1900 the West Sussex County Times and Standard reported that this had been won outright by H. Cyril Hunt. In 1925 J. Carter donated a trophy for the club championship, in the form of a chess board to be engraved with the names of successive winners, but its fate has been lost in the mists of time, as has that of the Holland Handicap Cup. An under-twenty-one junior event was started in 1926, following the presentation of a silver rook trophy by Stanley Hunt. The sterling silver Hunt Trophy (centre of photograph below), weighing nineteen ounces and hallmarked London 1923, incorporates a ceramic version of the Horsham coat of arms. The first winner was William Albery, who later became a noted local historian and author of the much acclaimed 1947 book "A Millennium of Facts in the History of Horsham and Sussex 947 to 1947". In 1927 the second winner was the young Jack Smith, and the last known junior winner was in 1934. At some later point, probably in 1948 or 1949, this most handsome and valuable of trophies came to be awarded annually to the club champion. William. Albery and Jack Smith were the only players to win the Hunt Trophy both as juniors and seniors. At the club's 1987 AGM, it was pointed out that it was exactly sixty years since the chairman, Jack Smith, had first won the Trophy!

The Knockout Cup dates from 1960, as does the Tankard, which was initially used for a time handicap competition, but has since 1969 been the annual Lightning Tournament trophy. The Leonard Walls Trophy, a mounted ivory king, was donated by Geoffrey Walls in 1969, in memory of his late father, who had been a former Middlesex high board and county secretary before retiring to Horsham. This was at first competed for by newcomers and, following a lengthy period in abeyance, it has, since 1994, been the trophy for an annual ten-minute Quickplay Tournament. The Bishop and the Knight Trophies both date from 1967. The Bishop has always been used for an all-play-all competition, but the Knight is a third trophy to have undergone a change of use, having originally signalled the start of the annual Lightning Tournament and, since 1970, been won by the best percentage score in club matches. A **new** Knight Tournament Cup was introduced in October 2009, for a third all-play-all competition. For all known winners see the appendices from page 28 onwards.



The club's trophies

Left to right: the Knockout Plate Trophy; the Leonard Walls Trophy (quickplay); the Bishop Trophy; the Peter Alford Cup; the Hunt Trophy; the Knockout Cup; the Knight Trophy; the Lightning Tankard and the Quickplay Plate Trophy.

Juniors

In the 1970s, chess classes, which were part of Horsham District Council's Summer Activities for Schoolchildren, had been run by the late Edward Tickner, a regular Horsham committee member. Another committee member (and future chairman), Peter Alford, later took over these classes. In 1987, Peter started coaching sessions for juniors, prior to the main Horsham club meetings, and these were principally attended by children from the Summer Activities. The sessions continued until 1994, and were reinstated by Nathan and Sharon Goldberg and Anthony Higgs in 2003. They continued to flourish, with Ian and Stephanie Comley later joining Anthony. Upon the sad death of Peter Alford in May 2004, a new trophy, the Peter Alford Cup was purchased, for annual junior competition, echoing the ideals of Stanley Hunt in 1926.



Coach Peter Alford with eleven year old Phillip Read in 1991.



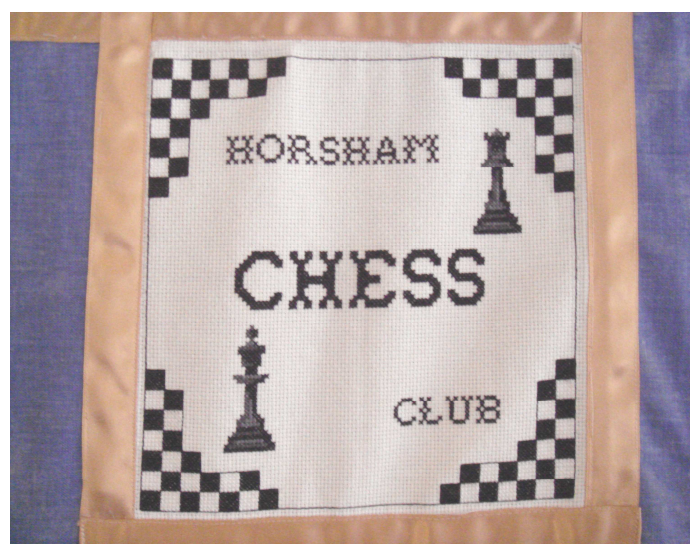
*Fifteen year old **Steven Taylor**, the first winner of the Peter Alford Cup in 2005, with fellow juniors and their coaches*

Standing, left to right: Andrew Burling; Alex Chase; Anthony Higgs (coach); Steven Taylor; Matthew Frampton; John Streamer; Joseph Ready; Ryan Murtagh and Nathan Goldberg (coach). Seated: Samuel Bowler; Josh Tester and Tristan Comley.



The Millennium 2000 Wall Hanging

Several months in advance of Millennium 2000, Horsham Methodist Church embarked upon a project to produce a wall hanging that would commemorate the occasion. Each current church organisation and outside hirer of the church premises was invited to contribute a nine-inch square of material designed to reflect its activity, and the resulting twenty three squares, mainly of embroidery, cross-stitch and appliqué work, were then mounted around a central image of the church, to form the 75" x 40" wall hanging seen below. The chess club's cross-stitch design was worked by Doreen Hawes, wife of Stephen, a chess member since 1973 and the club treasurer from 1979 to 2002. The chess club was represented at a service of dedication, after which the wall hanging was placed on permanent display in the church's Wesley Hall.



The 130th Anniversary Celebrations

In October 2009 the club staged three events to commemorate the club's 130th anniversary. For the first, on Saturday October 3rd, the bandstand in the Carfax was booked for four hours, and seven chess sets set up, including a large outdoor one borrowed from a public house. Horsham Museum and the West Sussex County Times provided excellent advance publicity and the weather was fine. The event attracted a lot of public interest, with club members taking on all comers and all seven sets in use during the busiest periods. Publicity leaflets were handed out, containing competitions for junior and senior contestants and several new members were gained.



The main celebration took place on Tuesday October 6th, when the club hosted a one-hour reception attended by the Chairman of Horsham District Council, Keith Wilkins, and his wife, the new Methodist Minister, Rev. Paul Cockburn and representatives from twelve other Mid-Sussex League clubs. Chairman John Cannon welcomed the guests and Keith Wilkins responded and cut a 130th anniversary cake. The reception was followed by a match between twelve Horsham players and their chess-playing guests, with each pairing playing two games of half-an-hour per player per game. The match was started by Keith Wilkins ceremonially playing the first move on top board, for Horsham club champion Gavin Lock against journalist Dominic Lawson and, although Horsham were outgraded on the top boards, they won the match 14 ½ - 9 ½. Press and Horsham Photographic Society photographers were present to record the event.



The third celebratory event was an exhibition at Horsham Museum. Launched on October 20th, this was greatly enhanced by a rich array of widely differing chess boards and pieces from the past 400 years or more, which were on loan from a local collector. The exhibition, presented in five large display cases plus wall space, also traced the history of the Horsham club, whose trophies on display included the 1933 twelve inch high sterling silver rook (see pg. 23)



The considerable amount of planning and organisation that went into the above celebratory events was amply justified by the obvious success of all three, and the club received excellent local press coverage for four consecutive weeks.

Epilogue

At the end of the 2006 AGM, I was surprised and honoured to be presented with a fine board and set in recognition of 42 years as club secretary (1963 to 2004) and 40 years as match captain. By a quirk of fate, Cyril Taylor, whom I succeeded as club secretary, was also the dental surgeon whose practice I bought when moving to Horsham in 1958! It has been enjoyable treading some obscure paths in compiling this history, which will hopefully always be regarded as a work in progress. At the 1959 AGM, the membership stood at twelve, and the financial statement showed no balance in hand and no monies owing! This fragile situation has long since changed dramatically for the better, aided by generous bequests from Jack Smith and Peter Alford. Membership has understandably fluctuated over the years, but it is currently thought to be at a record level and despite reports of a national slump in club memberships and the recent demise of the Hassocks, Holt and Crawley clubs, the future of Horsham Chess Club looks bright.



John Cannon, October 2009

Acknowledgements

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Chris Ravilious, the Sussex Chess Association Archivist, for further material, including the quaint Living Chess Tournament prologue.

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The West Sussex County Times, for team and simultaneous display photographs.

The West Sussex Records Office, for the photograph of William McArthur.

Jeremy Knight, Curator of Horsham Museum, for the 1884 notice and much assistance with the 130th Anniversary celebrations.

Maureen Powell Davies (née Cannon), for the Horsham coat of arms watercolour.

Rust Craft, for the image below.



Officers

President

S.Hunt	1936 – 1937
H.Rising	1943 – 1944
<i>(referred to as chairman)</i>	
G.Clayton	1945 – 1946
C.W.Roberts	1950 – 1952
F.H.Watts	1952 – 1953
M.B.Neale	1953 – 1955

Chairman

J.W.Smith	1955 – 1992
P.H.Alford	1992 – 2005
L.J.Cannon	2005 –

Secretary

H.R.Wilds	1927 – 1928
H.A.Dyer	
& J.P.Ingram	1933 – 1934
H.A.Dyer	1934 – 1941
E.A.Adams	1941 – 1942
G.A.Allison	1945 – 1949
J.W.Smith	1949 – 1953
C.E.Evans	1955 – 1962
C.F.Taylor	1962 – 1964
L.J.Cannon	1964 – 2005
I.S.Comley	2005 –

Treasurer

C.F.Taylor	1927 – 1928
G.H.Allison	1951 – 1962
D.G.Binney	1962 – 1968
B.G.Locke	1968 – 1975
W.A.Sudds	1975 – 1979
S.O.N.Hawes	1979 – 2000
I.S.Comley	2000 – 2005
N.E.Warren	2005 –

Auditor

E.A.Adams	1946 – 1948
E.A.Adams	1963 – 1966
F.C.Cullington	1966 – 1978
B.G.Locke	1978 – 1982
P.H.Alford	1982 – 2003
R.W.G.Fletcher	2003 – 2004
P.Harbott	2004 –

Tournament Controller

E.A.Adams	1950 – 1951
L.M.Skinner	1965 – 1969
J.E.Scholey	1973 – 1977
P.N.Kington	1977 – 1983
B.G.Locke	1983 – 1984
P.N.Kington	1984 – 1988
M.Burnham	1988 – 1990
S.J.Baines	1990 – 1991
I.S.Comley	1991 – 1992
S.J.Baines	1992 – 2000
I.S.Comley	2000 – 2002
P.Harbott	2002 –

Match Secretary

B.A.French	1963 – 1967
L.J.Cannon	1967 – 2005
I.S.Comley	2005 –

6th Team Captain

S.P.Wingett	2009 –
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1st Team Captain

M.B.Neale	1950 – 1952
F.Streater	1961 – 1962
B.A.French	1962 – 1966
L.J.Cannon	1966 – 2006
<i>(McArthur Cup only, during 1973-1984)</i>	
E.G.Tickner <i>(Mid-Sussex League only)</i>	1973 – 1976
D.C.Leach <i>(Mid-Sussex League only)</i>	1976 – 1984
A.R.J.Higgs	2006 – 2008
P.Harbott	2008 – 2009
D.N.Roberts	2009 –

2nd Team Captain

E.G.Tickner	1976 – 1977
W.B.Saunders	1977 – 1978
M.Burnham	1978 – 1980
No team	1980 – 1981
R.W.Southward	1981 – 1982
M.Burnham	1982 – 1984
R.D.Hughes	1984 – 1986
M.Burnham	1986 – 1987
P.H.Alford	1987 – 1988
J.P.Coules	1988 – 1991
No team	1990 – 1996
R.Waddingham	1996 – 1998
M.Hill	1998 – 1999
P.J.Helliwell	1999 – 2000
R.W.G.Fletcher	2000 – 2004
R.Moorhouse	2004 – 2006
N.E.Warren	2006 – 2008
A,R.J.Higgs	2008 –

3rd Team Captain

R.Waddingham	1998 – 2007
R.Moorhouse	2007 – 2008
I.S.Comley	2008 –

4th Team Captain

D.Holloway	2000 – 2006
J.P.Coules	2006 – 2007
R.Waddingham	2007 –

5th Team Captain

M. Baldock	2008 –
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Trophy Winners

The Club Championship		The Bishop Trophy
For an engraved board (see page 25) 1931 J.P.Ingram 1932 J.W.Smith 1933 F.H.Watts 1934 J.W.Smith 1935 J.P.Ingram (5 th win) 1936 F.H.Watts 1937 F.H.Watts 1938 J.P.Ingram & J.W.Smith (W.W.II > undecided) 1942 J.W.Smith (leading when joined the Royal Navy) 1948 J.W.Smith For the Hunt Trophy 1949 W.Albery 1952 J.W.Smith 1953 R.F.Streater 1954 not known 1955 R.F.Streater 1956 & 1957 not known 1958 E.A.Adams 1959 not known 1960 J.W.Smith 1961 E.A.Horn 1962 E.A.Horn 1963 L.J.Cannon 1964 L.J.Cannon 1965 L.J.Cannon 1966 L.J.Cannon & R.J.D.Power 1967 L.J.Cannon 1968 L.J.Cannon 1969 L.J.Cannon 1970 C.J.MacArthur 1971 L.J.Cannon 1972 L.J.Cannon 1973 L.J.Cannon 1974 P.D.Leat 1975 S.O.N.Hawes 1976 S.O.N.Hawes & P.D.Leat 1977 S.O.N.Hawes 1978 S.O.N.Hawes 1979 S.O.N.Hawes 1978 S.O.N.Hawes 1979 S.O.N.Hawes 1980 S.O.N.Hawes	1981 S.O.N.Hawes 1982 S.O.N.Hawes 1983 S.O.N.Hawes 1984 C.E.Cropp & M.Gillings 1985 M.Gillings 1986 M.Gillings 1987 S.O.N.Hawes 1988 S.O.N.Hawes 1989 S.J.Baines 1990 S.O.N.Hawes 1991 I.S.Comley & S.O.N.Hawes 1992 S.O.N.Hawes 1993 S.O.N.Hawes 1994 M.Gillings 1995 M.Gillings 1996 J.C.Mansson 1999 J.C.Mansson & D.N.Roberts 2000 J.C.Mansson 2001 P.Harbott 2002 J.C.Mansson 2003 B.P.Donnely & D.N.Roberts 2004 J.C.Mansson 2005 A.R.J.Higgs 2006 J.C.Mansson 2007 J.C.Mansson 2008 G R Lock 2009 G.R.Lock	1967 C.J.MacArthur 1968 D.E.Johnson 1969 S.Keene 1970 not known 1971 J.B.Chatt 1972 B.A.Bruno 1973 S.O.N.Hawes 1974 J.W.Smith 1975 J.E.Scholey 1976 B.G.Locke 1977 J.W.Smith 1978 W.A.Sudds 1979 D.C.Leach 1980 P.H.Alford 1981 A.Johnstone 1982 A.E.Hills 1983 J.P.Coules & R.Hughes 1984 D.C.Leach 1985 M Rausch 1986 P.J.Helliwell 1987 J.P.Coules 1988 A.E.Hills 1989 J.P.Coules & M.Hill 1990 R.S.Wardlaw 1991 L.K.G.Eastoe 1992 J.P.Coules 1993 C.W.Heath 1994 M.Hill 1995 P.H.Alford 1996 P.H.Alford 1997 R.Waddingham 1998 C.Richardson 1999 M.Hayes 2000 R.W.G.Fletcher 2001 P.J.Helliwell & R.Waddingham 2002 M.J.Hayes 2003 N.E.Warren 2004 C.W.Heath 2005 D.J.Cork 2006 P.N.Kington 2007 P.R.Taylor 2008 S.J.Baines 2009 A.M.Squibbs

The Knockout Cup	The Knockout Cup continued	The Tankard
1960 J.W.Smith 1961 E.A.Horn 1962 E.A.Horn 1963 L.J.Cannon 1964 L.J.Cannon 1965 S.Keene 1966 L.J.Cannon & R.J.D. Power 1967 L.J.Cannon 1968 C.J.MacArthur 1969 S.Keene 1970 C.J.MacArthur 1971 P.N.Kington 1972 L.J.Cannon 1973 S.O.N.Hawes 1974 L.J.Cannon & S.O.N.Hawes 1975 S.O.N.Hawes 1976 P.D.Leat & S.O.N.Hawes 1977 S.O.N.Hawes 1978 L.J.Cannon & J.Goodare 1979 S.O.N.Hawes 1980 L.J.Cannon 1981 B. A.Bruno & S.O.N.Hawes 1982 L.J.Cannon & S.O.N.Hawes 1983 L.J.Cannon & C.E.Cropp 1984 M.Gillings 1985 M.Gillings 1986 M.Gillings 1987 S.O.N.Hawes 1988 J.G.Brookes 1989 S.O.N.Hawes 1990 M.Gillings 1991 S.J.Baines 1992 I.S.Comley 1993 M.Gillings 1994 M.Gillings 1995 M.Gillings 1996 J.C.Mansson 1997 S.O.N.Hawes 1998 S.O.N.Hawes 1999 B.P.Donnelly 2000 D.N.Roberts 2001 B.P.Donnelly 2002 B.P.Donnelly & J.C.Mansson 2003 B.P.Donnelly 2004 G.R.Lock 2005 G.R.Lock 2006 D.N.Roberts 2007 D.N.Roberts	2008 D.N.Roberts 2009 G.R.Lock The Knockout Plate 2005 D.N.Roberts 2006 N.E.Warren 2007 W.J.Marshall 2008 A.R.J.Higgs 2009 A.M.Squibbs	1960 J.W.Smith 1961 E.A.Horn 1962 D.G.Binney 1963 D.G.Binney 1964 D.G.Binney 1965 L.Walls 1966 R.J.D.Power 1967 L.J.Cannon 1968 L.J.Cannon 1969 L.J.Cannon 1970 P.N.Kington 1971 L.J.Cannon 1972 L.J.Cannon 1973 S.O.N.Hawes 1974 P.N. Kington 1975 S.O.N.Hawes 1976 S.O.N.Hawes 1977 S.O.N.Hawes 1978 S.O.N.Hawes 1979 S.O.N.Hawes 1980 J.Goodare 1981 S.O.N.Hawes 1982 A.Johnstone 1983 S.O.N.Hawes 1984 S.O.N.Hawes 1985 S.O.N.Hawes 1986 S.O.N.Hawes 1987 S.J.Baines 1988 S.O.N.Hawes 1989 S.O.N.Hawes 1990 I.S.Comley 1991 S.O.N.Hawes 1992 I.S.Comley & S.O.N.Hawes 1993 S.O.N.Hawes 1994 S.O.N.Hawes 1995 S.O.N.Hawes 1996 J.C.Mansson 1997 J.C.Mansson 2002 B.P.Donnelly 2003 B.P.Donnelly 2004 J.C.Mansson 2005 B.P.Donnelly 2006 B.P.Donnelly 2007 A.R.J.Higgs 2008 J.C.Mansson 2009 P.R.Taylor

The Knight Trophy	The Leonard Walls Trophy
1967 E.G.Tickner 1968 M.J.Dawson 1969 J.G.Shotter 1970 S.Keene 1971 L.J.Cannon 1972 L.J.Cannon 1973 S.O.N.Hawes 1974 E.G.Tickner 1975 W.A.Sudds 1976 S.O.N.Hawes 1977 P.H.Alford 1978 B.Howell 1979 R.W.Southward 1980 M.Gillings 1981 M.Gillings 1982 P.N.Kington 1983 C.E.Cropp 1984 C.E.Cropp 1985 M.Burnham 1986 R.D.Hughes 1987 S.O.N.Hawes 1988 J.P.Coules & D.C.Leach 1989 S.J.Baines 1990 D.P.Hurricks 1991 S.O.N.Hawes 1992 S.J.Baines & D.P.Hurricks 1993 D.P.Hurricks 1994 I.S.Comley 1995 M.Hill 1996 J.C.Mansson 1997 M.Hill 1998 C.Richardson 1999 M.Hayes 2000 M.Hayes 2001 S.O.N.Hawes & D.N.Roberts 2002 P.R.Taylor 2003 D.W.Khoo 2004 D.N.Roberts 2005 N.Goldberg 2006 D.Holloway 2007 C.W.Heath 2008 R.H.Newman 2009 A.L.Locke	1969 E.G.Tickner 1970 B.A.French 1971 M.J.Dawson 1972 W.A.Sudds 1973 P.Rice and R.Gillette 1974 M.J.Bailey and P.G.France 1979 R.Cooper 1981 K.West 1982 – 1997 no competition 1998 J.C.Mansson 1999 S.O.N.Hawes 2000 not known 2001 J.C.Mansson 2002 B.P.Donnelly 2003 J.C.Mansson 2004 J.C.Mansson 2005 B.P.Donnelly 2006 B.P.Donnelly 2007 J.C.Mansson 2008 B.P.Donnelly 2009 B.P.Donnelly
	The Leonard Walls Plate
	2005 P.R.Taylor 2006 P.Harbott 2007 P.R.Taylor 2008 P.Harbott 2009 P.Harbott
	The Junior Championship For The Hunt Trophy
	(see page 25) 1926 W.Albery 1927 J.W.Smith 1928 C.C.Welsh 1929 C.C.Welsh 1930 D.Bone 1931 D.Bone 1933 F.C.Tilling
	For The Peter Alford Cup
	2005 S.J.Taylor 2006 S.J.Taylor 2007 J.P.Streamer 2008 A.J.Burling 2009 R.A.Fells