SUSSEX CHESS NEWS

Open team leads the way

Youngsters are Euro veterans

All change for association

Sussex can look forward to a bright future

WELCOME to the 2010 edition of Sussex Chess News. We hope you like the new-look. Thanks to everyone for their contributions, including pictures, many of which we have been able to publish. Sussex County Chess Association has been facing something of an uncertain future, but there is now considerable justification for optimism as a number of people have stepped forward to take on new roles for the association. We report elsewhere on developments. But what better place to begin the publication than to report on the remarkable success of the county's Open team....

History in the making

ONE of the best, and quite possibly the best season in the history of Sussex's top team. For only the fourth time, Sussex are Southern Counties Champions.

Sussex history guru Brian Denman informs us that the previous occasions were 1895, 1921 and 1994. We are the holders of the splendid Shannon Trophy, which was presented to me on behalf of the team at the SCCU AGM.

We played five matches in the competition and exceeded our expectations in all of them. We achieved four excellent wins by much bigger margins than could have been predicted, against Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Essex and Kent.

We drew against remarkable wooden spoonists, Surrey, who still have a strong squad. In fact, a good result for us as they had a higher average grade and on that basis were the strongest team we played. So how they finished last is something of a mystery. Our main rivals were Kent, who started with three wins from three. We had been due to play them in January but the weather intervened and the match was re-arranged to the end of the season, and so the final fixture.

As we left the match at Cheam, against Surrey, our penultimate fixture, we expected the news would be that we needed to win against Kent on the following Saturday to be champions.

However, Kent had slipped up and lost, so it was Sussex who had draw odds going into the deciding match.

Kent were severely below par as it would seem the revised date was far more challenging to them than us, and we romped to an emphatic 11½-4½ win on Kent soil.

The ECF stage was also highly successful. We won comfortably, 12-4, against Warwickshire, who had a couple of key players missing and defaulted bottom board, in the quarter-final. Once again, the margin of victory was greater than our grading advantage predicted.

In the semi-final, we also out-graded Staffordshire, but won by only 9-7. It looked as though we were comfortably in control, but they came back at us and the match was in the balance, but, fortunately, there was a final twist in our favour.

So to a final against Lancashire in Leicester, who were by far the strongest

INDEX

Adjudications.....30
Annual meeting.....6
Argumentatives.....13
Bognor and Arun.....17
Chichester.....16
Correspondence Chess.....32
County Chess.....4-6
Crowborough.....17
Eastbourne.....14
East Grinstead.....11
ECF delegate.....30
Competitions.....40
Games.....33-40
Grading.....30
Hastings & St Leonards.....15
Horsham.....10-11
Horsham's history.....7-8
McArthur Cup.....28
Mid-Sussex League.....25-26
Mid-Sussex comment.....27
Open team.....2-3,21
Patrons.....41
Results.....29
St Francis &Hay Heath.....15
Under 180.....19,22
Under 160.....19,23
Under 140.....20,24
Who's Who.....42
Worthing.....14
Young chess.....9-10

opponents we played all season. Their team featured a strong IM on board 1, a player who is not far off that title on board 2 and five other players graded 200+. Although our team was comparable to some of the stronger teams we had fielded during the season, their average grade was six to seven points higher.

The match conformed to the grading distribution with the bottom boards shared, but Lancashire overpowered us 7-1 on the top eight to win the match 11-5. Consequently, Sussex still wait to be crowned national champions for the first time.

There were many fine performances over the season, but the leading two scores were David Oates, with 4½/5, and David Grant, 5/6. The former almost achieved 5/5 in the SCCU stage, but was held to a draw in the last match against Kent. Regrettably, he was unavailable for the national stage matches.

Of course, percentage scores do not by themselves fairly reflect the performance and contribution players have made, as those on the highest boards still perform extremely well but find points far harder to come by against very strong opponents.

Thank you to everyone who played in the team this season. In particular, those who helped with setting up and clearing away at home matches. New players are always welcome, so please get in touch if you are 170+ and would like to play, or if you know of anyone at your club or elsewhere who is eligible for Sussex.

Richard Almond and Paul Selby

SCCU president Mike Gunn presents the Shannon Trophy to Richard Almond on behalf of the team for winning the SCCU Counties Open Championship, at the SCCU AGM

Looking to the future

Many feared the worst, as Sussex County Chess Association struggled to keep going this year, but there is now light at the end of the tunnel. Brian Denman reports on the association's past, present and future ...

THE once-powerful Sussex Chess Association recently came close to collapse out of neglect. An organisation, which had once done so much to help the chess players of the county, looked as if it would not survive the AGM.

It was on October 21, 1882, that a relatively small band of players assembled at the Royal Pavilion to consider whether to start the organisation. It was a foul day and the adverse conditions contributed towards a rather disappointing attendance. There was already a number of chess clubs in Sussex at that time and some doubted whether it would be beneficial to create a county organisation.

A vote was taken, which proved inconclusive and it was left to the chairman, Arthur Smith, to make the final decision. He used his casting vote in favour of the creation of the new organisation and it soon became clear that he had acted wisely.

It was not long before a subscription list was set up for a county championship trophy and early in 1883 the first winner was declared. About a year later came the first county match when the Sussex team travelled to Croydon to take on Surrey.

The foundations had therefore been created, but it was only towards the end of the decade that exceptional progress was made. Sussex clubs benefited from the establishment of the McArthur Cup competition and in 1889 Lewes became the first holder of the trophy.

There were also soon to be competitions for players, who were a little below the normal first-class county standard, and by 1891 players of this strength could enter the East and West Sussex Queen competitions.

Another very significant development was the decision of the association to hold the first Sussex Congress in Brighton in 1888. These congresses were then held annually for about 20 years, either in Brighton or Hastings, and often on these occasions open events were held alongside the regular county competitions.

It was probably in the decade of the 1890s that the association reached its peak. Attempts were made to spread the popularity of the game into distant parts of the county and soon many villages as well as towns had their own chess club.

The situation was further helped by the holding of the Hastings International Congress in 1895, which was particularly beneficial for chess in East Sussex. The popularity of village chess soon declined and the chess clubs tended to congregate in the towns. The Sussex Chess Association had good and bad periods and it is hardly surprising that it was affected by the two World Wars. It appears that no AGM was held in 1914 but the organisation did revive a little for the rest of the Great War. By way of contrast, the association virtually closed down for the whole of World War Two.

Nevertheless, there was a good revival in the 1950s and 1960s and I remember that at my first AGM at

"The association itself needs to be far more positive if it wants to unify the whole of the county"

Bognor in 1961 there was a good attendance. Another plus point in the 1960s was the creation of a veterans' trophy, which was kindly donated by Norman Fishlock-Lomax and recorded its first winner in 1966.

A gradual decline probably started in the late 1960s and has continued for the last 40 years or so. In order to encourage a good attendance at the AGMs it was decided to hold a jamboree on the same day as the main meeting. Unfortunately, some people arranged the time of their arrival so that they missed the AGM, which was held before the chess play began. Paul Watson gave the association many years of good service before his death in 2005. Since that time, Robert Williams has bravely occupied both the posts of president and secretary, but a need has been felt for a regular active secretary.

The decline of the Sussex Chess Association roughly coincides with the success of the Mid-Sussex League. This latter organisation was originally formed in 1967 and started out with a few clubs in the Haywards Heath and Crawley areas playing under grading restrictions.

As time has passed, more and more clubs have been allowed to join the league, such that the area of competition now covers much of Sussex. Whether the league can justifiably continue to be called the Mid-Sussex League is a valid point of discussion, but the organisation clings to its roots. However, it would be disastrous for Sussex chess if the Mid-Sussex League were to continue without the Sussex Chess Association.

The Mid-Sussex League effectively closes down during the summer, has no individual competitions, does not usually have any matches at weekends, does not run county teams and does not properly cater for clubs throughout the whole of the county. On the last point, clubs in the extreme east and west of the county are forced to play at an away venue if they are to be allowed to enter the competition.

This is a controversial issue and it does seem unfortunate some players are happy for clubs like Hastings to make the long journey to play them, but are unwilling to reciprocate the travelling. It would hardly be good for chess in the county if a prestigious club like Hastings were to put its strongest team in the Kent League to avoid travelling around Sussex.

Clubs in the south west have a similar problem. If they were to enter the Mid-Sussex League, they would be forced to play all their matches away. There used to be a South West Sussex League, but unfortunately this has recently been discontinued. Players from the Bognor and Chichester clubs now travel into Hampshire to play competitive team matches in the Portsmouth League. These arguments show that the Mid-Sussex League cannot alone satisfy the needs of chess in the whole county. Even if it were to evolve into a Sussex evening league, it still would not be enough to satisfy the needs of all the Sussex chess players.

Quite simply, without a Sussex Chess Association, there would probably be no county chess, no county competitions and no unifying Sussex chess magazine. It is only reasonable therefore to expect every club to send a representative to the AGM of the organisation.

However, the association itself needs to be far more positive if it wants to unify the whole of the county. The tournaments take far too long to complete and there is a very poor entry. Eight entrants for the most recent county championship is poor, when one considers that in at least one year in the 1960s there were more than 60 competitors.

Even worse statistics this season are the two entrants for the McArthur Cup, two entrants for the Veterans' competition, two entrants for the East Sussex Queen and the total absence of competitors in the West Sussex Queen.

The new tournament controller does not have an easy job to attract entries and similarly the new secretary will have problems in advertising the association. My own view is that it would be best for chess in Sussex if the Mid-Sussex League were to evolve into a Sussex evening league and this new organisation were to work closely with the association for the benefits of county players.

Finally, I would like to mention the achievement of the Sussex first team in reaching the national final, before going down against Lancashire. It is doubtful if this would have been possible without the Sussex Chess Association. It also shows the strength of chess within the county and the potential for the future.

New faces at the helm for county association

Brian Denman reports from the annual general meeting

PRESENT were Robert Williams, Bob Elliston, Peter Kemp, Brian Denman, Paul Selby, Geoffrey James, Richard Almond, Julie Denning, Paul Batchelor and Paul Buswell.

Robert Elliston became president, with Robert Williams occupying the vice-president position.

Dix Roberts is the new secretary and Paul Buswell was elected as tournament controller with Douglas Opie having resigned through ill-health.

Brian Denman has taken over from Chris Ravilious as archivist. No report had been received for the Sussex U-140 team and there were doubts that Gary McCulloch wanted to continue.

Although Douglas Opie was not present, Julie Denning had worked out the various winners of the competitions. Adrian Pickersgill defeated Robert Davies to win the East Sussex Queen, Geoffrey James won against Robert Davies to win the veterans' trophy (both of these tournaments only had two entrants)

Brighton 1 defeated Hastings in the McArthur Cup final (only three entrants and Brighton 2 withdrew). The county championship final between Brian Denman and Feliks Kwiatkowski had not been completed. There were no entries for the West Sussex Queen competition and the trophy needs to be found. The last winners were Bill Partridge and Daniel Hirsch (shared) in 2007.

Douglas Opie and Robert Williams received the hon. life vice-president distinction, which in the past had been given to only a few people.

Richard Almond brought along the Shannon Trophy, which the Sussex open team had won in becoming Southern Counties' champions (N.B. Sussex had won the competition on only three previous occasions, in 1895, 1921 and 1994).

A dicusssion arose about whether those who had played for Sussex first team should receive a commemorative plaque. Paul Buswell proposed that this should apply to all county teams and that each player should be asked for £5 towards the costs. This was accepted.

A decision was also made regarding the Sussex chess archives. This large body of historical information goes back to 1879, but its sizeable content makes it difficult to find a suitable place for storage.

Chris Ravilious, who, at present, has the archives in his possession, plans to pass the material to the National Chess Library at University College, Hastings, but he has to obtain their permission, though this has apparently been provisionally agreed. The meeting gave Chris permission to go ahead with this.

Horsham celebrate in style

130 years old... and still going strong. Horsham holds a range of birthday celebrations in the town to mark another chapter in chess club's fine history

Horsham vs Visitors

1.	Gavin Lock 195	2	0	Dominic Lawson 201, Lewes
2.	Phil Stimpson 179	0	2	Chris Jones 186, Worthing
3.	James Mansson 177	1	1	George Salimbeni 184, Crowborough
4.	Paul Taylor 171	0	2	Geoffrey James, 183, Brighton and Hove (Co-British Seniors Champion)
5.	Ben Silverstein 168	½	1½	Richard Almond 181, Hastings & St Leonards
6.	Anthony Higgs 167	1½	½	Simon Wrigley 158, Knoll Knights
7.	Peter Harbott 166	1½	½	Mick Harris 151 Crawley
8.	Adam Squibbs 159	2	0	Bob Fisher 146 East Grinstead
9.	John Marshall 152	1	1	Vince Ellis 146 Eastbourne
10.	Ian Comley 146	2	0	David Langridge 130, St Francis and Haywards Heath
11.	Nick Warren 146	2	0	Mike Card 121, The Argumentatives
12.	Roger Waddingham 128	1	1	Oliver Andrew 112, Woodpushers
		14½	9½	

IN October, 2009, Horsham Chess Club staged three events to commemorate the club's 130th anniversary.

For the first, on Saturday, October 3, 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 (pictured on page 8) attracted a lot of public interest, with club members taking on allcomers 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 6, 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, the Rev Paul Cockburn, and representatives from 12 other Mid-Sussex League clubs.

Chairman John Cannon welcomed the guests and Mr Wilkins responded and cut a 130th anniversary cake. The reception was followed by a match between 12 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 Mr Wilkins ceremonially playing the first move on top board, for Horsham club champion Gavin Lock (pictured) against Dominic Lawson of Lewes and, although Horsham were outgraded on the top boards, they won the match 14½ - 9½. Press and Horsham Photographic Society photographers were present to record the event.

"The club received excellent local press coverage for four consecutive weeks"

The third celebratory event was an exhibition at Horsham Museum. Launched on October 20, 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 12-inch high sterling silver rook.

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

John Cannon

Our youngsters taking on Europe

ANOTHER busy and successful season draws to a close.

By the end of June we ran nine training days and 10 tournaments. More than 215 children, aged between four and 15 have attended at least one event, with average attendances of 40 - 50 children at training days, and more at tournaments. In addition, the Schools Cup competitions in three age-groups (U11, U14 and U16) attracted an entry of 50 teams.

We are lucky to have several chess dynasties where multiple siblings attend regularly; but a new record was set this year when a very determined Laura Borland, aged just three, joined her brothers at a training day and held her own admirably all day!

Our Sussex junior teams continue to flourish. The U14s won the NYCA National Championships - the fourth successive year this cohort have been national champions. Our U9s, U11s, and U11 girls teams all qualified for the finals of their events, and despite the best efforts of the volcanic ash disruption, all succeeded in being placed fourth!

Celebrating winning the Battle of the Giants

It was with regret that we decided not to compete at U12 and U16 level this year due to the difficulty of the location. However, we have fielded teams in U14/U140, U13 and U18 events, helping our teenagers bridge the gap between junior and adult chess. More than 90 children have had the chance to represent Sussex so far this year.

A particular highlight this season was sending a mixed-age team to The Netherlands to defend the Battle of the Giants title Sussex won two years ago.

The competition was tough, against top sides from France, the Netherlands and Germany but Sussex triumphed after a very tough final against St. Petersburg.

There have also been considerable individual successes – 12-year old Amy Hoare was selected to represent England in the prestigious European Youth

"The competition was tough ....but Sussex triumphed after a very tough final"

Championships; Matthew Payne and Rhys Cumming travelled to Poland with the England squad; similarly, Otto and Ramsay Pyper travelled to the Czech Republic and Daniel Sutton to Belarus.

Enjoying some lively game analysis

Sussex has an enviable record in supplying players to the England squad – congratulations to Billy Twigge-Molecey and Toby Harris, who achieved this milestone this year. We also have two part-qualified players on the cusp - we wish them well with that for next season.

Sussex Junior Chess has existed in its current form for only 15 years, and it is very encouraging to note that six alumni have qualified for the British Championships this year – good luck to GM David Howell, IM Thomas Rendle, George Salimbeni, Grant Bucher, David Grant and Rhys Cumming.

Once again, we hosted the Sussex Megafinal for the UK Chess Challenge – the UK's largest junior competition. More than 360 5-17-year-olds competed including a record entry of 39 under-7s, and we will be sending more than 100 Sussex qualifiers to the Gigafinal in Berkshire in July. It was also our turn to host the EPSCA National U9 final.

This being exactly a week before the Megafinal put considerable strain on our resources; so many thanks to the parents, friends, local club players and our own teenagers, who helped make this a very exciting and happy day.

Serious concentration by some of our youngest players

Last but not least, we have approved a new constitution and elected an enlarged committee which should enable us to move forward with our vision of promoting junior chess in Sussex.

So – a lot going on! It just remains to thank all parents for their support in so many ways – transporting and encouraging children, helping at events and behind the scenes.

This year we offer sincere thanks to Margaret and Andy Burch, Trevor Norton, and Nick Yates who all step down from some or all of their roles after many years' service. We would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone who feels they could offer to help us take Sussex Junior Chess forward.

To keep up with our activities throughout next season, please visit our website www.sussexjuniorchess.org which is regularly updated with news from our events and details of our forthcoming events.

We also welcome your ideas and feedback – email info@sussexjuniorchess.org.

Carol Graham

Horsham Knockout Shield: Standing, from left: Phil Stimpson; Melusi Nkomo; Nick Warren; Paul Taylor; Anthony Higgs; Dix Roberts. Seated: Gary Marsh; James Mansson; Julie Denning (captain); Gavin Lock; Peter Harbott

Mine's a double!

HORSHAM - 130 years old - enjoyed a quite exceptional season.

The club enjoyed considerable playing success. This was the first season that Horsham entered six teams in the Mid-Sussex Chess League, which reflects our commitment to ensure that every member who would like to play for the club gets this opportunity.

There was considerable movement of MSL teams at the beginning of the season and where possible, we chose to accept promotion to tougher leagues, in order to provide our players with the highest possible level of chess. As a result, many of our teams found it very tough and the season looked like being a bit of a disappointment by comparison with 2008-09.

Remarkable events were to follow though, when we contrived to win the Knockout Cup for the first time since 1997-98 and then took the lead in Division 1 at the very last match, to snatch victory.

To achieve the double of winning both the Mowatt Cup (for Division 1) and the Knockout Cup, is a great achievement, which has not been done for many years, if ever, and the fact that this occurred in our 130th year was icing on the cake.

Horsham 2 followed the familiar route of being demoted from Division 1, despite beating Worthing 1. In Division 2, Horsham 3 came equal second with Brighton & Hove 2 on match points, but Brighton 2 won promotion on game points. Horsham 4 finished eighth in Division 2, thereby avoiding relegation.

This has produced a curious situation in which there will be three Horsham teams in Division 2 next year! Horsham 5, newly promoted to

Division 3, managed a satisfactory fifth place, whilst Horsham 6 finished seventh in Division 4. Horsham fielded a total of 35 players, who between them played 262 games, scoring 117.5 points or 45 per cent.

In the internal chess competitions, we have three all-play-all competitions, which are the backbone of our season. The winner of the Rook, and club champion for the third successive year, was Gavin Lock, just half a point ahead of James Mansson. Gary Marsh won the Bishop or Challenger's competition and Ron Fletcher the third section, each gaining promotion to the higher competition for next season. The knockout final, between Anthony Higgs and Dix Roberts, was drawn on the last night of the season, so awaits a replay, while Mick Harris won the KO plate.

Ian Comley won the quickplay KO (10-mins per game), with John Marshall winning the plate. James Mansson won the lightning competition, a whole evening of 10 seconds per move. James also won the tankard for the best performance in club matches, something that is difficult for a Division 1 player to achieve. Finally, Matthew Forster won the junior competition and this will be a name to watch in the future

The figures for Horsham's involvement in county matches are: 15 players (beating last year's record of 14) played 81 games (just short of the 83 games in 2008-09) and scored 44 points.

Ian Comley

Division 1 champions: Standing, from left: Phil Stimpson; Peter Harbott; Paul Taylor; Anthony Higgs. Seated: James Mansson; Dix Roberts (captain); Gavin Lock

Horsham is club of the year

JUST as we were going to press, it was announced that Horsham is the ECF Club of the Year. They will be presented with their award by ECF President TV Egghead CJ DE Mooi, at Horsham's AGM on September 7.

East Grinstead

THE 2009-2010 season started badly for East Grinstead as unexpectedly we lost the majority of our first team who moved away or joined other clubs.

This left us with just two teams. However, we did manage to play all our matches both home and away, thanks to a core of players who stay loyal to the club.

We also miss a stalwart of the club, Colin Wakefield, who lost his battle with cancer. Colin's excellent leadership and wit made us even more determined to carry on. With other clubs closing, we have picked up a handful of experienced new members and we ended the year with respectful average of 12 or so regular players each week.

We meet every Tuesday at Swan Mead Centre in East Grinstead at 7.30pm and welcome new friends. Our venue is quiet, well lit and very comfortable on a cold winters evening, plus it has excellent disabled access.

For further information please contact Bob Dyke, chairman, tel. 01342 822058.

Suzanne Marshall

The Argumentatives

THE welcome return of Jim Graham helped to produce a renaissance for The Args, once a strong team in the top division but long in decline after losing several key players.

It soon became clear that we were in real danger of promotion. All eight matches were won, with the top three winning almost every game yet supported by the other players when necessary.

Individual scores were as follows: Peter Farr 7.5/8 (equal best result in all the MSL; Jim Graham 6.5/8; Paul Kington 7/8; Mike Garson 2.5/4; Dennis Collard 1.5/6; Bob Huston 1.5/2; Mike Card 1/3. **Paul Kington**

Brighton and Hove

ANOTHER remarkable year for our club, which has swelled its ranks to 46 paid up members (plus the usual honoraries).

Current cup holders include: Charles Holcombe & Kevin Gee, in joint first, of the Denman Cup, a tournament for beginners. Felix Haxby, aged 12, won the Eric Cohen Cup, the last year that tournament's grade restriction was 100. We adjusted our tournaments to the new grading system by copying what others did. The magnificent Plummer Knight trophy was won by Dona Strauss, who also won the Challenge Shield. Finally, our club champion was Luke Rutherford. Luke played in a simul broadcast on youtube via our club's channel (www.youtube.com/brightonandhovechess)

Stay tuned this year for more film drama chess mashups.

Ten members of the club travelled to France for the third match against the team in Dieppe. This year was the closest result yet - a draw with no games drawn. We look forward to playing the team they are bringing to Brighton in September, 2010.

Geoffrey James became joint British Senior Champion in Torquay. Our members put in a strong showing at the congress in Hastings, with young Felix coming joint first in the minor. One to watch. We entered six teams into the Mid-Sussex Chess League.

Duncan Badham led our 2nd team to promotion to the 1st division. Our newest captain, Michael Cain, achieved a respectable mid table position for our 3rd team, in the 2nd division. Similarly, Sue Chadwick retained our 4th team's position in the 3rd division. Simon Hayward captained a team to promotion to the 3rd division for the second time in two years; this year with our 5th team. Finally, Andrew Caswill led an eclectic 6th team to 4th place in the 4th division!

The biggest surprise of the year was the unexpected and utterly secret visit by a very important personage, who spoke to us of his struggle to get a decent game in these days and very charitably allowed us all to thrash him. Everybody is welcome at our club, regardless of ability, even if you are an American President with much more important stuff to do, which I'm sure he did.

Duncan Roy
Secretary & Webmaster
of Brighton & Hove Chess Club
www.brightonandhovechessclub.org
secretary@brightonandhovechessclub.org

Worthing

MEMBERSHIP of the club continues to rise, and it is refreshing to see a good mix of adults and not just juniors joining the club.

With two teams in the Mid-Sussex, performances have been mixed. The first team maintained division 1 status with a key win against stronger opposition, having started the season by losing to the bottom team in the league.

While consistency remains an issue, we hope with so many juniors progressing through the ranks this will improve. The second team already had a good mix of youth and experience and managed promotion from division three into division two, having lost just one match to the eventual worthy winners – The Argumentatives.

Sadly, we lost two long-standing members, Ken Lane and Ian Halsey, who passed away after lengthy illness. They, along with Bernard Bruno, were remembered with a rapidplay tournament at the club.

Chris Jones

Eastbourne

OUR first team finished top of the Mid-Sussex, division two. In division three, our second team was third, and the third team next to last.

Vince Ellis, first team captain, attributes first place largely to good fortune, quoting instances where opponents could not field their strongest team, and where matches were won by a blunder just before close of play or saved by analysis later.

True enough. Nevertheless, most of the team, including the captain himself, played rather well! The second team earned a decent place in division three, being distinctly less strong than the teams above them. Angel Chung had a good season. The third team captain is not discouraged, because a team in division four can often cater for inexperienced players better than those in higher divisions.

I do sometimes wonder whether we play too many matches. A match is hardly an ideal backcloth to a club session. Some match-players are very sensitive to the human voice, and consequently other games in the room are supposed to be played in monastic silence, and visitors - perhaps unfamiliar with chess clubs - cannot be suitably welcomed and encouraged unless a separate room (heated in winter) is available.

As usual, this season's club competitions are not completed at the time of writing. For the record, the current club champion and holder of the Southdown Rapidplay trophy is Rasa Norinkeviciute. The other trophy-holders are as follows: Challengers, Angel Chung; Open KO, Paul Carpenter; Oak King KO, Doug Stevenson.

The 2009 Christmas Rapidplay was postponed due to bad weather, but on the rearranged date snow again fell. Only a few keen optimists made it to the club, but one of those was the president, with refreshments. So those present enjoyed a good supper, and some friendly games.

John Herbert

Hastings & St Leonards

AFTER sharing division 1 of the Mid-Sussex League last year with Crowborough A, a match was held between the two teams which ended in in an honourable draw.

Unfortunately, this year, Hastings A, captained by Richard Almond, only managed to come fifth as, on a couple of occasions, he had to field a weakened team due to other commitments of the main players.

Joe Sharp, captaining Hastings B, performed above themselves, finishing seventh. Martyn Shorrocks, who captained the division 4 team, was very pleased with sixth place as he tried to select the lower graded players to give them experience of league play. In the final of the McArthur Cup, we lost to Brighton and Hove 2.5 -3.5.

In the ECF Minor Knockout, Hastings are in the finals and will play Chipping Campden in London. In the Kent League, Hastings missed getting to the finals by a bottom board elimination after a 3-3 draw.

It was our turn to entertain Bethune Chess Club (Bethune is twinned with Hastings) A visit to historic Battle Abbey was followed by a buffet supper and an evening of Chess. Sunday morning, the match between the two clubs was narrowly won by Hastings 17-15, which was followed by a traditional Sunday roast at a local hotel.

At the AGM, we were able to fill all the outstanding posts and at the time of writing all are standing for re-election. Membership is about the same but we still welcome new members.

The Club Championship was tied between Richard Almond and Francis Rayner. The Pelton Cup was won by Omer Namouk and the Rush Cup by Anna Pontonutti. Mention must be given to one of our new juniors, Olibhear Wilson, who has been selected to play for the Junior England team.

William Penfold

St Francis & Haywards Heath

DURING the 2008/2009 season, St Francis Hospital and Haywards Heath successfully merged into a single club - becoming known as the St Francis & Haywards Heath Chess Club.

The Haywards Heath venue at the St Francis Social Club - part of the Princess Royal Hospital - had come under question through changes in hospital administration which required the Social Club to run as a profit-making organisation. Rent charges would have raised our chess club subscriptions to an unacceptable level and finding a new venue is always difficult so we opted to join the St Francis Social Club and enjoy the benefits of comfortable surroundings and the other facilities the Social Club could provide.

At that time, St Francis Hospital was already in residence at the Social Club and because both chess club members were also required to be Social Club members, the Haywards Heath Club was asked to change its name to include St Francis, which brought about the amalgamation of the two clubs. We now have a secure venue

and more certain future.

At the start of the 2009 season, the club also benefited from new members who were able to make a significant contribution to club games and league matches. Jeffrey Boardman greatly strengthened the 1st team and gave Feliks Kwiatkowski a worthy opponent in club games while Roland Rattray quickly established himself as a growing tour de force, winning the Club Challenge.

For the coming 2010/2011 season, Jeffrey may step into Feliks's shoes as 1st team captain. Feliks is standing down but will continue to play.

During 2009/2010, the 2nd team would ordinarily have played in division 3. However, we answered the league's call for more teams to be artificially promoted to the 2nd division in order to make up the required number of teams. For those that played in our 2nd team, it was a hard season, being substantially out-graded on most occasions and without a real prospect of winning matches.

Nevertheless, there were some strong performances from all players and at the end of the season it was the result of the last match that decided whether the 2nd team stayed in division 2. I think it would be true to say that it is with some relief that we face the prospect of playing in the 3rd division next season. Hopefully, a stronger team for the experience.

The 1st team were again playing for promotion to the 1st division. Despite accumulating the highest number of game points promotion was missed by a narrow margin. Playing in the final of the Knock-Out competition, the first team gave Horsham a good run for their money in what was a very close match but honours fell to Horsham. Some disappointment for what was otherwise a good season.

David Nixon

Chichester

CHICHESTER Chess Club has enjoyed another very successful season.

After its move to The Fountain Inn in South Street 18 months ago, the club has gone from strength to strength, with membership increasing from 15 last season to 21 this.

On the playing side of things, the combined teams of Chichester and Bognor & Arun entered a team in each of the three divisions of the Portsmouth League and finished top of the Second Division. Our A and C teams each finished third in their respective divisions.

In the League's Cole Cup competition, having been knocked out in the first round by our A team, the B team went on to win the Cole Plate competition and the A team reached the final of the Cole Cup itself, in which they drew 2½-2½ with Fareham, only to lose on board count.

We continue to run two inter club competitions. The main Club Championship has a new winner this season in Andrew McDougall with a score of 7 from 8 games. Jamie Wilson was runner-up, with 5½ from 8.

The under 130 competition went down to the very last game and was won by Mick Plumb with a score of 8 from 9 games. Philip Carr was runner-up, also with 8 from 9. Mick wins by virtue of having beaten Philip in their game against each other. Jeremy Gale was third, with 7 from 9.

We are looking forward to our very successful association with Bognor & Arun continuing in the Portsmouth League and also having another excellent season at The Fountain.

Philip Wake
club secretary

Bognor & Arun

THE club has again enjoyed a successful season.

In its matches within the Portsmouth and District League played in combination with Chichester , this year, it was the 'B' team's turn to excel. Last year, it was the 'A' team and 'C' team who finished top of divisions 1 and 3, with the 'B' team runner-up in division 2, this year, both 'A' and 'C' teams finished mid-table while the 'B's finished a clear top of division 2.

That success was continued in the Cole Cup competitions, wherein the club's 'B' team had remarkable success in beating two first teams to win the Plate competition. The 'A' team narrowly failed to make it a clean sweep when they lost in the cup final on board count.

On the West Sussex front, the club did not compete in the McArthur Cup and, sadly, the South West Sussex Chess League, having been inactive for two years, must now be assumed at an end.

The club again conducted a full and highly enjoyable season of internal competitions in its elegant, chandelier-lit clubroom. The club tournaments have been dominated by Jaimie Wilson and Rolandas Lukosius, with Jaimie doing most of the winning. He has triumphed in the Club Championship and the Rapidplay and meets Rolandas in the final of the Knock-out Cup.

The 2009 season's Summer Cup was also won by Jaimie Wilson, this season's competition is still in progress. The annual 10-sec competition remains, as yet, uncontested. Jaimie Wilson and Rolandas Lukosius both competed regularly for the county.

The club meets at 7pm on every Friday evening throughout the year. New and occasional members very welcome. All details of the club and its officers can be obtained from Club Secretary Donald Close (tel. 01243 267037) or found on www.bognorandarunchessclub.co.uk

Bill Partridge

Crowborough

CROWBOROUGH I were in the hunt for the Mid-Sussex Championship until the closing stages of the season when they faltered and eventually finished third, only half a point behind the champions and missed the runners-up position only on game points. Last season, they were joint-winners.

Crowborough II had a disappointing season and were relegated, finishing in the penultimate spot and left the top division after six years (a record for a second team).

However, they had an important say in the destination of the trophy, surprisingly beating potential champions Lewes I 3-2, which handed the title to Horsham I.

Crowborough III ended in fourth place in Division 3, an improvement on last season when only a reconstruction of the divisions saved Gary McCulloch's side from relegation. Crowborough IV finished bottom of the pile after the briefest sojourn in Division 3,

collecting only half a point from their eight games. Incurring a one-point penalty for late notification did not help their cause.

Don Grant

Honours list

Kenright Trophy (Club Champion)

Chris Dunn	6pts
Richard Clement	3½ pts

Most Games (Simon Deere Cup)

Don Grant	9
Chris Dunn	8

(No juniors took part)

Richard Chamier Trophy

Chris Dunn	62 pts
Caroline Campion	55 ½ pts
Don Grant	53 ½ pts

Friends Cup (Top Junior)

Mary Scott	29 pts
Georg Salimbeni	28 pts

Chess Personality of the Year

George Salimbeni

Rapid Play

Michael Redman	9½ pts
Chris Dunn	8½ pts
Adam Squibbs (top junior)	1½ pt

Autumn Lightning (2008)

George Salimbeni	6 pts
Robert Elliston	5 pts
Mary Scott (top junior)*	3 pts
Sam Amis (junior)	3 pts

*Countback favoured Scott

Spring Lightning (2009)

Peter Kemp	6 pts
Chris Yates (top junior)	4½ pts
Jonathan Tuck	4½ pts

Under 180

I TOOK over the captaincy after pledging to give it a 'go' at the Sussex AGM.

Our first game was a 'baptism of fire'. We lost 4-12 to a strong Surrey side. This was even our home fixture. Next, we improved to go down 9-7 to Essex at their home venue.

Surely things could get better? I hoped so. They did. We actually won against Middlesex. This was played at our usual Hassocks venue. The score a convincing 11-5 .In the next match, we managed to defeat a strong Essex side. Match score 8.5-7.5.

We were now on 50per cent, which was a strong recovery from our earlier start to the season. Unfortunately, playing Surrey away was very tough. They beat us this time by 10.5-5.5. The next match was adjudged defaulted by Middlesex. We finished with a creditable three match points and 52 game points.

I should like to thank everyone who turned out for the U180 side during the playing season. I hoped you enjoyed your chess and even have some pleasant memories of the season with the U180 team.

Special thanks to John Cannon, Timothy Woods and Anthony Higgs, who assisted me during my first season as U180 team captain.

Paul Batchelor

Under 160

THE team fared badly with regard to the recent universal grading adjustments and the new upper limit, losing seven stalwarts, whereas newcomers were largely juniors who were not regularly available.

Only in the first match was the team completely above 140, and no fewer than 28 players were eventually called on, with just seven being ever-present, namely: Bob Lanzer (4½ pts, including a default win); Tim Woods (3½ pts); myself and John Marshall (3 pts); Paul Kington; Dona Strauss; and Bob Fisher.

Sussex was outgraded on aggregate in all but the first match, which was disappointingly lost at home to Essex.

The Herts match was marred by railway problems on the Southern region (caused by a suicide), which led to three Herts defaults and a pyrrhic victory for Sussex, but finally, against Kent at Dartford, Sussex scored a handsome 10-6 victory, their first win since February, 2007, that was unaffected by defaults.

It was noteworthy that in this, almost the weakest Sussex team of the season, seven Horsham players contributed 5.5 points. Three more scored 2½ points for Sussex Open against Kent that day, in the same room, in the match that gave Sussex the SCCU Championship for the first time since 1994.

John Cannon

Under 140

THE 2009/10 season was a vast improvement on 2008/09 but one that had started so badly.

I tried out a new venue in Haywards Heath, but despite the venue being good, the result went badly against us as we picked up just five draws and no wins from the 16 boards against rivals Surrey.

From then onwards, the results got better and better as we went through the group stage.

Although our next match in Dartford was also a comprehensive defeat, the spirit of the team was lifted as we picked up a couple of wins and another seven draws.

Ray Hunt turned up for this match 59 minutes and 30 seconds after his clock had started and picked up a draw. We were two boards short that day anyway and finishing up with 5½ points felt almost like a victory.

Our third match, at home to Herts provided us with our first taste of victory and it also ended my run of seven defeats in a row since taking over as captain the previous season. We fielded a strong team that day and outgraded our opponents, who were a board short.

Our margin of victory was just one point but it further boosted the team in preparation for our next match in Essex. The improvement continued in Wanstead with a 10-6 victory in a tricky encounter. The Essex captain admitted that they had been soundly defeated.

Incredibly, despite the early season gloom and doom, we only required a victory in our final group match to qualify for the knockout stage. The victory was achieved although made easy by the very short turnout from Middlesex and the four defaults gave us an easy 11-5 win.

A neutral venue in Oxfordshire was found for our tie against Worcestershire and one that proved lucky for us. The Worcestershire captain offered his opponent a draw when he thought the match was lost but had a win on time. The match finished 8 points apiece but was a win for Sussex on board count.

Our final match against Yorks B in the quarter-finals was a minor disaster. Both teams could only field 11 players. Yorks B fielded a very strong side featuring many upcoming juniors who were full of flair and enthusiasm and four players with estimated grades.

A longer journey to the Leics/Northants border may also have taken its toll and we were beaten 6-5. Yorks B went on to beat Notts in the semi-final but were interestingly deducted points for ineligibility and went out of the tournament.

I am now taking a break from competitive chess. Keith Osborne will be taking over the county side this coming season.

Best results: Julie Denning 4½ from 6, Felix Haxby 3½ from 4, Mark Baldock 2½ from 3, Keith Osborne 2½ from 3, Graham Salmon 3 from 4.

Gary McCulloch

"The spirit of the team was lifted as we picked up a couple of wins and another seven draws"

	Sussex	10.10.09		Middx
1	FJ Kwiatkowski 199	0	1	Richard Bates 219 (W)
2	Brian Denman 199	1	0	Colin Crouch 206
3	Donald Macfarlane 196	1	0	Jochen Wittmann 202
4	Gareth Anthony 197	0	1	Robert Eames 201
5	George Salimbeni 194	½	½	Simon Spivack 197
6	David Grant 196	1	0	Carsten Pedersen 194
7	Peter Farr 195	1	0	Tomer Eden 195
8	Ken Norman 194	½	½	Peter Ackley 188
9	Grant Bucher 186	0	1	Andrew Stone 197
10	Geoffrey James 183	½	½	Michael Tasker 186
11	David Norton 182	½	½	Steven Coles 184
12	David R Oates 182	1	0	George Dickson 183
13	David N Roberts 182	1	0	Nevil Chan 181
14	Richard Almond 181	½	½	D Ian Calvert 172
15	Rasa Norinkeviciute 180	1	0	Victor Hernandez 169
16	Martin Costley 178	½	½	Anthony Fulton 165
	(Hassocks) [189]	**10**	**6**	[190]

	Kent	13.3.10		Sussex
1	Neil McDonald 228 (W)	1	0	Luke E Rutherford 210
2	Rawle A Allicock 205	0	1	FJ Kwiatkowski 199
3	John N Sugden 204	0	1	Brian J Denman 199
4	Paul A Talsma 201	½	½	Gareth Anthony 196
5	Alan E Hanreck 200	½	½	Peter G Farr 195
6	David S Tucker 185	½	½	Kenneth I Norman 194
7	J Stuart Williams 181	½	½	George Salimbeni 194
8	Benjamin E Spink 173	½	½	David R Oates 182
9	Robert J Everson 168	0	1	Richard J Almond 181
10	David R Morris 165	½	½	David N Roberts 182
11	Vic Southern	0	1	Rasa Norinkeviciute 180
12	Samuel Le 160	0	1	Paul A Batchelor 177
13	A Marley 161 (1)	0	1	Mark Broom 173
14	Reenen J Du Toit 161	0	1	Brian P Donnelly 174
15	Andrew C Waters 161	½	½	Adrian O Pickersgill 173
16	Michael R Wiltshire 152	0	1	Paul Taylor 171
	(Dartford)	**4½**	**11½**	

	Sussex	7.11.09		Herts
1	Luke E Rutherford 210	1	0	Phillip G Maguire 192 (W)
2	Feliks Kwiatkowski 199	½	½	Jerry F Rudge 191
3	Brian J Denman 199	½	½	Paul V Byway 187
4	Dominic Lawson 201	0	1	Mike A Boyce 182
5	David J Grant 196	1	0	Barry Morris 182
6	Peter G Farr 195	1	0	Howard L Tebbs 174
7	Peter D Kemp 194	1	0	Tim M Thurstan 172
8	Grant W Bucher 186	½	½	Peter Rice 168
9	Geoffrey H James 183	½	½	Andy Tinker 166
10	Robert V Elliston 183	½	½	Stephen Law 162
11	David Norton 182	1	0	Jon P Barnes 155
12	David R Oates 182	1	0	Mark Topham 164
13	David N Roberts 182	½	½	Paul H Kenning 157
14	Richard J Almond 181	1	0	Kai Jaegar 156
15	Rasa Norinkeviciute 180	1	0	Ian Mutton 150
16	Martin O Costley 178	½	½	Michael K Price 145
	(Hassocks)	**11½**	**4½**	

	Quarter-final			
	Sussex	8.5.10		**Warwicks**
1	Feliks Kwiatkowski 199	½	½	John Naylor 195 (W)
2	Brian Denman 199	0	1	Tony M Hynes 199
3	Donald Macfarlane 196	1	0	Colin Eckloff 169
4	Gareth Anthony 196	1	0	Pablo Padilla 184
5	David J Grant 196	1	0	Andrew Baruch 191
6	Peter G Farr 195	1	0	Keith L Escott 186
7	Kenneth I Norman 194	1	0	David Ireland 178
8	Peter D Kemp 194	1	0	Richard W Smith 177
9	Robert V Elliston 183	1	0	Alan D Lloyd 173
10	Geoffrey H James 183	½	½	Alan Agnew 170
11	Richard J Almond 181	½	½	Martin D Smyth 174
12	Rasa Norinkeviciute 180	½	½	Robert H Wildig 179
13	Paul A Batchelor 177	1	0	Nicholas Fordham 171
14	Mark Broom 173	1	0	Simon CA Smith 160
15	Brian P Donnelly 174	0	1	Joseph J Stewart 168
16	Jeffrey Boardman 171	1	0	def
	(Bourne End)	**12**	**4**	

	Sussex	6.2.10		Essex
1	FJ Kwiatkowski 199	½	½	Lawrence Trent 223 (W)
2	Brian J Denman 199	½	½	David A Sands 212
3	Paul R Selby (r) 148	0	1	Andrew P Lewis 207
4	David J Grant 196	1	0	David L Haydon 205
5	Dominic Lawson 201	1	0	Ivor BN Smith 185
6	Peter G Farr 195	½	½	Ivan J Myall 185
7	George Salimbeni 194	½	½	Jeff A Goldberg 183
8	Geoffrey H James 183	½	½	David Spearman 180
9	Robert V Elliston 183	1	0	John A White 179
10	David Norton 182	½	½	Larry E Marden 178
11	David R Oates 182	1	0	Philip J Gregory 177
12	David N Roberts 182	½	½	D Ian W Reynolds 174
13	Richard J Almond 181	1	0	John C Moore 173
14	Martin O Costley 178	1	0	Jim B Howson 173
15	Paul A Batchelor 177	1	0	Terry D Whitton 173
16	Brian P Donnelly 174	½	½	David J Millward 172
	(Hassocks)	**11**	**5**	

	Semi-final			
	Staffs	19.6.10		**Sussex***
1	Lawrence H Cooper 209 (W)	1	0	Luke E Rutherford 210
2	Paul A Wallace 198	0	1	Feliks J Kwiatkowski 199
3	Darren P Wheeler 198	1	0	Donald Macfarlane 196
4	David W Anderton 192	½	½	Brian J Denman 199
5	Gerald Acey 192	½	½	Gareth Anthony 196
6	Nicholas A Walker 190	½	½	David J Grant 196
7	Alan K Crombleholme 186	½	½	Peter G Farr 195
8	Alex Richardson 185	0	1	Kenneth I Norman 194
9	Lee A Grinsell 183	0	1	Peter D Kemp 194
10	Simon R Edwards 179	0	1	Geoffrey H James 183
11	John M Turner 175	0	1	Richard J Almond 181
12	Patrick J Bennett 174	1	0	Paul A Batchelor 177
13	Malcolm J Armstrong 171	½	½	Bernard Cafferty 175
14	John S Keaveney 165	1	0	Brian P Donnelly 174
15	David J Pritchard 163	0	1	Adrian O Pickersgill 173
16	John Staniforth 157	½	½	Jeffrey Boardman 171
	(Bourne End)	**7**	**9**	

	Surrey	6.3.10		Sussex
1	Graeme Buckley 222 (W)	0	1	Luke E Rutherford 210
2	Chris Briscoe 203	½	½	Feliks Kwiatkowski 199
3	Stephen H Berry 205	½	½	Brian J Denman 199
4	Phil J Brooks 210	½	½	Donald Macfarlane 196
5	Susan K Lalic 205	½	½	David J Grant 196
6	Ian W Sharpe 199	1	0	Peter J Farr 195
7	Russell C Granat 194	1	0	George PW Salimbini 194
8	Marcus E Osborne 195	1	0	Peter D Kemp 194
9	Gordon Meyer 195	0	1	Kenneth I Norman 194
10	Mark Josse 190	0	1	David R Oates 182
11	Michael J Franklin 193	½	½	Geoffrey H James 183
12	Dale C Taylor 184	½	½	David Norton 182
13	David J Rowson 181	1	0	David N Roberts 182
14	Daniel B Rosen 181	½	½	Richard J Almond 181
15	Peter D Lalic 169	½	½	Paul A Batchelor 177
16	Adam A Taylor 150	0	1	Brian P Donnelly 174
	(Cheam)	**8**	**8**	

	Final			
	Lancs	10.7.10		**Sussex***
1	Paul E Littlewood 232 (B)	1	0	Luke E Rutherford 210
2	Graham Morrison 225	1	0	Feliks J Kwiatkowski 199
3	Ben Hague 208	½	½	Brian J Denman 199
4	Brett D Lund 201	1	0	Gareth Anthony 196
5	Howard E Hughes 202	1	0	Peter G Farr 195
6	Nicholas W Ivell 210	1	0	Kenneth I Norman 194
7	Martin Mitchell 200	1	0	Dominic Lawson 201
8	Peter E Jowett 192	½	½	Peter D Kemp 194
9	Tim R Dickinson 188	½	½	Geoffrey H James 183
10	Ray J Starkie 185	0	1	David S Norton 182
11	Malcolm R Peacock 186	½	½	Richard J Almond 181
12	Robert A Newton 181	½	½	David N Roberts 182
13	Philip Almond 182	1	0	Rasa Norinkeviciute 180
14	Mark A Whitehead 182	½	½	Martin O Costley 178
15	Peter Robinson	½	½	Paul A Batchelor 177
16	John G Cooper 174	½	½	Brian P Donnelly 174
	(Leicester)	**11**	**5**	

	Sussex	31.10.09		Surrey
1	Martin Costley 178 (W)	0	1	Simon McCullough 177
2	Alan Barton 177	0	1	Phil Stimpson 179
3	Paul Batchelor 177	½	½	Alain Dekker 175
4	Brian Donnelly 174	0	1	Julien Shepley 178
5	Adrian Pickersgill 173	½	½	Alan Punnett 173
6	Tim Spanton 172	0	1	Angus French 172
7	Paul Taylor 171	0	1	Peter Lalic 169
8	Mel Young 171	0	1	David Sedgwick 174
9	Jaimie Wilson 169	½	½	Geoff Marchant 164
10	Anthony Higgs 167	½	½	Andrew Ponting 164
11	Stephen Blewitt 164	0	1	Paul Archer 169
12	Rolandos Lukosius 163	½	½	Simon Wrigley 158
13	Alan Palmer 160	½	½	Alasdair MacLeod 156
14	L John Cannon 154	0	1	Chris Clegg 161
15	Mchael Reddie 153	½	½	H Trevor Jones 156
16	Robert Fisher 146	½	½	Adrian Waldock 150
	(Hassocks)	**4**	**12**	

	Surrey	13.2.10		Sussex
1	Phil Stimpson 179 (W)	½	½	R Alan Barton 177
2	Julien Shepley 178	½	½	Paul Batchelor 177
3	Angus French 172	0	1	Brian Donnelly 174
4	Alan Punnett 173	1	0	Adrian Pickersgill 173
5	Peter Lalic 169	1	0	Tim Spanton 172
6	Jasper Tambini 176	1	0	Jeffrey Boardman 171
7	Jonathan Bryant 166	1	0	Paul Taylor 171
8	David Sedgwick 174	½	½	Mel Young 171
9	Paul Archer 169	0	1	Jaimie Wilson 169
10	Neill Cooper 179	1	0	Ben Silverstein 168
11	Geoff Marchant 164	½	½	Steve Blewitt 164
12	Chris Clegg 164	0	1	Rolandos Lukosius 163
13	H Trevor Jones 156	½	½	Alan Palmer 160
14	Hugh Fenwick 165	1	0	def
15	H Martin Cath 162	1	0	def
16	Mike Williams 143	1	0	def
	(Coulsdon) [171]	**10½**	**5½**	[170]

	Essex	21.11.09		Sussex
1	John White 179 (B)	0	1	R Alan Barton 177
2	Larry Marden 178	1	0	Paul Batchelor 177
3	Philip Gregory 177	1	0	Adrian Pickersgill 173
4	Robin Slade 175	0	1	Tim Spanton 172
5	D Ian Reynolds 174	1	0	Paul Taylor 171
6	John Moore 173	0	1	Jeffrey Boardman 171
7	Terry Whitton 173	½	½	Jamie Wilson 169
8	Robert Parker 172	½	½	Ben Silverstein 168
9	Dvid Millward 172	½	½	Roland Lukosius 163
10	Ian Hunnable 167	0	1	Alan Palmer 160
11	Neville Twitchell 167	½	½	L John Cannon 154
12	Colin Ramage 167	1	0	Dona Strauss 150
13	Ray Purse 165	1	0	Robert Fisher 146
14	Aidan Corish 165	0	1	Timothy Woods 145
15	Syd Kalinsky 162	1	0	def
16	Howard Grist 160	1	0	def
	(Wanstead)	**9**	**7**	

	Sussex	5.12.09		Middx
1	Martin Costley 178 (B)	½	½	D Ian Calvert 172
2	R Alan Barton 177	1	0	Martin Crichton 171
3	Paul Batchelor 177	0	1	Charles McAleenan 170
4	Brian Donnelly 174	1	0	William Phillips 168
5	Adrian Pickersgill 173	½	½	Anthony Fulton 165
6	Paul Taylor 171	1	0	V Ray Harper 159
7	Mel Young 171	0	1	Richard Thursby 154
8	Jeffrey Boardman 171	1	0	John Harvey 157
9	Jaimie Wilson 169	½	½	Michael C Price 157
10	Anthony Higgs 167	1	0	Richard Dunn 152
11	Stephen Blewitt 164	½	½	Peter Morton 151
12	Roland Lukosius 163	1	0	Geoff Hermes 150
13	Alan Palmer 160	½	½	John Woolley 149
14	L John Cannon 154	½	½	Frank Zurstiege 146
15	Robert Fisher 146	1	0	def
16	Timothy Woods 145	1	0	def
	(Hassocks)	**11**	**5**	

	Sussex*	23.1.10		Essex*
1	R Alan Barton 177 (B)	1	0	John White 179
2	Paul Batchelor 177	1	0	Larry Marden 178
3	Brian Donnelly 174	½	½	Philip Gregory 177
4	Mark Broom 173	½	½	John Moore 173
5	Adrian Pickersgill 173	½	½	Chris Hampton 173
6	Tim Spanton 172	0	1	Jim Howson 173
7	Jeffrey Boardman 171	½	½	David Millward 172
8	Paul Taylor 171	0	1	Ian Hunnable 167
9	Mel Young 171	½	½	Neville Twitchell 167
10	Jaimie Wilson 169	1	0	Colin Ramage 167
11	Anthony Higgs 167	0	1	Ray Purse 165
12	Steve Blewitt 164	½	½	Syd Kalinsky 162
13	Alan Palmer 160	0	1	Tom Winter 162
14	L John Cannon 154	½	½	Howard Grist 160
15	Michael Reddie 153	1	0	Peter Doye 156
16	Robert Fisher 146	1	0	Paul Barclay 148
	(Hassocks)	**8½**	**7½**	

	Sussex	7.11.09		Essex
1	Adam M Squibbs 159	0	1	Peter Doye 157 (B)
2	L John Cannon 154	½	½	Ken Clow 157
3	Michael J Reddie 153	1	0	Peter Laundy 159
4	Jerry LA Stone 153	1	0	Sagara T Bogoda 153
5	W John Marshall 152	½	½	John Philpott 153
6	Robert A Lanzer 152	1	0	Mark Murrell 152
7	Paul N Kington 151	0	1	David Payne 150
8	Dona Strauss 150	0	1	Jason Klimach 150
9	Matthew J Payne 151	0	1	Rod Johnson 146
10	Tom Fitzgerald 144	0	1	David Smith 148
11	Chris Yates 150	1	0	Keith B Cook 148
12	Robert Fitzgerald 151	1	0	Ian P Morgan 148
13	Robert Fisher 146	0	1	Ian Woodward 144
14	Timothy J Woods 145	½	½	Malcolm Kingsley 144
15	Ronald W Nicholas 145	0	1	Peter Nickals 141
16	Marc Bryant 144	0	1	Alan Riddoch 133
	(Horsham)	**6½**	**9½**	

	Kent	13.3.10		Sussex
1	E John Allen 159 (W)	1	0	Adam M Squibbs 159
2	Paul Rutland 158	0	1	L John Cannon 154
3	Peter Wood 155	1	0	Michael J Reddie 153
4	Roger Winterburn 153	½	½	Jerry LA Stone 153
5	Peter Childs 148	0	1	W John Marshall 152
6	Richard Bedwell 150	0	1	Robert A Lanzer 152
7	David sandham 153	½	½	Paul N Kington 151
8	Geoff Bishop 146	½	½	Matthew J Payne 151
9	Simon Court 148	0	1	Christopher Yates 150
10	Neil Lister 145	0	1	Dona Strauss 150
11	Peter Hannan 147	1	0	Robert Fisher 146
12	Alan Sherriff 144	½	½	Timothy J Woods 145
13	Andrew Sangster 141	½	½	Brian J Izzard 138
14	Gary Sharp 140	½	½	John E Scholey 129
15	David Myles 135	0	1	Richard Barrowclough 128
16	Derek Davis 134	0	1	Julie Denning 124
	(Dartford)	**6**	**10**	

	Surrey	28.11.09		Sussex
1	Nick Edwards 159 (W)	1	0	L John Cannon 154
2	Francis Fields 159	1	0	Jerry LA Stone 153
3	Tommy Cheng 159	½	½	W John Marshall 152
4	Simon Wrigley 158	½	½	Robert A Lanzer 152
5	Eric Brodie 157	½	½	Paul L Kington 151
6	Alasdair MacLeod 156	½	½	Dona Strauss 150
7	R John Wilcox 155	½	½	Paul R Selby 148
8	Ian MacLeod 155	½	½	Robert Fisher 146
9	Frank Kane 155	1	0	def
10	Adrian Waldock 150	½	½	Timothy J Woods 145
11	Steve Ashworth 144	0	1	Ronald W Nicholas 145
12	Sam Porter 141	0	1	Marc Bryant 144
13	Alun Harford 137	1	0	Colin L Parker 142
14	Vijay Sathiraju 137	1	0	David Chilvers 138
15	Stephen Moss 137	½	½	Peter Benson 138
16	Seb Galer 135	½	½	John E Scholey 129
	(Ashtead)	**9½**	**6½**	

	Sussex	30.1.10		Herts
1	Adam M Squibbs 159	1	0	Paul Kenning 157 (W)
2	L John Cannon 154	1	0	Paul Lawrence 157
3	Michael J Reddie 153	0	1	Kai Jaeger 156
4	W John Marshall 152	0	1	Alan Gore 156
5	Robert A Lanzer 152	1	0	def
6	Paul N Kington 151	1	0	def
7	Matthew J Payne 151	½	½	Roger Gordonsmith 151
8	Dona Strauss 150	0	1	Brian Judkins 151
9	Robert Fisher 146	½	½	Simon Charles 150
10	Nathan Goldberg 146	1	0	def
11	Timothy J Woods 145	1	0	Mike Price 145
12	Ronald W Nicholas 145	1	0	Alan Adams 144
13	Marc Bryant 144	0	1	Mit Wali 141
14	Brian J Izzard 138	1	0	Andrew Maclaren 141
15	Peter Benson 138	0	1	Keith Woodhouse 138
16	Gary McCulloch 136	0	1	Ian Cross 135
	(Horsham)	**9**	**7**	

	Middx*	13.2.10		Sussex*
1	JT Harvey 157 (B)	½	½	L John Cannon 154
2	G Breed 156	½	½	Michael J Reddie 153
3	T (so) Tobisch 155	0	1	W John Marshall 152
4	RS Dunn 152	0	1	Robert A Lanzer 152
5	M Chrabaszcz 151	1	0	Paul N Kington 151
6	G Hermes 150	½	½	Chris Yates 150
7	J Woolley 149	1	0	Dona Strauss 150
8	CD Gibbons 148	1	0	David Curtis 147
9	M Williams 147	1	0	Robert Fisher 146
10	F Zurstiege 146	1	0	Nathan Goldberg 146
11	C Aniecko 143	0	1	Timothy J Woods 145
12	W Ransome 143	1	0	Ronald W Nicholas 145
13	C Cooke 142	0	1	Brian J Izzard 138
14	R Crooks 140	0	1	Peter Benson 138
15	BR Jackson 136	1	0	Gary McCulloch 136
16	S Sonnis 136	1	0	Richard Barrowclough 128
	("Middx Community Centre")	**9½**	**6**	½

Type to enter text

	Sussex	24.10.09		Surrey
1	David Chilvers 138 (W)	0	1	Morgan Daniels 139
2	Peter Benson 138	0	1	Ben Andrew 138
3	Gary McCulloch 136	0	1	Theo Albrecht 137
4	David McGladdery 133	½	½	Peter Horlock 137
5	Ray Hunt 132	½	½	Allen Miller 137
6	Daniel Sutton 134	0	1	Dominic Pozzo 136
7	David Langridge 130	0	1	Gary Smith 136
8	Mark Attree 129	0	1	Max Wood-Robinson 131
9	def	0	1	David Howes 131
10	Oskar Schortz 127	0	1	Mike Gunn 127
11	Graham Salmon 125	½	½	Kevin Wilkinson 130
12	David Everitt 123	½	½	Ken Chamberlain 127
13	Dave Wallis 117	0	1	Julian Walker 127
14	Daryl Brooks 110	0	1	Albert Yiamakis 125
15	Neil Fitzgerald 117	½	½	Richard Jones 122
16	Chris Sutton 78	0	1	Lana Boztas 121
	(Haywards Heath)	**2½**	**13½**	

	Sussex	20.2.10		Middx
1	Felix Haxby 139 (W)	1	0	John Macdonald 133
2	David Chilvers 138	½	½	Steve Sonnis 136
3	Peter Benson 138	½	½	David J Lawrence 134
4	Michael Cain 131	1	0	Michael Mackenzie 134
5	Tom Haxby 135	0	1	Peter Pickering 131
6	John Scholey 129	½	½	Peter Grant-Ross 129
7	Richard Barrowclough 128	½	½	Martin Leman 126
8	Roger Waddingham 128	0	1	Ken Hedger 123
9	Caroline Campion 128	1	0	Steve Banks 113
10	Julie Denning 124	½	½	Garth Wayte 112
11	Mark Baldock 121	1	0	Nick Rutherford 118
12	Daryl Brooks 110	½	½	Graham Snow 88
13	Gary McCulloch 136	1	0	def
14	Norman Hawkins 120	1	0	def
15	Dave Wallis 117	1	0	def
16	John Kalber 113	1	0	def
	(Horsham)	**11**	**5**	

	Kent	21.11.09		Sussex
1	Nigel Norman 139	½	½	Peter Benson 138
2	Stephen Milford 139	½	½	Gary McCulloch 136
3	David Fowler 137	½	½	Ray Hunt 132
4	Barry Beavis 135	½	½	Richard Clement 123
5	David Myles 135	1	0	David Langridge 130
6	David Orr 134	½	½	John Scholey 129
7	Richard Woodfield 134	1	0	Richard Barrowclough 128
8	Bob Fenn 133	½	½	Roger Waddingham 128
9	Stephen Bond 129	0	1	Graham Salmon 125
10	Matthew Gazes 129	0	1	Julie Denning 124
11	David Helps 128	1	0	Norman Hawkins 120
12	Mark Houghton 128	1	0	Neil Fitzgerald 117
13	John Fowers 125	½	½	Daryl Brooks 110
14	Tyrone Jefferies 122	1	0	Don Grant 88
15	Neil Lang 121	1	0	def
16	Chris Stampe 121	1	0	def
	(Dartford)	**10½**	**5½**	

	Preliminary Quarter-final			
	Sussex	17.4.10		**Worcs**
1	Felix Haxby 139 (B)	1	0	John Varilone 139
2	Peter Benson 138	½	½	David Scriven 139
3	Gary McCulloch 136	1	0	Ashley Davis 138
4	David McGladdery 133	½	½	Don Curry 137
5	Keith Osborne 131	½	½	Ian Truscott 136
6	John Scholey 129	1	0	David Spowart 138
7	Roger Waddingham 128	½	½	WW Watson 129
8	Richard Barrowclough 128	0	1	Tim Yates 129
9	Caroline Campion 128	½	½	Jason Cole 123
10	Graham Salmon 125	1	0	Rob Bricknell 125
11	Julie Denning 124	0	1	Krzysztof Krowicki 126
12	Andrew Mayer 122	½	½	Giles Stanton 125
13	Mark Baldock 121	½	½	Michele Clack 124
14	Norman Hawkins 120	0	1	Francis O'Gorman 124
15	Dave Wallis 117	½	½	Ian Clack 122
16	Daryl Brooks 110	0	1	Peter Banks 121
	(Chinnor Oxon)	**8**	**8**	
	Sussex win on board count			

	Sussex	16.1.10		Herts
1	Alex von der Becke 139	½	½	Keith Woodhouse 138 (W)
2	Felix Haxby 139	1	0	Tim Acton 138
3	David Chilvers 138	½	½	Patrick Fitzgerald 137
4	Peter Benson 138	0	1	Paul Laskier 136
5	Daniel Sutton 134	0	1	Ray Claret 132
6	Gary McCullough 137 (r)	0	1	Stephen Dicks 131
7	Ray Hunt 132	½	½	Austin McMahon 131
8	Tom Haxby 135	0	1	Nick Cornish 131
9	Keith Osborne 131	1	0	Roger Kearns 125
10	Roger Waddingham 128	0	1	Ray Butcher 123
11	Mick Plumb 128	1	0	Barrie Saunders 123
12	Caroline Campion 128	0	1	Gary Ruddick 123
13	Julie Denning 124	1	0	Graham Williams 121
14	Mark Baldock 121	1	0	Kidge Elder 119
15	Dave Wallis 117	1	0	Ed Magee 108
16	Chris Sutton 78	1	0	def
	(Horsham)	**8½**	**7½**	

	Quarter-final			
	Yorks B	22.5.10		**Sussex**
1	Mike Newett e138 (W)	1	0	David Chilvers 138
2	Miles Edwards-Wright 134	1	0	Gary McCulloch 136
3	Paul Bailey 124	½	½	Ray Hunt 132
4	Richard hall 130	½	½	Richard Barrowclough 128
5	Habibu Zziwa e125 (1)	½	½	Roger Waddingham 128
6	Oskar Hackner e128	1	0	Mick Plumb 128
7	Harry Li 127	1	0	Caroline Campion 128
8	Francesca Fozard 125	0	1	Julie Denning 124
9	John Hipshon 126	0	1	Richard Clement 123
10	Richard White 121	½	½	Dave Wallis 117
11	Phil Walker e115	0	1	Neil Fitzgerald 117
	(Clipston Northants)	**6**	**5**	

	Essex	6.2.10		Sussex*
1	Richard Joyce 137 (W)	½	½	Felix Haxby 139
2	Trevor Dickerson 136	1	0	David Chilvers 138
3	John Campbell 137	½	½	Peter Benson 138
4	David Cannan 136	½	½	Gary McCulloch 136
5	Ken Groce 124	½	½	Ray Hunt 132
6	Tony Loh 131	0	1	Keith Osbourn 131
7	Simon Moth 130	½	½	Richard Barrowclough 128
8	George Gooding 128	0	1	Roger Waddingham 128
9	Vladimir Chtym 124	½	½	Mick Plumb 128
10	Herbie Alley 120	0	1	Caroline Campion 128
11	Barry McMurdock 119	½	½	Graham Salmon 125
12	Peter Brander 117	0	1	Julie Denning 124
13	Steve Woodall 117	1	0	Norman Hawkins 120
14	Chris Phillips 110	0	1	David Wallis 117
15	Ron Prickett 105	0	1	Neil Fitzgerald 117
16	Wim de Jong 101	½	½	Daryl Brooks 110
	(Wanstead)	**6**	**10**	

Horsham snatch title from underneath Lewes' nose

Div 1

WITH only a few games to be played, it looked certain that Lewes I would take the Championship as a home win against Crowborough II, already relegated, would give them the title.

However, Gerald Michaud's men had not read the script and shocked the hosts with a narrow 3-2 victory. This meant that a win for Horsham I in their last game at home to lowly Worthing I would give them the title by half a point over Lewes I. They duly chalked up a 3½ - 1½ win, thus finishing on top for the first time since the 2000/1 season. Relegated with Crowborough II were Horsham II after one season in the top flight.

Div 2

EASTBOURNE I won for the second successive season - they declined promotion previously as they were entitled to. The runners-up spot went to Brighton II who owed their promotion to having gained more games points over Horsham III.

Relegated to Division 3 were St Francis II and Uckfield I, with 1½ points. Escaping the drop was Horsham IV with the same number of match points.

Div 3

THE Args finished 1 point ahead of Worthing II and returned to division 2 which they vacated in 2006. As for Worthing II, next season will be their first in Division 2.

Crowborough IV only collected half a point with Eastbourne III a further ½ point ahead at the foot of the table. The former achieved promotion last year.

... and Eastbourne claim division two crown for second successive year

Division 4

WOODPUSHERS II, competing in the league for the first time, ended half a point ahead of Brighton V who now face the third division for the first time.

At the foot of the table, Bexhill College, in their debut season, lost all their matches. Ahead of them was Uckfield II with one point gained in their encounter with Bexhill College.

KO Cup

HORSHAM capped their season with the double by winning the Championship and the KO Cup. The latter resulted in a final 4-2 triumph over St Francis Hospital. Horsham last won the trophy 12 years ago.

Best match average

THE overall award was won jointly by A Chesworth (Lewes II & III) and P Farr (Args) with 7½ points from 8 games (93.75per cent).

Divisional awards were won by:

Div 1 J Mansson, Horsham I, 7½ /9, 83.33%

Div 2 F Kwiatkowski, St Francis, 7/ 8, 87.5%

Div 3 P Farr, Args, 7½/8, 93.75%

Div 4 M Ramachandran, Woodpushers II, 7/7, 100.0%

Don Grant

Division 1 Results 2009/10

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	No.	MP	GP
1	Horsham 1		2	1½	3	2½	4½	3½	3½	4½	4½	9	6½	29½
2	Lewes 1	3		2½	2½	2	4	3	4	2	4	9	6	27
3	Crowborough 1	3½	2½		2	2½	2	4	3	4	3	9	6	26½
4	Brighton & Hove 1	2	2½	3		3½	3½	2	1½	3½	4	9	5½	25½
5	Hastings & St L 1	2½	3	2½	1½		1	4	2½	3½	3	9	5½	23½
6	Knoll Knights	½	1	3	1½	4		2½	2	3½	3	9	4½	21
7	Hastings & St L 2	1½	2	1	3	1	2½		3	3	3	9	4½	20
8	Worthing 1	1½	1	2	3½	2½	3	2		3½	1½	9	3½	20½
9	Crowborough 2	½	3	1	1½	1½	1½	2	1½		3	9	2	15½
10	Horsham 2	½	1	2	1	2	2	2	3½	2		9	1	16

Division 2 Results 2009/10

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	-	No.	MP	GP
1	Eastbourne 1		3	3	2½††	1½	3	2½	4	4	4	X	9	7½	27½
2	Brighton & Hove 2	2		2½	1½	4½	3½	3½	3	4	3½	X	9	6½	28
3	Horsham 3	2	2½		3	2	3½	3½	3	3½	3½	X	9	6½	26½
4	St Francis & Haywards Heath 1	1½††	3½	2		1	4	4	4	4	4½	X	9	6	28½
5	Woodpushers 1	3½	½	3	4		1½	2½	2	4	4	X	9	5½	25
6	Lewes 2	2	1½	1½	1	3½		3½	3½	3	5	X	9	5	24½
7	Brighton & Hove 3	2½	1½	1½	1	2½	1½		3	3½	2½	X	9	3½	19½
8	Horsham 4	1	2	2	1	3	1½	2		1½	2½	X	9	1½	16½
9	Uckfield 1	1	1	1½	1	1	2	1½	3½		2½	X	9	1½	15
10	St Francis & Haywards Heath 2	1	1½	1½	½	1	0	2½	2½	2½		X	9	1½	13
-	East Grinstead 1†	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X

† East Grinstead 1 withdrew after the fixtures were arranged but before matches commenced. Remaining East Grinstead teams continue to be referred to as 2 and 3 (as per the the circulated fixture schedule), but East Grinstead 1 will be considered as a non-entry for this season.

†† 1 game void.

Division 3 Results 2009/10

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	No.	MP	GP
1	The Argumentatives		4	3½	4½	3	3½	3	4	3	8	8	28½
2	Worthing 2	1		4	5	3½	4	3½	3	3	8	7	27
3	Eastbourne 2	1½	1		1½	3½	3½	3	5	4	8	5	23
4	Crowborough 3	½	0	3½		4	3½	2½	3	3½	8	4½ ††	20½
5	Brighton & Hove 4	2	1½	1½	1		3	1½	3	5	8	3	18½
6	East Grinstead 2	1½	1	1½	1½	2		3½	4	3½	8	2††	17½
7	Horsham 5	2	1½	2	2½	3½	1½		1½	2½	8	2	17
8	Eastbourne 3	1	2	0	2	2	1	3½	6	½	8	1	12
9	Crowborough 4	2	2	1	1½	0	1½	2½	4½		8	½††	15

†† 1 MP penalty under Rule 6.2

Division 4 Results 2009/10

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	No.	MP	GP
1	Woodpushers 2		2½	4	3½	4	3½	3½	5	4½	~~3~~	8	7½	30½
2	Brighton & Hove 5	2½		3	2½	3½	3½	5	4	4	~~4~~	8	7	28
3	Lewes 3	1	2		3	4	3½	5	5	3½	~~3½~~	8	6	27
4	Brighton & Hove 6	1½	2½	2		4½	3½	3	4	3	~~4~~	8	5½	24
5	East Grinstead 3	1	1½	1	½		3½	4½	3	4	X	8	3††	18½
6	Hastings & St L. 3	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½		3½	3½	3½	X	8	3	18
7	Horsham 6	1½	0	0	2	½	1½		3	3	~~2~~	8	2	11½
8	Uckfield 2	0	1	0	1	2	1½	2		3½	X	8	1	11
9	Bexhill College	½	1	1½	2	1	1½	2	1½		X	8	0	11
10	Clarendon Bumbles	~~2~~	~~1~~	~~1½~~	~~1~~	X	X	~~3~~	X	X		~~5~~	~~1~~	~~8½~~

†† 1 MP penalty under Rule 6.2

MidSussex Handicap Knockout 2009 / 10

Round 1 (By 5th February 2010)	Semi-Finals (By 12th March 2010)	Finals (By 17 April 2010)	Winner
Horsham			
Crowborough B*	Horsham (Bye)		
Lewes			
Uckfield	Uckfield	Horsham	
St Francis & Haywards Heath			
Crowborough A*	St Francis & Haywards Heath (Bye)		
Woodpushers			
Clarendon Bumbles	Woodpushers	St Francis & Haywards Heath	Horsham

* Crowborough A & B withdrawn

Going the extra mile

FOR the second time in four years, Hastings & St Leonards raised at Mid-Sussex Chess League's AGM the issue of having to play their home matches either away or at a halfway-house venue because of being outside the traditional Mid-Sussex area (which, surprisingly, originally covered clubs within eight miles of Haywards Heath railway station).

This time, the situation had changed in that Bexhill College had been allowed to enter the league on the same condition.

Part of our case was that some clubs were already travelling further to other towns for away matches than they would have to if they played at Hastings. The resolution (which was mainly intended to highlight the anomaly) that these clubs should travel to Hastings and Bexhill was opposed (with no hint of irony) on the basis that such a change would mean they were being discriminated against.

The chairman of the league suggested an amendment, that Hastings & St Leonards and Bexhill College should be treated the same as all other clubs. This was passed with the gratifyingly large majority of 16 votes to 7, but the vote was overturned on the point of order that it was not an amendment but a new resolution that had not been notified to the clubs before the AGM so that it could be put to their members. After much debate, our resolutions were narrowly defeated.

Part of our argument is that clubs in the Kent League, from as far afield as the Medway towns and Tonbridge see no problem in travelling to Hastings for their away matches (or in finding parking spaces in the road outside the clubhouse), but the difference is that these are usually played at weekends, whereas the Mid Sussex League still adheres to weekday matches in the evening. Bernard Cafferty has pointed out that large counties like Yorkshire have traditionally played league matches at weekends.

"Central" Sussex clubs like Haywards Heath and Lewes have no long journeys (defined by a Crowborough representative as a drive of an hour or more), whereas the three Hastings & St Leonards teams have to travel to all their matches. The 1st team have been doing this for 19 years and the 2nd team for eight, with the expense or two cars and the hire of a venue near Eastbourne.

Food for thought: Crowborough's 1st team's five away matches last season involved total travelling distances of approximately 250 miles. Hastings & St Leonards 1 clocked up in excess of 550 miles. After nearly two decades, during which non-Mid Sussex clubs like Worthing and Eastbourne have joined the league without condition, is it not reasonable that Hastings and St Leonards and Bexhill College should be treated equally in what the league proclaims on its website is a Sussex-wide league (now, in fact, the only surviving one), open to all clubs in Sussex?

Joe Sharp
Captain, Hastings & St Leonards 2

WHO has played in all of the five Brighton and Hove Chess Club's league teams and won a match in each? ... and who is this same person who has never lost playing for Sussex under 125? Answers on a postcard to Charles Holcombe, 28 Roedean Crescent, Brighton, BN2 5RH. A modest prize awaits.

Brighton retains the county's top trophy

BRIGHTON lacked Brian Denman and Hastings, Pat Donovan, compared to last year.

Heat's on as Brighton and Hastings' players battle it out for superiority in McArthur Cup

Helge finished first. In a Q Indian, an X-ray attack (Bh3 against Nd7 and Rc8) won a pawn and white's rooks powered through on central files.

Bob had a fascinating struggle. A Pirc with ...c6 allowed his young Russian woman opponent to drive in a wedge by f5-f6, met by ...g6. The hoped-for Qg3-h4-h6 and Qg7 mate never quite worked for white and an even ending ensued after the first time control (35 in 105 minutes, then 30' to complete). With only R, N and 3P each on the board it was agreed drawn, but some onlookers thought black had slight winning prospects.

However, on a hot afternoon and in a stuffy crowded room, a draw was OK, as the other positions, apart from top board, looked promising and we were one up already.

John never disentangled in a KID Saemisch, and at the first time control had no defence to a mating attack down the g-file.

Chris, in a sort of Volga gambit, gave up a N for two pawns and had passed pawns at c3 and b4, but a blockading N held the Q-side together, while Black's K succumbed to superior force on the other side after Chris made a faulty exchange of rooks - on move 36!

A further upset came when Francis, a pawn up in a B vs N ending, had to play his K from g1 to d8 in an attempt to win. He had five pawns all on black squares. Incautiously, he placed his sixth P at a3 so all were on the colour of his bishop at f4 and the whole position turned round in an instant. Nd7-b6-c4 won the offender, and black's two passed pawns beat white's one.

Richard kept plugging away after a level opening, and won a P though the ensuing N endgame had great technical difficulties. Richard managed to advance his backward extra pawn by e3-e4 and he enforced the win with each side having only about a minute left.

So, Brighton retain the premier Sussex trophy.

Bernard Cafferty

HASTINGS		BRIGHTON
J N Sugden	0-1	Luke Rutherford (W)
F Rayner	0-1	Geoff James
C Howell	0-1	Paul Batchelor
R Almond	1-0	Adrian Pickersgill
RV Elliston	.5	Nadya Somova
Helge Hjort	1-0	Brian Izzard
	2.5 - 3.5	

County Championship

Round 1

Cafferty 1 - 0 Anstead
Kwiatkowski 1 - 0 Oates
Almond 0- 1 Rutherford
Denman 1 - 0 Robert Davies

Round 2

Cafferty 0 - 1 Kwiatkowski
Rutherford 0 - 1 Denman

Round 3 (Final)

Kwiatkowski v Denman
Denman leading 2-1 at time of going to press

Sussex Veterans

Only contested by Geoffrey James and Bob Davies. Two games One draw, one win to James.

East Sussex Queen

Only contested by Bob Davies and Adrian Pickersgill. 2 games, both won by Pickersgill.

Adjudication secretary's report

WE had only six positions to consider. That was down from 11 last season.

Perhaps the option of quick play finishes in the Mid-Sussex League reduced the number.

Again, some cheques were made to MSL, not SCCA, and had to be returned.

One claimant thought the procedure too complicated.

If necessary, I can help on how to submit a claim. My phone number is 01-580-200609 and email is robertvelliston@aol.com

Robert Elliston

Grading

THE appearance of the 2009 grading list was somewhat delayed by concerns over some of the calculations.

However, everything seems to have been resolved by the time the new season got under way. The 2010 list has now been published.

The only problem encountered over the past season was of my own making and for which I owe an apology to everyone who took part in the 2009 Crowborough Rapidplay Congress.

These results should have been included in the January, 2010, rapidplay mid-year grading update. They were not. I had processed the data promptly on receipt and was sure I had also sent them in.

I had not, but didn't realise this until it was brought to my attention after the deadline. I have no excuse other than a complete lapse of memory.

The results will be included in the July/ August, 2010 grading update. Will try harder next season!

Julie Denning

ECF delegate

THE ECF has had problems for a few years now and these have been made worse by the reduction of the government grant.

The game fee for the coming season has been set at 54p. pro rata for quickplay and club games. With the very large cut in government grant, I foresee a big rise in years to come if we are to maintain the services provided.

Sponsorship is very hard to get in the present financial climate, but we have managed to find enough anonymous generous people to send our strongest team to the Olympics.

I have not been able to get to any meeting this year and my health is such that I will not be able to travel to any in the coming year. I would be grateful if someone else would come forward to fill my place.

In these difficult times it would be better to have a delegate at the meeting. Until that happens, I am willing to receive the wad of paper that comes before the meetings and vote either by post or proxy, which I prefer.

Also I am willing to continue to be Sussex guarantor for Sussex's share of the ECF liabilities to the sum of £2. This is necessary for Sussex to be part of the ECF. The delegate also represents Sussex at the annual meeting of the BCF which exists to receive any legacies or other monies made out to the old BCF.

R.T.F. Williams

Sussex leading the way

AT the time of writing, two Sussex games in the Ward-Higgs are unfinished and may go for adjudication. It has been an outstanding season, with half the team winning their individual game.
Sussex has led throughout the competition and currently we have 15½/20; on our heels Yorkshire 14½/20 and Essex 15/20.
The individual results are detailed below.

Bd.	Sussex		Opponent		County
E1	Lawson, D	½	Baker, CB	½	Surrey
E2	Macfarlane, D		Shephard, CCW **2513**		Warwickshire
E3	Oates, D	½	Gardner, A	½	Gr. Manchester
E4	Fryer, DW	0	Stebbings, AJ	1	Essex
E5	Cafferty, B	1	Sutton, Alan **2281**	0	Yorkshire
E6	Norman, KI	1	Taylor, Robert	0	Nottinghamshire
E7	Elliston, RV	1	Kinsler, D	0	Hampshire
E8	Norton, T	½	Mason, M	½	Kent
E9	Bryant, JL	1	Majer, C	0	Hertfordshire
E10	Roberts, DN	1	McGrady, B	0	Lancashire
E11	Wheeler, JM	1	Stebbings, D	0	Northumberland
N1	Broom, M	½	Weldon, D	½	Northumberland
N2	Dodgson, JA **2308**	1	Rhodes, MP	0	Surrey
N3	Stimpson, PM		Grayland, SJ **2404**		Warwickshire
N4	Cunliffe, SD	1	Andrews, K	0	Gr. Manchester
N5	Batchelor, PA	½	Fleury, M	½	Essex
N6	Almond, RJ	½	Beckett, Jon C	½	Yorkshire
N7	Mansson, JC **2207**	1	Poole, T	0	Nottinghamshire
N8	Eastoe, LKG	1	Hebblethwaite, PJ	0	Hampshire
N9	Higgs, A	1	Webber, K	0	Kent
N10	Britnell, MJ	1	Parrott, D	0	Hertfordshire
N11	Selby, PR	½	Williamson, C	½	Lancashire
	Sussex Score =	**15½**	**Composite Team =**	**4½**	

ICCF ratings (above) from October 1, 2009, list.

Sussex CC Player of the Year is Steve Cunliffe, formerly of the Hastings & St Leonards club, currently living in South Wales. Steve has won his last four games and been a long-time supporter of the team, he was joint British CC Champion in the 1978/9 season.
Here is one of his favourite games.

Hibbard, G (ENG) - Cunliffe, Stephen D (ENG) [C41] BPCTC corr, 1993/4

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Qd2 0-0 8.0-0-0 Nc6 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Bh6 Bxh6! 11.Qxh6 Rb8 12.f3 Qe7 13.h4 d5 14.h5 Rxb2! 15.hxg6 fxg6 16.e5 Bf5 17.Bd3 Qxe5 18.Kxb2 Rb8+ 19.Kc1 Qxc3 20.Bxf5 gxf5 21.Rd3 Qb2+ 22.Kd2 Qb4+ 23.Ke2 Qc4! 24.Rc1 Kf7! 25.a3 Rg8 26.Kf1 f4 27.Qh3 Rg5 28.Qh1 Re5 29.Qg1 Re3 30.Kf2 Qc5 31.Kf1 Nh5 32.Rxe3 Ng3+ 33.Ke1 fxe3 34.c3 h6 35.Kd1 d4 36.cxd4 Qxa3 0-1

White Gavin Lock (Horsham) Elo 2170, Black Allan Pleasants (Weymouth) Elo 2079, Uxbridge International, Petrosian Section, Round 3, March 20, 2010

1. Nf3 d5 2. d4 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. Bg5 Be7 5. Nc3 O-O 6. e3 c6 7. Rc1 Nbd7 8. Bd3 Re8 9. O-O dxc4 10. Bxc4 b5 11. Bd3 Bb7 12. a4! *This is the problem, with the pressure on b5 Black never gets a chance to play ....c5 without pushing ....b4 first. And doing this has serious positional drawbacks, which we shall soon see.* 12…a6 13. Qe2 Qa5 14. Ne5 b4 15.Bxf6 *The standard recipe against ....b4. White now secures a solid edge regardless of Black's reply.* 15…Nxe5?! *A very dubious decision, Black allows the white pair to remain on the board, with both pointing at the weakened kingside. It was safer to simply recapture with 15….Nxf6* 16. Bxe5 bxc3 17. Qg4 Bf8 18. Rxc3 Rac8 19. Rfc1 Qxa4 20. Qh4 h6 21.Qe4 f5 22. Qf4 Bb4 23. R3c2 c5 24. dxc5 Bd5 25. e4! Bb3 26. exf5! *Now Black's position will collapse on the kingside and centre. The white bishop pair could not be stronger.* 26…Bxc2 *26…exf5 27.Qxf5 forces Black to give back the exchange 27…Rxe5 28.Qxc8+ Re8 29.Qxa6 Qxa6 30.Bxa6 Bxc2 31.Rxc2 and White is winning easily with two extra passed pawns.* 27. Bxc2 Qb5 28. fxe6 *The game is now over.* Rxe6 29. Bb3 Rce8 30. Qg4 Qb7 31. Bxe6+ 1-0

White Gavin Lock (Horsham) Elo 2170, Black Jack Rudd I.M.(Bath) Elo 2296, Hastings Masters, Round 7, January 3, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. Bg5 c5 4. c3 b6 5. e3 Bb7 6. Nbd2 Be7 7. Bd3 Nc6 8. *a3 A good move, which accomplishes two things. Firstly, it prepares an advance on the queenside, under the right circumstances. However, the main point is that it controls the b4 square, which gives White a positional threat of e4. This is highlighted in the simple variation 8.e4?! cxd4! 9.cxd4 Nb4* 8….O-O *It was safer to exchange some pieces first with 8…cxd4 9.cxd4 Nd5!* 9. e4 d5 10. e5 Nd7 11. h4 f6 12. Qc2!? *I'm happy to swap Black's h7 pawn for my central one. The game now becomes very sharp.* fxe5 13. Bxh7+ Kh8 14. dxe5 Ndxe5 15. O-O-O d4 16. Qe4 Bf6 17. Nxe5 Nxe5 18. Qxb7 Kxh7 19. Qe4+ Kg8 20. f4 dxc3? *After this serious mistake Black cannot save the game. Black had to play 20….Nf7, but even after 21.cxd4 Qxd4 (21…cxd4 is weaker in view of 22.Nf3, with advantage for White) 22.Qc2 White is threatening Ne4* 21.Nf3! *By far the best move, but there were two other tempting possibilities – 21.Nc4 cxb2+ 22.Kb1 Nxc4 23.Rxd8 Nxa3+ 24.Ka2 Raxd8 25.Kxa3 is also winning but far from clear since White has lost all of his queenside pawns. Also 21.fxe5 is much weaker, since after 21…Bxg5! 22.hxg5 cxd2+ 23.Rxd2 Qxg5 Black is safe as the check on h7 leads nowhere.* 21. …Nd7 22. Qxe6+ Rf7 23. Ne5 1-0

Two amusing miniatures won by James Mansson.

White Geoffrey James Brighton), Black James Mansson (Horsham), Mid-Sussex League Division 1, Jan 20, 2010

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Bd7 4 Bxd7+ Qxd7 5 c4 Nf6 [*Black avoids playing ....Nc6 for reasons that will soon become apparent. While I would like to claim credit for the following idea, in fact it was devised by Ivanchuk, and is generally regarded as neutralising this line.*] 6 Nc3 g6 7 0-0 Bg7 8 d4 cxd4 9 Nxd4 0-0 10 f3 Rc8 11 b3 d5!! 12 exd5 Nxd5 [*Now Black is doing well, but there is no need to lose on the spot, as White does now.*] 13 Nce2?? Nc3! [*White cannot avoid losing material, so he resigned at once.*] 0 - 1

White Peter Harbott, Black James Mansson, Horsham Club Championship, March 2, 2010

1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 h3 [*White is hoping for a reversed Slav, where he believes this move will be useful. Black goes for the reversed Slav, but in this set-up h3 by White is not a useful move, indeed it could be seen as a liability.*] 3 ....c5 4 c3 Nc6 5 dxc5 a5 *[Both players have followed the main line of the Slav and White now chooses a dodgy line, which he has employed as Black with mixed results.*] 6 Nd4?! e5!? [*6 ...e6 is more solid.*] 7 Nxc6 bxc6 8 b4 [*True to his style, White grabs a pawn and tries to hold it.*] 8....axb4 9 cxb4 Ne4.] *Black has obvious compensation, especially as h3 has weakened the kingside, in comparison to the line with colours reversed. However, he is not winning yet – not until after White's next move*!] 10 Nd2?? Nxf2! 11 Kxf2 Qh4+ [*Now White should give up the rook on a1 after (say) 12 Kg1 Qd4+, but instead he walks into a mate .*] 12 Kf3?? Qf4# [*White had completely and obviously overlooked this, much to the amusement of spectators, one of whom described it as "the worst game I have ever seen*".] 0 – 1

White P.M. Stimpson (179), Black A.R.J. Higgs (167)
Horsham C.C. Knock-out Cup quarter-final, December 22, 2009

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Bg5 [*The main line is 6.Bc4 Be6 as in the Clegg-Higgs game from last year's Sussex Chess News but I always consider 6.Bg5 to be more testing for Black*] **6...Bd6 7.0–0–0 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Ke7 10.Bc4 Nc6 11.Nge2 a6 12.a3 Be6** [*Now if 13.Bxe6 fxe6! and we get a position similar to the main line, except that the White bishop is on g3 instead of e3 which probably favours Black. So Phil's continuation looks best...*] **13.Nd5+ Bxd5** [*I thought for a long time about 13...Kf8 but in the end considered it unnecessarily loose. Afterwards Phil said he might have continued with 14.Bxa6!? but after 14...Bxd5 15.exd5 Rxa6 16.dxc6 Rxc6 things look pretty even*] **14.exd5** [*14.Bxd5 Nxd5 15.Rxd5 Rag8 gives chances for both sides*] **14...Na5 15.Ba2 b5 16.Rhe1 Kf8 17.b4?!** [*This weakening of the queenside gives Black a target, and allows me to use the knight actively instead of regrouping via b7*] **17...Nc4!? 18.Bxc4 bxc4 19.Nc3 Nd7 20.f3** [*Preparing Re4 by giving the bishop an escape square from the black f-pawn*] **20...a5 21.Re4 axb4 22.axb4 Kg7!?** [*More risk = more reward! The safer 22...Bxb4 23.Rxc4 Bd6 24.Nb5 Ke7 is equal*] **23.Rxc4 Rhb8 24.b5 Nb6 25.Re4?** [*After this natural move White is in huge trouble and the decision to play 22...Kg7 is vindicated. Instead the awkward-looking 25.Rc6 Na4 26.Ne4 Rxb5 27.c4 gives White the advantage according to Fritz, although Black still has plenty of active play*] **25...f5! 26.Bxe5+** *[Even capturing with tempo does not help White. Now that Black controls the whole 4th rank there is no good way to stop the knight invading on c4. The end comes with surprising speed!*] **26...Bxe5 27.Rxe5 Nc4 28.Re7+ Kf8 29.Rxc7** [*The last chance was 29.Rde1 but after the long forced sequence 29...Ra1+ 30.Nb1 Rxb5 31.Re8+ Kf7 32.R1e7+ Kg6 33.Re6+ Kh5 34.g4+ fxg4 35.fxg4+ Kxg4 36.Re4+ Kh3 37.Rxc4 Raxb1+ 38.Kd2 Rxd5+ 39.Kc3 Kxh2 the black g-pawn will eventually cost White a rook*] **29...Ra1+ 30.Nb1 Rxb5 31.Rxc4 Rbxb1+ 0–1**

K. Webber (Kent) – A.R.J. Higgs (Sussex)
Counties Correspondence Championship, Div.1 (Ward-Higgs Trophy), 2009-10

[After being soundly beaten in my correspondence debut for Sussex, I was looking forward to getting back to winning ways. The route to victory was not straightforward though...] **1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.d5 Be7 5.Nf3 c6 6.Be2 Qc7 7.0–0 h6 8.h3** [*This move is usually a mistake in this variation but White has an unusual idea to justify it...*] **8...Nbd7 9.b4 Nf8 10.Ne1!?** *[Here it is! White attempts to dissuade me from the usual plan of g7-g5-g4 by taking control of g4 very early*] **10...g5 11.a4 Ng6 12.Nd3** [*White's idea of removing the knight from the kingside looks a very interesting one and something I'd not faced before. It certainly slows down Black's normal kingside ideas, but by cutting off the queen's defence of d5 it also allows me to play my next move, which I would not normally consider in this variation*] **12...cxd5!? 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Bd7 15.Bb2 0–0** [*15...Nf4 would have been my over-the-board choice but in correspondence play this sort of hacking can easily get found out!*] **16.c4 Rfc8 17.Ba3?!** *[Allowing Black to fix the queenside. 17.a5! to prevent this was better*] **17...a5 18.b5 b6 19.Re1 Qd8 20.Rc1 Qf8 21.Bh5 Kh7 22.Qf3!?** [*Setting a very sneaky trap into which I almost fell. I had intended to meet this move with 22...f5 and only my very last round of final checks before sending my move revealed 22...f5?? 23.Bxg6+ Kxg6 24.Rxe5!! and Black's position collapses. I breathed a shaky sigh of relief and sent the best alternative...*] **22...Nf4 23.Nxf4 gxf4 24.Qd3+ f5 25.Kh2 Qf6 26.Bf3 Ra7 27.Bb2 Be8 28.Be2 Bg6 29.Qf3 Rf8 30.Rcd1** [*This wastes a tempo but as both sides are shuffling around it doesn't hurt White very much*] **30...Bd8 31.Rg1 Raf7 32.Bc1 Rg8 33.Rdf1 Qg7 34.Ba3 Qf8 35.g3** [*Finally one of us is in a position to make things happen! It isn't clear who the opening of the kingside favours, and my next move muddies the waters further*] **35...Bg5!?** [*Played with the idea of mate on the h-file. White plays the principled response*] **36.h4 e4 37.Qb3 f3 38.Bxf3 exf3 39.hxg5 Bh5** [The *main idea. Black will keep the f3 pawn wedge which keeps White's king on its toes. Post-game analysis with Fritz indicated that 39...f4 was possible, but at the time I felt my own king would be too exposed after this*] **40.Bc1** [*Taking the h-pawn looks suicidal and indeed it is – 40.gxh6?? Qxh6 41.Rh1 Rxg3!! 42.fxg3 Qd2+ 43.Kh3 Bg4+ 44.Kh4 Qh6 is mate*] **40...hxg5 41.Rh1 Re7 42.Be3 Qg7?** [*This should have lost me the game. I thought I had successfully calculated that White could not take on b6 due to the kingside threats, but Fritz later told me this is indeed possible. Fortunately White agreed with me that it looked too dangerous*] **43.Qd3?** [*Objectively this is bad as White can play 43.Kg1 Kg6 44.Bxb6 but at the time I thought this was a good move. I now had to keep an eye out for the pawn sacrifice on c5*] **43...Re4 44.Rc1 Bg4 45.Kg1+ Kg6 46.Qa3 Qe5 47.Bd2 Rc8 48.Qd3?** [*For the second time in the game Qd3 is a bad*

move, but this time it loses outright. Now 48...Rd4 is also strong, but I saw a long forcing continuation leading to a won endgame and went for it...] **48...Rh8! 49.Rxh8 Qxh8 50.Re1 Qh3 51.Qf1 Qxf1+! 52.Kxf1 Bh3+ 53.Kg1 Rxc4 54.Re6+ Kh5** [*Suddenly White realises that taking the whole Black queenside won't matter if he is mated!*] **55.Kh2 Bg2 56.Rxd6 Rxa4 57.Bc3 Ra3 58.Be1** [*58.Rc6 Rb3 and it is now the White pawns that will fall*] **58...Ra1 59.Re6 Rd1 60.d6 Kg4** [*zugzwang!*] **61.d7 Rxd7 62.Rxb6** [*62.Rh6 a4 and White is helpless to stop the a-pawn queening*] **62...Rh7+ 0-1**

Dominic Lawson (Lewes 1) 201 v Donald MacFarlane (Knoll Knights) 196,
Mid-Sussex League Div.1, January 2, 2010

1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 e5 4.Ngf3 Nd7 5.Qe2 d4 6.g3 g6 7.Nc4 Qc7 8.a4 b5 9.axb5 cxb5 10.Na5 Nb6 11.Bg2 Na4 12.Nc4 f6 13.0-0 Bd7 14.Na3 Bg7? 15.Nxd4!exd4 16.e5 0-0-0 *(This both defends the Ra8 and avoids a discovered check down the e-file, but fails to further sacrifices which were hard to foresee, by both players!)* 17.e6 Bc6 18.Bf4 Qb7 19.Bxc6 Qxc6 20.Nxb5! Qxb5 21.Rxa4! *(The main point is that after 21....Qxa4 22.Qe4 there's no defence to the threat of Qa8 mate.)* 21…. g5 22.Qe4 gxf4 *(Relatively best was 22...Qd5 but there are many forced wins, for example 23.Rc4+ Kb7 24.e7 Nxe7 25.Qxe7+ Rd7 26.Rc7+ Rxc7 27.Qxc7+ Ka8 28.Qxg7 Rg8 29.Qxh7 gxf4 30.Ra1 a5 31.b4)* 23.Qa8+ Kc7 24.Rxa7+ Kb6 25.Qxd8+! *(letting Black take the Rook is the quickest way)* 25….Kxa7 26.Qc7+ 1-0 *(26.Qb7 27.Ra1 is mate.)*

McArthur Cup Final
Board Three
Paul Batchelor v Chris I Howell

1. d4 Nf6
2. c4 g6
3. Nc3 Bg7
4. e4 d6
5. f3 0-0
6. Bg5 c5
7. d5 a6
8. Qd2 Re8
9. Nge2 b5
10. cxb5 axb5
11. Nc1 [here 11 Nxb5 would have been stronger] …b4
12. Nd1 Ba6
13. Bxa6 Rxa6
14. Ne3 Nbd7
15. Nc4 Nb6
16. Nxb6 Qxb6
17. 0-0 Nd7
18. Be3 Qb5
19. Rb1 Ne5
20. b3 Rb8
21. h3 c4
22. f4 c3
23. Qc2 Nd7
24. Rd1 Rba8
25. Kh2 Ra3
26. Bd4 Bh6
27. g3 f6
28. h4 Kf7
29. Ra1 Nc5
30. Qg2 Kf8
31. Qf3 Nxb3
32. Nxb3 Rxa2+
33. Rxa2 Rxa2+
34. Kg1 Qc4
35. Nc1 Rd2
36. Be3 Rxd1+
37. Qxd1 Qxe4
38. Kf2 Qb1
39. Qd4 Qc2+
40. Ne2 Qb1
41. Qc4 g5[Black opens up Kingside in order to lend support to the advanced passed pawns, but the king becomes vulnerable]
42. hxg5 fxg5
43. Qc8+ kg7
44. Bd4+ Kg6
45. Qe6+ Kh5 46.g4+ 1-0

English Opening, B Cafferty - Grant Bucher Div.1 Hastings 2 v Brighton 1, December 8, 2010.

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 cxd5 Nxd5 4 g3 g6 5 Bg2 Nb6 6 h4 Bg7 (6...h6 is better, to meet 7 h5 by ...g5, keeping lines closed)

7 h5 c6 8 Nf3 e5 9 d3 Be6 (9...Na6!?) **10 Ne4 f6**

The threat was 11 h6 Bf8 12 Nxe5, or 11...Bf6? 12 Nxf6+ Qxf6 13 Bg5 Qf5 14 e4 Qg4 15 Rh4. After the game Grant commented that he felt unhappy with his position once he had played 9...Be6. Black is already under pressure with the tender spots at d6 and f6 needing constant attention.

11 Be3 Bd5 12 Nc5 Qe7 (12...Qc7!?) **13 Qc2 Kf7**

Black could justify his last move by 13...N6d7 as 14 Nxb7?? Qb4+ wins the N.

14 Bd2 Na6?! 15 Nxa6 bxa6 16 e4! Be6 17 d4! (The greedy pawn snatch at c6 is punished by 18...Rc8 winning the Q)

17...Rfd8? (Some grovelling chances were held out by 17...exd4 18 Nxd4 c5) **18 dxe5 fxe5** (No decent alternative suggests itself).

19 Ng5+! (My original idea. 19 Bg5 looks strong too, to meet 19...Bf6 by 20 Nxe5+, but Black had 19...Qb4+ instead. So press on with dominating the white squares).

19...Kg8 20 hxg6 hxg6 21 Nxe6 Qxe6 22 Bh3!

Play on the bishops' diagonals now carries the day - Black has to quit the diagonal: 22...Qc4? 23 Qxc4 Nxc4 24 Be6+).

22...Qf6 23 Qb3+ Kf8 24 Bb4+ Ke8 25 Qg8+ Bf8 26 Bxf8 Qxf8 27 Qxg6+ Qf7 28 Qxc6+ Resigns (28...Nd7 29 Bxd7+ Qxd7 30 Rh8+, or 28...Kf8 29 Bf5 to penetrate by R to the 7th or 8th rank. White had 17 minutes left to 10 for Black. Brighton, who lost 2-3, were handicapped by turning up 20 minutes late due to road blockages.

Bernard Cafferty

Buckley,David (Bristol 1) (2274) - Almond,Richard (FCA Solutions 1) (2144) [D61]

4NCL, Div 2, Rd 7, March 27, 2010
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Qc2 c5 8.dxc5 More common is the other available pawn capture. 8...Qa5 Less common but Black has a plus score against equivalent opponents in my database. 9.0-0-0 A new move. 9...Bxc5 10.Kb1 Bb4 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Nb5 a6 13.Nbd4 Re8 14.Bd3 Ne4 15.Bh4 Ndc5 16.Nb3 Nxb3 17.axb3? [17.Qxb3 Be6? Would be preferable for White] 17...Bg4 18.Bxe4? While not the best, White is in trouble anyway as at very least Black threatens Rac8 and after Qe2. Nd2+. 18...dxe4 19.Rd4 Rac8 The White Queen is hopelessly trapped in a box! 20.Qd1 exf3 21.gxf3 Qf5+ 0-1

Richard Almond

White W. Rickaby (Crowborough) Black P.Kington (Argumentatives) Sept 13, 2009

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 f5 4 Nc3 fxe4 5 Nxe4 d5 6 Nc3 Bg4 7 Be2 e4 8 Ng1 Bf5 9 Bh4+ g6 10 Bg4 Nh6 11 Bxf5 Nxf5 12 Nge2 Bg7 13 Nf4 Nfd4 14 Nce2 0-0 15 c3 Nxe2 16 Nxe2 Qf6 17 0-0 Ne5 18 Ng3 Nf3+ 19 Kh1 Qh4 20 h3 Be5 21 d4 Bxg3 22 fxg3 Qxg3 23 gxf3 Qxh3+ 24 Kg1 Qg3+ 25 Kh1 exf3 26 Qd2 Rf5 27 Rf2 Re8 28 White resigns

Paul Kington

Wilson,J (169) - Ramage,C (167)

Sussex v Essex U180, January 23, 2010,

Latvian Gambit[Notes by Jaimie Wilson]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Nc6 (That's me out of book nice and early as usual) **4.Nxc6** (Avoiding the tempting hair-raising complications of 4.Qh5+ g6 5.Nxg6 Nf6 6.Qh4 hxg6 7.Qxh8 Qe7) **dxc6 5.Bc4 Bc5 6.0–0 Nf6 7.Qe2** (A mistake as I now have to waste a move to prevent Bg4) **fxe4 8.h3 Qd6 9.Nc3 Bf5 10.d3 0–0–0 11.dxe4 Rde8 12.Rd1 Nxe4** (Here black doesn't get enough for the queen, but in the post mortem we discussed the possibility of 12...Qg3!? with

good practical chances since we didn't spot the surprising resource 13.Be3 Bxe3 14.exf5) **13.Rxd6 Nxd6 14.Be3 Re7 15.Bd3 Rhe8 16.Bxf5+ Nxf5 17.Qg4** 1–0

C&DCCC Ward-Higgs 2006/7
Board N5 Sussex vs Lancashire
A82 or B07 Balogh Defence
White: John Dodgson Black: Stan Foulkes

1 e4 d6 2 d4 f5 In all my years of playing the Staunton Gambit (1d4 f5 2e4: 1965-87) I never once met the Balogh Defence.
3 Nc3 If you look in ECO or MCO you'll likely find only one footnote reference to the Balogh; it is apparently demolished by: 3 exf5 Bxf5 4 Qf3 Qc8 5 Bd3 Bxd3 6 Qxd3 [Euwe-Weenink, Amsterdam 1923]. But no mention of the later Correspondence Theme tournaments which featured the suggested improvement 5...Bg4.
3...Nf6 4 Bd3 fxe4 5 Nxe4 g6

Usually I make same day replies in the opening and frequently reach move ten with zero time recorded. Here, with no reference book, I was sifting through databases searching for a plan and had already consumed the best part of a week. 6 Nxf6+ exf6 7 Ne2 TN This untried suggestion of Stefan Buecker hopes to exploit the weak-point at e6.

Instead 7 Qe2 Bogoljubow-Langleben, Vilnius 1912; Black missed a win against an illustrious opponent and went on to lose.

7...Bg7 8 0-0 Nc6 9 Nf4 0-0 10 c3 Ne7 Perhaps intending 11..d5, so 11 d5 c6 12 Re1 f5
13 Bc4 Kh8 14 Be3 c5 15 Qd2 a6 16 a4 Qc7 Black has a Benoni-type structure and it is not easy for me to attack the base of the d6/c5 pawn chain.

17 Rac1 A modest plan: I am preparing b2-b4. I'd really like my dark-squared B on the action side of my N, at g5 or h6 say. And I'd prefer the e1R on the business side of the dark-squared B, at e6 or e7. Compare this position with that arising after 21Nf4.
17...Rd8?! Perhaps anticipating 18 Ne6 Bxe6 19 dxe6 d5. 18 Nd3 This looks like final preparation for b2-b4 but the move nicely starts to untangle White's pieces.
18..b5 Missing the reply, but even if you saw what White was up to it isn't easy to counter.
19 Bg5! bxc4 20 Rxe7 Bd7 The situation is worse than Black comprehends.
After 20…Qxe7 21 Bxe7 Rd7 22 Re1 cxd3 22 Qxd3 White is clearly better but there is still work to be done. 21 Nf4 Qc8 22 Nxg6+ hxg6 22..Kg8 23 Bh6 Bf6 permits an attractive finish: 24 Qg5 Bxg5 25 Rg7# 23 Bf6 The point of White's knight sac.
Qh6 is threatened and it can only be delayed for a few moves. 1-0.

John Dodgson

White: Mark Broom Black: Peter Kemp
1 c4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 g6 4 Nc3 Bg7 5 d3 d6 6 e4 0-0 7 Nge2 e5 8 0-0 Nc6
Although I do not think Peter realised this, we have now reached by a different route the same position as Broom-D.Howell (2002), from a previous Lewes I-Crowborough I match, which is a game I particularly enjoyed
9 Nd5 Ne7 10 Ne7 Qe7 11 ef gf 12 d4 c6 13 Bg5 Qc7 (this is the first deviation from the Broom-D.Howell game, which continued 13... h6 14 Bh4 Qf7 15 c5 ed 16 cd c5 17 b4 Ne4 18 bc Nc5 19 Rc1 Ne6 20 Bd5 Be5 21 Be7 Bd7 22 Rc7 Nc7 23 Bf7 Rf7 24 Nd4 Ne8 25 Nb3 and White eventually won - the rest of the game is in the Game Vault on the Mid-Sussex website)
14 de de 15 Qc2 Be6 16 Rfe1 Qf7 17 b3 Rfd8 18 Nc3 Re8
This shows that Black has gone a bit wrong in the last few moves - the e and f pawns are awkward to defend
19 Rad1 Ng4 20 h3 Qg6
Black is trying to be active, but this leads by force to a good Knight versus poor Bishop position
21 hg Qg5 22 gf Bf5 23 Be4 Be4 24 Ne4 Qg6 25 Rd6 Re6 27 Rd7 Rb8 27 Qd1 Bf8 28 c5 b6 29 b4 bc 30 bc Rb4 31 Qf3 Rd4
Black sacrifices a pawn to weaken the White bind on the position and get some play
32 Ra7 Be7 33 Qb3 Rd5 34 Nc3 Rd3
As the Black defensive position collapses he finds a possible route to escape
35 Re7 Rg3 36 Kf1 Rg1 37 Ke2 Re1 38 Ke1 Qg1

I now need to escape via d2 without losing my rook to the check on g5
39 Ke2 Qg4 40 Kf1 Qh3 41 Ke1 Qh1 42 Kd2 Qh6 and Black resigns

Mark Broom

Peter Harbott Bernard Cafferty Mid-Sussex League Div One, 27 x 2009

1 d4 Nf6 2 c3 b6 3 f3 d5 4 Bg5 Bf5

The opening looks strange, but 4...Bb7 would not restrain White's planned advance e2-e4 as long as the bizarre manoeuvre which fianchettoes the Q!

5 Nd2 Nbd7 6 e3 a6 (else 7 Ba6 is strong) 7 Ne2 h6 8 Bh4 Qc8 9 Qb3 Qb7 10 Bf2 e6 11 Ng3 Bh7 12 Be2 Be7 13 0-0 0-0 14 Rfe1 c5 15 Bf1 c4 16 Qd1 b5 17 e4

Mission accomplished at last, but the logical follow-up e5 and then f4-f5 is very hard to achieve in view of Black having his B at h7, rather than b7.

17...Nb6 18 a3 Na4 19 Qc2 Rfe8 20 Be3 dxe4 21 fxe4 (Visually good, but 21 Nxe4 is better as White's centre pawns now come under great pressure)

21...Ng4! 22 Rab1 Nb6 23 Qd1 Nxe3 24 Rxe3 e5 25 Nf3 Rad8! 26 Re2 (Not 23 Nxe5 Bg5!, threat ...Rxe5) 25...exd4 27 cxd4 Nd7 28 Qe1 Bd6 29 Nf5 Bxf5 30 exf5 Nf6 31 Ne5 Qd5 32 Qc3

(32 Rd1 Bxe5 and the loose Rd1 means White cannot keep on capturing at e5) 32...Ne4 33 Qe3 Rxe5! 34 f6 Nxf6 35 dxe5 Bc5 36 exf6 Bxe3+ 37 Rxe3 Qd4 38 Re1 Re8 39 Kf2 Qxb2+ 40 R1e2 Qxf6+ 41 Kg1 Qd4 42 Kf2 Re6 and White resigned on move 48.

Bernard Cafferty

W: F. J. Kwiatkowski [St. Francis & Haywards Heath]. B: Felix Haxby [Brighton 3].Board 1, Mid-Sussex League Division 2, Nov9, 2009.

Centre-Counter Defence.

1.e4 d5; 2. ed Qxd5; 3.Nc3 Qd6; 4.d4 Nf6; 5.Nf3 a6; 6.g3 b5; 7.Bg2 Bb7; 8.O-O e6; 9.Bf4 Qb6; 10.a4 Nd5?!; 11.Nxd5 Bxd5; 12.ab ab; 13.Rxa8 Rxa8; 14.Re1[?] ... ; [One of those moments when I knew the move I had chosen was inaccurate, but I saw no concrete reason to do anything else. 14.Qd3! ...; and if now 14. ... Be7; 15.Qc3! ...;] 14. ... Be7; 15.Qd3 h6?; [15. ... O-O; 16.Ng5 ... ; and White only has a very small advantage.] 16.Qc3! ... ; [Now I saw it!] 16. ... Nc6; 17.d5 Bf6; 18.Qa3 Na5; 19.b4 Bxd5; 20.bxa5 Qb7; 21.a6 Qa7; 22.Ne5 Be7; 23.Qa5 Bc5; 24.Qxb5+ c6; 25.Nxc6 Bxc6; 26.Bxc6+ ... .Black resigned. 1-0.

W: Sebastien Muheim [France 2040]. B: F.J. Kwiatkowski Hastings Masters' Tournament 2009/10, Round 7, January 3, 2010.

Nimzo-Indian Defence.

1.d4 Nf6; 2.c4 e6; 3.Nc3 Bb4; 4.a3 Bxc3+; 5.bxc3 c5; 6.f3 d5; 7.cd Nxd5; 8.Qd3 b6; [The usual lines start 8.dc Qa5; - I could remember that, after the actual move, Black is meant to play ... b6; but that was all.] 9.e4 Ba6; 10.Qd2 Bxf1; 11.Kxf1 Ne7; 12.dc?! Qc7; [The capture loosens White's position and exposes the light squares. It was right to sacrifice a pawn in response, but 12. ... Nd7; was preferable, as White could have now forced a sterile endgame with 13.Qd6 ... .]13.cb ab; 14.Qb2 O-O; 15.Be3 Nd7; 16.Ne2 Nc6; 17.g3 Nce5; 18.Kg2 Nc4; 19.Qc1 Ra4; 20.Nd4 Rfa8; 21. Rd1 Rxa3; 22.Rxa3 Rxa3; 23.Bf2 ... ; [23.Nb5 Ra2+;] 23. ... Ra2; 24.Kg1 h6; [Black stops potential back-rank mates and thereby liberates the knight on e7.] 25.Nb5 Qc6; 26.Nd4 ... ; [This planless sequence betrays an inner collapse.] 26. ... Qa4; 27.f4 Nc5; 28.Nf3 Nd3; 29. Qb1 Nxf2.

White resigned. 0-1.

W: F. J. Kwiatkowski B: S. Gregory [2126]. Hastings Masters' Tournament 2009-10, Round 8, 4th January 2010.

Centre-Counter Defence.

1.e4 d5; 2.ed Qxd5; 3.Nc3 Qa5; 4.d4 Nf6; 5.Nf3 Bg4; 6.h3 Bxf3; 7.Qxf3 c6; [As I established before the game, Black specialises in this sub-variation, and – like everybody else who plays it - also specialises in doing badly with it.] 8.Bc4 e6; 9.Bd2 Qb6; 10.O-O-O Be7; [By castling, White dares Black to take the d-pawn, and Black chooses to develop instead. 10. Qe3 was also plausible, and much less provocative. After all, White has two good bishops and doesn't have to be provocative.] 11.g4!? O-O; [Black really should take the pawn, when White has compensation but no clear win. However, I had seen Gregory's games and was pretty sure of my man. White now has a large advantage.] 12.g5 Nd5; 13.Rhg1 Nxc3; 14.Bxc3 Qd8; 15.Qh5 Nd7; 16.Rg4 b5; 17.d5 cd; [17. ... bxc4; 18.dc ... ;] 18.Bd3 g6; 19.Qxh7+. Black resigned. 1-0.

Ray Keene later published the position before the final move in 'The Times' as a puzzle for the readers to solve. I found out when my former clubmate, John Rix, phoned me to say the position was in print. He reminded me of a cynical comment I had made years ago, that the answer to Ray Keene's 'spot the continuation' puzzles was ALWAYS Qxh7+.

W: F. J. Kwiatkowski. B: R. Allicock.[205]

Sussex1 v. Kent1 at Dartford. March 13, 2010. Board 2/16.

Petroff's Defence.

1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nf6; 3.Nxe5 d6; 4.Nf3 Nxe4; 5.d3!? ... ; [At Grandmaster level, there is a logic to playing the Petroff. You do it to get a draw as Black in big tournament or team games. I can see no justification for playing this defence at amateur level, and I believe there is a fundamental flaw in the mind-set of those who do. Accordingly, I have experimented with 5.d3 ... to mess with the psychology of Petroff players, with good results.] 5. ... Nf6; 6.d4 d5; 7.Bd3 Bd6; 8.O-O O-O; 9.h3 Nc6; 10.c3 Ne7; 11.Qc2 Ng6; 12.Re1 Re8; 13.Bg5 Rxe1+; 14.Nxe1 h6; 15.Be3 Nf4; 16.Bxf4 Bxf4; 17.Nd2 Be6; 18.Nef3 ... ; [Objectively, the position is probably equal. However, I was confident that I could cause trouble. First, I thought my knights would become active enough to persuade Black to exchange one of his bishops for a knight, after which I judged that my remaining bishop would be the best minor piece on the board. Second, my opponent was a Petroff player.] 18. ... Nd7!; 19.Re1 Qf6!; 20.Nf1 c6; 21.Ne3 g6?!; [21. ...h5! keeps the balance.] 22.Ng4 Bxg4; 23.hxg4 Kg7; 24.Qe2 Bd6; 25.g3 Rh8; 26.Kg2 h5; 27.g5 Qd8; 28.Qe3 Nf8; 29.Nh4 b6; 30.f4 Nh7; 31.f5 Qxg5; 32.fg fg; 33.Bxg6 Qxe3; 34.Rxe3 Nf8; 35.Be8 Kf6; 36.Bxc6 Ne6; [White should win anyway, but I now saw what Black wanted to do. I therefore encouraged him to do it, as I also saw that the idea would lose a piece.] 37.Rf3+ Kg5; 38.Bxd5 Nf4+; 39.gxf4+ Kxh4; 40.Be6 ... . Black resigned. 1-0.

Sussex County Championship Final, 2009-2010. Game 1, June 26, 2010, at Brighton C.C. W: F. J. Kwiatkowski. B: Brian Denman.

Sicilian Defence, Scheveningen Variation.

1.e4 c5; 2.Nf3 e6; 3.d4 cd; 4.Nxd4 Nf6; 5.Nc3 d6; 6.Be3 Be7; 7.f3 a6; 8.Qd2 b5; 9.O-O-O Bb7; 10.g4 h6; [Black's 10th is not in fashion, but it doesn't feel like a bad move.] 11. Kb1 ...; [This may not be necessary.] 11. ... Nbd7; 12. Bd3 b4; 13.Nce2 d5; 14.Nf4 ...; [After a long think, I decided I had to sacrifice material to

avoid being overrun. It is almost immaterial whether the sacrifice is good or bad. That having been said, the computer starts by hating the sacrifice, but changes its mind to admitting it is viable after the concrete variations start. See for yourselves.] 14. ... de; 15.Ndxe6 fxe6; 16.Nxe6 Qc8; 17.fe Rg8; 18.Bf4 Ne5; 19.Nxg7+ Rxg7; 20.Bxe5 Qg4; 21. Rhf1 Rg6; 22.Be2? ...;[The critical moment. The right move was to capture on f6 first, after which the computer says White is better. I was very short of time here.] 22. ... Rd8!; [Now Black liquidates to a good, but not necessarily winning, endgame. However, I did not have the time to orientate myself in the new type of position and rapidly went downhill.] 23.Qxd8+ Bxd8; 24.Bxg4 Nxg4; 25.Bxf4 Bxe4; 26.Rd4 Re6; 27.h3 Nf6; 28.Bh6 Be7; 29.h4 Bg6; 30.Bg5 a5; 31.Rd2 Ne4; 32.Rg2 Nxg5; 33.hg a4; 34.Kc1 Re5; 35.R1g1 Bc5; 36.Rh1 Be3+; 37.Kd1 Bxg5; 38.Rh8+ Kf7; 39.Rf2+ Kg7; 40.Rb8 Bh5+.

White resigned. 0-1.

Game 2, July 17, 2010, at Brighton C.C.W: Brian Denman B: F. J. Kwiatkowski.

Sicilian Defence, Dragon Variation.

1.e4 c5; 2.Nf3 d6; 3.d4 cd; 4.Nxd4 Nf6; 5.Nc3 g6; [I don't play the Dragon, which was the whole point of the exercise. I knew White would not be expecting it.] 6.Be3 Bg7; 7.Be2 ...; [The only ambitious move is 7.f3 ... .] 7. ... Nc6; 8.f4 O-O; 9.a3?! ... ; [This move is not just psychological. It is designed to help trap the Queen with Na4 ideas after ... Qb6 and ... Qxb2.] 9. ... Bd7; 10.O-O Rc8; 11.Kh1 a6; 12.Nb3 Be6; 13.g4 Na5; 14.Bd4 Bc4; 15.g5 Bxe2; 16.Qxe2 Nd7; 17.Bxg7 Kxg7; 18.Nxa5 Qxa5; 19.Nd5 ... ; [A turning point. Black may not have made the most of White's quiet opening play. In turn, White's plan is hardly convincing. Maybe 19.f5 ... ; was preferable.] 19. ... e6; 20.Ne3 Qa4; 21.c4 Qc6; 22.Qg2 ...; [With the benefit of hindsight, 22.Qf3 ...; may have been better.] 22. ... Nc5; 23.b4 Qxe4; [Note that if 23. ... Nxe4; 25.b5 ... ; wins material.] 24.bxc5 Qxe3; [At this point Black must be better. However, I now proceeded to lose my grip on the game and White got right back into it.] 25.cd Rxc4; 26.Rad1 Rd8?!; 27.Qxb7 Rc2; 28.Qf3 Qc5; 29.d7 Rc3; 30.Qe4 Kf8; 31.Rf3 Qc6; 32.Qb4+ Rc5; 33.Kg1 Kg8; 34.Rfd3 Rc2; 35.R1d2 Rc4; 36.Qd6 Qc5+; 37.Qxc5 Rxc5; 38.Rd6 ... ; [The problem is that White has a lot of activity and the d-pawn, contrary to what I had thought, cannot be captured easily. The game is likely to be drawn.] 38. ... Ra5; 39.R2d3 Ra4; 40.R6d4 Ra5; [Around here, the game would usually be adjourned, but Brian and I agreed to carry on.] 41.Rd6 Kf8; 42.Kf2 Ke7; 43.h4 Rf5; 44.Kg3 a5; 45.R3d4 Rc5; 46.a4 Rc7; 47.Ra6 Rc5; 48.Rad6 Rc3+; 49.Kg2 ...; [49.Kg4 ... ; is met by ... h5+; ... f5+; and ... Rg3.] 49. ... Rc4; 50.Rxc4? ... ; [White cracks under the pressure: 50.Rxe6+ ...; was called for, when there is little to play for.] 50. ... Kxd6; 51.Rd4+ Kc5; 52.Rd1 Kc6; 53.Kf3 Rxd7; 54.Rxd7?? Kxd7; 55.Ke4 ...; [White was under the illusion that the K&P ending is drawn, whereas he had to keep the rooks on at move 54 and tough out the ending.] 55. ... Ke7; 56.Kd4 f6; [Black works to create a passed pawn. Note that if 56.Ke5 f6+; 57.gf+ Kf7; and Black wins.] 57.Ke4 Kf7; 58.Kd4 f5!; 59.Kc4 Ke7; 60.Kc5 Kd7; 61.Kb5 e5!; 62.fe Ke6;

White resigned. 0-1.

Game 3, July 31, 2010, at Brighton C.C. W: Brian Denman. B: F. J. Kwiatkowski.

Centre-Counter Defence.

1.e4 d5; [No, I don't play the Centre-Counter Defence, and nor should anybody. I tried it here

just for match reasons. Whereas the Dragon is in principle worth more than one outing, the present defence is a Kleenex opening: use once, and throw it away.] 2.ed Nf6; 3.Nf3 Nxd5; 4.d4 g6; 5.Be2 Bg7; 6.O-O O-O; 7.c4 Nb6; 8.Nc3 Bg4; [8. ... Nc6; is possible, but then 9.d5 ... ; is thought of as good for White.] 9.c5 Nd5; 10.Qb3 Nxc3; 11.bc b6; 12.h3 Be6; 13.Bc4 Bxc4; 14.Qxc4 Nd7?! [Provocative. There are database games where Black simply went 14. ... Qd7;, evidently not fearing to give up the bishop after Ne5, and reached a playable position.] 15.c6 Nf6; 16.Re1 ...; [16. Ba3!? ...;] 16. ... Qd5; 17.Qxd5 Nxd5; 18.Bd2 e6; 19.c4 Ne7; 20.Bb4 Rfe8; 21.Bxe7 Rxe7; 22.Rad1 Kf8;

[The position has gone straight from the opening into a complex endgame which is difficult to evaluate. After the game, the players did not believe that Black stood worse here. It is simply that I failed to understand the needs of the position as well as Brian understood them.]

23.Re2 Rd8; 24.R2d2 Rd6; 25.d5 ed?; [Brian suggests that Black should play 25. ... a6; to preserve the choice of ... b5; plans.] 26.cd Bh6; 27.Rd3 Re4; 28.Kf1 Ra4; 29.a3 Re4; [29. ... b5!?;] 30.Re1 Rxe1+?; [Brian feels that Black should have kept the active rook on the board.] 31.Kxe1 Ke8; 32.Kd1 Rf6; [32. ... Rd8 is met by the same plan as in the game.] 33.Ne5! Bf4; 34.Nd7 Rd6; 35.Kc2 Bh6; 36.Kb3 Bg7; 37.Kc4 a6; 38.a4 Bf8; 39.Re3+ Be7; 40.Nxb6!! Rf6; 41.Nc8 Rf4+ 42.Kb3 ... .

Black resigned. 1-0.

SCCA Competitions 2010-11

New Tournament Controller Paul Buswell will be inviting entries once he has had a chance to review the tournaments' present structures. Comments from past or would-be competitors are invited in the meantime.

SCCA Patrons 2010-11

PLEASE help the work of the association by renewing your subscription for 2010-2011. If you have not been a Patron, please consider taking out a subscription.

Patrons are exempt from board fees in county matches and will receive a complimentary copy of Sussex Chess.

County fees: Adults £18 and Juniors (U-18) £9

Please complete the form below and return to the Treasurer:

Peter Kemp
48 Burleigh Way
Crawley Down
West Sussex
RH10 4UQ

Thank you in anticipation of your support for Sussex Chess.

Peter Kemp
SCCA Treasurer

To SCCA Treasurer P.D.Kemp

From Name (Block capitals).....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

I enclose my Patron's fee for 2010-11 of £.....

Signature.....

Email address (for confirmation of receipt)

.....

Cheques should be payable to "Sussex County Chess Association". Receipts will be issued by email or by post on receipt of a SAE

Sussex County Chess Association Info

County Officers 2010-2011

President	Robert Elliston	Cherry Tree Cottage, 2 Marlpit Gardens, Ticehurst, East Sussex, TN5 7BB. Tel: 01580 200609
Deputy President	Robert Williams	7 The Mount, 45 Meads Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 7PX . Tel : 01323 639766
Treasurer	P. Kemp	48 Burleigh Way, Crawley Down, West Sussex RH10 4UQ Tel: 01342 717050 peter87@talktalk.net
Secretary	Dix Roberts	6 Foxleigh Chase, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4AX dix@foxleigh.globalnet.com
Open Team Secretary	R.J. Almond	5 The Willows, Sedlescombe Road North, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN37 7PA Tel: Home: 01424 753612; Work: 01424 453230; Mobile: 07905 479445 email : richardalmond141@hotmail.com
Open Team Captain (on the day)	P.R. Selby	Garden Flat, 2A Cleveland Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 6FF Tel: 01273553825
U-180 Team Captain	Paul Batchelor	98 Mackie Avenue, Brighton 01273 508128 batchelorpaul6@gmail.com
U-160 Team Captain	John Cannon	01403 253776 cannon149@hotmail.co.uk
U-140 Team Captain	Keith Osborne	01323 492158 KeithCOsborne@aol.com
Correspondence Team Captain	J.A. Dodgson	51 Denham Way, Camber, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7XR. Tel: 01797 226036 email: j.dodgson51@btinternet.com
Tournament controller	Paul Buswell	51 Kenilworth Road St Leonards on Sea, TN38 0JL PaulBuswellChess@aol.com
Sussex Junior Chess	Carol and David Graham	email: carol_graham@ntlworld.com
Adjudications Secretary	R.V. Elliston	Cherry Tree Cottage, 2 Marlpit Gardens, Ticehurst, East Sussex, TN5 7BB. Tel: 01580 200609
Grading Officer	Julie Denning	Glenholm, Brighton Road, Woodmancote, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9ST. Tel: 01273 492408 email: julie.denning1@btinternet.com
County Archivist	Brian Denman	b.denman@btopenworld.com
ECF Delegate	R.T.F. Williams	The Fairway, Williams Road, Bosham, West Sussex, PO18 8JS. Tel: 01243 573351 email: rayvicwllms@onetel.com
SCCU Delegate	R.D. Hirsch	5 Orde Close, Pound Hill, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 3NG. Tel: 01293 883244 email: red.deer@btinternet.com
Sussex Chess News Editor	Mick Plumb	7 Hide Close, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 6GG 07816 488513 mickplumb@googlmail.co.uk