SUSSEX CHESS NEWS

2018

Edward's Classic opening

Fun in the sun

Future's bright

42

CONTENTS

Adjudications.....45
Argumentatives.....25
Bexhill.....26
Bognor & Arun.....27
Brighton & Hove.....28-29
Chichester.....30
Clubs.....25-40
Contacts.....41
Correspondence.....20-21
County teams.....45-55
Open.....46-50
Under 180.....45, 51-52
Under 140.....53-55
Crowborough.....31

63

Editor: Mick Plumb
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Delegates' reports.....4-7
East Grinstead.....32-33
Games.....56-67
Hastings & St Leonards.....34
Haywards Heath.....35
Horsham.....36-37

8

Junior Chess.....8-16
Obituary.....22-24
Patrons.....17
Uckfield.....38-39
Weald Congress.....42-44
Worthing.....40

22

Chris Jones on Sussex success in the British Championships

A BRIEF round-up of results taken from the ECF website. Unfortunately, not all the results have been posted at the time of going to press, but I have listed the players in the British Championships, held in Hull, anyway. My apologies if I have missed anyone out.

Championship
Matt Payne (Worthing) 4½/9, including a GM draw and a win against an IM; Dominic Miller (Worthing) 4/9, Bill McDougall (Chichester) 3/9, John Sugden (Hastings) 2/9, including draws against 2 IMs.

Major Open
Callum Brewer (Brighton) 6/9 (qualifies for the 2019 British); Calum Salmons (Brighton) 5/9, Oliver Howell (Sussex Junior Chess) 4/9, Matthew Forster (Horsham) 3.5/9

Over 65
Geoffrey James (Brighton) 1st= 5.5/7, Chris Jones (Worthing) 4th= 5/7, Ian Kelly (Woodpushers), Adrian Pickersgill (Eastbourne) 12th= 4/7 and Phil Stimpson (Horsham) 27th= 3.5/7.

U14 Polina Shchepinova (Sussex Junior Chess) 4/7, joint top girl

U12 Arjun Kolani (Sussex Junior Chess) 2nd= 5.5/7, Leo Yu (Sussex Junior Chess) 3½/7

U9 Amelie Rees (Sussex Junior Chess) 4/6, joint top girl, Toby Ralph (Sussex Junior Chess) 3/6

U2050
Matthew Britnell (Lewes) 2½/5, Jonathan Britnell (Lewes) 2/5

Weekend Soanes (U150)
Dona Strauss (Brighton)

Rapidplay
Matthew Forster (Horsham) 6½/9, Callum Vyse (Worthing) 4½

U1750 Polina Shchepinova (Sussex Junior Chess) 3rd= 4/5, Paul O'Brien (Worthing) 2.5/5

Under 100
David Everitt (Haywards Heath) 1.5/5

U16 Dominic Miller (Worthing) 5/7 3rd

U11 Jacob Wynn (Sussex Junior Chess)

Weekend Yates (U120)
Leo Yu (Sussex Junior Chess), David Everitt (Haywards Heath)

Championship's future as county

Julie Denning, our SCCU and ECF delegate, reports on an eventful year

THE season started for the SCCU with the North v South (of the river) match as the finale of the Union's 125th anniversary celebration. This took place on September 16, 2017, in London, over 68 boards.

The teams were very evenly matched, with only a one point difference (in South's favour) in average grade, but the result ended up as a victory for North by 36½-31½. My thanks to all of those from Sussex who participated and helped to make this a memorable occasion.

The union stage of the county championships was somewhat marred over the past season by an unusually high number of disputes, with three resulting in appeals to the union's rules & appeals sub-committee, of which I was ex-officio convenor as union president. One of these involved a Sussex team (with me obviously recused from taking part in its resolution).

I have reported on these cases to club and county officials elsewhere. The main point I want to make here is that teams should make every effort to resolve issues between themselves, on the day of the match. It is not realistic to require official arbiters to be present for these matches. Not only does it take up a great deal of volunteers' time if a dispute is referred upwards, but difficult though it might be to resolve something on the spot, it's even more

facing uncertain chess struggles

difficult for union officers who weren't there.

The SCCU is considering introducing a charge for making an appeal against a decision of the county match controller (refundable if the appeal is upheld) and also requiring appeals to be endorsed by a county official.

There are concerns over the future of the county championship competition. The chess scene has changed drastically since the start of this very long-standing competition. Many see the 4NCL competing for player interest, while there are now many weekend congresses that we can enter.

Other competitions have succumbed to these changes, most notably the national clubs competition which has now died completely. The fear is of the county championships gradually going the same way. Compared to other regions, the SCCU has been reasonably successful in maintaining interest in its union stage of the competition, but there's no room for complacency. There are counties that the SCCU consider to be in their area who are not affiliated at all, while those who are do not enter teams at all grading levels.

Sussex is among the smaller counties (in terms of ECF-registered players) and for many of our players there can be significant distances involved, even for home matches, let alone away matches north of the river. We have certainly struggled to maintain our involvement.

With this situation in mind, there was discussion at the recent SCCU annual meeting of possible initiatives for increasing awareness of, and participation in, SCCU events. One idea that is being actively worked on is to hold a one-day team event somewhere in the London area next summer. This will be for small teams, possibly, but not necessarily, representing individual clubs. I will report more on this when I can.

The British Chess Education Trust makes a number of awards of chess equipment to schools each year. The SCCU typically submits two nominations. One of the nominations this year (proposed by Chess in Schools and Communities) was for Goldstone Primary School in Hove. I'm pleased to report that this nomination was successful.

A matter that has taken up quite a bit of time this year, for both the SCCU and ECF, has been compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). I'm sure we all see this as going way over the top in catching the likes of chess leagues and even individual clubs, but it is something we all need to take into account.

At the SCCU AGM held on July 1, I stood down as president after three years. I have been succeeded by Mark Murrell of Essex.

Turning to ECF matters, in addition to my responsibilities as a non-executive director, I have attended the usual two council meetings during the year as the delegate for Sussex.

At the AGM last October there were no surprises or sparks over elections, with all incumbents, myself included, being re-elected.

Following somewhat inconclusive discussions and votes at previous council meetings over voting reform, resolutions were passed at the latest AGM

Chris is right man for the job

NEW ROLE: Chris Fegan

Over the past few months, the ECF has got itself into a spot of bother over the position of director of women's chess.

This was a newly-created post a couple of years ago and Sarah Longson was elected at the 2016 AGM.

However, she resigned shortly after the 2017 AGM, at least in part due to increased workload having taken over the running of the UK Chess Challenge.

Initial attempts to find a suitable replacement were unsuccessful and the Board put on the agenda for the April, 2018, finance council a proposal to disestablish this directorship.

This caused some furore, at least among contributors to the English Chess Forum (nothing to do with the ECF).

Also, shortly before the finance council meeting, Chris Fegan approached the Board about taking up the role. Prior to me joining the Board in

to increase the aggregate number of votes held by direct members' representatives from 10 to 40. Those representing honorary life vice-presidents, honorary life members and life members and those representing platinum members will continue to have one vote each, but those representing gold members, silver members or bronze members will have six votes each. This will be out of around 340 votes in total at council.

The yearbook is to cease being produced in hardcopy form. All the contacts information will in future be made available online, where it can more readily be kept up to date, and is probably where most people would now expect to find it.

With effect from the start of the 2018/19 membership year, the ECF is employing a different company to manage the online membership system. It is hoped this will provide enhanced functionality for members and clubs, and includes the ability to set up direct debit payments. Adult membership fees for 2018/19 remain unchanged, although the £1 discount for joining or renewing online has been withdrawn. Junior membership fees are being reduced below gold level. A free first year junior silver membership will continue to be offered. Beyond the first year, junior membership with privileges up to those of silver will cost £5. It is hoped this will encourage more juniors to become, and remain, members.

Following open consultation exercises, the director of home chess proposed a number of changes to the rules for the national stages of the county championships. These were not supported by the SCCU and were all rejected by the ECF Council. However, please note the discussion above about us not being complacent. This is definitely seen as being a competition under threat.

The director of home chess, Alex Holowczak, was last elected to the post at the 2017 AGM, for a period of three years. However, he has recently announced that he will stand down at the 2018 AGM due to time conflicts with work

late 2015, Chris had attended Board meetings as a non-voting strategy advisor.

This did not continue after the 2015 AGM purge, although he has remained very active in chess matters, both as a delegate to council and as chief executive of Chess in Schools and Communities.

He also has a record of arguing in support of women's chess at council meetings. The Board, therefore, decided to withdraw its proposal to disestablish the post and make a further effort to recruit someone.

Following discussion at the finance council, two women candidates came forward in addition to Chris. Of the three, two were interviewed and Chris was appointed.

This led to outbursts in the national press about the ECF appointing a man to this position when there also two women candidates.

Speaking as a director, there's a bit more to this than immediately meets the eye, but there was no upside for the ECF in prolonging a public argument.

As a woman director, I am content that Chris was the best candidate. In particular, he was the only one who could reasonably be expected to hit the ground running in terms of the necessary experience to organise the forthcoming English Women's Championship, responsibility for which was passed to this directorate from that of Home Chess.

commitments. Alex and I haven't always seen eye-to-eye on some of his ideas, but I have always held him in high regard for the effort he puts into managing his extensive brief.

His shoes are going to be very big ones for someone else to fill.

Another matter that has been getting quite a lot of public attention, and is an issue for the ECF Board, is that of the FIDE presidential election, taking place in early October.

The Russian president of the past 23 years is finally standing down after a lot of controversy. In particular, he is named on a US sanctions list which has resulted in FIDE losing banking facilities.

There are three new candidates standing, each of whom has to name a "ticket" of six other people with whom they will take office.

There is English interest in two of these tickets.

Nigel Short is heading up one of them, while Malcolm Pein (ECF director of international chess and FIDE delegate, among many other prominent chess roles) is named as candidate for deputy president on the ticket of Georgios Makropoulos (the current deputy president of FIDE).

The final candidate is Arkady Dvorkovich, who is a past deputy prime minister of Russia and headed up the organising committee for the recent football World Cup.

Interesting times!

ENGLISH OPENING?: Nigel Short and Malcom Pein

They've done it again: Carol Graham

We are the

reports on yet another amazing year!

champions!

Top left, The under nines, winners of the south zone; below, the U14 team, NYCA champions; Right, the U16 team, NYCA champions and, below, the Under 18 team, NYCA champions

OUR training days and tournaments continue to be popular with children attending from all over the county.

Our patron, GM David Howell, continues to support us and be a great ambassador for chess – taking a training group at one of our training days and attending prize-giving at our Hastings tournament.

MEETING THE MASTER: Horsham's Mike Forster meets Garry Kasparov, top; WFM Sarah Longson, director of the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge, presents prizes at the Megafinal, and, below, Edward Gray makes the first move at the London Chess Classic.

MAKING THE RIGHT MOVE: A study in concentration, top, and below, GM David Howell trains some of our younger players

We are also lucky to be supported by ex-Sussex Junior IM Thomas Rendle, who coaches regularly at our training days when his other professional commitments allow.

The Academy Schools programme continues to identify new players in Uckfield, Burgess Hill, Brighton

and Worthing thanks to Brian Stockham, Chris Jones and Dave Graham.

Also, many Sussex chess clubs are now actively catering for juniors – particularly Crowborough, Brighton & Hove, Horsham, Lewes and Worthing – giving them the opportunity to compete in the Mid-Sussex League at both rapidplay and standardplay.

We have seen an increase in provision for junior chess in nearby counties, particularly Berkshire, Hampshire and Richmond, which has resulted in some stiff competition for our younger teams this season.

However, the senior teams continue to do well, winning the NYCA Championships at U14,

HOWELL'S ABOUT THAT: GM David Howell presents prizes at a tournament, top, and below, Sussex v Ireland, The Sir Patrick Moore Cup

NO SPACE TO SPARE: The Sussex megafinal - older children, above, and, right, .JPG Horsham's Mike Forster with Garry Kasparov's signed chessboard.

U16, and U18 level and runners-up at U12. The U18 team were also narrowly squeezed into second place by half a point at the ECF National Championships in Grantham.

Overall, we entered teams into nine competitions, allowing more than 100 children to represent their county. This is in addition to the senior juniors who represent Sussex in the County Championships – thanks to the captains who select them.

This is in addition to the Sussex Junior Chess sponsored "Sussex Martlets" teams in the 4NCL which are largely formed from ex-juniors, juniors and coaches supported by members of other Sussex chess clubs. This year, we had teams in Divisions 2, 3 and 4, which is optimal for development and succession, and after a very tense final weekend all three teams managed to retain their places.

Prize for the most unusual venue goes to the SCCU/U130 grade team who

CROWDED HOUSE: One of the playing halls at the Sussex Megafinal our largest tournament

played their home fixture against Richmond in St. Augustine's Church, Scaynes Hill.

Having resurrected the Sussex v Ireland fixture last year, Mike Forster and family organised a very successful return leg hosted at the Arora Hotel, Crawley, where Sussex retained the Sir Patrick Moore Cup and hope to be invited back to Dublin in 2019.

The inter-schools competitions continue to be very popular with 40 schools from all around the county taking part. Thanks to Chris Jones (Worthing CC) for organising the U11 Primary Cup which was won by Copthorne Prep; and to Julian Franklin (Windlesham House School) for the U14 Butler Cup, which was retained by Brighton College. Brighton College established a chess scholarship a few years ago which has attracted a lot of very strong players – they will be a force to be reckoned with in national schools competitions in the years to come.

> Many Sussex chess clubs are now actively catering for juniors …giving them the opportunity to compete in the Mid-Sussex League

As always, there were many individual honours – Timmy Hedger (Worthing) and Solomon Mitchell (Lewes) both successfully trialled for the National Chess Junior Squad; Oliver Howell, Edward Gray, Matt Forster and Lucy Bennet-Stevens represented England in ECF teams; and several others visited Poland and the Czech Republic with the NCJS.

Finally, in other news, Edward Gray attended the London Chess Classic and

INTO BATTLE: Sussex v Richmond U14 U130 in St Augustines Scaynes Hill, right, and, below, a friendly match between he U11 girls team and U9 boys team

GIRLS ONLY: A tournament just for girls, above, and, below, the U11 team analying during a match.

PICTURES: David Gray, Carol Graham and parents

was selected to make the first move for GM Sergey Karjakin; Sussex coach Mike Forster attended an IT Conference where he took part in a simul against GM Garry Kasparov, winning a signed chessboard; and we have our first qualified arbiter in 15-year-old Oli Howell!

Thanks to all of the volunteers who give their time to make our organisation work; to the parents for ferrying their children around the county; and to the many Sussex chess clubs who now welcome and support juniors.

In particular, our thanks to retiring committee members Peter and Catherine Finn, who have both contributed many hours in many ways over the last five years.

SCCA Patrons 2018-2019

PLEASE help the work of the association by renewing your subscription for 2018-2019. If you have not been a patron, please consider taking out a subscription.

Patrons are exempt from board fees in county matches.

County fees: Adults £15 (ECF members)/£25 (non-ECF members) and Juniors (U-18) £9.

Please complete the form below and return to the Treasurer: Jim Wheeler, 12 High Wickham, Hastings, East Sussex TN35 5PB.

Alternatively, you can pay direct into the SCCA's Nationwide account: Sort code: 07-00-93; Account number: 33333334. Any payment will need to quote the following reference or the payment will not reach the SCCA: 0302/703954391.

For anyone paying direct, could they please e-mail me a confirmation.

To SCCA Treasurer Jim Wheeler

From Name (Block capitals……..

Address……

……..

……..

I enclose my Patron's fee for 2018-19 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

END OF THE BRIGHTON LINE … Steve Smith trying to find the right lines

the rail deal

MANY years ago, back in the late 1970s as I recall, I entered the Sussex Queen and found myself paired against a player from Eastbourne.

In those pre-internet days, organising our game was less straightforward than these days and we agreed to rendezvous at Brighton Chess Club. This seemed a good idea as the venue was vaguely equidistant and I had been told they were open every day of the year.

At 7pm we arrived at the premises to find they were closed. We moved ourselves to the Brighton railway station and two cups of tea later we were sat down at a table in the café. This proved tolerably satisfactory and all was going well until about 9pm when the proprietor asked if we might vacate or seats as he was closing the premises.

We decanted to a bench on the open concourse and continued our game. This was a very even struggle and at something approaching 11pm we were required to seal and adjourn. While life was not as busy as today, nonetheless, the idea of repeating this exercise as not attractive, if only from the travel costs perspective in those financially more constrained times.

I offered a draw but my opponent felt he had a small advantage. I disagreed with this assessment and we played on for a couple more moves. By now there was an interesting clientele sharing the concourse with us, some colourful characters for sure, not at all to my comfort. I think I am correct when I say the WSQ Tournament was a knockout in those days and in the event of a draw a second game should be played with colours reversed. I solved this problem in what, to this day remains unique in my chess experience – I offered a draw, which was this time accepted, and resigned the second game without a move being played.

By now there was an interesting clientele sharing the concourse with, some colourful characters for sure

I do not recall how my opponent progressed – I did indeed wish him well after this interesting playing experience. If anyone connected with Eastbourne Chess Club, or Sussex Chess has any information then I would be very glad to get an update. I have been unable to locate my scoresheet, which is a shame. Every blank scoresheet I see reminds me of this episode.

Steve Smith
(then of the Bognor Regis Chess Club)

Players in battle to

Tough going after half-way finish

THE 2016-17 Ward-Higgs concluded with Sussex scoring 7.5 out of 16, to finish joint fifth out of the 10 teams in the top division. Individual results were as follows:

Board	Sussex Player	Opponent	White	Black	Total
1	Eastoe, Leslie K. G.	GM Coleman, Peter L.	Win	Draw	1.5/2
2	Batchelor, Paul A.	McLeod, Fraser	Win	Draw	1.5/2
3	Spanton, Tim	CCE Yeo, Gareth	Draw	Loss	0.5/2
4	Mansson, James C.	Reed, Arthur F.	Draw	Draw	1/2
5	Mansson, Ralph A.	Young, Daniel	Draw	Loss	0.5/2
6	Elliston, Robert V.	Jones, Brian	Draw	Loss	0.5/2
7	Fryer, David W.	Hart, Terry	Win	Win	2/2
8	Sharp, Joseph	Lefevre, Stephen D.	Loss	Loss	0/2

The 2017-18 Ward-Higgs is currently in progress. Sussex are currently in last position on 4 out of 13 and facing relegation.

The team suffered a series of misfortunes during the season.

David Fryer's opponent was unwell and died while their games were in progress; a substitute replaced him, but David felt uncomfortable continuing the game.

At his request, I contacted the Yorkshire captain about agreeing the two games drawn.

He was happy to go along with this and this is, in fact, what happened.

Robert Elliston had decided to drop out of the correspondence team, so I needed a replacement. I was recommended a replacement in Richard Clark.

Unfortunately, after a few months, he silently withdrew from all the correspondence chess games he was playing (not just the Ward-Higgs).

As I was unable to find a replacement before he was declared to have defaulted all his games,

stave off relegation

Because of this withdrawal, we need another player in the team.

That player will play two games, one White and one Black, against the same opponent from one of the other counties.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact by e-mail at jmansson@argo-software.co.uk the Sussex Correspondence Team Captain James Mansson.

Individual results so far are:

Board	Sussex Player	Opponent	White	Black	Total
1	Eastoe, Leslie K. G.	Carleton, John Joseph	Draw	Draw	1/2
2	Batchelor, Paul A.	Yeo, Gareth	Draw	Draw	1/2
3	Spanton, Tim	James, Angus	Draw	Loss	0.5/2
4	Mansson, James C.	Perrin, Richard David		Draw	0.5/1
5	Clark, Richard I.	Lunn, Tim	Loss	Loss	0/2
6	Mansson, Ralph A.	Stebbings, Anthony J.			0/0
7	Fryer, David W.	Milton, David H. Beckett, Rosanna	Draw	Draw	1/2
8	Sharp, Joseph	Thornton, John D.	Loss	Loss	0/0

The fourth British Webserver Team Tournament has recently finished. Sussex had a team in division 2.

The team was James Mansson, Tim Spanton, Paul Batchelor, and David Fryer. The final scores were:

- James Mansson (Board 1): 3/6 (1 win, 4 draws and 1 loss)
- Tim Spanton (Board 2): 2.5/6 (5 draws and 1 loss)
- Paul Batchelor (Board 3): 4/6 (2 wins and 4 draws)
- David Fryer (Board 4): 4/6 (3 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss)

This placed the team in third place in division 2, narrowly missing promotion.

Sussex has just started competing in the fifth British Webserver Team Tournament, in division 2. The team is James Mansson, Tim Spanton, Paul Batchelor, and David Fryer. No games have been completed yet.

James Mansson
Sussex Correspondence
Team Captain

Brian Denman recalls the life of

Dave, a true

DAVID George Springgay was born on February 16,1937, at Brighton. From a young age, he developed a natural ability for chess and he first joined Brighton Chess Club when its premises were inside the Royal Pavilion. Not long after this, the club moved a few yards to the south to 4 Pavilion Buildings, which is nowadays the site of the Pavilion Shop,

Dave was only 16 when he became the youngest ever winner of the Brighton CC Championship in 1953. He next won the competition in 1958, but in that year he went one step further by defeating M. Ayriss in the final of the county championship. In 1959 he again won the Brighton CC Championship and in 1960 again reached the county championship final. This time he was unsuccessful. The resolute Hastings champion, Arthur Winser, fought a marathon match against him, which took several hours to resolve. Eventually, Winser prevailed after two games had been drawn. In 1962, Dave won the Brighton CC Championship for the fourth and last time and he again became county champion after winning against John Cannon in the final. In the 1963 county final, Arthur Winser was again his opponent and this time Dave won both of their games.

In 1961, Dave qualified for the British Championship at Aberystwyth. Here, he faced top class opposition and some eyebrows were probably raised when he defeated the

CALLED TO THE BAR: A photo of Dave taken in 1961, when he was working as a barman

text

a player who conquered county

Sussex legend

international master, Cenek Kottnauer, in an early round. There were some ups and downs in this tournament, but eventually he scored six points out of 11 and came tenth equal, which was an excellent result.

By 1963, Dave was clearly the best player in Sussex and he now stopped entering the Brighton and Sussex championships. Perhaps he was becoming bored with playing the same opponents. In 1965 he was persuaded to join Hastings Chess Club, which had regular matches against strong London clubs and also entered the National Club Championship. In April, 1966, in a match between Hastings and Streatham and Brixton, Dave came up against the powerful London player, Ray Keene. In an interesting game it was Ray, who prevailed, but his win was not surprising as he was selected for the England team in that year.

By 1963, Dave was clearly the best player in Sussex and he now stopped entering the Brighton and Sussex championships

In 1968, Dave returned to the Brighton team, which by this time also competed in the National Club Championship. He played several interesting

IN the following game Reginald Broadbent, British champion in 1948 and 1950, appears to have a dominating position, but he blunders with 20…exf5 and 22..Kf8 allowing a pretty finish. After 23 d7 it's all over.

Springgay,DG - Broadbent,RJ [C02]

Sussex v Surrey at Eastbourne board 1, 21.03.1959

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Bd3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bd7 8.0–0 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 Qxd4 10.Nc3 a6 11.Kh1 Ne7 12.Qe2 Nc6 13.f4 Nb4 14.Bb1 Qc4 15.Qd1 d4 16.Ne4 Bb5

Continued on next page

games and in 1972 even entered the county championship again. Unfortunately, his interest in the game was probably waning as he withdrew from the competition after only playing two games. He now took a break from the game.

He was tempted back in 1976 when a tournament of baseline chess was held in the Royal Pavilion. According to this variation on the rules of chess, players chose where to place their pieces on the first rank, though this had to be different from the normal set up. Some strong players converged on Brighton for this event, but Dave's natural creative genius enabled him to take first place. In the same year he became British champion at hexagonal chess with a 100% score.

It was to be eight years later that Dave returned to competitive chess to play in his final tournament. The BCF Congress came to Brighton in 1984 and he competed in the Major Open event. Although he was out of practice, he did well to score about 50% in a strong tournament.

After this he made infrequent visits to Brighton Chess Club for a few years and played a few social games. He continued to live in Brighton where he died on February 12, 2018, aged 80.

Continued from previous page

17.Re1 Nd3 18.Bxd3 Qxd3 19.Bd2 Rd8 20.f5 exf5 21.Nd6+ Bxd6 22.exd6+ Kf8 23.d7! Kg8 24.Ba5

Sources: 'Chess' of 25.4.1959, Hastings and St Leonards Observer of 2.5.1959, Worthing Gazette of 17.3.1971 and Brighton and Hove Gazette of 5.5.1973. **1–0**

In the second game Dave again found himself in the worse position, but White recaptured with the wrong pawn on move 22 and later made a mistake with 27 g4.

Simpole,JIP - Springgay,DG [B07]

Brighton CC Championship Brighton, 24.09.1962

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nd7 3.Bc4 Ngf6 4.Nc3 e5 5.Nf3 Be7 6.0–0 0–0 7.Re1 c6 8.h3 b5 9.Bd3 a6 10.Ne2 c5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.b3 Qc7 13.c4 b4 14.Ng3 g6 15.Bb2 a5 16.Nf1 Bb7 17.Qc2 a4 18.Ne3 a3 19.Bc1 Ne8 20.Qe2 Nd6 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.exd5 Bf6 23.Rb1 Bg7 24.Ng5 h6 25.Ne4 f5 26.Nxd6 Qxd6 27.g4 e4 28.Bc2 Bd4 29.Be3 Ne5 30.Bf4 fxg4 31.Qxe4 Rxf4

Source: Worthing Gazette of 10.10.1962. **0–1**

The third game is a good example of Dave's creative genius. After Black blunders with 27… Rb2, White's knights dominate the board.

Springgay,DG - Rhodes,HG [B06]

National Club Championship Brighton v Hastings board 3 11.01.1969

1.e4 g6 2.h4 h5 3.Nh3 d6 4.Ng5 Nh6 5.d4 Bg7 6.c3 0–0 7.f4 c5 8.dxc5 dxc5 9.Qxd8 Rxd8 10.Be3 b6 11.Bc4 e6 12.Nd2 Ng4 13.Ke2 Ba6 14.Bxa6 Nxa6 15.Nc4 b5 16.Na5 Nxe3 17.Kxe3 c4 18.Rad1 Nc5 19.e5 Nd3 20.Nb7 Rd7 21.Nd6 Nxb2 22.Rb1 Na4 23.Rxb5 Nxc3 24.Rc5 Nd5+ 25.Kf3 c3 26.Nge4 Rb8 27.Rc1 Rb2 28.Rc8+ Bf8 29.R1xc3 Rxa2 30.Nf6+ Nxf6 31.exf6 Rxd6 32.Rxf8+ Kh7 33.Rxf7+ Kh6 34.Rf8 g5 35.hxg5+ Kg6 36.Rg8+ Kf5 37.Rc5+ Rd5 38.Rxd5+ exd5 39.f7

Sources: Hastings and St Leonards Observer of 18.1.1969, 'Sussex Chess News', and Brighton and Hove Gazette of 8.9.1978. Played at Hastings in the third round of the competition. **1–0**

Club's in crisis as numbers fall

HAVING just been relegated, The Args did extremely well to finish second in Div 3 of the Mid-Sussex League, to get promoted back to Div 2 provided we can field a team!

Peter Farr and Jim Graham were on hot form to take leading places in the averages.

New recruit Mick Harris battled bravely through hip pain and a hospital operation.

The Board 2 recovering from a badly broken arm also needed another operation!

Meanwhile, Dennis Collard contributed a few brave draws and seemed fit enough.

Results including the MSL League and Knockout :

Peter Farr 7/8; Paul Kington 4/8; Jim Graham 6/8; Mick Harris 3.5/7; Dennis Collard 1.5/7.

After the season Dennis Collard suddenly became ill and died on June 17, aged 75.

This was another severe blow for us after Mike Garson's sudden death last year, aged 74.

Together with Bob Huston (now a retired octogenarian!) they formed the team in 1974.

The title 'Argumentatives' really meant wit and words and wisdom rather than aggression!

Perhaps not great chess players but certainly great characters.

They will be sadly missed and indeed we are now in crisis with only four players left.

So this is not just a tribute but a plea for new members (as they all wanted us to carry on).

However, if we cannot find at least one more player very soon we will be forced to quit.

Our venue remains The Jolly Tanners at Staplefield with its separate chess room and excellent food and drink.

If you wish to join us phone me on 01403 730018 or else contact Peter, Jim or Mick.

Paul Kington

Bogdan is a simul success

THE major event over the last year was a simul by Grandmaster Bogdan Lalic to mark Sussex Day on June 16. It was opened by the Bexhill Mayor, Abul Azad, accompanied by the Sussex Day Champion, former Mayor and Bexhill member, Paul Lendon.

Bogdan's opponents included visitors from Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings and Horsham. He won 27 games, losing none but drawing three, two against 13-year-old Calum Salmons, who plays for Brighton & Hove Chess Club, and the other against WFM Rasa Norinkeviciute, of Eastbourne.

Two Bexhill players managed to get into equal-looking endgames before succumbing to the superior technique of the GM. It is hoped to hold regular such events in the future.

A sad note: we have to record the passing of long-standing member Michael Dean, after a protracted and brave fight against cancer. He had also been a member of Eastbourne and Hastings & St. Leonards chess clubs. Right to the end, he was driving around the country to compete in chess tournaments and was a regular competitor at the Hastings International Chess Congress. We shall miss one of nature's gentlemen.

He was driving around the country to compete…. We shall miss one of nature's gentlemen

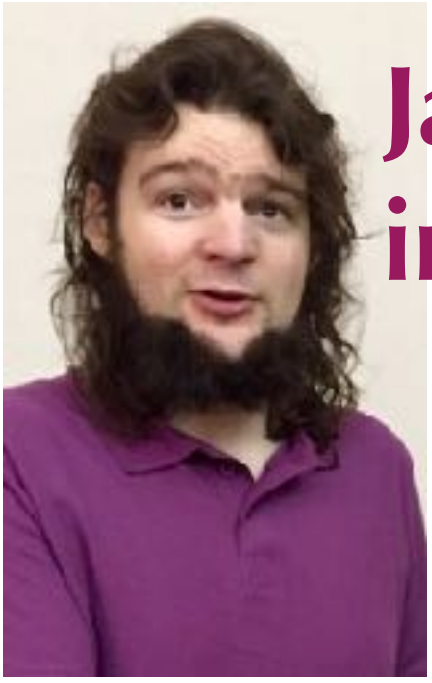
The new club champion is Steve Blewitt, for the second time. He scored 6/8 together with Thomas Minter but won a two-game play-off with a win and a draw. The Gordon Cup was won by David Slidel on 7/8, followed by Mercy Nieva with 6/8. Mercy will therefore take part next season in the Championship, being probably the first woman to do so, at least for many decades.

The winner of last summer's Rapidplay Major Section was again Steve Blewitt with a score of 14½ points from 16. Second was Alan Ticehurst with 13/16. The Minor Section was won by our oldest member, Alfred Mikurenda, who achieved the remarkable score of 15½/16. Runner-up was Tony Demarco (12½/16), who was the only competitor to take even half a point off Alfred.

The club is maintaining a fairly steady membership of over 20, but really needs an influx of younger members, especially some juniors.

It should be noted that we have use of an excellent venue in Centenary House, 21 Holliers Hill, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 2DH. Meetings are on Tuesdays and Saturdays, between 1pm and 4.30pm

J. Sharp



MAKING ALL THE RIGHT MOVES: The chess challenge, top, and club champion Jaimie Wilson, above

Jaimie triumphs in championship

JAIMIE WILSON is the club champion this year … and he's still in with a chance of winning the club's other major trophy, the Knockout Cup, having reached the semi-final.

During the year, the club had a highly successful 'chess challenge', members taking on allcomers at East Preston Festival. The event, held at the Seaview Hotel, drew large crowds in June.

The summer tournament is still ongoing at the time of going to press, with Keith Davies currently leading the field.

SUMMER SUCCESS: The Brighton club's summer tournament gets underway

Future's looking Brighton breezy

BRIGHTON and Hove have been very busy this year with several new ventures and a constant influx of new members.

Perhaps our most significant new venture was the launch of a much-needed Junior Club which runs for an hour before our regular club on Thursday evenings during term-time.

The juniors have been excellently coached by only slightly senior Callum Brewer, currently the club's strongest active player at 17, who has himself been invited to play at the World Junior Championship in Turkey in September.

The Juniors have formed an enthusiastic group with all four entrants to the Sussex Schools Megafinal qualifying for the Southern Gigafinal. They have also made their debut in the Mid-Sussex Rapidplay League and the club is already benefiting from the infiltration of the top juniors into the senior club.

> Perhaps our most significant new venture was the launch of a much-needed Junior Club

In the senior club, the Club Championship was won by Joe Everett, the Plummer Knight by Michael Hamilton, after a three-way play-off with Terry Brown and Paul Selby, the Tasker Tankard by Julian Clark and the Denman Cup by Caroline Campion.

We ran an open Summer Tournament as a five-round Swiss over several weeks from May to July which was won jointly by Michael Hamilton and Joe Everett on four points each (Joe only losing to Michael).

This was another innovation using pairing software and flexible fixtures which seemed to work rather well and kept the competition up to speed for all the rounds.

It is tempting to introduce it for our all-play-alls over the winter months which always seem to have trouble getting going in the run up to Christmas.

Finally, we held a Holcombe Handicap on a Saturday afternoon in June as a time-handicapped rapidplay tournament.

Charles Holcombe passed away in January, leaving a lump sum to fund a handicap tournament in perpetuity so this was an ungraded fun afternoon with cash prizes for first, second and third.

Mikolaj Rogacewicz, our other 17-year-old star, was winning throughout in spite of having the greatest handicap but couldn't quite make all the moves in time to beat Robin Jones in the final round.

The competition was therefore won by Alaa Albadin with Mikolaj and Robin as runners-up. It was no great surprise that Mikolaj and Robin were the two youngest competitors.

There is still a debate to be had about whether a one-second increment would have made things just too easy for the top players.

Anyone with any experience of time handicaps might like to advise. Each round was 30 minutes with 2 v 28 minutes for the maximum grading difference we had on the day (potentially 1 v 29 for 102+ difference).

We still have our summer staples of the Brunswick Festival and the Dieppe Club visit to Brighton to round off the year, although a certain organiser/keen supporter of these events will have a very new chess player to deal with very shortly and may have to realign his priorities.

We hope the third team will still have a captain come October.

Sue Chadwick

Champions three years in a row

HAT TRICK: Chichester celebrate winning the Portsmouth League championship

CHICHESTER Chess Club meets at the Fishbourne Centre, Blackboy Lane, Fishbourne, on Monday evenings from 7.15pm.

The centre offers excellent facilities for chess as well as having a great many other activities on offer which are set out on their very informative website: www.fishbournecentre.org.uk

The chess club also has a website giving up to date league results and results from our internal club competitions: www.chichesterchessclub.co.uk

Jointly with Bognor & Arun Chess Club, we entered three teams in the Portsmouth League. The A team won the League Championship for the third season in succession, while the C team finished top of the third division

The Club Championship was won by Andrew McDougall, with Philip Wake winning the Under 130 Championship.

Twelve-year-old Tom Howeson came out on top in the Under 105.

The Handicap Competition, for the Peter Rayment Trophy, was a very closely fought affair, with Chris Squires finally prevailing. Jaimie Wilson won the inaugural rapidplay competition.

We are looking forward to our very successful association with Bognor & Arun continuing in the Portsmouth League, with the club continuing to thrive at Fishbourne.

Philip Wake, secretary

Breaking the age barrier

CHESS is one of the few competitive activities where games can be played between all ages.

It is also great when the older generations embrace the new fashions and Crowborough Chess Club has been lucky enough to see this in action with our long-serving and oldest members, Don Grant and Robert Elliston, helping out with the junior club. They can be found doing battle on Friday nights playing blitz and rapid games with 5 second increments against our juniors ranging from beginners to county and England players.

It has been the chief aim of the club this year to incorporate our juniors into the main club using the bridge of rapidplay games. The Club Championship competition has been excellently organised by Chris Dunn and was a brilliant success with 22 players competing for the trophy. This year's innovation of 3 points for a win, 2 for a draw and 1 for a loss encouraged players to turn up and play resulting in 160 graded games played over the season.

The competition was taken very seriously by our adult members even so a number including myself came unstuck against our juniors. Congratulations go to the clear winner and new club champion, Michael Redman.

QUICK THINKING: Action from Brighton v Crowborough in the Rapidplay League

In April, Gary McCulloch organised our spring lightning tournament which Jonathan Tuck won with a 100% score and the top junior prize was won by third-placed Giovanni Currah. The 10 second buzzer tends to slow down the juniors and cause the rest of us near heart attacks.

We entered teams in the MSCL Second Division as well as the KO Cup and the Rapid Play League. Our 1st team avoided relegation thanks to good performances from regulars Chris Dunn, Robert Elliston and Jon Lawrance who all scored above 50%. The juniors came very close to winning the Rapidplay Championship but could not quite recover from a 0-4 loss at home to future league winners Lewes in the first match of the season. We now look forward to the 33rd Crowborough Chess Congress on Saturday, September 15.

David Fryer

Norman: A man for all seasons

ANOTHER year passes and as always I am grateful for the support of the elected officials and the team captains without whom the club could not function properly.

At the start of the season, numbers were sufficient to allow us to enter two teams in the Mid-Sussex League. However, due to personal circumstances and illness, numbers fell away towards the end of the season and no new member joined during the year.

On average, we still attract 12-14 players who turn up on a regular club night which allows us to enter to teams in the Mid-Sussex league. By the standards of some clubs, this is fairly small but it was only a few years ago numbers were much lower.

To attract new members, we still play chess every Wednesday at the book shop in East Grinstead High Street and when the weather allows we play al fresco much to the interest of passers-by. This has now become a regular attraction in the High Street and with the help of club members someone is usually on hand to offer help and guidance.

You can also follow us on Twitter thanks to one of our members, Roy, who runs the official East Grinstead Twitter site. In June, Jonathan Tuck, from Crowborough Chess Club, for the second year running, kindly took on allcomers simultaneously - eight boards in play - in the High Street, which is a good advert for co-operation between clubs in the Mid-Sussex League. Thanks, Jonathan, but could we win at least one board next time?

Team captains try to make sure everyone gets a chance to play both home and away for the club which sometimes means fielding a slightly weaker team but keeps the club more inclusive. We managed to meet all our obligations in the Mid-Sussex League but cannot report any promotions and gladly no relegations. Well done to team captains Ian Dennis and Andrew Finnie (Finn), plus all those who turned out to play. Our internal competitions run very efficiently by Norman Hawkins are proving extremely popular. We now have four internal competitions which means most club members have a chance to play each other during the season. With four competitions and two teams in the Mid-Sussex League, it

Team captains try to make sure everyone gets a chance to play both home and away for the club

TUCK SHOP …Jonathan Tuck taking on all comers in East Grinstead High Street

was a struggle to fit all games in so I am pleased to confirm that in 2018 club nights were extended into mid-May. The winner of the Knockout competition is yet to be decided.

Rapidplay was won by Stephen Mills who managed six wins, not to mention two other victories which were subsequently not included due to withdrawals. Runner-up was Andrew Finnie. The internal Championship this year was run as one division with awards for the highest-placed under 120 and 100. The club champion was Eric Granzelius – Under 120 winner Grau Christian and under 100 winner myself.

Thanks go to Norman for all his efforts which has made club nights more challenging and enjoyable. Unfortunately, Norman will not be returning to the club next season. However, the baton has been passed to Eric Granzelius so remains in capable hands.

We are a small friendly club which meets every Tuesday - September to April– our home being The Age Concern premises in Queens Road, East Grinstead.

Bob Dyke
chairman, East Grinstead Chess Club

Bogdan makes top board debut

THE club has enjoyed a successful season, in particular gaining promotion to the first division for its second team and taking the premier division title after a close struggle with Worthing and Brighton.

The emphatic early season win over Worthing saw the debut on top board of Croatian GM Bogdan Lalic (pronounced Lalich). Bogdan had long lived at Sutton, Surrey, but moved to Hastings some months before the season began. The most significant contribution to the two top teams came from another new member, Nicolas Varley, who had played his chess in recent years in Magnus Carlsen land, i.e. Norway!

The large number of boards required use of three storeys of the club building

An interesting project was the re-establishment of a match with the Dordrecht club in May. This was played over 21 boards in three sections at a rapid time limit. The large number of boards required use of three storeys of the club building, where three seeded sections were contested. The top section went to the home side due to a big score on top board by GM Lalic, but the Dutchmen dominated in the other two and ran out winners in the seven-round match by 86-61.

The club championship for 11 players ended with the top two undefeated: 1 John Sugden 7.5, 2 Rasa Norinkeviciute 7, followed at a respectful distance by former champions Francis Rayner 5.5 and Bernard Cafferty 5. Howard Tebbs and Paul Kelly also scored 5 points. Steve Blewitt set up a blistering pace in the Pelton Cup making 9.5 points from ten games!

The club gained attention in the national press early in 2018 in connection with a sort of 'man bites dog' story. Bogdan Lalic took part in some of the regular Rapid events arranged by Paul Buswell, but on this particular occasion came half a point behind the 83-year-old veteran, Bernard Cafferty, who conceded only two draws over the seven rounds.

Long-serving club housekeeper/caretaker Roy Bourne died early in the year, so new arrangements now apply for the service of refreshments. The junior club continues to meet on Wednesday evenings under the supervision of Mason Woodhams, our chairman, Marc Bryant and Adrian Cload.

Bernard Cafferty

Cafe shutdown gives food for thought

WE had a surprise venue change mid-season, when the church cafe which has been hosting us shut down.

We are now ensconced at the Ashenground Community Centre and, indeed, were one of the features at their open day this summer.

Our first team survived in division 1 of the MSL, and our second team achieved mid-table respectability in division 4.

Our League Knockout team got KO'ed, but achieved its aim of spreading competitive experience around the club.

On the home front, Roland Rattray unseated David Curtis as Challenge trophy winner, while Viv Cole won a keenly contested Lightning Competition, unseating some Polish fellow.

We sustained the sad loss of Dick Mercer this past season, a decades-long established member and official of the club. Belatedly, we heard news of the death also of David Hooper, who had been a member and club official in the past.

The players change but, with members and finances stable, the club continues. We cast an eye on the blank pages in our scorebooks and wonder what will be written on them in the coming season.

Feliks Kwiatkowski

Lucy is one for the future

THE 2017-18 season was another busy one, with our continuing mixture of Mid-Sussex League matches and internal competitions.

Our club championship for the solid silver Rook trophy is an all-play-all competition involving the top ten players in the club.

This year saw a very close fight, with James Mansson, Anthony Higgs and Lucy Bennett-Stevens all in contention, the latter being a surprise contender.

At only 15 years of age, Lucy becomes stronger by the month and her strategic style offers great future promise. The final games saw James triumph, with Lucy runner-up. The Bishop all-play-all offers tough competition for those ineligible for the Rook and in recent years a two-up two-down policy has strengthened this second league.

This year's unbeaten winner was Dix Roberts, who will return to the Rook, of which he is a multiple past winner. In the Junior club Ben Crosby won the Peter Alford Cup and was also able to win the ladder competition.

Our standard play Knockout competitions ensure a good mix of games, often with players who would not normally win. We also have a Plate competition for those first round losers, so that all competitors have at least two games. The Open Knockout final took several rounds to resolve with James Mansson and Mike Forster playing high level chess.

Following two standard play draws in the final, Mike Forster prevailed, by winning the second of two 30-minutes-per-player tie-break games. In the Knockout Plate final, Alex

Taylor and John Marshall had a sharp struggle, reflecting the fact that they are both combative players. Alex mounted a fierce attack, which John parried, and he then turned the tables with an unexpected tactic to gain victory. (*See Page 63*).

We also play some quickplay chess, which is not to everyone's taste, but which provides an opportunity for meeting different opponents and trying out some novel ideas. Our evening of lightning chess, with ten-second moves on the buzzer, saw the usual inaccurate and fun games as well as some excellent games.

Brian Donnelly won the Lightning Tankard for the sixth time, and it was an excellent evening of chess, to be recommended to other clubs. We also play a 15-minute Quickplay Knockout competition, which was won by Anthony Higgs in a tense final against James Mansson. The Quickplay Plate final between Nick Warren and Richard Barrowclough was an eventful double-edged affair, with Nick being victorious.

Nick Warren was also our most successful player in the Mid-Sussex Chess League, with an impressive score of 5/6 (83%).

In the MSL division 1, Horsham 1 finished in fourth place, a little lower than in previous years, where they have vied for runners-up position. Horsham finished just half a point behind the runners-up, and since they last won the top division in 2010, we hope for a return to form in future years! Both Horsham 2 and Horsham 3 competed in division 2.

Because we have a number of players of similar strength, the two teams were quite evenly matched, and this led to an unusual situation where Horsham 3 came 2nd and Horsham 3 came fourth!

It is worth noting how much stronger division 2 has become over the years. Horsham 4 were placed in division 4 in order to even up the divisions at the beginning of the season although they had expected to be in division 3.

They came an impressive second which is particularly exciting since our bottom team is used to ensure that all players who fancy league chess get games.

We have fully supported the junior rapidplay competition, in which our team finished bottom this season. In the past, some Horsham juniors have become very strong (Matt Forster is graded 184!), and this is a great competition for encouraging developing juniors to flourish.

It has been an exciting innovation and much credit should be given to all those who have nursed it into existence.

With no Sussex U160 team and one U140 match snowed off and not rearranged, 16 Horsham players played 39 county games with a healthy plus score of 23½-15½.

As we end the season, it is always an appropriate time to look ahead.

As a club, we have seen our six teams decreased to four, which reflects the ebb and flow of membership and it would be good to see our numbers grow again as it offers opportunities to try new and refreshing ideas, which are needed so much in this most noble and exciting of games.

Ian Comley

Our evening of lightning chess, with ten-second moves on the buzzer, saw the usual inaccurate and fun games as well as some excellent games

Hello, goodbye, it's win some, lose some

THE club meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at the Luxford Centre in the centre of the town from 7pm-10.30pm, and new members are very welcome.

In fact, we need new members as every year recently we have been losing our top junior to university, though in the last year we have welcomed back some senior members who have helped the club to survive.

The last season did not produce the success we have had in recent seasons, with several key members off peak performance. Where last year we vied for promotion from Division 2 of the Mid-Sussex League, this year we were in a relegation battle but managed to survive.

Our second team in Division 4 had a better season and could have been promoted perhaps, as our home form was outstanding. However, we could not repeat that level in away matches as we could not use to the same level on long midweek evenings our ever improving junior players.

> We have to rely on the young for the future of this great game, but it is never too late!

We have always been a good knockout team, but as the previous season MSL champions this year we went out in the first round in a close match, perhaps because we had to give up home advantage to have the match played. We were also disappointed, having entered the Paul Watson Cup, that we heard nothing and assume it did not happen this season, which was a shame as we fancied our chances.

Our internal club competitions nearly saw a complete father/son duopoly, with Brian Stockham winning the Grand Prix and Standard Play, and son Michael Stockham winning the Rapid Play, Handicap Split, Blitz and Top Junior trophies. Thankfully, our top board, Chaski Patrick, won the Knockout Cup.

This year we lose Michael to the next stage in life, but he finished on a high in coming second in the MSL Div 4 rankings, on 92%; he came second in the Under-18 Sussex

CUPS THAT CHEER: trophy winners Brian Stockham, Chaski Patrick and Michael Stockham

Schools championships and won his year group at the Sussex Megafinal stage of the Delancey UK Chess Challenge.

Both he and Daniel Longley qualified for the Southern Gigafinal (a national semi-final) of the same competition and we are pleased for the future that Daniel from there qualified for the national final stages, as did Hugo Ullmann from our junior club.

The future, therefore, looks bright with our affiliated Uckfield Junior Chess Club, which meets every Friday of the school term at the Uckfield Youth Centre between 5.15pm-6.30pm. In the last year, 26 local youngsters have been to sessions and made progress, with Michael Stockham winning the Grand Prix, Knockout and Lightning trophies in his last year, Benedict Weis the Most Improved Player, Sam Godfrey the Most Promising Young Player and Will Walshe-Grey the Courtesy trophy. An Under-9, Hugo Ullmann, was the local champion at the Uckfield Academy summer championships.

We have to rely on the young for the future of this great game, but it is never too late! Any enquiries regarding either of these two clubs, please make contact with chairman/secretary Brian Stockham on brianstockham@btinternet.com

Brian Stockham

Bowled over by a fantastic year

WITHOUT doubt this must have been our best season ever.

Our first team came second in division one and our second team maintained division one status with a creditable sixth place.

But what was to follow was impressive. The third team comfortably won division 3, scoring 5.5/6 match points and finishing 1.5 match points clear of the nearest rivals. Even more impressive was our 4th team's success in division 4, winning with a 100 per cent clean sweep of 7/7. They consistently fielded a very young team, in fact, 28 of the 35 games played were by juniors, all under 15!

Additional icing on the cake came from the evergreen Keith Homeyard who won the overall divisional tankard, scoring 10/11 and no losses. He also won the division 3 tankard with 7/7.

Not to be outdone, junior Max Bennett ran him pretty close. He scored 10.5/12 from all divisions and won the division 4 tankard with an identical 7/7.

Drivers and captains permitting, we hope to field a 5th team this coming season.

Even though our season has finished, we still find time to get down to the bar for some beers and skittles.

Chris Jones, secretary

BEER AND SKITTLES: Worthing Chess Club members relax after a highly successful season. Keith Homeyard is pictured in the middle playing Dave Graham.

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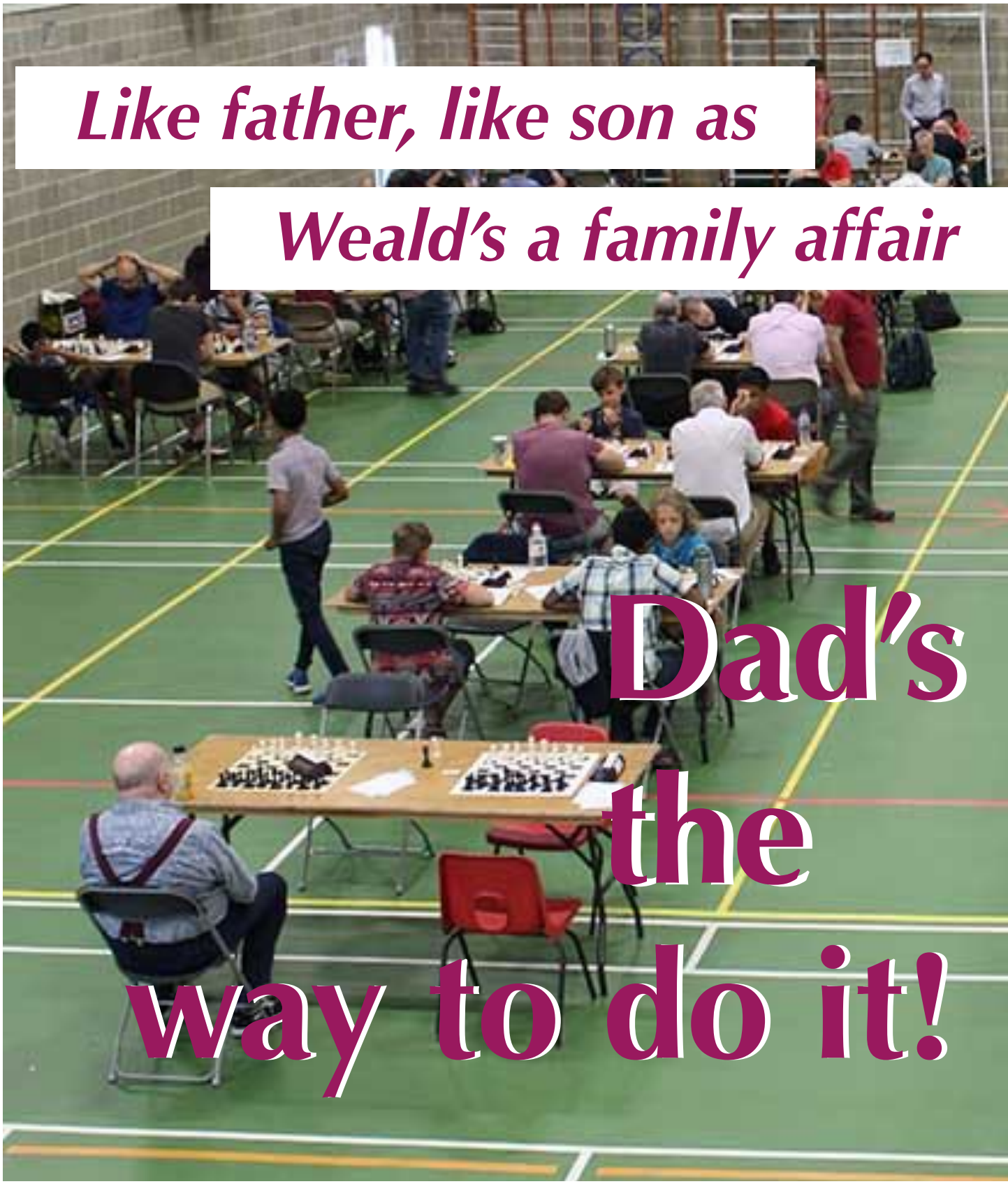


Like father, like son as Weald's a family affair

Dad's the way to do it!

THE Weald Chess Congress began in 2006 as a way of introducing stronger juniors to standardplay tournament chess and has grown year on year to reach 115 entries in 2017.

In previous years, we had been able to offer the carrot of a British Chess Championships qualifying place – something now only available to FIDE-rated congresses – so we were pleased to see entry numbers maintained.

The Open was won by Conor Murphy (previously from Kent, now at Cambridge University) from GM Nick Pert whose route to the prizes was seriously hampered by draws to Sussex Junior Chess coaches Chaski Patrick (Lewes)

and Dave Graham (Worthing).

A feature of the congress has always been the number of parent and child competitors. With many dads having their arms twisted to put their chess pieces where their advice is this year saw eight father-child combinations ….and in what must be a first, the entire arbiting team came from one family.

Once again, thanks to Keith Martin of Crowborough Chess Club who managed to both play and man the BBQ.

Thanks to all who supported the event; full results are available at www.wealdchesscongress.org

Paul Batchelor reports on U180 season

OUR first match was away to Surrey, which we lost 11-5. Performances of note were recorded by Robert Lanzer and myself.

Next we played Essex at home. Essex won by 12½-3½. Individual performances of note were registered by David Roberts and James Wheeler.

Kent at home was the next one. Due to problems with qualification of a Kent player I, sportingly, agreed to a 15-board match. Kent were the stronger side, winning 9-6. Our side scored the most wins in any match this cycle, five. Winners were: Robert Elliston, myself, Tim Spanton, Paul Taylor and Alan Palmer.

Middlesex away was the last match in this SCCU season. Middlesex were to win by 12-4. We did score three wins in this match though. Winners on the day, were Adrian Pickersgill, Tim Spanton and myself.

Paul Batchelor

Adjudication Secretary's Report 2017-8

Adjudication panel:
Bernard Cafferty, Geoffrey James, James Mansson and Mike Nicholas
Six positions were judged.

Another position was only received from one side.
A mix-up by the other side over who would send their claim in resulted in it not being received in time.
There were no appeals this year.

Paul Batchelor reports on a season

Final flourish

OUR first match was against a strong Surrey side, who were to field five players rated above 200 ECF. Surrey ran out winners 9-7.

Some fine individual performances were recorded by the following Sussex players, Gareth Anthony, Amardip Ahluwalia, Mikolaj Rogacewicz and David Roberts.

Next, we faced Essex's Open team. Matthew Payne was to play his first game of the season for us. Matthew comfortably drew his game. It was a close match, where Sussex just edged out Essex, winning 8½-7½. Again, there were some performances of note by the following: Gareth Anthony, Mark Broom, James Mansson, Anthony Higgs and Morgan Blake.

Kent away was our next fixture. This was dreadfully close. David Roberts managed to win the last game in progress, sealing an 8-8 tied match. Fine performances were recorded by Feliks Kwiatkowski, James Mansson, Anthony Higgs, David Roberts, Paul Kelly and Stephen Blewitt.

Just prior to our last match of the SCCU season, I realised we had a chance to qualify for the ECF national stages.

We would either have to tie or win the last match in the current cycle. This was against a side who had already clinched the title for the Open section. A tall order indeed.

However, on the day, things did not go entirely according to form. At the end of the day we were to win 10-6. An incredible achievement indeed, against the top team in the league this season.

Individual performances of note in this match were recorded by Mark Broom, Jaimie Wilson, James Mansson, David Roberts and Paul Kelly.

Not only had Sussex Open team qualified for the national stages but in coming second in the Open section, we clinched the Stevenson trophy.

Next we were drawn in the national stage. In the quarter-final we received a bye. At the semi-final stage we were paired with Lancashire - last season's national champions. The match was played in Birmingham.

In a close match, a win in the last game would have resulted in an 8-8 scoreline. However, this was not to be. We lost the

boasting some fine performances

in the Open

TROPHY TRIUMPH: SCCU president Julie Denning with James Mansson and the Stevenson Trophy

match 9-7. Rhys Cumming was to play his first game for a Sussex side for a number of years (since the age of 12 apparently). Rhys drew on a high board.

Other performances of note were recorded by Feliks Kwiatkowski, Mark Broom, Jaimie Wilson, yours truly and James Wheeler.

At the recent SCCU annual meeting, Julie Denning took possession of the Stevenson Trophy - for second place in the Open section.

Though it should be noted there was no formal presentation of the trophy. Julie then suggested she could present the trophy at a Horsham Chess Club's committee meeting to one of two players (Sussex Open team), Anthony Higgs or James Mansson.

She asked if I would be agreeable to this idea, or would rather arrange for collection myself.

Julie was traveling to play in the senior team competition very shortly after in Dresden.

So time was very short. As I was busy and unable to arrange collection in the short time span left, I thought it acceptable if one of the other two players receive the presentation from Julie Denning herself.

It should be noted Julie was the outgoing SCCU president at the recent annual meeting..

As it happens, Julie presented the trophy to James Mansson.

COUNTY TEAMS/OPEN

SUSSEX 8.5 ESSEX 7.5, DECEMBER 9, 2017					
1	Payne, Matthew J	208	0.5 - 0.5	Spearman, David	190
2	Farr, Peter G	202	0.5 - 0.5	Goldberg, Jeff A	188
3	Anthony, Gareth	196	1 - 0	Perez Carballo, Manuel	187
4	Broom, Mark	195	1 - 0	Gregory, Philip J	185
5	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	194	0.5 - 0.5	Cocks, Elliot	183
6	Mansson, James C	191	1 - 0	White, Kevin D	175
7	Wilson, Jaimie	191	0 - 1	Parols, Vladimir	177
8	James, Geoffrey H	189	0.5 - 0.5	Reynolds, D Ian W	170
9	Costley, Martin O	186	0.5 - 0.5	Hunnable, Ian D	173
10	Ahluwalia, Amardip	184	0.5 - 0.5	Rix, Steven JL	171
11	Higgs, Anthony RJ	183	1 - 0	Hughes, Gavin James	171
12	Boardman, Jeffrey	183	0.5 - 0.5	White, John A	169
13	Blake, J Morgan	183	1 - 0	Millward, David J	167
14	Roberts, David N	170	0 - 1	Hampton, Christopher	165
15	Pickersgill, Adrian O	169	0 - 1	Staniland, Philip	160
16	Batchelor, Paul A	167	0 - 1	Ramage, Colin R	159

SURREY 9 SUSSEX 7, OCTOBER 14, 2017					
1	Wall, Gavin	223	1 - 0	Farr, Peter G	202
2	Healey, Michael W	214	0 - 1	Anthony, Gareth	196
3	Povah, Nigel E	207	1 - 0	Broom, Mark	195
4	Emerson, Roger	203	0.5 - 0.5	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	194
5	Berry, Stephen H	202	1 - 0	Brewer, Callum D	192
6	Sharpe, Ian W	199	1 - 0	Mansson, James C	191
7	Granat, Russell G	198	0.5 - 0.5	Wilson, Jaimie	191
8	Bridge, Neil A	193	0.5 - 0.5	James, Geoffrey H	189
9	Porter, Sam J	192	1 - 0	Lukoshius, Rolandas	188
10	Keane, Graham DJ	191	0.5 - 0.5	Forster, Matthew	185
11	Punnett, Alan K	185	0 - 1	Ahluwalia, Amardip	184
12	Oozeerally, Tariq	182	1 - 0	Blake, J Morgan	183
13	Young, Daniel J	180	0 - 1	Rogacewicz, Mikolaj	175
14	Shepley, Julien M	182	0 - 1	Roberts, David N	170
15	Stoyanov, Viktor	177	0.5 - 0.5	Pickersgill, Adrian O	169
16	Stimpson, Philip M	168	0.5 - 0.5	Wheeler, James M	159

COUNTY TEAMS/OPEN

KENT 8 SUSSEX 8, MARCH 10, 2018					
1	McDonald, Neil R	236	1 - 0	Payne, Matthew J	208
2	Taylor, Martin R	230	0.5 - 0.5	Farr, Peter G	202
3	Morris, Philip J	219	1 - 0	Broom, Mark	195
4	Stebbings, Anthony J	210	0.5 - 0.5	Brewer, Callum D	192
5	Hand, Freddie	205	1 - 0	Wilson, Jaimie	191
6	Talsma, Paul A	199	0 - 1	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	194
7	Snape, Ian L	205	0 - 1	Mansson, James C	191
8	Sugden, John N	190	0.5 - 0.5	James, Geoffrey H	189
9	Selway, Richard P	189	0.5 - 0.5	Higgs, Anthony RJ	183
10	Kolomvas, Dimitrios	176	0 - 1	Roberts, David N	170
11	Tucker, David S	184	1 - 0	Pickersgill, Adrian O	169
12	Owens, Trefor H	173	0 - 1	Kelly, Paul J	170
13	Watson, Mikey J	168	1 - 0	Spanton, Tim R	169
14	Pezet, Robert	163	0.5 - 0.5	Batchelor, Paul A	167
15	Gluckman, Tim	171	0.5 - 0.5	Wheeler, James M	159
16	Stewart, Martin	166	0 - 1	Blewitt, Stephen D	161

SUSSEX 10 MIDDLESEX 6, MARCH 24, 2018					
1	Payne, Matthew J	208	0 - 1	Bates, Richard A	232
2	Anthony, Gareth	196	0 - 1	Lyell, Mark	211
3	Broom, Mark	195	1 - 0	Pedersen, Carsten	206
4	Brewer, Callum D	192	0.5 - 0.5	Coles, Steven F	191
5	Wilson, Jaimie	191	1 - 0	Mackenzie, Colin	187
6	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	194	0.5 - 0.5	Gilfillan, Andrew	185
7	Mansson, James C	191	1 - 0	Spivack, Simon SY	186
8	James, Geoffrey H	189	+/-	N.N.	
9	Higgs, Anthony RJ	183	0.5 - 0.5	Walkusz, Miroslaw	186
10	Tebbs, Howard L	182	0.5 - 0.5	Fulton, Anthony R	181
11	Costley, Martin O	186	0.5 - 0.5	Davey, Mark	183
12	Elliston, Robert V	175	0.5 - 0.5	Fleming, Nigel D	179
13	Roberts, David N	170	1 - 0	Rubeck, Jonathan	163
14	Pickersgill, Adrian O	169	0.5 - 0.5	Fincham, Leon HJ	164
15	Kelly, Paul J	170	1 - 0	Tello, Yasser	162
16	Wheeler, James M	159	0.5 - 0.5	Tobisch, John	163

COUNTY TEAMS/OPEN

LANCASHIRE 9 SUSSEX 7, NATIONAL QUARTER-FINAL, JUNE 9, 2018					
1	Morrison, Graham	213	0.5 - 0.5	Kwiatkowski, Feliks	189
2	Mitchell, Martin	216	0.5 - 0.5	Cumming, Rhys	199
3	Lund, Brett	211	1 - 0	Anthony, Gareth	198
4	Williamson, Roger	214	0.5 - 0.5	Broom, Mark	197
5	Jowett, Peter	179	0.5 - 0.5	Payne, Matthew	206
6	Jackson, Sheila	192	1 - 0	Mansson, James	189
7	Peacock, Malcolm	184	0 - 1	Wilson, Jaimie	190
8	Newton, Robert	178	1 - 0	Tebbs, Howard	182
182	Timson, Paul	167	0.5 - 0.5	Costley, Martin	181
10	Clarkson, Andrew	176	1 - 0	Higgs, Anthony	182
11	Whitehead, Mark	168	0.5 - 0.5	Roberts, David	169
12	Lyth, John	172	0.5 - 0.5	Farr, Peter	199
13	Taylor, Phil	157	0.5 - 0.5	Pickersgill, Adrian	169
14	Potter, Steven	152	0 - 1	Bachelor, Paul	163
15	Morrison, Lynne	120	0 - 1	Wheeler, James	163
16	O'Rourke, William	142	1 - 0	Kelly, Paul	169

SURREY 11 SUSSEX 5, NOVEMBER 4, 2017					
1	Samarasinghe, Jude Ranga	175	1 - 0	Roberts, David N	170
2	Way, Julian M	174	0.5 - 0.5	Kelly, Paul J	170
3	Galer, Sebastian E	173	0 - 1	Batchelor, Paul A	167
4	Ramaiya, Anshu	170	1 - 0	Taylor, Paul	167
5	Sedgwick, David R	167	0.5 - 0.5	Heath, Chris W	163
6	Faulks, Nick W	167	1 - 0	Reddie, Michael J	162
7	Deswarte, Ian	168	0.5 - 0.5	Wheeler, James M	159
8	Phillips, Owen S	161	1 - 0	Palmer, Alan H	156
9	Kumaresan, Darshan	162	1 - 0	Selby, Paul R	147
10	Odunaiya, Victor	161	0.5 - 0.5	Woods, Timothy J	143
11	Inwood, Kenneth FH	149	0.5 - 0.5	Parker, Colin L	142
12	Jones, H Trevor	156	0 - 1	Lanzer, Robert A	141
13	Grey, Nicholas D	144	0.5 - 0.5	Cannon, L John	134
14	Eckert, Jonathan M	152	+/-	N.N.	
15	Ashworth, Stephen	148	+/-	N.N.	
16	Ramaiya, Arushi	138	+/-	N.N.	

SUSSEX 3.5 ESSEX 12.5, JANUARY 20, 2018					
1	Roberts, David N	170	1 - 0	Marden, Larry E	177
2	Kelly, Paul J	170	0 - 1	Bowmer, Kevin	174
3	Spanton, Tim R	169	0 - 1	Hunnable, Ian D	173
4	Batchelor, Paul A	167	0.5 - 0.5	Rix, Steven JL	171
5	Reddie, Michael J	162	0 - 1	Reynolds, D Ian W	170
6	Blewitt, Stephen D	161	0.5 - 0.5	Khoda, Noor	169
7	Wheeler, James M	159	1 - 0	White, John A	169
8	Palmer, Alan H	156	0.5 - 0.5	Figueroa, Edison	168
9	Woods, Timothy J	143	0 - 1	Hampton, Christopher	165
10	Parker, Colin L	142	0 - 1	Ramage, Colin R	159
11	N.N.		-/+	Hughes, Gavin James	171
12	N.N.		-/+	Davenport, John	169
13	N.N.		-/+	Kingsley, Malcolm P	167
14	N.N.		-/+	Murrell, Mark RA	158
15	N.N.		-/+	Winter, Thomas G	142
16	N.N.		-/+	Davies, Robert JV	124

MIDDLESEX 12 SUSSEX 4, MARCH 17, 2018					
1	Kouis, Marios	179	0 - 1	Pickersgill, Adrian O	169
2	Fleming, Nigel D	179	1 - 0	Kelly, Paul J	170
3	Hayler, Andrew	171	0 - 1	Spanton, Tim R	169
4	Fincham, Leon HJ	164	0 - 1	Batchelor, Paul A	167
5	Dydak, Mateusz	166	1 - 0	Wheeler, James M	159
6	Rubeck, Jonathan	163	0.5 - 0.5	Taylor, Paul	167
7	McAleenan, Charles T	165	0.5 - 0.5	Richardson, Paul	151
8	Campbell, Russell	163	1 - 0	Woods, Timothy J	143
9	Batchelor, Guy J	174	+/-	N.N.	
10	Calvert, D Ian	171	+/-	N.N.	
11	Dhemrait, Jagdeep	162	+/-	N.N.	
12	Tello, Yasser	162	+/-	N.N.	
13	Lees, Fraser A	160	+/-	N.N.	
14	Kennelly, Paul	158	+/-	N.N.	
15	Phillips, William	151	+/-	N.N.	
16	Zurstiege, Frank	152	+/-	N.N.	

SUSSEX 6 KENT 9, FEBRUARY 3, 2018					
1	Elliston, Robert V	175	1 - 0	Kolomvas, Dimitrios	176
2	Pickersgill, Adrian O	169	0 - 1	Owens, Trefor H	173
3	Kelly, Paul J	170	0.5 - 0.5	Watson, Mikey J	168
4	Batchelor, Paul A	167	1 - 0	Barnes, David JR	173
5	Spanton, Tim R	169	1 - 0	Rezvany, Shany	167
6	Wheeler, James M	159	0 - 1	Clear, David E	168
7	Blewitt, Stephen D	161	0 - 1	Karpinski, C Lucjan	166
8	Heath, Chris W	163	0.5 - 0.5	Jacob, Sydney J	166
9	Taylor, Paul	167	1 - 0	Stewart, Martin	166
10	Reddie, Michael J	162	0 - 1	Anstead, Jerry	164
11	Palmer, Alan H	156	1 - 0	Gluckman, Tim	171
12	Butt, Laurence A	146	0 - 1	Waters, Andrew C	158
13	Selby, Paul R	147	0 - 1	Bedwell, Richard	149
14	Woods, Timothy J	143	0 - 1	Rutland, Paul C	148
15	Parker, Colin L	142	0 - 1	Wiltshire, Michael R	147
16	N.N.		-/-	N.N.	

COUNTY TEAMS/U140

HERTS 0 SUSSEX 0, MARCH 3, 2018					
1	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
2	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
3	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
4	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
5	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
6	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
7	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
8	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
9	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
10	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
11	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
12	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
13	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
14	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
15	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	
16	N.N.		0 - 0	N.N.	

SUSSEX 7.5 ESSEX 8.5, OCTOBER 21, 2017					
1	Denning, Julie L	134	0.5 - 0.5	Morgan, Ian P	138
2	Cannon, L John	134	1 - 0	Dyte, Alistair P	137
3	Plumb, Michael D	130	1 - 0	Ashley, Mark S	135
4	Wallis, David	130	0 - 1	Dickerson, Trevor A	134
5	Izzard, Brian J	129	1 - 0	Shelley, Scott	132
6	Mitchell, Andy	129	1 - 0	Siddo, Charlton	129
7	Curtis, David C	128	1 - 0	Harte, Ben	128
8	Strauss, Dona	127	0.5 - 0.5	Cook, Keith B	127
9	Spence, Mike	127	0 - 1	Bui, Kyan	127
10	Waddingham, Roger	125	0 - 1	Conley, Gerald M	127
11	Rustom, Zevon	120	0 - 1	Riddoch, Alan E	126
12	Simpkins, David	120	0 - 1	Chtym, Vladimir	125
13	Davies-Arai, Minori	117	0.5 - 0.5	Rawlings, David J	124
14	Mitchell, Solomon	109	0 - 1	Brander, Peter A	123
15	Adams, Henry	74	0 - 1	Jardine, Kenneth	120
16	Britton, David	121	+/-	N.N.	

KENT 9 SUSSEX 7, NOVEMBER 4, 2017					
1	Sharp, Gary	137	0 - 1	Denning, Julie L	134
2	Tassell, Hugh G	135	1 - 0	Plumb, Michael D	130
3	Gilbert, David J	133	0.5 - 0.5	Wallis, David	130
4	Mourant, Malcolm P	130	0.5 - 0.5	Izzard, Brian J	129
5	Merriman, James	130	1 - 0	Curtis, David C	128
6	Wood, Mike H	128	0 - 1	Spence, Mike	127
7	Sherriff, Alan JM	127	0 - 1	Strauss, Dona	127
8	Shahoud, Mike	126	0.5 - 0.5	Waddingham, Roger	125
9	Orr, David	125	0.5 - 0.5	Britton, David	121
10	Small, Edward P	123	1 - 0	Simpkins, David	120
11	Newman, Martin E	122	0 - 1	Rattray, Roland	109
12	Jefferies, Tyrone R	116	0 - 1	Jolley, Lloyd	104
13	Pol, Jerry	120	+/-	N.N.	
14	Blundell, Peter LT	120	+/-	N.N.	
15	Brockwell, Lee	113	+/-	N.N.	
16	Gillard, Andrew L	107	+/-	N.N.	

SUSSEX 7 SURREY 9, NOVEMBER 25, 2017					
1	Stockham, Brian	134	0 - 1	Upham, John E	132
2	Denning, Julie L	134	0.5 - 0.5	Mehendale, Krishna N	134
3	Cannon, L John	134	1 - 0	Andrews, Graham J	130
4	Plumb, Michael D	130	0 - 1	Evbuomwan, Lamidi W	130
5	Wallis, David	130	0 - 1	Lawrence, Peter A	128
6	Marshall, W John	130	0.5 - 0.5	Tillett, Richard	126
7	Izzard, Brian J	129	1 - 0	Gunn, Michael J	123
8	Curtis, David C	128	0 - 1	Selvarattinam, Gengadharan	121
9	Spence, Mike	127	0 - 1	Sameer-Haad, Mohammed	119
10	Weston, Peter	126	0 - 1	Miles, Barry S	115
11	Waddingham, Roger	125	1 - 0	Howes, David J	113
12	Britton, David	121	1 - 0	Masani, Matthew	130
13	Rattray, Roland	109	0 - 1	Walker, Julian	110
14	Jolley, Lloyd	104	1 - 0	Pettit, Felicity	102
15	Gray, David	63	0 - 1	Mellor, Jessica	74
16	Simpkins, David	120	+/-	N.N.	

SUSSEX 4.5 MIDDLESEX 11.5, JANUARY 20, 2018					
1	Cannon, L John	134	0 - 1	Leanse, Martin D	136
2	Denning, Julie L	134	0.5 - 0.5	Grant-Ross, Peter	135
3	Wallis, David	130	0.5 - 0.5	Sonnis, Steve	132
4	Izzard, Brian J	129	0 - 1	Scowen, Roger S	132
5	Curtis, David C	128	0.5 - 0.5	Beachley, Evan	132
6	Strauss, Dona	127	0 - 1	O'Caolaidhe, Cormac	131
7	Weston, Peter	126	0 - 1	Farrell, Joseph B	130
8	Waddingham, Roger	125	1 - 0	Ransome, Wilson	121
9	Britton, David	121	0.5 - 0.5	Foster, Brian E	120
10	Simpkins, David	120	0 - 1	Parfett, Gerald F	119
11	Davies-Arai, Minori	117	0 - 1	Byrne, Des	118
12	Mayer, Andrew	113	0 - 1	Morton, Alistair T	118
13	Young, Jon	104	0 - 1	Huba, Mark J	111
14	Rattray, Roland	109	0 - 1	Lekic, Dejan	111
15	Couchman, Andrew A	67	0.5 - 0.5	Adam, Ian	100
16	Gray, David	63	+/-	N.N.	

Results courtesy of sccu-chess.com

Mikolaj Rogacewicz (W) v Feliks Kwiatkowski

Sussex County Championship Final 2017-18. Game 1; Grunfeld Defence, Modern Exchange Variation. June 23. Venue - Brighton & Hove Chess Club

This year's final was always going to be historic. It was going to be either an all-Haywards Heath final, as our own Jeff Boardman was in the hunt, or it was going to be an all-Polish final. Well, you can see how things turned out.

1.d4 Nf6; 2.c4 g6; 3.Nc3 d5; 4.cd Nxd5; 5.e4 Nxc3; 6.bc Bg7; 7.Nf3 c5; 8.Rb1 0-0; 9.Be2 b6.

I chose the Grunfeld as I have no official track record with it, except on the White side many years ago, and it's reasonably sound. The downside is that I don't really know it! The Modern Exchange Variation, with Nf3 and Rb1 instead of the old Bc4 and Ne2, has become the leading White challenge to this defence. The main battleground has become: 9. ... cd; 10.cd Qa5+; 11.Bd2 Qxa2. I rejected this, because the theory of this gambit runs many moves deep, and there are many different ways for White to test the utility of his lead in development. On top of that, Black is basically playing for a draw. The usual grandmaster solution is that Black sacrifices the exchange for a good bishop and a pawn, a lot of pieces come off quickly and Black then tries to hold out. This may be a defensible notion if you are a GM with a perfect memory for all the ways you avoid losing, but it's not so great for the rest of us. There are various ways for Black to keep pieces on the board and play for the win, and 9 ... b6; is one of two or three sensible ideas.

10.h4?! ...; [Totally unexpected! It must never be forgotten that the County Championship , from the first round to the Final, is always an exercise in psychology. It's more about who cracks first than about who puts the best moves on the board. Objectively, Mikolaj's move is dubious, but it serves the purpose of applying pressure. I had to think through the choices from first principles.] 10. ... Bg4!; 11.h5 ... ; [after long thought, but having started up the h-file, White must carry on, or Black gets an easy game.] 11. ... Bxh5;

12.Ng5 ... ; [This came after another long think. I had initially thought I was going to

face an obviously dodgy exchange sacrifice, but White has serious reserves of creativity.] 12. ... Bxe2; 13.Qxe2 h6? ;

[The first big decision for Black, and I got it wrong. Correct was the cold-blooded 13. ... cd;. This is because 14.Nxh7 can be well-answered by both ... d3 and the cheeky ... Re8. I could not calculate through to a result with certainty and chickened out.] 14.Nf3 cd; 15.Bxh6 ... ;. [Another shock, but after 15.cd ... ; Black can keep control with ... h5;.] 15. ... Bxh6; 16.Rxh6 Kg7?; [Another gutless move. White has nothing concrete after the ruthless 16. ... dc; - it's just shadows.] 17.Nxd4!? e5;.

[Yes, White left a whole rook hanging and I let it pass. I saw Nxd4 only after playing Kg7. Rogacewicz fell into thought and I just knew he had seen it as well. I fell to calculating. You can all calculate this for yourselves at home and see how happy YOU feel about it. There is a labyrinth of variations, starting with 17.Nxd4 Kxh6; 18.Nf5+ gf; 19.Qe3+ Kh7;. The game might then go 20.Qh3+ Kg7; 21.Qg3+ Kf6; 22.Qh4+ Ke5;. I saw this position and didn't fancy my chances. Immediately after the game, the players each thought White was winning, but the reverse is probably true. White has various ways of winning the Queen, but Black is left with lots of material for it. Alternatively, White can try 20.Ke2 but ... Qd6 is enough to win. I saw the other choice, 17. ... e5;, and calculated it to a forced draw. Yes, it was a chicken decision, but I reasoned that a draw with Black in game 1 of the County final is not a bad result.] 18.Nf5+ gf; 19.Qh5 Rh8; [If 19. ... Nd7; 20.Rh7+ and 20.Rd1 are each strong.] 20.Rxh8 Qxh8; 21.Qg5+ Kf8; 22.Qd8+ Kg7; 23.Qg5+ Kf8; 24.Qd8+ Agreed drawn: ½ - ½.

Feliks Kwiatkowski

Feliks Kwiatkowski (W) v Mikolaj Rogacewicz

Sussex County Championship Final 2017-18. Game 2: French Defence, Tarrasch Variation. August 4. Venue: Brighton & Hove Chess Club.

1.e4 e6; 2.d4 d5; 3.Nd2 Nf6; 4.e5 Nfd7; 5.c3 c5; 6.Bd3 Nc6; 7.Ne2 cd; 8.cd f6; 9.ef Nxf6; 10.Nf3 Bd6 11.O-O Qc7;.
[This is the fashionable way for Black to play the main line of the Tarrasch after White chooses the restrained Bd3/Ne2 set-up. The other choices are 11. ... Qb6; or 11. ... O-O;. Although 3. ... Nf6; is the current main line, and the classical method is the stuffy 3. ... c5;, 3. ... Nc6; and even 3. ... a6; and 3. ... h6; have a lot to be said for them. After 11. ... Qc7;, Black hopes to position his pieces for an attack on the White King and/or for the ... e5; break, while White will try things such as ganging up on the weak e-pawn, swapping the dark-squared bishops and penetrating on the c-file.]

12.h3 O-O; 13.Be3 Bd7; 14.Re1 Be8;.
[White's set-up is nothing special. It is one of a number of reasonable choices designed just to get the pieces onto sensible squares. Black's ... Be8; plan is one of the normal replies, with the idea of parking on h5. Black can also try 14. ... Rae8;.]
15.Ng5 Bf7; . [White's 15th ties Black down. It tries for things like the gain of the Bishop pair and/or pawn weaknesses.] 16.Rc1 h6?;.
[That was a concession I was not expecting. We had each been banging out the preceding book moves reasonably quickly, but Black thought for 11 minutes over this one. I expected something like ... Kh8; or ... Rae8;.] 17.Nxf7 Rxf7; [And here I was expecting ... Qxf7;. In either case, White enjoys a slight plus, but he must be vigilant for attacks on his King or on his d-pawn.] 18.Bg6 Re7; 19.a3 Rf8;. [During and right after the game, I was concerned about 19. ... Qb6; 20.b4 a5;. However, 21.Qa4 and 22.b5 would have been enough to keep a plus.] 20.b4 a6;.
[Here I started to lose the thread. The computer rates Qd3 or Qc2 as White's sensible choices for move 21. I went a different way, trying to swap the dark-squared bishops. Black was, however, struggling even more than me to cope with the position. The time limit was 40 moves in two hours each. I had used 33 minutes by move 20. Black had used 45. He proceeded to lose clock control. The time difference between us grew, and he

slid into actual time trouble. Either he found handling the position too difficult – which is a serious argument against defending this whole 11. ... Qc7; line – or he was unable to make up his mind between candidate moves. This game is a reminder that the clock is always the 17th piece, to be handled with as much care as the others.]
21.Qd2?! Nd7!;. [For the moment, the dark-squared bishops stay on the board. Black also uses the absence of the light-squared bishop from the centre to threaten to swing a knight to c4. I over-reacted.] 22.Bd3 g5?!;. [Black over-reacts in turn. You can see the justification for the move, a desire for space, but it opens up the King-side too much.] 23.Qc3?! ...;.
[Here my computer gets excited about 23.h4! Bf4;. It is sure of a White plus after any reasonable follow-up such as 24.hg hg; 25. Bc2 ...; or just 24.f3 ... ;. I saw the idea too, but was fixated upon the inferior plan of Bxa6 and Qxc6.] 23. ... Nf6; 24.Rf1 ... ;. [This was after 10 minutes' thought. I was trying for the Bxa6 idea, but couldn't see a clear plus. At the same time, I saw that my King was in a delicate place, so gave it some support. After the game, the players saw the following. First, 24.Bxa6 ... ; can be met by 24. ... Ne4!; 25.Qc2, when my concern was 25. ... Nxb4; 26.Qxc7 Bxc7; 27.ab ba; 28.Rc6 ... . I could not see anything significant here, but after the game we thought this promised some pressure for White. But that's not the problem! The actual problem, which I did not see at all, was 25. ... Bh2+; 26.Kh1 Rxf2;, which wins in all lines. If 26.Kf1 ... ;, the cheeky 26. ... ba; is possible, for if 27.Qxc6 Rxf2+; 28.Bxf2 Nd2#.]
24. ... Rg7;. [Black tries to attack. I tried to tempt him to keep moving his K-side pawns. At this point I had used 67 minutes, while Black had used 81.] 25.f3 Rc8; 26.Qd2 Nh5; 27.Rc2?! ...;. [White could get away with 27.f4 ... ;. I was worried about 27. ... g4;, but the computer likes 28.h4 ..., so that if 28. ... g3; 29.f5 Qd8; 30.f6 ... ;.] 27. ... Nf4; 28.Nxf4 gf; 29.Bf2 Qe7;. [Here, I had used 75 minutes, while Black had used 102.] 30.Re1 Kh8?; [Black must try 30. ... Qg5;. After the game, we liked 31.g4 fg; 32.Be3 Qh4; 33.Bxh6 Qxd4+; 34.Qe3 ...;, but the computer simply gives 34. ... Rgc7;, with a Black plus. White has to play 31.Bf1 ... ;, with no advantage.] 31.Bf5!

Qg5;. [Clock times: W: 88 B:110. 31. ... Rcg8; 32.Rxe6 Rxg2+ 33.Kf1 ... ; is grim for Black.] 32.Bg4 Re8; 33.h4 Qf6; 34.Qd3 ... ;. [I was prepared for a long grind, as I did not rate my advantage as anything big. For instance, Black can re-route the Bishop to press the White d-pawn. But Black had 7 minutes to the time control at move 40, panicked and lashed out. I had not seen the following tactic was possible, and was lucky it failed.] 34. ... Bxb4; 35.axb4 Nxb4; [If 35.Rxc6? Bxe1;. Black had two minutes left.] 36.Qd2 Nxc2; 37.Qxc2 ... ;. [White is well on top now, but Black might have tried to tough it out with 37. ... Rge7;.] 37. ... b5?; 38.Qc6 Rg8; 39.Qxa6 ... .

[Here Black lost on time in a ruined position.] 1-0.

Black got himself into time trouble trying too hard in an inferior position. The ‘professional’ approach would have been to grind out a draw and try his luck in the next two games. Rogacewicz is only 17 but is already graded 190 on the new list. He will learn from this experience. Clearly he has master potential and, in years to come, there may be a Polish name other than mine on the County Trophy.

Feliks Kwiatkowski

Feliks Kwiatkowski (W) v Mark Broom

Mid-Sussex League Division 1 2017-18.Haywards Heath 1 v. Lewes 1, at Lewes. Board 1. March 27, 2018. Petroff Defence.

This is the first time I have beaten Mark Broom, as far as I recall. Sometimes I have simply been outplayed. However, there were several occasions when I got advantages and blundered them away. So, it has become a major ordeal sitting down with him.

1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nf6; 3.Nxe5 d6; 4.Nf3 Nxe4; 5.d3 Nf6; [The main line starts with 5.d4 ... ;, while 5.Nc3 ... ; has become very fashionable in recent years. Why 5.d3 ... ? It gets Black out of his theory, while retaining a sound position. Fischer played it on occasion. White cannot expect any serious advantage, but that is said of the main lines against the Petroff too. The move can also have a destabilising mental effect, out of all proportion to its objective merits.]

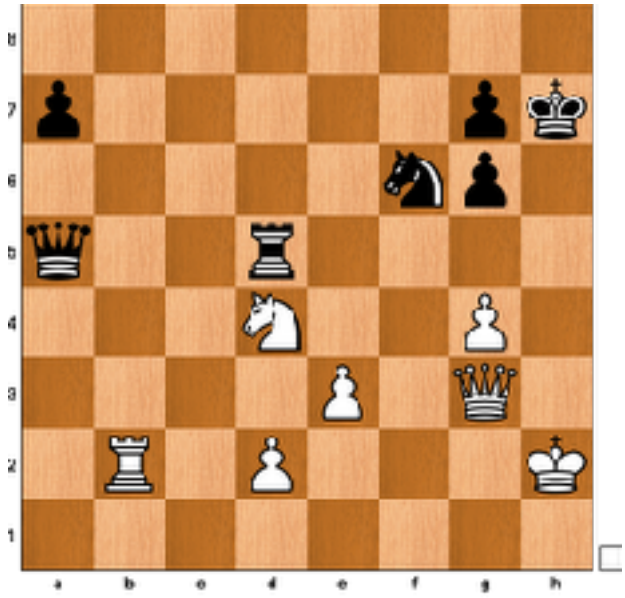
6.d4 Be7; [The most principled move is of course 6. ... d5 .] 7.Bd3 Bg4; 8.O-O O-O; 9.Re1 Re8; 10.N1d2 c5?!;. [Black should probably stick with ... d5. The idea is to press on d4, but i just don't trust it.] 11.h3 Bh5; 12.Nf1 ... ;. [Yes, this is a provocation. From the practical angle, Broom should probably have resisted the temptation.] 12. ... cd; 13.Ng3 Bxf3; 14.Qxf3 Nc6; 15.Nf5 Ne5?; . [It is obvious that White has good compensation, but Black might have tried 15. ... Qa5; when both Bg5 and Bf4 keep a little pressure, without promising anything too special. Now White is seriously better.] 16.Qxb7 Rb8;. [In for a penny, in for a pound.] 17.Qxa7 Nc6; 18.Qa4 Qb6; 19.Bg5 Nd5;

[All White has to do is keep his head and avoid blunders.] 20.Bxe7 Ndxe7; 21.Nxd6 Red8; 22.Nc4 Qc5; 23.a3! Qg5;. [White's last move defended against 23. ... Ra8;.] 24.Be4 Ra8; 25.Qb3 Nd5; 26.Qf3 Nce7; 27.Rad1 Ra6; 28.Bxd5 Nxd5; 29.Re5 ... . Black resigned. 1-0.

Alex Taylor (W) v John Marshall

Horsham C.C. Open Knockout Plate Final, 7/5/2018. Polish Opening; 80 minutes each for the whole game, with 10 second increments. Notes by John Marshall.

1 b4 e5; 2 a3 d5; 3 e3 Nf6; 4 Bb2 Bd6; 5 c4 dxc4; 6 Bxc4 0-0; 7 Nf3 Bg4 (e4 is better); **8 h3 Bh5?** (losing a P through hasty play); **9 g4 Bg6; 10 Nxe5 Nbd7** (10... Bxe5 11Bxe5 Qe8 12 Bxf6 Qc6, attacking three pieces 13.0-0 Qxc4)**; 11. Nxg6 hxg6; 12 0-0 Ne5; 13 Be2 Qe7; 14 f4** (weakens the e-pawn, but Fritz rates it highly)**; 14… Ned7; 15 Nc3 c6; 16 Bf3 Rad8; 17 b5** (opens the queenside to exert pressure on b7)**; 17**… **cxb5; 18 Nxb5 Bc5; 19 Bd4** (not Bxb7 Nb6); **19 … Bxd4; 20 Nxd4 Nc5; 21 Rb1 Nd5** (hoping for 22 Nxe3 23 dxe3 Qxe3ch forking K and N)**; 22 Bxd5 Rxd5; 23 Qf3 Rfd8; 24 f5 Ne4; 25. Rfd1 Ng5; 26 Qg2 Qxa3**; **27 fxg6 fxg6; 28 Rxb7 Nxh3ch!** (regains the pawn)**; 29 Kh2 (**29 Qxh3 Rxd4 regaining the piece) **29...Ng5; 30 Qg3 Qa6; 31 Rdb1 (**Qc7 at once, threatening mate, is met by 31 … R5d7, then if 32 Rxa7 Qxa7; 33 Qxa7 Rxa7; 34 Nc6 and B emerges with N for P); **31 ... Qa5; 32 R1b2 Ne4?** (better Qa6 and then R5d7)**; 33. Qf4 Nf6; 34 Rb8?** (W was down to 5 minutes, plus increments, and should play 34 Ne6!, which threatens 35 Rxg7ch. If then 34… Rxd2ch; 35 Rxd2 Rxd2ch; 36 Kh3 Rd7; 37 Qb8ch Kf7; 38 Nd8ch wins material)**; 34 ...Rxb8; 35 Qxb8ch Kh7; 36 Qg3**



36…Nxg4ch! (a second N 'sacrifice')**; 37 Kg2 Rg5; 38 Kf3** (loses quickly, but W was down to 3 minutes and other moves also lose)**; 38 … Ne5ch; 39 Kf4 Rxg3; 40 Kxg3 Qd8; 41 Ne6 Qf6; 42 Nf4 g5; 43 Ng2 Qf3ch; 44 Kh2 Ng4ch; 45 Kh1 Qf1 mate**

Callum Brewer (W) v Feliks Kwiatkowski

Mid-Sussex League Division 1 2017-18; Brighton 1 v Haywards Heath 1, at Haywards Heath. Board 1.
January 18, 2018.
Tiviakov Sicilian. Notes by Feliks Kwiatkowski

1.e4 c5; 2.Nc3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 Nd4; 4.Nf3!? ... ; [The usual scheme is to retreat the Bishop, but the Knight move has respectable followers.] 4. ... a6; 5.Bd3 g6; [In my online database, this natural move has bad results for Black, while the retreat 5. ... Nc6; has positive results. What is the world coming to?] 6.Rb1 Bg7; 7.b4 ... ;.[By now, it had become clear that we could kiss goodbye to even a loose imitation of normality and, somehow, I slipped into the spirit of the thing.] 7. ... d6; 8.bc dc; 9.Na4 c4?!; [Black was so befuddled by the unusual opening that there is no good way to save the c-pawn, so I tried to sow confusion.] 10.Bxc4 b5; 11.Bd5 ... ;. [I was trying to keep a straight face, as if I had intended to reach this position.] 11. ... Bg4;.[I thought ... Rb8; would be too passive.] 12.c3! Nf6;. [I thought I might as well. Now the simplest is just 13.Bxf7+ Kxf7; 14.Ne5+ ...; but White was seduced by winning a whole exchange.] 13.Bxa8 Qxa8; 14.d3! Nxf3+; 15.gf Bh3; 16.Nc5 Qc6; 17.d4 O-O; 18.Rg1 ...;. [For the first time in a while, I felt a little hope. White isn't going to castle, after all. 18.a4 was more aggressive.] 18. ... Nd7; 19.Nxd7 Bxd7; [By now, both players were in time trouble.] 20.Bd2 f5!; 21.Qe2 Qc7; 22.e5 f4!; [Around here I felt that I was had winning chances, whatever the objective merits of the position. My plan is simple – penetrate on the light squares, and simple plans are easier to execute in time trouble than complex plans.] 23.Rc1 Be6; 24.Rc2 Qc6; 25.Qe4 Bd5; 26.Qd3 Bc4; 27.Qe4 Bd5; [I repeated moves to gain a little time on the clock.] 28.Qd3 Bxf3;. [Black must be well in control now.] 29.Rc1 Bd5; 30.Qb1 Bc4; 31.Rc2 Qf3; 32.Bc1 Qe4+; 33.Kd1 Be2+; 34.Ke1 Bf3+!. White resigned. 0-1.
A very incorrect game, but all the more satisfying to win it.

Phil Stimpson (W) v Ian Comley

Horsham Club Championship October 3, 2017; Notes by Phil Stimpson.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Bd3 dxe4 4.Bxe4 c5 5.Ne2 [5.Qf3 cxd4 6.Bxb7 Bxb7 7.Qxb7 Nd7] **5...Nf6 6.Bf3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4** [7...Qb6? 8.Nbc3! Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.dxc5 Be7 11.Nb5 Qa5+ 12.Qd2 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2±] **8.Nxd4 Nxd4** [8...Ne5 9.0-0 Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 e5 11.Nb5 a6 12.Rd1 Bd7 13.Nd6+ Bxd6 14.Rxd6 Qc7 15.Rxf6 gxf6 16.Qxf6 Rg8 17.Bg5] **9.Bxd4** [9.Qxd4 Qxd4 10.Bxd4±] **9...Qa5+ 10.Nc3 e5 11.Qe2 Bd6 12.Qb5+** [12.0-0-0! 0-0 13.Qb5 Qc7 14.Be3 a6 15.Qb3 Bc5 16.Nd5±] **12...Qxb5?! 13.Nxb5 Bb8 14.Bc5 e4 15.Be2 a6 16.Nd6+ Bxd6 17.Bxd6 Be6** [Bg4] **18.0-0-0 0-0-0 19.c4 Ng4 20.Rhf1** [20.Bxg4 Bxg4 21.Rd4 Rhe8 22.c5] **20...e3 21.f3 Nf2 22.Rd4 Rd7 23.c5!?** [23.b3!± Rhd8 24.c5±] **23...Bxa2? 24.c6!?** [24.Ra4! Bd5 25.Ra3 Re8 26.Re1 Rxd6 27.cxd6 f5 28.Ra5 Be6 29.Re5+-] **24...bxc6?** [24…Rdd8 25.b3 Bxb3 26.cxb7+ Kxb7 27.Rb4+ Ka8 28.Rxb3 Rxd6 29.Rxe3+] **25.Bxa6+ Kd8 26.Re1** [26.Bc5! Bb3 27.Bb6+ Ke7 28.Rxd7+ Kxd7 29.Bxe3 Nd1 30.Rxd1+ Bxd1 31.Kxd1+-] **26…Re8?** [26…Rxd6 27.Rxd6+ Kc7 28.Rd4 c5 29.Ra4 Bb3 30.Ra3 c4] **27.Bc5 Rxd4 28.Bxd4 Bb3 29.Bxe3 Nd1 30.Bb6+ Kd7 31.Rxe8 Kxe8 32.Be2 Nxb2 33.Kxb2 Bd5 34.Kc3 Kd7 35.Bc5 etc. 1-0**

A.R.J. Higgs v M.D. Nicholas

Mid-Sussex League Division 1 – Horsham 1 vs Worthing 1. Notes by Anthony Higgs.

[This game, or at least the conclusion to it, was a bright spot in an otherwise fairly indifferent season] **1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e5** [A small smile from the White player. I play the Czech Benoni myself with Black, and know that the lines where White attempts to swap light square bishops early can be interesting, so decided to have a go…] **4. Nc3 d6 5. e4 Be7 6. g3 O-O 7. h4 Nbd7 8. Bh3 b5!?** [Generally …b5 is a good idea in this opening, in this case leading to a Benko-style position] **9. cxb5 a6 10. bxa6 Bxa6 11. Nge2 Rb8 12. Qc2 Qc7 13. O-O Rb4 14. Re1 Rfb8 15. b3 c4 16. bxc4?!** [This is unwise. 16.Na4 followed by bringing the other knight to the queenside is sensible] **16…Rxc4 17. Qd2?** [And this is just poor from me. Instead of returning the pawn in an attempt to complete development, I should tough it out with 17.f3] **17…Nxe4 18. Nxe4 Rxe4 19. Bb2 Nc5 20. Bf5 Nd3** [This is fine, but moving the attacked rook to a4 or c4 was a simpler advantage for Mike] **21. Rab1 Qc5** [Mike is desperately unlucky here, so I can't bring myself to annotate this move as an error. Putting the queen on this diagonal is the right idea but Qa7 is much better – we will see why shortly. Instead despite everything White is now suddenly better] **22. Bd4!** [The melee in the centre works for White now. If the Black queen were on a7, this move could be answered with the superb line 22…Nxe1! 23. Bxa7 Rxb1! 24. Bxe4 Nf3+ 25. Kg2 Nxd2 26. Bxb1 Nxb1 winning a piece. As it is Black should now retreat with 22…Qc7 which limits his losses to a pawn, but instead there followed:] **22…Rxb1 23. Rxb1 Rxd4?** [The wrong exchange sacrifice. Instead 23... Rxe2 24. Rb8+ Bf8 25. Qxe2 Qxd4 26. Bxh7+ Kxh7 27. Rxf8 g6 28. Rxf7+ Kg8 29. Rf6 is bad for Black but not terminal] **24. Rb8+ Bf8 25. Qg5!** [A nasty surprise. Instead of regaining material White threatens Rxf8+ and Qd8#] **25…Qa5** [Defending d8 and threatening Qe1+, which will get Black a draw. There are now only two beautiful moves on the board that win for White, can you find them? – see diagram]

26. Kh2!! [A piece down, White plays a quiet king move. I also saw the other winning move Nc3, but didn't want to leave a piece en prise and miscalculate something. The point of both moves is simply to prevent Qe1+, after which Black is lost] **26…Qc7** [Otherwise Qe7 follows] **27. Bxh7+! Kxh7 28. Rxf8 1-0** [Black resigned, Qh5# is threatened and if 28…g6 29.Qf6 mates]

James Mansson (W) v Simon Spivack

Sussex Open v Middlesex, 24/3/2018

(Notes by James Mansson)

1 e4 e6; 2 d4 c5 (an unusual move order. Possibly B's aim was to reach an Open Sicilian while avoiding some Anti-Sicilian lines?); **3 Nf3** (W decided to allow transposition into lines he was happy to play. 3 d5 is the obvious way to exploit B's move order, but W was unsure about the resulting positions) **3 … cxd4; 4 Nxd4 Nc6; 5 Nc3 Qc7; 6 Be3 a6; 7 Qf3 Nf6; 8 Be2!?** (to cover g4 and h5, but B has a tactical response available that would exploit the artificial arrangement of W's pieces. 8 0-0-0 is more natural); **8 … Nxd4?** (8 …Ba3!? forces 9 Nd1 Bd6 and B's chances look reasonable.); **9 Bxd4 e5** (positionally justified if W had to retreat the bishop, but W has a good response); **10 Qg3! d6; 11 Be3 h6; 12 OO Be6; 13 f4** (to open the position with the BK unable to castle safely on the kingside); **13 … Rc8** (13 Bc4 loses, after 14 fxe5 dxe5 15 Bxc4 Qxc4 16 Rxf6 gxf6 17 Nd5); **14 Rad1 Qa5** (after 13 … exf4 14 Bxf4 both puts pressure on d6 and prepares e5); **15 fxe5! dxe5?** (15 … Rxc3? loses to exf6. 15 … Qxe5 is best, but after 16 Bf4 Qc5+ 17 Kh1 W threatens both Bxd6 and e5, with a strong attack); **16 Nd5! Rxc2** (after 16 … Bxd5 or Nxd5 17 … exd5 wins);

17 Rxf6! gxf6 17 … Rxe2 18 Rxe6+! fxe6 19 Qg6+ wins or 17 … Bxd5 18 Rxd5 wins); **18 Nxf6+ Ke7; 19 Nd5+ Ke8** (19 … Bxd5 20 Qxe5+ wins); **20 Qxe5 1-0**