SUSSEX CHESS NEWS

2019

Farewell to a giant of Sussex chess

Youngsters' clean sweep of titles

County's 500+ record-breaker

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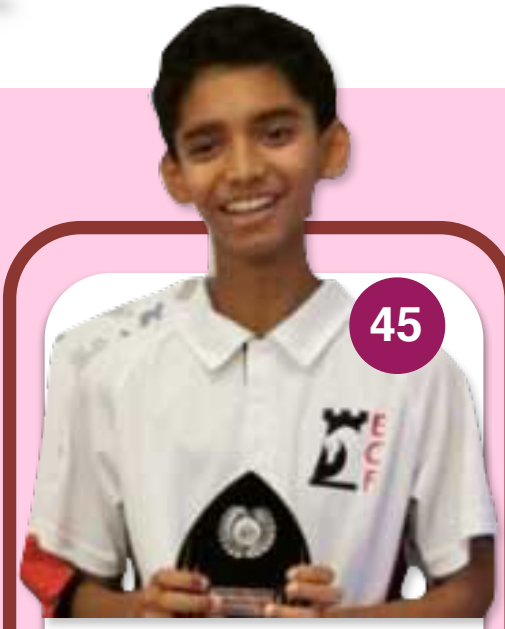

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Members few and Farr between

HAVING just been promoted to division 2 of the Mid-Sussex League, The Args did well to finish in mid-table, but lost in the first round of the Knockout.

Down to just four players in the summer, we were really faced with extinction. However, we eventually managed to recruit two new players – Roy Page and Clive Thompson.

So the new team became Farr, Page, Kington, Graham and Harris, with Thompson as reserve. This made us one of the strongest teams in division 2.

Mick Harris got us some new incremental clocks and won his first game of the season.

Then tragedy again hit the Args as Mick suffered a severe stroke and was hospitalised. His recovery has been slow and we don't yet know when he can return to chess. Our best wishes go to Mick and his wife, Fiona, who have had a very hard time.

New recruit Clive Thompson now had to play all the remaining matches on Board 5 and played very bravely at this tough level with the new fast time limits.

He missed just one game, when Bob Huston filled in, coming out of retirement heroically!

The new top four played pretty well, with Jim's return to form enough to move him up a place.

Especial thanks to Roy for taking over Board 2 so well, giving the rest of us an easier time!

And, of course, to Peter, still our star player and also working well for the league.

Results including Mid-Sussex League and Knockout (a total of 11 games for each player) : Peter Farr 7, Roy Page 6.5, Jim Graham 6, Paul Kington 5.5.

After the season, another tragedy occurred with the sudden death of Sigrun, the landlady of our long-time pub, 'The Jolly Tanners'.

Our sincere sympathy to Chris, the landlord, and hopefully the pub venue can continue.

Paul Kington

He missed just one game, when Bob Huston filled in, coming out of retirement heroically!

We're going to miss you, Alfred

ATTENDANCES have started to improve again after declining at the end of last year, which was partly owing to the illness of some of our veteran members.

We have sadly to report the death of our oldest member, Alfred Mikurenda, after a long fight against cancer. He was a unique character and it was fascinating to learn at his funeral of his childhood experiences in Poland. In 1939, when he was 11, his parents were transported to a Gulag after the Russian invasion. He and his two younger sisters somehow found their way to England.

He showed a lifelong interest in chess and was still playing to a good standard at the age of 90, having also been a member of Hastings & St Leonards Chess Club for many years and having frequently participated at the Hastings International Chess Congress.

New club champion is John Kimber, his second success in three years. He scored 7½/8 and was the only person to beat the previous season's champion, Steve Blewitt, second with 6½/8. Third was Alan Ticehurst with 6.

The other winter tournament, for the Gordon Cup, was won by Mel Stockdale with a score of 5 from 5. Runner-up was Tony Demarco with 4/5 and third, Ted Baker on 2. In the 2018 summer rapidplay, the Major section was won by Steve Blewitt with 18 points from 20; second was new member Bill Tracey on 16½ and third, Derek Cosens, with 16. The Minor section was also won by Mel Stockdale with 9/12, from Ted Baker on 7/12. Third was Paul Colegate with 6.

After the end of the league season, two friendly matches were arranged against Eastbourne Chess Club. The first, in Bexhill, finished 4-4, but in the away match Eastbourne edged it 4½-3½.

Croatian Grandmaster Bogdan Lalic agreed to give another simultaneous exhibition in June. With fewer people this year, he was able to play each opponent twice. He was not quite as successful this time, losing one game at the end of a long three-hour session to the strongest player, Laurence Butt, of Eastbourne, who also drew his first game. The only other person to score a draw was Paul Kelly of Hastings. But Bogdan still managed to win 27 games, the same as last year: remarkable consistency.

Several members mooted the possibility of entering a team in the lowest division of the Mid-Sussex League. It is felt there is now sufficient playing strength in the club to be competitive in match play.

Joseph Sharp, club secretary

Jaimie leads the way as club seals trophy triumph

RECENT times have smiled on the Bognor Chess Club with the addition of several new and strong members while Nick Mansfield has returned a after long absence away. Friday evening club nights are a busy place to be.

Performance hot-spot for the year was the earlier winning of the Paul Watson Trophy, for the first time after many long journeys (for others as well as us) trying. Jaimie Wilson, pictured left, was key to our success with a perfect score but everyone contributed.

On the leagues front, the club's other teams, which, as normal competed along with Chichester Chess Club in the three Portsmouth League divisions, had the high performances we've come to expect. This season, the combined clubs won the first and second divisions (teams captained by Bill McDougall and Mick Plumb respectively) while also mopping up the Cole Cup.

Not surprisingly, Jaimie Wilson won the Club Championship. Jamie Wood, also very deservedly, has won the Knockout Cup and Mike Spence the club's Summer Tournament.

On the social front we repeated our participation

in the very excellent East Preston Village Festival. Chess is the order of the day at the Seaview Hotel. Very enjoyable meeting old friends.
During the year, members of the club played a friendly match against a group of players at Littlehampton library.

A very friendly and sociable club, we meet at 7pm every Friday and has chess to suit every standard – just get in touch with the secretary Donald Close, or visit our website www.bognorandarunchessclub.co.uk. New members are always very welcome.

Bill Partridge

FESTIVAL FEVER ... top, players at East Preston Festival's chess challenge and, below, a match played between Bognor and Arun Chess Club and a group of players at Littlehampton library

Ferry good start ends with cup flourish

OUR year began with a home win, in September, versus Dieppe. Their 13 players had a rough ferry crossing over to Newhaven. They included IM Kamran Shirazi on top board. Wikipedia says he appeared in the film 'Searching for Bobby Fischer', and he holds the record for the quickest loss in a U.S. championship: five moves. Our match was followed by a cold buffet and drinks.

Adding a fifth Brighton team to the Mid-Sussex League, combined with the league itself creating three large divisions from four smaller ones, led to more playing opportunities this season.

One tip for team drivers: beware of deer in the road, as we encountered on our return from, I think, Horsham. Perhaps it had been to a stag do (or doe).

Results often went against our teams, but success came in the McArthur cup, as Paul Batchelor describes: “Brighton & Hove qualified for the McArthur Cup final by beating Horsham 4.5-1.5. In the final, they faced Hastings & St Leonards. Brighton & Hove were to win by 3.5-2.5. Individual wins were recorded by Luke Rutherford, Joe Everett and Paul Batchelor. Luke now runs advanced junior classes on Thursdays, with Callum Brewer coaching improving juniors then as well. Classes continue in 2019-20, but there will be no rapidplay team.

Joe Everett is club champion. Other internal winners are: Plummer Knight, Chris Lake; Tasker Tankard, Kevin Gee; Denman Cup, James Alvarez. James's grade jumped from 89 to 148 in the July, 2019 list. Mine didn't.

Two of our senior players passed away this year: Neil Tasker, 80, and John Henshaw, 74. John played for the 1st team until the end of this season.

As I write, several younger Brighton and Hove players are in Torquay for the British championships. There were rumours the event would be in Brighton this year. It came to Hove in 1997, but for now many of us must make do with the live moves on the championships website.

Rob Counsell

McARTHUR MARK: Michael Hamilton, Joe Everett with cup and Luke Rutherford

Double delight as teams in a league of their own

CHICHESTER Chess Club meets at the Fishbourne Centre, Blackboy Lane, on Mondays from 7.30 pm.

The centre offers excellent facilities for chess and has many other activities available as detailed on their website: www.fishbournecentre.org.uk.

The chess club website is www.chichesterchessclub.co.uk where results of league matches and internal club matches may be found.

Jointly with Bognor and Arun Chess club, three teams entered the Portsmouth league. The A team won the championship for an impressive fourth time and won the Cole Cup. The B team triumphed as well! The C team performed well in division three.

Jaimie Wilson won the club championship as well as the Handicap tournament, meanwhile increasing his grade to an impressive 193. The Under 130 tournament was won by Mick Plumb.

Jaimie Wilson won the club championship as well as the Handicap tournament

The youngest member, Tom Howeson, increased his grade from 138 to 145.

We consider ourselves a friendly club and are happy to accept new members at any level. We hope to maintain our match results yet again this season.

Ian Richardson

It's a new chapter in club's history

OUTSIDE INTERESTS: Jonathan Tuck taking on all comers in East Grinstead High Street

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

At our previous AGM, reluctantly it was decided we would enter only one team in the Mid- Sussex League last season as due to personal circumstances and illness numbers fell away. It was also becoming increasingly difficult to find members willing to drive, especially in the winter and over long distances at night.

With the new season underway, it was therefore pleasing to see some old faces return who for various reasons had given chess a miss for a few years.

We ended the year with 19 fully paid members and on average between 12-14 players turn up on a regular club night. By the standards of some clubs, this is fairly small

but we are a friendly bunch who encourage players of all standards.

During the year, we were made aware that AGE UK, where we have been playing for 10 years, were moving to new premises. It was hoped we would move with them. However, it would mean we would no longer be able to open and lock up as at present and, in fact, we would be required to vacate the building by 9.30pm, clearly not suitable for home team matches in the Mid- Sussex League.

We are extremely fortunate the owner of The Bookshop in East Grinstead High Street, a keen chess player, offered the use of his premises and from September this will be our new home.

Our second major challenge was to source new digital clocks as we were made aware we were the only club in the Mid-Sussex League not to have any. An appeal went out to all members and I am pleased to report that due to their generosity we are now the proud owners of six new digital clocks. No more feeling like the poor relations when we attend the Mid-Sussex AGM.

To attract new members, we still play casual chess every Wednesday at The Bookshop 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 town 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, again took on all comers 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 as always to Jonathan.

Our first and only team was placed in division 3 and started the match season well with a perfect 6 out of 6 wins.

However, we could only manage another 1.5 out of 4 at the latter stages and so finished third. Overall a very good performance against strong opposition. Well done to team captain Ian Dennis and his deputy, plus all those who turned out to play.

Our internal competitions are proving extremely popular and run very efficiently by Eric Granzelius. We now have two internal competitions which means most club members have a chance to play each other during the season.

The winner of the Rapid Play was won by Ian Dennis – the Club Championship, Alan Smith, with our under 100 grade won by Adrian Kernot. Thanks go to Eric for all his efforts which has made the club nights more challenging and enjoyable.

We are a small friendly club which meets every Tuesday - September to April– our new home being The Bookshop in East Grinstead High Street.

New for 2019 will be the inclusion of a junior side who it is hoped will enter The Mid-Sussex Rapid Play League.

Bob Dyke
chairman, East Grinstead Chess Club

Welcome back… club is returning to its roots

WE are delighted to report that our club has experienced growth during the past season with some junior players joining the ranks.

This has prompted us to seek new shores yet again, and we shall be relocating to our old hide, St Francis Social Club, from September, for larger premises away from the sounds of ping-pong balls. We will, however, continue to be known as Haywards Heath Chess Club.

> We shall be relocating to our old hide, St Francis Social Club

Results wise, it hasn't been an easy season. Once again, our first team survived in division 1 of the Mid-Sussex Chess League, albeit only in 8th place overall. Our second team finished mid-table in division 3, with improved grades for most players.

We narrowly lost in the semi-finals for the Paul Watson Trophy competition to Bognor Regis in March. It was a very close result and ultimately depended on Oliver Manchester's game against Warwick Turner which unexpectedly (and frustratingly) ended in a draw close to midnight.

In the McArthur Cup, we made it through to the second round, but could not attend the Hastings fixture due to lack of player availability. We had a huge defeat against Worthing in the Knockout competition, scoring 0.5-4.5. Better luck next season!

At home, David Curtis had his own back and as this season's winner reclaimed the Challenge Trophy from Roland Rattray. The Lightning Competition was won by Feliks Kwiatkowski, with Vivian Cole and Jeffrey Boardman close behind in second and third place respectively.

The last event of our season was The Weald Chess Congress. Four players from our club competed in the intermediate and minor sections. Norman Hawkins came joint third in the U110 minor section.

With member numbers increasing, the club is financially on solid ground. On the non-playing front, the club has recruited a new volunteer – Sandra Manchester – to assist with the running of the club and to act as safeguarding lead.

Anyone wishing to join the club should contact Sandra Manchester on 07749 254793 or sandra.manchester40@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Sandra Manchester

Phil is Rook solid

140 years old...club still thriving

THANKS to Sussex chess historian Brian Denman, we know that Horsham Chess Club was first mentioned in the local press in 1879, and the 140th year of the club continued with its mix of lively club competitions and matches in the Mid-Sussex Chess League and Sussex competitions.

The all-play-all club championship (Rook competition) saw a tight struggle, with Phil Stimpson's effective mix of innovative preparation and aggressive dynamic play taking the title, half a point ahead of James Mansson, with both players unbeaten.

The second all-play-all, the Bishop competition, was won by Ian Comley, following a tiebreak with Paul Kington.

James Mansson may have been edged out in the Rook, but he won both the Knockout Cup and the Quickplay Knockout competition. Peter Harbott picked up the Knockout Plate and James MacLean the Quickplay Plate. The 10-second per move Lightning competition saw a new name on the tankard, as Mark Broom beat Mike Forster in an exciting final.

The mainstay of our match chess is the Mid-Sussex Chess League and we fielded four teams.

Horsham 1 and 2 both competed vigorously in the extremely strong division 1, with Horsham 1 being in the running for the championship, before losing to both Hastings 1 and Hastings 2.

A score of 8/10 secured second place behind unbeaten Hastings & St Leonards 1. At the same time, Horsham 2 were punching above their weight and finished fifth, with only the leading four teams (Hastings 1, Horsham 1, Worthing 1 and Brighton 1) finishing above them.

Horsham 3 had a tough time in division 2, with a number of below par results, and relegation was looming. Some resilient play in the final matches just kept them safe, with 3 points from 10 and a favourable tiebreak with Hastings 3.

Horsham 4 continued its important role in providing competitive chess to improving players and fared rather better in division 4, finishing 7th out of 11 teams, with 4 points. Their most impressive result was beating Hastings 4, who finished second in the division.

We were paired with the University of Sussex in the first round of the Mid-Sussex League Knockout Cup and suffered a

to claim the title

with wide ranging chess activity

comprehensive defeat, managing only one draw.

It was some consolation to see the university reach the final. Horsham also fielded a Rapid-Play team and this competition has provided excellent opportunities for juniors to gain experience in matches.

A wide range of players were involved, and we scored a credible 1.5/5, coming 5th out of six teams. One of the junior players was Nayan Rastagi, who also won the Megafinal for his age group becoming the supremo with a score of 6/6 – a name to watch out for!

Horsham also competed in the two Sussex competitions, but lost in the first round of both the Paul Watson and McArthur cups. It's a great shame that these competitions do not attract more clubs. Many thanks are due to Peter Farr for reinvigorating them.

One source of additional players this year has been the local sixth form college, where one of our new members, Alex Taylor, joined the staff last autumn.

He started a chess club there and several of their improving juniors have also joined Horsham for a season or two, before they move on to university.

I mention this because it seems to me that of late there is less chess activity in schools and yet there is plenty of pent-up demand. This might be an area that other clubs may like to bear in mind.

We look forward to the next 140 years of the club's history!

Ian Comley, secretary

County's 500+ record-breaker: p38

Some resilient play in the final matches just kept them safe

Young players are doing us all proud

DUE to the divisional shake-up before the start of the Mid-Sussex League 2018-19 season our first and second teams' anticipated relegations from division 1 and division 2 were cancelled. In consequence, both teams found themselves among the lower seeded teams in the new 3-division structure at the start of the 2018-19 season.

And what a season it turned out to be!

Against all expectations (mainly our own) Lewes 2 put in a spectacular performance to clinch the division 2 title, unbeaten at that point, with a match to spare! Key to success was consistency – the team averaged exactly 3 points per match, never winning by big margins but nearly always doing enough to take home the full point or, on occasion save the half point.

The only disappointment was the final match in which a much weaker team went down, away, at Crowborough. The stand-out individual performance was by U14 junior Jonathan Britnell (played in nine of the team's 10 fixtures, winning five and drawing four). Other over-50 per cent efforts came from Matthew Britnell, Duncan Badham, Greg Daniel and Danny Brooks who between them played 26 games and were the bedrock of the team. Overall, the team average grade was 142, only the third highest in the division.

Thanks to all players who represented us and especially Danny Brooks for captaincy. Lewes 1, as expected, fared less well, finishing second from bottom (10th) in the enlarged division 1. We won one match, at home in January, against Worthing 2. Otherwise, we were largely, as a team, out of our depth in this company and paid the price over the board time and again.

Our only above 50 per cent performer was occasional board 1, Mark Broom, (played 4, won 3, lost 1). Sadly, the club will now say goodbye to Mark who, having moved to

Horsham will, we expect, be representing our MSCL rivals next season. We wish him all the best – at least, in matches not involving Lewes. Thanks to captain Richard Welford who kept spirits up with his entertaining post-match reports!

As for the KO Cup, a tactical mistake by your correspondent in picking the team for our semi-final date away at Sussex University, ensured our almost certain elimination from the tournament. Our canny opponents fielded strong players on boards 1 to 3 but brought their overall average down significantly with a 40-graded player on board 5. Thus, needing 4 to win, our task was always going to be tough and although we did well to win over the board 3.5 – 1.5, we'd given ourselves too much to do against the handicap.

TOP SPOTS: Solomon Mitchell and Jacob Wynn at Worth GP 2018

It was a pleasure this season to play in the resurrected SCCA Paul Watson Trophy. Peter Farr of the The Args agreed to take on the organisation of this event and to whom we are most grateful. Lewes scraped through the quarter-final on tiebreak but lost the semi-final, again on tiebreak.

The club's internal competitions comprise a club championship with knock-out long-play games culminating in the winner receiving a lovely traditional silver cup, and a quick-play double round-robin handicap tournament where a more contemporary carved trophy is on offer. Last year's club champion was Richard Welford.

This year's event is at the final stage and, to some members' surprise, is to be contested by juniors Jonathan Britnell (U14) and Jacob Wynn (U12). Good luck to both. Meanwhile, the quick-play tournament traditionally gets underway during the quieter summer months; Matthew Britnell won it last time.

As indicted by the club championship among other events, Lewes Chess Club's juniors continue to shine in county, club, school, individual, and occasionally national events and I should like to highlight their key achievements this season. The club's junior

team won the Mid-Sussex Chess League Rapid Play Division for the second year running, playing five, winning four and drawing one. Six players represented the team and strongest performances were by Jacob Wynn (played 5, won 5); John McCrae (played 5, won 5), and Henry Adams (played 2, won 2). Also playing on one or more occasions were Solomon Mitchell, George Brooks, and Alex McCrae. No games at all featuring our players were drawn and no adults were needed to fill in for any matches. Well done our juniors and thanks to captain Andy Mitchell for running the team and ferrying it around!

Jonathan Britnell remains at the moment the club's strongest junior and underlined his abilities by winning first the U14 section of the Sussex Megafinal before following up in the same age-group section of the Southern Gigafinal, collecting at the latter in July a huge trophy for his efforts.

He managed the same feat when he last entered, four years ago. He travels later in the year to the national Terafinal at which cash prizes appear a more attractive pull than the possibility of more silverware, however large.

Elsewhere, Jonathan was part of the Sussex team that won the NCJA national U14 title in September, 2018, and travelled to Ireland with the National Chess Junior Squad in February, 2019. Solomon Mitchell was part of the NCJS contingent that travelled to Chrzanow in Poland in February this year, and part of the Sussex U12 winning team in the NCJA county event.

He also, in May, won the U12 section of the Sussex Megafinal, just edging out fellow Lewes player Jacob Wynn. The same pair shared the top spots at the U12 section at the Worth GP in October, 2018, that time Jacob nudging Solomon into 2nd on progressive scores. At the same event, one of our younger members, Austin Mitchell, managed a clean sweep 6/6 in the U10 section even though he was an U9! Henry Adams took 1st in the extremely competitive U13 section of the Yateley Manor South of England Junior Championships, in January, 2019.

> Thanks to captain Richard Welford who kept spirits up with his entertaining post-match reports!

He followed up by winning the U13 section of the Sussex Megafinal and also the Sussex Junior Chess U13 Grand Prix for the highest aggregate score across all qualifying events. Austin Mitchell did the same in the U9 series.

And, finally, in SJC events John McCrae finished second in the U14 GP.

He capped an eye-catching first season by winning the U18 Minor at the Eastbourne GP in February.

Also worthy of mention is the Schools' U14 Butler Cup in which Lewes juniors played a key part at the business end of the competition. Many of our older juniors attend Priory School in Lewes and so it was that in its first year entering this keenly contested event, the Priory team comprised, in board order, Jonathan, Solomon, Jacob, and John.

Winning through to the final after trouncing their rivals in the first two stages, the team came up against far tougher opponents in the shape of habitual winners, Brighton College, featuring none other than another Lewes member, Henry.

Unfortunately for the Priory contingent, Brighton College clinched it on the day, albeit both teams achieved the same game point score.

CUP THAT CHEERS: Jonathan Britnell with the Southern Gigafinal trophy

Jonathan came through the series with a perfect score, winning 9 from 9. Well done to all who took part and congratulations Henry for being a part of the winning team.

Lewes Chess Club continues to operate from St Mary's Supporters Club in Lewes. We've been permitted, with thanks to our venue, to put up chess-themed posters in the room we use for matches and in which we host the MSCL AGM.

Speaking of which, at this year's AGM the League's then secretary, Matthew Britnell, and then webmaster, Barry Maufe (both Lewes members), stood down.

In July, 2019, one of our members kindly hosted another club barbecue.

Matthew Britnell

Board count kills

TABLE TOPS: Mark Attree, Chaski Patrick and Brian Stockham

THE club meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Luxford Centre in the town centre, from 7.15pm to 10.30pm, and new members are very welcome. Although we have gained some new members in the last year we always need more to remain viable.

Our last season was perhaps not as exciting as in previous years, but our first team was solid in division 2 of the Mid-Sussex League, and although our second team did not seem to fare well in the new division 3, it is fair to say for both of our teams that there were many exciting matches and in many cases results hinged on one final game which usually did not go our way, so we can hope for a better return next season. The contraction of the MSL to three divisions definitely had a bad effect for us as the number of fixtures our teams were involved in increased dramatically, which caused pressure on our two team drivers/captains and as we are a fortnightly club there was pressure on normal (?) club nights.

We also had a team in the MSL Knockout Cup, and although we won our quarter-final narrowly against last year's champions Woodpushers 2, in the semi-final we had another exciting match against the eventual winners Worthing, and although the match result was a draw we lost it on board count. We were pleased thanks to the excellent efforts of Peter Farr that the Paul Watson Cup returned this year, but due to fixture pressure we had to give up home advantage to our near

off cups challenge

neighbours Lewes, with whom we competed in a final of this competition in the past.

This match was again exciting – whoever honestly believes chess is boring should witness such matches – and again down to the last moves of the last game, but the match ended in a draw, also a draw on board count, so finally we lost it on board elimination.

Few in our club had great seasons, but our top player, Chaski Patrick, finished seventh in the MSL rankings with a match average of 80 per cent.

Our undisputed star though was Michael Stockham, who came back for matches when he could in his first year at university and won the MSL tankard for best match average unbeaten on 93 per cent.

PROUD MOMENT: Michael Stockham receives the MSL Best Match Average tankard from MSL chairman Doug Stevenson

Our internal club competitions saw Chaski Patrick win the Blitz trophy, Mark Attree the Grand Prix and Knockout Cup, and Brian Stockham won the Rapid Play, Handicap Split, and Standard Play trophies, though would suggest some of these are won more for attendance than skill ! Our Top Junior trophy this year went to Benedict Weis.

Our affiliated junior club, which meets every Friday of the school term at the Uckfield Youth Centre, between 5.15pm and 6.30pm, has had a very good year.

We again had a team this year in the MSL Rapid Play division, and rotated a squad of ten players to give many youngsters a first taste of evening competition play. We never expected to be competitive, but with three 2-2 draws and two narrow losses, the squad did much better than expected. In the last year 33 local youngsters have been to junior club sessions and made progress, with Benedict Weis winning the Grand Prix and Knockout trophies, Justin Bailey the Most Improved Player plate, Harry Haynes the Most Promising Young Player and Lightning trophies, and Mischa Floyd the Courtesy trophy. We had no less than ten players qualify for the Southern Gigafinal (a national semi-final) of the UK Chess Challenge and we are pleased for the future that from there Hugo Ullmann qualified for the national final stages.

While the future looks bright, we know we need to invest in it and are always looking to improve. Any enquiries regarding either of these two clubs, please make contact with chairman Brian Stockham on brianstockham@btinternet.com or secretary Mark Attree on attreemark0@gmail.com

Brian Stockham

TURNING THE TABLES: Tom Rendle gives a masterclass at Worthing

Teams in fine form … again

IT was another great season for the club in the Mid-Sussex League.

Our 1st team came third (2nd= on match points) and within a whisker of being division 1 champions.

Our 2nd team had a more difficult season but stayed in division 1, while our 3rd team came 2nd in division 2 and would have been promoted to division 1, but we already have two teams there! Our 4th team came 4th place in division 3.

Cup success came in the Mid-Sussex League Knockout. In addition, Dave Graham won the division 1 tankard and Max Bennett won the division 2 tankard for best performances.

We finished our season with a masterclass and Simul by Tom Rendle, a fitting end to what must be our most successful season. But we actually said this last season as well!.

Chris Jones

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD: Tom Rendle with a simul at Worthing

Crowborough and Bognor go the distance

THE final of the Paul Watson Trophy this year was played at Horsham Chess Club, who kindly offered their premises as a suitable venue, given that the two finalists were almost as far apart geographically as two Sussex clubs could be.

After a tough struggle, with plenty of uncompromising play, Bognor & Arun finally prevailed after a top board win by Jaimie Wilson in a very complicated Kings Indian against David Fryer.

Thus the only non-Mid Sussex League team in the competition were the worthy winners.

Congratulations to the winners and also to the gallant runners-up.

The only non-Mid Sussex League team in the competition were the worthy winners

Peter Farr

			Crowborough	**1-3**	**Bognor & Arun**	
Board	*Colour*	*Grade**	*Player*	*Result*	*Player*	*Grade**
1	W	169	Fryer, David W	0-1	Wilson, Jaimie	191
2	B	156	Lawrance, Jon AN	1-0	Mansfield, Nick	152
3	W	129	Dunn, Chris C	0-1	Spence, Mike	130
4	B	114	Crosby, Ben	0-1	Plumb, Mick	127
	Avg	*142*				*150*

A 'giant' of Sussex his all to club and

John Herbert pays tribute to Robert Williams, 1934-2019

AT the time of Robert's birth, his father was an arable and dairy farmer at Ades Farm, Chailey, north of Lewes. There was a long tradition of farming in the Williams family. Robert's great great grandfather was recorded in the 1851 census as a farmer and lay preacher in Norfolk.

Towards the end of the war, Robert's family, which included his younger brother, Edgar, moved to Bullock Down Farm, one of three farms owned by Eastbourne Council near Beachy Head in what is now the South Downs National Park. Robert's father was tenant farmer there until his death in 1968, and then the tenancy was taken over by Edgar.

Edgar, married with two daughters, continued there until he retired about the same time as Robert. Edgar discovered several large hoards of late Roman coins on his land and many miscellaneous artefacts. He earned the gratitude of many archaeologists for his welcome and help when they and several hundred of their students excavated on Bullock Down for five years in the 1970s. Bullock Down is now recognised as an important part of Eastbourne's heritage, with a history going back 4,000 years.

Meanwhile, Robert was pursuing a career in law, living firstly in East Dean and then in the Meads district of Eastbourne. He left school resolved to be articled at Davenport Jones and Glenister, and not study law at university as his headmaster wished. He remained at this law firm for the rest of his working life, eventually as a partner. He was my family's solicitor for many years. Professionally, Robert was very reliable and, unlike over the chess board, cautious. Internet and email arrived before his retirement, but Robert refused to use email partly because he

chess who gave county…

SUSSEX LEGEND … Robert Williams

suspected, correctly as turned out, that it was not secure for important business.

Robert was interested in Christian church doctrine. In his youth he occasionally visited Edgmond Chapel, where Eastbourne Chess Club met 50 years later. I remember Robert taking part in a discussion there about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He liked debating such matters. He was early attracted to the tenets of the Apostolic Church, and this church was very important to him for the rest of his life.

Also important was his membership of the National Trust. He often attended special events. When a family notice was put in the local newspaper reporting Robert's death, donations were invited to The Apostolic Church, or St Wilfrid's Hospice, or The National Trust.

Robert joined Eastbourne Chess Club in 1948, and the following year became the first chess captain of Eastbourne Grammar School. He quickly established a link between the two clubs which endured until the grammar school closed in 1976. The senior master, Mr Platt,

was nominally in charge of the school club. A.J. Platt was a successful Eastbourne player in the 1930s, club champion in 1933 and first team captain from 1935, but he was not active after the war and Robert was soon in effect running the club as captain and secretary.

Robert was at this time one of the most promising young players in Sussex, and it may cause surprise that he didn't play in Eastbourne's McArthur Cup matches until after 1961. But after leaving school Robert put chess on hold for seven years until he had completed his law studies. I think that had he not done this he would have become a 200+ grade player rather than 180+.

Robert returned to chess with enthusiasm, and over the next 40 years played regularly in matches and competitions and occupied several administrative posts. In Eastbourne, he won the club championship outright eight times and shared it another four. He was, at different times, club secretary and president. In the County Championship he was runner-up in 1973 in an all-play-all tournament, and he lost to Brian Denman in a 1981 semi-final. Robert won the Sussex Veterans' Championship three times from 1997–1999.

He became president of Sussex Chess Association in the mid-1970s and served for 35 years. Thereafter, his name was kept on the list of officers as deputy president.

Robert's style of play was combative and tactically strong. He loved to conduct a sacrificial attack on his opponent's king, and sometimes knowingly played a move that was not objectively the best but which threatened such an attack. The player he most admired was Emanuel Lasker.

Robert suffered a stroke about six years ago, the beginning of a long, inexorable mental and physical decline. One of his friends wrote, "Robert had such a ferocious intelligence, it was awful to see the way Alzheimers robbed him of this."

Robert was cared for at Sunrise Nursing Home, Willingdon, from where he was frequently taken to Downs Valley Apostolic Church where his funeral service was held.

Though Robert had many years before given the pastor strict instructions that his funeral should be short and without tributes, it was clear that Robert was highly regarded, and generous with time and money, in many areas of life.

Brian Denman recalls the life of John Christian Henshaw, 1945-2019

A natural board winner

JOHN HENSHAW was born in Halifax and was the youngest of four children in a family.

His father was a distinguished engineer, who made improvements to Churchill's bunker during World War II.

In about the late 1950s the family moved to Richmond and John was educated at Tiffin's Boys' Grammar School at Kingston. Here he showed promise at chess and became the school's top board player.

He obtained a place at Manchester University studying maths, but because of grievous circumstances did not complete the course.

One day he and a friend were the subject of a vicious physical attack in Manchester. His

friend suffered life-changing injuries and John was badly beaten.

John eventually recovered from his injuries, but was unwilling to return to that city. Instead he worked for a while for the civil service at Twickenham before a desire to travel overtook him. Spain was his destination and he even secured employment in that country.

Meanwhile, his parents had moved to Kent and then Brighton. Sadly, his father passed away suddenly in 1967.

His mother continued to live in Brighton and John eventually joined her in her flat (he lived with her until her death in 1982). Just over the road from their residence was the Brighton, Hove and Sussex Grammar School for Boys (later called Brighton Sixth Form College) and John obtained employment there as a laboratory assistant.

> John was a very gentle and private person and, as he did not boast about his achievements

It was to be his regular employment for about 40 years, but was not particularly well paid.

John really wanted to become a librarian, but this involved a course of study for which he may have had to find the funds.

As it was, he paid rent even through retirement and did not manage to embark on his favoured career.

He joined Brighton Chess Club in 1970 and his play started to flourish. In 1972, he won the Sussex Championship and also came first in the Churchill Memorial Tournament at Hove with a maximum 7/7 score.

A year later, when the Sussex Chess Association organised a congress at Falmer, Brighton, John came first in a strong field.

Another success was his first equal placing in the Premier event at the Folkestone Congress in 1975. One of his best results was coming second in the Major Open event at Chester in 1979.

This entitled him to play in the British Championship at Brighton in 1980, where he scored four points out of 11 against strong opposition. He continued to enter external tournaments until 1984. After that he concentrated on local and county games.

He won the Brighton Chess Club Championship three times in 1980, 1987 and 1993 (on the third occasion he came first equal). I do not have a record of his highest grading, but it was at least 212.

John was also very good at 10 second lightning chess. He won the Sussex Lightning Championship four times and was a member of a Brighton Chess Club team, which did well in the national teams' lightning competition. In this event John gained wins against grandmasters. In 1996 he decided to have a break from chess.

John retired in about 2010 and about a year after this he decided to return to chess. After a

long break of 15 years, he rejoined Brighton Chess Club. John played for the club in the Mid-Sussex League, but took part in few other competitions in this recent period.

At times he played on a lower board than in the past, but once he had settled back into the game, he lost very few games. After a few years he again felt that he could do with a break from the game and he did not play competitive chess in the 2017-18 season.

In 2018, he suffered a fracture of a hip, when he fell down stairs at his flat. Although the injury was quite severe, he overcame the difficulties and returned to the Brighton team for the 2018-19 season.

His last few matches in the league were tough and he found himself on a high board once again. He acquitted himself well and had just returned from a holiday with friends, when he died suddenly.

John was a very gentle and private person and, as he did not boast about his achievements, few people knew about his successes. Although he was originally a very good maths student, he later gained an M.A. in Ancient History through the Open University.

He was also interested in history generally and the branch of architecture. He traced back his family tree to the 15th century and was a member of both the U3A and a local history society.

He also volunteered to work for the Terrence Higgins Trust charity and acted as a counsellor for people suffering from terminal illnesses.

He was a capable pianist and enjoyed rambling through the countryside.

John had a natural feel for chess positions. He could win games when he had a minute advantage and sometimes with brilliant finishes.

As white, he preferred 1 d4 openings and as black he had a good knowledge of Sicilian and Slav defences. Three of his best games are in the Games section (P50-54) and can also be played through online at http://www.bognorandarunchessclub.co.uk/sussex-chess-news-games.html

John will be greatly missed by his chess colleagues in the county.

A WHISKER AWAY FROM VICTORY … GM Pert (blue shirt) and GM Korneev (black shirt). Pictured right, youth and experience, and, below, the congress cat…

Like father, like son

Report by Carol Graham

THE Weald Chess Congress began in 2006 as a way of introducing stronger juniors to standard play tournament chess and has grown year on year.

However, it was still something of a surprise to see entries surge from 110 in 2018 to 160 this year! While most of the entrants were from the home counties, we also had several players from as far away as Cornwall, Wales and Yorkshire.

We were pleased to attract no less than two Grandmasters – Nick Pert, based relatively locally in Hampshire, and Oleg Korneev, who is based less locally in Spain. As a result, the standard in the Open section was fearsomely high.

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 seven father-child combinations.

WEALD CHESS CONGRESS

We award three Sussex Cups at the Congress based on tournament performance. The Brian Denman Cup (Under 14) was won by Edward Gray (Woodpushers); the George Self Cup (Under 18) was won by Oli Howell, recently returned to Sussex from Somerset. The Anne Gammans Cup (Girls Under 18) was won by Lilya Stewart (Ardingly College).
Thanks to all who supported the event; full results are available at https://wealdchesscongress.org.uk/

Time running out

Steve Smith looks at our changing attitudes to alternative rates of play

TECHNOLOGY moves on. After years of over-promising and under-delivering then, three decades later than first heralded, many of the improvements have matured to the point where they can prove genuinely beneficial in our day to day lives.

Networking and broadband had vision beyond capability as did those building applications for the new super-powered personal devices.

Back in the 1970s, at the time of Fisher and Spassky, there was an influx of new players into the game. This shook up the established order and the younger among this cadre found it surprising that the use of clocks was considered optional in club and some league competitions.

I attended Bognor Regis Chess Club in 1973 and, after a heated argument at the AGM, it was agreed that for the Championship a time rate of 25 moves in 75 minutes would be adopted with adjournment at or after said 25 moves had been played. This lent itself to sharp practice such as an adjournment after, for example, a sacrifice is very helpful to the defending side in getting its ideas straightened out and some coherent defensive ideas clarified. Several years later, the use of clocks

for analogue?

was made more pervasive and yet later a more commonly adopted move rate of 30 moves in 75 minutes became the *de facto* standard for evening games.

Over recent years there has been the adoption of new electronic clocks with very few moving parts save a few push buttons to enable human interaction. The programmers of these clocks built in all sorts of features, many of which were near useless to most serious chess players.

The version 2 syndrome looks set to save us as finally the technologists listened to the would be end users and built in some useable features including varying time controls and perhaps most significant of all, increments. This latter enabled historical shortcomings to be addressed in the chess world, perhaps for the first time. Fisher time was originally set up to add the increment after each move had been made. Some versions of this offer the increment before each move is made.

There are many advantages to having an incremented time control. A blitz game can sensibly continue into an ending and the outcome have some resemblance to the chess

board. In longer time controls, a meaningful increment of say 30 seconds can be used to insist players record the game in full. This is established practice in weekend tournament and 4NCL. Consensus seems to be that in this weekend domain then increments work well, reducing sharp practice around adjournments and time scrambles, giving more credence to the chess – and less to the clock, and make for a more seemly game ambiance.

Of the downsides with increments there are several. The investment in new clocks not being least of these. Training sufficient club members to be competent to set, and reset if required, to an acceptable standard is another surprisingly non-trivial challenge.

Quite why chess players, some of considerable note, should struggle with a device that has four buttons and a user manual is not entirely obvious.

Using increments for short session evening league chess is somewhat more problematic. Adjournments are rapidly falling out of favour, indeed they have become the *bête noir* of the moment judging from the zeitgeist bombarding my communications.

This is very similar to the opprobrium heaped upon the adjudications process way back in the 1980s – because they discouraged speculative sacrifices prior to the position being adjudicated and also because they were subject to a best practice idea of a strong player seeing ideas not likely to have been part of the game otherwise.

If given a free ask, then most chess players would like to play a game in a single session – but life interferes with this ambition. Work and schooling mitigate against games continuing into the late hours.

Transport exacerbates this problem. Venues and facilities have rules of their own, and these are sometimes zealously enforced, thus further curtailing the playing session. Indeed, while chess suffers less than golf, where there is a widening perception that a round of 18 holes takes too long for modern life, this does not mean chess is immune from these same pressures.

> While experience shows most games conclude around 45 move mark, is it wrong to expect to be able to play 60 moves in a session?

Game conclusions can be engineered within limits. Technical adjustments can be made – as an example, Fisher time can be capped, to bring a more predictable approximation to an end time into the equation. It's not perfect and encourages players to use the increment for each move rather than accumulate the time.

So it depends what the chess players want. While experience shows that most games conclude around 45 move mark, is it wrong to expect to be able to play 60 moves in a session?

Clearly that is fine at weekends but apparently wrong in the evening.

A league I played in during the late 1960s started play at 7pm sharp, well started the clocks anyway, and played 50 moves in two hours. Not many games were beyond decision at that point. But these days we cannot all play until 11pm as we know from above, nor can we start at 7pm. Interesting to note that I played this league as one of several schoolboys and took the underground or otherwise walked home afterwards.

My family were not unduly worried until midnight came and went. I did have permission to leave the venue early if my game concluded but even so I cannot imagine this happening today. We therefore eschew this kind of solution to the evening chess challenge.

If a 60 move game is to be completed in a three hour session, then most games would be finished with each player using perhaps around 80 minutes on their clock for a normal 45 move game. A bit of a rapid gallop perhaps.

Various leagues are developing their own codes of practice, de facto time limits and sundry associated rules.

And this is the rub – what would speed acceptance of increments is a standardised set of preferences and guidelines. Perhaps we should look to the ECF, and other similar national bodies, for such a lead.

I believe we should, after all who else is positioned to standardise anything in the chess orbit?

My question is: Can we afford to wait for this august body to proclaim or should we plough on, thereby running the risk of making a messy situation even worse?

Adjudication secretary's report

BECAUSE of the change in time limits, with QP default, there were only two positions to consider. Both were drawn.

The panel was Bernard Cafferty, Mike Nicholas and Geoff James.

Robert Elliston

Rule changes across the board

Julie Denning's report on a busy year for the ECF

AS is normal, the ECF Council met twice during the past year; the AGM held in October, 2018, and the Finance Council in April, 2019. Each was preceded by a meeting of the SCCU Executive Committee, largely to consider how to vote at the subsequent ECF Council meeting. In addition, the SCCU held its AGM, and a brief Executive Committee meeting, in July, 2019. I attended each of these meetings on behalf of SCCA.

I reported on the October, 2018, round of meetings to county and club officials. My report was also posted on the MSCL website and can be read at https://www.midsussexchess.org.uk/news/SCCU_ECF_BCF.htm

With regard to the SCCU meetings, I reported various changes had been agreed to the union's general and county match rules, but the latter would not be implemented until September 1, 2019, as it was deemed too late to bring them in for the 2018 / 19 season. However, at the time of writing this report, the rules published on the SCCU website (https://sccu-chess.com/index.php/en/county-match-rules) had yet to be updated with these changes, so I will summarise the main points. These are:

- Regarding clearance for an ungraded player to play in a grade-limited competition "Application to the Controller must be made prior to the match. If granted, clearance shall be considered to have been granted at the time it was requested". While emphasising that any such application must be submitted prior to the match, the point is that in case the County Match Controller is not available to give an immediate decision, a favourable one given later will be back-dated to the date / time of the application. It still means that any captain playing such a

player ahead of a decision is taking some risk.

- Any player wishing to leave the playing venue during play may only do so with the prior permission of the opposing team captain, who will notify both players.
- Greater detail on bringing mobile phones or other electronic devices into the playing venue.
- The penalty for violating either of the above 2 points will be loss of the game by the offending player.
- Any disputes submitted to the County Match Controller must be on a prescribed form (which the SCCU has yet to publish or circulate!) and be signed by the match captain. Any appeal against the subsequent ruling by the County Match Controller must also be submitted on a prescribed form, be signed by an Officer of the County Association and accompanied by a £30 fee, which will be refundable if the appeal is upheld.

Many of these changes were inspired by the unfortunate number of disputes and appeals that had arisen during the 2017 / 18 season.

With regard to the ECF AGM, in addition to my report, the official minutes are available on the ECF website (https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/ECF-AGM-Oct-2018-Minutes-1.pdf) .

The only point I will expand upon is the election of the Director of Junior Chess. Alex Holowzcak had announced that he was standing down as director of home chess as he felt he could no longer give the role the attention it deserved due to clashes of peak workload periods in this role with other commitments he had. Subsequently, and rather late in the day, the director of junior chess announced she was standing down, but was nominating Alex, with his agreement, to replace her. Alex did not believe this role would cause similar workload clashes. It's perhaps not difficult to see why some conspiracy theorists have since seen all of this as a pre-arranged stitch up by the ECF Board. I sincerely believe this was not so. The decisions of each director to stand down were independent and for different reasons. However, commendable though his commitment to chess is, it's unfortunate that his various tasks often make it impossible for Alex to attend board meetings, although he normally submits written reports. He is also something of a rising star internationally, having just been appointed chairman of FIDE's Olympiad technical administrative panel.

Turning to the April, 2019, meetings, I must put my hand up and admit that due to lack of time I never managed to report back at the time. However, the draft minutes of the ECF Finance Council meeting are on the ECF website (https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ECF-April-2019-–-Minutes-of-Finance-Council-Meeting.pdf) . I shall discuss just a couple of aspects further here.

At the October, 2018, AGM the finance director had sought, and received, agreement in principle for increases in membership fees over each of the following two years. This

was to give a degree of confidence that Council would approve at this April meeting a budget based on those levels of income. These agreements could not be binding as the ECF's Articles of Association specifically require membership fees to be agreed at the annual Finance Council meeting. Hence, the finance director put the same fee proposals to this meeting, seeking formal agreement to the proposals for 2019 / 2020 and a renewal of the agreement in principle to the proposed fees for 2020 / 21.

As the Minutes show, Council found this contentious and passed a motion that only the 2019/20 fees be voted on. The finance director seemed a bit upset by this, but I'm not sure why. Had the proposed 2020/21 fees again been voted on "in principle" (for final agreement at next April's Finance Council), at best he would have received a renewal of the agreement from last October and at worst a loss of that earlier agreement. As it is, he can proceed on this outstanding conditional agreement from October.

The full set of fees were given in a paper presented to Council (https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/C30.7-ECF-Finance-Council-Report.pdf) , but note that following comments from Council it was agreed that the non-members game fee for juniors should be £6, not £7.50.

I will just repeat here the main membership fees for 2019/20, with the junior fees in parentheses:

- Bronze £18 (£6)
- Silver £27 (£6)
- Gold £39 (£19.50)
- Platinum £75 (£75)

As has become a racing certainty for these meetings, expenditure on international chess was contentious. The bronze and silver member representatives had put up a motion that the contribution to international expenditure from membership fees be limited to £30k for each of the next three years. The international director put up a characteristic spirited defence of his expenditure, reminding Council of the successes English teams and players had achieved over the past year. The motion was defeated. As part of an overall finance presentation, the chairman of the finance committee showed some slides suggesting an alternative view on how members fees contributed to international chess costs. (This presentation has not been put in the public domain for anyone not at the Council meeting to see, but if anyone would like to see it let me know.)

As has become a racing certainty for these meetings, expenditure on international chess was contentious

His point was to counter a contention that grassroots bronze members with no interest beyond club and league chess were being asked to contribute ever increasing amounts to support elite players in international events.

He allocated all costs other than international to each membership category.

Those for home, women's, administration and contingency were allocated pro rata to the total number of members (adult plus junior) in each category, and those for junior pro rata to the number of juniors in each category.

He argued that the difference between the sum of these costs for each membership category and the membership income from that category represented their contribution to International chess. His figures indicated that bronze income almost exactly matched their share of non-international costs, and so were not contributing to international.

By contrast, there was a surplus of income over non-international expenditure of £4,675 from silver members and £26,756 from gold and platinum members. I leave it to readers to decide whether or not to accept this reasoning.

The director of women's chess put a motion to Council: "That all teams in the ECF stage of the County Championship open section from the 2019/20 competition onwards must include at least one female player. That female player shall be deemed to satisfy the qualification requirements for playing in that team." (The point of the second sentence being that the female player need not have a residence or other association with the county concerned.)

I had mixed views on this, supporting the principle of encouraging more female participation, but doubt over this way of going about it. Council shared those concerns and counter-proposed: "A team in the County Championships shall receive one extra point if it fields at least one female player in the National Stage, starting from the 2019/2020 season."

I considered this an improvement and was happy to vote in favour. However, what followed continues to confuse my simple brain.

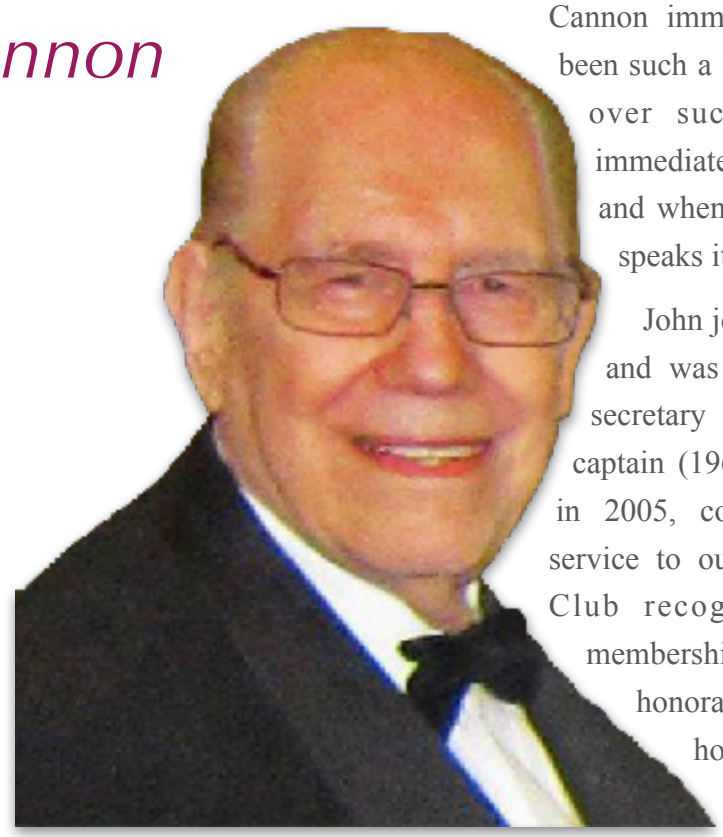
Despite the director of women's chess indicating that he was happy for the motion to be changed to the counter-proposal, the chairman first asked Council to agree the wording of the amendment – which Council did – but then asked for a second vote on the motion as thus amended in accordance with the first vote – which Council rejected. Hence, the whole idea failed.

I will conclude with some general points:

- The SCCU held a successful 6-round rapidplay team event in London on June 29. Sadly, there were no teams entered from Sussex.
- All levels of chess appear to suffer from a shortage of volunteers to take on various roles. Sussex is perhaps worse than many. In particular, we only managed to enter an Open team in the 2018 / 2019 County Championships due to a lack of team captains. It would be very welcome if others could step forward, thus enabling a broader range of Sussex players once again to enjoy participating in these competitions.
- The 2019 ECF AGM will be held in London on Saturday, October 12. A number of posts are up for election in accordance with the rotational schedule or otherwise. Details have been posted on the ECF website. If anyone is interested and requires help with being nominated please let me know.

County's 500+ record-breaker

Ian Comley reflects on the incredible chess career of John Cannon



WHEN our esteemed editor put out a request for extra articles last year it occurred to me that it would be interesting to review some of the chess stalwarts of recent years.

As a Horsham player who first arrived as a young graduate in January, 1988, and quickly found himself pressed on to the committee, John Cannon immediately sprang to mind. He has been such a strong force in the club and county over such a prolonged period. What immediately struck me was his sheer energy and when you look at the offices he held it speaks its own story.

John joined Horsham Chess Club in 1958 and was secretary (1964 to 2005), match secretary (1967 to 2005) and first team captain (1966 to 2006). He became chairman in 2005, continuing remarkable decades of service to our club. In 2018, Horsham Chess Club recognised his 60 years of club membership and service by awarding him honorary membership. I dread to think how many tables he set up at the beginning of an evening and how

EARLY VICTORY: John considering his position at BCF Nottingham 1954, left, and Horsham's victorious McArthur Cup team from 1969, above, with John centre.

many he put away again, how many cups were washed up while others rushed home!

John was club champion 10 times, a total only eclipsed by Stephen Hawes' remarkable 17 victories and James Mansson's subsequent 11. John has been very active in Sussex chess, too. As a strong player peaking with a grading of 195 in 1965, he was runner-up in the Sussex Individual Championship three times, in 1962, 1964 and 1968.

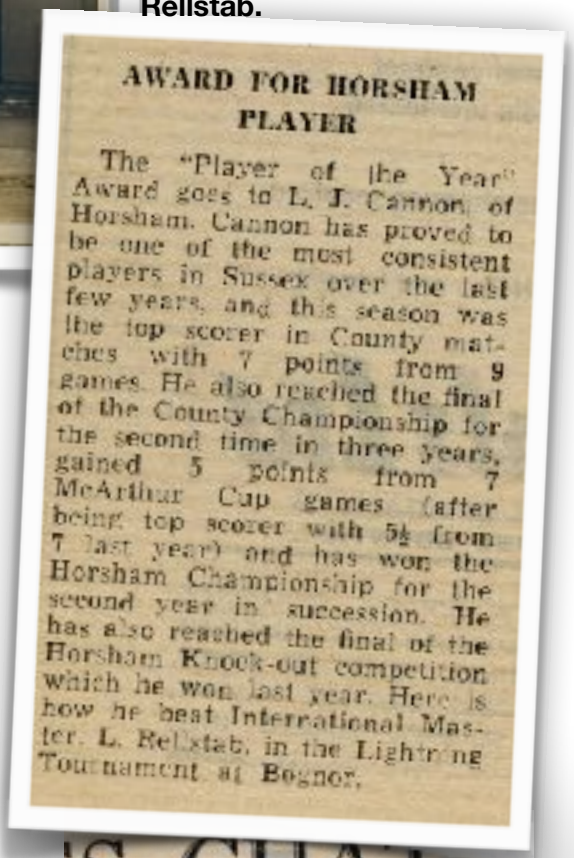
His county match record is unparalleled, playing a total of 515 county games, which is a national record that received national attention in the magazine Chess. John played for six Sussex teams: Open, U180, U160, U140, Minor Counties and the Sussex SCCU Jamboree team (in the 1960s) As well as captaining the Jamboree and U160 teams, he also tasted victory in teams that won two national U175 titles (and runner-up once) and four National Minor Counties titles

John played very actively at school showing early promise by winning the King's School, Macclesfield, championship at only 11. He was Stockport and district boys champion in 1947/8.

Durham University offered more testing opportunities and he captained the university and his college and played in three British Universities championships.

> John remembers twice arriving at away matches to find that the home team had failed to book the venue

IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN: The Northumberland Chess League, 1954, King's College, Durham University, with John centre. Below, his player of the year award in 1964 and below, a famous victory against West German IM Rellstab.



AWARD FOR HORSHAM PLAYER

The "Player of the Year" Award goes to L. J. Cannon of Horsham. Cannon has proved to be one of the most consistent players in Sussex over the last few years, and this season was the top scorer in County matches with 7 points from 9 games. He also reached the final of the County Championship for the second time in three years, gained 5 points from 7 McArthur Cup games (after being top scorer with 5½ from 7 last year) and has won the Horsham Championship for the second year in succession. He has also reached the final of the Horsham Knock-out competition which he won last year. Here is how he beat International Master, L. Rellstab, in the Lightning Tournament at Bognor.

SS CHAT

L. J. CANNON	L. RELLSTAB (W. Germany)
1. P–K4	P–QB4
2. N–QB3	P–Q3
3. P–KB4	N–QB3
4. B–B5	P–KN3
5. N–B3	B–N2
6. O–O	P–K3
7. B x N ch	P x B
8. P–Q3	N–K2
9. Q–K1	P–Q4
10. P–K5	N–B4
11. P–QN3	P–KR3
12. N–QB4	B–B1
13. B–R3	P–B5
14. N x BP	P–Q5
15. Q–B1	Q–Q4
16. N–K4	P–K3
17. B x B	K x B
18. Q–R3 ch	K–Q1
19. N–B5–N6	N–B3
20. N–B4	RESIGNS (if Q–N4 Q–Q6 and mate).

John represented Durham in the inaugural British Universities Championship at Cambridge in 1950 and his loss against co-winner and 1954 co-British Champion Leonard Barden was published, together with another game, in the Illustrated London News, by B.H.Wood, who wrote: "This week's two games, from the British Universities' Chess Congress at Cambridge, are typical of the play of our younger experts. Brilliancy in the finish is soundly based on a frightening knowledge of the openings; the first 17 moves in each were based on previous study." John also played at Oxford in 1951 and came equal second at Leeds in 1953.

John's many county match memories include games against future multiple British champions George Botterill (who had recently written a book about the Modern Defence and demonstrated its full strength!) and World Title Candidate GM Jon Speelman, also Sir Stuart Milner-Barry, a doyen of British chess and World War Two codebreaker.

John remembers twice arriving at away matches to find that the home team had failed to book the venue, which was otherwise in use. An unexpected experience was winning on time (in a won position) after 29 moves in the 1983 telephone match between Sussex and Cheshire.

Another curious episode was winning, by the only default of the match, on board 1 in one of John's earliest Sussex 2 matches, in 1995. Perhaps the most bizarre incident occurred in a 1986 away match, where John's opponent, playing black and with an advantage of 24 grading points, had reached a totally winning position when he quickly grabbed a knight, allowing a perpetual check. Following the final check, he surveyed the board for a while and then, without a word, left the table and the building, never to return, leaving his captain to subsequently agree the draw.

In the 1960s, L.A.Head wrote a regular chess column titled 'Chess Chat' in the Worthing Gazette and he used to announce an annual Sussex 'Player of the Year'. In 1964, John was awarded this honour, as well as winning the Norman Award as the highest Sussex scorer in SCCU matches in the same year (and again in 1967). His excellent Lightning win against the veteran West German IM Rellstab at Bognor was published (see opposite page).

FEELING CHAMPION: Horsham, Mid-Sussex League champions in 2001 with John centre and below the Illustrated London News article in 1954

CHESS NOTES.

Simultaneous displays were fairly common in the 1960s and 1970s and John played in 13 of them, drawing once and winning twice against Bob Wade (at three different clubs) and drawing with Leonard Barden, Jonathan Penrose, Owen Hindle, Cenek Kottnauer, Harry Golombek, William Hartston, Lajos Portisch, Tony Miles and Raymond Keene. Game number 13 proved unlucky and John lost against Mike Basman's 1 g4!

John's 2009 130-year History of Horsham Chess Club was one of the factors included in Horsham's successful submission as ECF Club of the Year 2010.

Grading set to go monthly

Grading officer Julie Denning: Changes are in the pipeline

ALL grading is up to date to the best of my knowledge.

There are some changes afoot. Although still work in progress, the ECF is intending to move to monthly grading lists, and an ELO-style 4 figure system, in the not too distant future.

You may have seen the summary of results from their recent consultation of members (https://www.englishchess.org.uk/grading-consultation-results/) . A dedicated consultation of graders has yet to take place, with some concern that we will revolt en masse in fear of additional workload.

My view is that provided there is some flexibility (e.g. for missing the occasional month due to other commitments) this should not be too bad. There will obviously be six times as many submissions, but no more games per season overall. However, for this and other reasons I must ask that from now on clubs (and the Mid-Sussex Chess League) assist me with automating the task.

There are two possibilities. Firstly, each club/league could utilise the ECF's League Management System (LMS). Although the clue is in the name to some extent, this system can be utilised for individual club results and be linked into from a club website.

Provided each club affords me access rights to their LMS data, I should be able to visit it each month and extract a properly formatted grading file that I can submit. Alternatively, I will need clubs to send me their results as an Excel spreadsheet in a very specific format. I will contact each club directly with further details.

SCCA Patrons 2019-2020

PLEASE help the work of the association by renewing your subscription for 2019-20. 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 email me a confirmation. Thank you in anticipation of your support for Sussex Chess.

Jim Wheeler, Treasurer, james.wheeler9@btinternet.com

To SCCA Treasurer Jim Wheeler

From Name (Block capitals)……..

Address……

……..

……..

I enclose my Patron's fee for 2019-20 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

TEAM RESULTS

HAVING come close several times before, this was the season that our teams scooped all four titles (U12, U14, U16 and U18) at the National Youth Chess Association finals in Kenilworth – a fantastic achievement.

Sadly, three fixtures in the junior chess calendar have not taken place this year – the ECF U18 Jamboree, the SCCU U18 Jamboree, and the SCCU U14 U130 grade league – depriving our older juniors of opportunities to represent the county on the national stage. The SCCU are hopeful that their events will resume next season.

As usual, our younger teams took part in the EPSCA Championships. After strong performances in the regional qualifiers (Zonals) the Under 9 team finished fifth, a big improvement on last year. The Under 11s

It just gets better and better!

TOP BOARD: Arjun Kolani was board 1 for the U12 squad

WINNING WAYS: Copthorne Prep U9 girls qualifying for the NSCC U11 Girls final, left, and, below, the U11 Girls team - second in the national final

finished seventh (above seeding), but the real stars were the Under 11 Girls who took second place out of 16 counties, well above their seeding.

Once again, Mike Forster (Horsham CC), organised a very successful fixture against Ireland in Dundalk, although unfortunately home advantage saw the Irish win back the Sir Patrick Moore Cup for only the second time in seven encounters.

Finally, our 4NCL Sussex Martlets teams had a mixed season. The first team comfortably retained their place in division 2, while the second team found themselves relegated to division 4. However, next season looks brighter with several players returning to the squad after exams.

SCHOOLS CHESS

Brighton College, who are almost unique in offering a chess scholarship, continued their dominance of the school cup competitions, winning both the Under 14 Butler Cup and the division 1 Under 11 Primary Cup.

They also took part in the National Schools Chess Championships at Under 19 level, making it through to the Finals.

A special mention goes to Copthorne Prep, whose team of Under 9s in the NSCC Under 11 Girls section also made it through to the national final.

Many thanks to Julian Franklin of Windlesham House School for running two very successful competitions.

More than 50 teams from 33 different schools entered the Primary Cup; and 26 teams from 18 schools entered the Butler Cup.

Next year we are keen to restart the Sir Clarence Sadd Cup (U16) and the Wilson Cup (U18).

FEELING CHAMPION: Top, the U16- team NYCA champions, and, below, the Primary Cup Div 1 Brighton College champions

THE FUTURE LOOKS VERY BRIGHT: The U18 team, NYCA champions

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS

Congratulations to Elena Currah, Adam & Oliver Faulkner (all Crowborough CC), Max Wilton (Brighton CC), Abhi Jadav & Raina Jithendra (both Brighton College) who were all selected to the National Chess Junior Squad this season.

Arjun Kolani and Cassie Graham were selected by the ECF to take part in the Glorney-Gilbert International (a 6-nation round robin) in Ireland; Arjun was board 1 for the U12 squad who narrowly came second, and Cassie was board 1 for the U18 Girls who won their section.

ALL SMILES: The U14 team, NYCA champions

LOOKING FORWARD

As we approach our 25th anniversary, the national junior chess scene is undergoing a resurgence in activity, with more junior organisations than ever before forming junior sections and participating in national competitions.

Recent newcomers like Maidenhead and Coventry are already forces to be reckoned with. While this is very healthy for our players, raising the standard of competition; the challenge for traditional county organisations like ours is to react to, and compete effectively with, organisations that operate within a smaller geographic area and so can offer more frequent contact time.

Our training days and tournaments continue to be very well supported but we have noticed rising costs, particularly for venues and prizes.

Our philosophy has always been to make our events financially accessible to all so that no child is prevented from learning to play chess on the grounds of cost. So it is with regret that we will have to make a small increase in our entry fees for the first time in three years.

TROPHY TRIUMPH: The U12 team, NYCA champions

Reports by Carol Graham

… AND FINALLY

Thanks to all the clubs in Sussex that welcome juniors, and to the volunteers who make it possible for us to run our events.

We are also proud of our older juniors who have given up their time to assist at our events as volunteer coaches – Callum Brewer, Matt Forster, Cassie Graham, and Amy Hoare.

Finally, thanks to Brian Stockham, Chaski Patrick, Chris Jones, Gary McCulloch, Jonathan Tuck and Dave Graham for their work in schools constantly encouraging players to take their first steps from school to county chess.

A CURIOSITY: a short game in which the note to one move, the 10th, takes up more space than the rest of the moves combined!

Bernard Cafferty v Henry Cove, Hastings One v Hastings Two, October 10, 2019

1 e3 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 c4 e6 4 b3 Bd6 playable, but 4...Be7 is probably safer.

5 Bb2 Nbd7 6 Nc3 c6 7 Qc2 b6?! 8 cxd5 exd5 9 Nxd5!? cxd5 10 Qc6 Qe7?

Black had to try to trap the intrusive queen by 10...Qc7 11 Qxa8 0-0 12 Nd4 and White keeps a small plus, e.g. 12...Bb7 13 Qxa7 Ra8 14 Nb5 Rxa7 15 Nxc7 Bxc7 and it will take some time before the rook and extra pawns cope with the two frisky enemy knights.

Less clear is the line 12 Rc1 Nc5! as the tempting 13 Bxf6 is then met by the N check on d3 with great complications - the enemy queen takes her revenge on her opposite number by finishing up on h1!

11 Qxa8 0-0 12 Qxa7 1-0 An admirable example of good sportsmanship rather than dragging the game out by pointless attempts to get to move 20 before throwing in the towel... (BC 16.02, 13 vii 19)

Bernard Cafferty

McArthur Cup final Brighton 1 v Horsham bd 3, January 6, 1974, White John Henshaw, Black Paul Kington

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 Bb4 5.e3 c5 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 O-O 8.cxd5 Qxd5 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.Qe2 cxd4 11.exd4 h6 12.O-O b6 13.Re1 Bb7 14.Rb1 Rac8 15.Rb5 Qd6 16.Bxh6 gxh6 17.Qd2 Ne7 { If 17....Kg7 18 Rg5+ Kh8 19 Rh5 etc.} 18.Qxh6 Ned5 19.Re5 (Published in Brighton and Hove Gazette of June 15,1974, and Sussex Chess News, of July, 1974. Played at Brighton.) 1-0.

Play through: http://www.bognorandarunchessclub.co.uk/sussex-chess-news-games.html

NCC last 16 King's Head v Brighton, March 9, 1980, White, Andrew Whiteley, Black John Henshaw

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nf3 e6 4.g3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 d5 6.Bg2 e5 7.Nb3 d4 8.O-O Nc6 9.e3 Bg4 10.f3 Be6 11.exd4 exd4 12.Re1 Be7 13.Bg5 O-O 14.N1d2 d3 15.Be3 Re8 16.a3 a5 17.Rc1 a4 18.Nc5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 Nd4 20.Kh1 b6 21.Bxd4 Qxd4 22.Rc3 Bf5 23.Ne4 Bxe4 24.fxe4 Rad8 25.Qd2 Nxe4 26.Bxe4 Rxe4 27.Rxe4 Qxe4+ 28.Kg1 h6 29.Rc1 Qe2 30.Rd1 Qxd2 31.Rxd2 Rd4 32.h4 Rxc4 33.Rxd3 Rc1+ (Played in London in the National Club Championship) 0-1

Play through: http://www.bognorandarunchessclub. co.uk/sussex-chess-news-games.html

Sussex v Berks at Horsham board 4, November 8, 1986, White John Henshaw, Black, J.A. Freeman

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.d4 e6 5.a3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Qa4+ Bc6 8.Qc2 Bd6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 g5 11.Bg3 Bxg3 12.hxg3 g4 13.Ne5 Bd7 14.e3 c6 15.Bd3 Qc8 16.Rc1 Kf8 17.Ne2 Kg7 18.Nf4 Qb7 19.Bg6 Be6 20.Bxf7 Bxf7 21.Ne6+ Kg8 22.Nd8 Qe7 23.Ndxf7 Ne4 24.Nxh8 1-0

Play through: http:// www.bognorandarunchessclub. co.uk/ sussex-chess-news-games.html

Sussex County Championship final 2018-9. Game 1. Sat 10 August 2019. Brighton & Hove CC. White: Feliks Kwiatkowski. Black: Paul A.Batchelor. Sicilian Defence, Dragon variation.

1.e4 c5; 2.Nf3 d6; 3.d4 cd; 4.Nxd4 Nf6; 5.Nc3 g6; 6.Be3 Bg7; 7.f3 0-0; 8.Qd2 Nc6;. [This is the first decision point in the main-line Dragon. Fashion swings between Bc4 and 0-0-0 on the next move. The former move leads to those opposite-side attacks against each player's castled King that have made this variation famous. Black has a large choice of set-ups with his heavy pieces. Each set-up is assessed as slightly doubtful with perfect analysis. However, White has to play to a near-perfect standard to stay alive, never mind stay on top. Further, you never know which of the numerous attacking ideas you might be facing. Finally, there is one line against Bc4 where Black can force a drawish position. All this militated towards my actual choice.] 9.0-0-0 d5; [The only tactical choice here is 9. … Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6;. Allegedly, this is very dubious for Black.] 10.Qe1 … ;

[The Q-dodge has, for the present, replaced the immediate capture in the centre as the focus of fashion. After the game, Paul showed me 10. ed Nxd5; 11.Bd4 Bxd4; 12.Qxd4 Qb6; where the Dragon specialists insist that White has no advantage.]

10. … e5; 11.Nxc6 bc; 12.ed Nxd5;. [Had Black played … cd; practice has proved that the centre pawns are very vulnerable after Bg5 and Bc4.] 13.Bc4 Be6; 14.Kb1 …; [White has choices here. I am making no special claims for mine.] 14. … Re8!; [This Rook move has become accepted as an effective defence.] 15.Ne4 f5; 16.Ng5 Kh8?!; [Theory goes with retreating … Bc8; after which White has very little, if anything. The sane reply to Paul's choice would have been

17.Nxe6 Rxe6;. After 18.Bb3 … ; White threatens a pin with c4, but Black just puts the Rook in the way. I got frustrated by not finding any immediate win and went for complications – not a good decision. I should just have taken the Bishop-pair and played quietly.]

17.Bb3 Bg8!?; [Consistency. Black plans to answer 18.c4 with … f4; leading to chaos.] 18.Bc1 Qf6!; 19.h4 …; . [This was my great idea. After Black kicks with 19. … h6; 20.h5 … is challenging. There is nothing immediate for either side that I could find, but the Black K-position is under obvious stress. After the game, I was puzzled that I had gone for this high-pressure approach, which is not really how I like to play.] 19. … Nf4;.

[Black seeks to ease the pressure by swapping pieces and blocking the h-file.] 20.g3 Bxb3; 21.ab Nh5; 22.Rd6! …; [A fortuitous tactical shot, based on the traditional Knight fork. Black "must be worse" now, but proving it is another question. Earlier, my computer sternly insists on 20.Rd7 …; and suggests answering 21.g3 … with … Nd5. Go figure.] 20. … Qe7;.

[And now, the computer says 23.g4 … ; would have been strongest, followed by the simple capture on c6.] 23.Qd1 Nf6; .

[Black chickens out of of 23. … Nxg3; 24.Re1 … . White has pressure and the computer does not disapprove, but 23.g4 … ; would have been cleaner. After Black's actual choice, the position becomes very easy for White to handle. All I needed to do was to avoid blunders in the mutual time pressure now upon us.]

24.Ne6 Nd5; 25.Nxg7 Kxg7; [If 25. … Qxd6; 26.Nxe8 Rxe8 27.c4 … . This was the cheapo I was playing for. However the computer assesses the immediate 25.Rxc6 as a win. I did not have the time to verify the idea, so just went for the obvious. I am now the one with the 'Dragon Bishop' and I knew the psychological effect would be serious.] 26.Rxc6 Rad8; 27.Qe2 Qd7; 28.Rc4 Nb6; 29.Rc3 e4; 30.h5 Nd5; 31.Rc4 Nf6; 32.hg hg; 33.Bg5 ef; 34.Qxf3 Ne4; 35.Rxe4! … . [This was Black's last throw, hoping for the fork after 35.Bxd8?? … .] 35. … Rxe4; . [If instead … fe; then 36.Qf6+ … wins.] 36.Qc3+! … . [The Black heavy pieces have been lured away from defending the weakie on d8.] 36. … Qd4; [Otherwise there will be a decisive Rook check. If instead, 36… Rd4; then 37.Bxd8 Qxd8. 39.Rd1 is really embarrassing.] 37.Bxd8 … . [This was the point. The Queen is pinned, so Black resigned. Note how the Black Knight hopped all over the board without finding anything worthwhile to do.1-0.

Feliks Kwiatkowski

Sussex County Championship final 2018-9.Game 2. August 24, 2019. Brighton & Hove CC. White: Paul A. Batchelor. Black: Feliks Kwiatkowski. Gruenfeld Defence, Bf4 variation

1.d4 Nf6; 2.c4 g6; 3.Nc3 … ;. [The first surprise. White usually plays 3.f3 … . There are various replies. I had experimented with 3. … Nc6; previously. I had decided to stay faithful to it, but was not put to the test.] 3. … d5; 4.Nf3 Bg7; 5.Bf4 0-0; 6.Rc1 … ;.

[So here it is. There is a fistful of Bf4 lines against the Grunfeld, offering a mix of set-ups. I keep losing against all of them on the internet, which is my way of learning a new opening. The most popular set-up is to play e3 before playing Rc1. I had forgotten the nuances of playing Rc1 first, so I had to make it up as I went along.]

6. … dc; 7.e4 Bg4; 8.Bxc4 Nfd7!?; .

[A deviation. Theory recommends the forthright 8. … Bxf3; 9.gf Nh5; 10.Be3 e5;, heading for a solid endgame. I looked up the line I chose, to find it's hardly ever played. "The computer" suggests 9.d5 … ;, while strong White players who have faced the line just drop the Bishop back to e2, before it's kicked.] 9.Be3 Nc6; 10.Qd2? … ; .

[I have written before about the stress which the County Championship inflicts on those who chase it. There goes another victim. How else to explain this blunder?] 10. … Bxf3; 11.gf Nb6;.

[With my eleventh move, I made White an offer he could not refuse. At the time, we both thought that I was just winning material. Of course, White can save his material with the retreat 12.Ne2 … ;. Black has an active game after 12. … Nxc4; with ideas like … Qd6; and … f5 coming into consideration, but White can fight on.]

Agreed ½ - ½ .

Yes, I know, you don't need to tell me. This wasn't a very impressive game. But can YOU do better in the 2019/20 Championship?

Feliks Kwiatkowski

4NCL 2018-9, Division 3, Round 11. White: D. B. Scott. [Surbiton] Black: Feliks Kwiatkowski. [King's Head] May 6, 2019. Daventry.Anti-Gruenfeld System

[This was played on Board 1 in the crucial last match of the season.] 1.d4 Nf6; 2.c4 g6; 3.f3 Nc6; 4.d5 Ne5; 5.e4 d6; 6.Nc3 Bg7; 7.f4 Ned7; 8.Nh3! e6?!;.

[8.Nh3 … ; is the main line of the cranky … Nc6; system. Black's idea is indeed to undermine the White centre with pawn exchanges, but it's more accurate to castle first.] 9.Be2 ed; 10.cd 0-0;

11.Nf2 Nc5; 12.0-0 c6; 13.dc bc; 14.Kh1 d5; [White's last was a little slow.] 15.e5 Nfd7; 16.b4 Ne6; 17.b5 Bb7; 18.bc Bxc6;

[The computer now suggests 19.Bb5, with a level game. I had predicted White's next two actual moves, and had calculated part of my response.]

19.Nxd5 Nxe5; 20.Ba3 Bxd5; [I had thought keeping the Queen was necessary, but the computer will have none of my nonsense. It insists on 20. … Qxd5; 21.Qxd5 Bxd5; and if 22.Bxf8 Nxf4; 23.Bxg7 Kxg7;, with a winning attack.] 21.Bxf8 Nxf4; 22.Bxg7 Bxg2+; 23.Kg1; Qg5!.

[This was the whole point of the combination. I could see no defence when working out the idea and, to my surprise the computer sees no defence either.]

24.Ng4 Bxf1; 25.Kxf1 Kxg7; 26.Nxe5 Qxe5; 27.Bf3 Rb8; 28.Rc1 Rb2; 29.a4 Qe3. White resigned. 0-1.

[All very satisfying at the time. This was part of a 5 ½ - ½ win that secured Kings' Head's promotion, as champions, to Division 2 of the National League. But the computer does not permit satisfaction. Had White played 21.fxe5 … ; it assesses the game as level after 21. … Re8. The point is that 21. … Bxe5; is dangerous after 22.Ng4 … ;. Would I have avoided 22. … Bxe5 if we had arrived at the position? We shall never know.]

Feliks Kwiatkowski

Mid-Sussex Chess League 2018-9, Division 1.White: Mark Broom. [Lewes] Black: Feliks Kwiatkowski. [Haywards Heath] October 25, 2018. Haywards Heath. English Opening, Symmetrical variation

[This was played on Board 1in the opening match of the season for HH. Having beaten Mark for the first time ever in the preceding season, I had permitted myself to have hopes for this game. Unfortunately the game went to pattern. White is a considerable expert in the English Opening. He entered the middle game here without any advantage and simply left me to hang myself from my ignorance of the plans and nuances typical in these positions.]

1.c4 c5; 2.g3 g6; 3.Bg2 Bg7; 4.Nc3 Nc6; 5.e4 e6; 6.Nge2 Nge7; 7.0-0 0-0; 8.d3 d6; 9.Rb1 b6; 10.a3 Bb7; 11.b4 Qd7; 12.Bg5 h6; 13.Bf4 Nd4; 14.Qd2 Kh7; 15.Qd1 Rac8; 16.Nb5 Nxb5; 17.cb d5; 18.bc Rxc5; 19.Qb3 Rfc8; 20.Rfc1 Kg8; 21.a4 d4; 22.Rxc5 Rxc5; 23.Bd2 Nc8;.

[As they say, one bad piece makes the whole position bad. In this game, I found no good role for the Knight.]

24.Bb4 Rc7; 25.Bh3! a6; 26.Nf4 Kh7; 27.Nd5 Bxd5; 28.ed ab; 29.de fe; 30.ab Qxb5; 31.Bxe6 Na7; 32.Bg8+ Kh8; 33.Bc4 Qd7; 34.Re1 b5; 35.Be6 Qc6; 36.Bd5 Qd7; 37.Re7 Qc8; 38.Re6 g5; 39.Ba5 Rc1+; 40.Kg2 Qd7; 41.Rb6 Rc5; 42.Rb8+ Rc8; 43.Rb7 … . Black resigned. 1-0.

Feliks Kwiatkowski

COUNTY TEAMS: THE OPEN

Essex 12 Sussex 4.October 27, 2018					
1	Pert, Richard G	237	0.5 - 0.5	Lalic, Bogdan	237
2	Lewis, Andrew P	213	1 - 0	Varley, Nicolas	214
3	Gallagher, Daniel GH	209	0 - 1	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	203
4	Sands, David A	201	1 - 0	Mansson, James C	192
5	Goldberg, Jeff A	200	0.5 - 0.5	Wilson, Jaimie	192
6	Hodgson, John H	185	1 - 0	James, Geoffrey H	188
7	Fegan, Chris	187	1 - 0	Farr, Peter G	186
8	Spearman, David	183	0.5 - 0.5	Tebbs, Howard L	182
9	Bowmer, Kevin	185	1 - 0	Batchelor, Paul A	175
10	Perez Carballo, Manuel	182	1 - 0	Roberts, David N	172
11	Parols, Vladimir	181	0 - 1	Kelly, Paul J	164
12	Cocks, Elliot	179	1 - 0	Pickersgill, Adrian O	163
13	Corfield, Julian	180	1 - 0	Taylor, Paul	162
14	Myall, Ivan J	177	0.5 - 0.5	Wheeler, James M	160
15	Hampton, Christopher	179	1 - 0	Palmer, Alan H	149
16	Rix, Steven JL	174	1 - 0	Woods, Timothy J	133

Kent 8 Sussex 8. January 19, 2019					
1	McDonald, Neil R	235	0.5 - 0.5	Lalic, Bogdan	237
2	Morris, Philip J	214	0 - 1	Varley, Nicolas	214
3	Chandler, Cliff R	214	0.5 - 0.5	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	203
4	Hand, Freddie	206	1 - 0	Broom, Mark	199
5	Hanreck, Alan E	200	0.5 - 0.5	Mansson, James C	192
6	Snape, Ian L	196	0 - 1	Wilson, Jaimie	192
7	Sugden, John N	194	1 - 0	James, Geoffrey H	188
8	Jamroz, Krzysztof	190	0 - 1	Farr, Peter G	186
9	Watson, Mikey J	182	1 - 0	Tebbs, Howard L	182
10	Ball, Laurence	189	0.5 - 0.5	Newman, Stephen J	183
11	Bayford, Jim R	181	0 - 1	Elliston, Robert V	171
12	Tucker, David S	179	0.5 - 0.5	Roberts, David N	172
13	Kolomvas, Dimitrios	174	0 - 1	Batchelor, Paul A	175
14	Watson, Jacob	173	1 - 0	Kelly, Paul J	164
15	Anstead, Jerry	171	0.5 - 0.5	Wheeler, James M	160
16	Jamroz, Viktor	162	1 - 0	Palmer, Alan H	149

Sussex 6.5 Surrey 9.5. March 2, 2019					
1	Lalic, Bogdan	237	0.5 - 0.5	Franklin, Samuel GA	219
2	Varley, Nicolas	214	0.5 - 0.5	Holland, James P	213
3	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	203	0.5 - 0.5	Briscoe, Chris	203
4	Broom, Mark	199	0.5 - 0.5	Josse, Mark	201
5	Patrick, Chaski	194	0 - 1	Tambini, Jasper	200
6	Mansson, James C	192	0.5 - 0.5	Osborne, Marcus E	197
7	Wilson, Jaimie	192	0 - 1	Frostick, Clive A	200
8	Rutherford, Luke E	0	0.5 - 0.5	Keane, Graham DJ	193
9	James, Geoffrey H	188	0 - 1	Rosen, Daniel B	194
10	Farr, Peter G	186	0.5 - 0.5	Punnett, Alan K	188
11	Tebbs, Howard L	182	0.5 - 0.5	Shepherd, Paul D	184
12	Newman, Stephen J	183	1 - 0	Phillips, Owen S	169
13	Forster, Matthew	179	0 - 1	Shepley, Julien M	180
14	Higgs, Anthony RJ	177	0.5 - 0.5	Young, Daniel J	175
15	Elliston, Robert V	171	0.5 - 0.5	Faulks, Nick W	169
16	Roberts, David N	172	0.5 - 0.5	Way, Julian M	164

Sussex 11.5 Middlesex 4.5, February 2, 2019					
1	Lalic, Bogdan	237	0.5 - 0.5	Bates, Richard A	229
2	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	203	0.5 - 0.5	McMichael, Richard J	207
3	Broom, Mark	199	0 - 1	Stone, Andrew M	203
4	Anthony, Gareth	193	0.5 - 0.5	Pedersen, Carsten	197
5	Mansson, James C	192	0.5 - 0.5	Gilfillan, Andrew	186
6	Wilson, Jaimie	192	0.5 - 0.5	Coles, Steven F	186
7	Rutherford, Luke E	0	0.5 - 0.5	Mackenzie, Colin	184
8	James, Geoffrey H	188	1 - 0	Fleming, Nigel D	182
9	Farr, Peter G	186	1 - 0	Fulton, Anthony R	179
10	Tebbs, Howard L	182	0.5 - 0.5	Calvert, D Ian	177
11	Newman, Stephen J	183	1 - 0	Rubeck, Jonathan	168
12	Costley, Martin O	179	+/-	N.N.	
13	Elliston, Robert V	171	+/-	N.N.	
14	Batchelor, Paul A	175	+/-	N.N.	
15	Roberts, David N	172	+/-	N.N.	
16	Spanton, Tim R	167	+/-	N.N.	

COUNTY TEAMS: THE OPEN

	OPEN TEAM FINAL TABLE		
Position	**Team**	**Points**	**Boards**
1	SURREY	7	35
2	MIDDLESEX	5	32
3	SUSSEX	3	30
4	KENT	3	26.5
5	ESSEX	2	30.5

Quarter-final - Sussex 5 Greater Manchester 7, May 11, 2019					
1	G Cumming, Rhys	216	½ - ½	G Walton, Alan J	196
2	G Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	208	0 - 1	G Rawlinson, Aidan M	197
3	G Broom, Mark	202	½ - ½	S Niedbal, Piotr	176
4	G James, Geoffrey H	186	½ - ½	G Lamb, Harry	173
5	G Wilson, Jaimie	191	0 - 1	G Sakic, Simeon	162
6	G Mansson, James C	195	1 - 0	G Taylor, Mike	167
7	G Newman, Stephen J	183	1 - 0	G Tyton, Adam	164
8	G Farr, Peter G	179	1 - 0	S Dehghan-Afifi, Sajjad	139
9	B Selby, Paul R	142	½ - ½	G McElvenny, Damien	144
10	G Woods, Timothy J	131	0 - 1	S Lamb, Ian D	132
11	Default		0 - 1	S Nagy, Viktor N	
12	Default		0 - 1	S Busznyak, Arpad	

THE 2017-18 Ward-Higgs concluded with Sussex scoring 5.5 out of 16, to finish last 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.	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	Draw	1/2
5	Clark, Richard I.	Lunn, Tim	Loss	Loss	0/2
6	Mansson, Ralph A.	Stebbings, Anthony J.	Draw	Draw	1/2
7	Fryer, David W.	Milton, David H. Beckett, Rosanna	Draw	Draw	1/2
8	Sharp, Joseph	Thornton, John D.	Loss	Loss	0/2

Unfortunately, because we lost a couple of players and could only find one replacement, Sussex were unable to raise a team for the 2018-19 Ward-Higgs.

I am looking for a couple of volunteers to play in the next season. You 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.

The 5th 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): 3.5/6 (2 wins, 3 draws and 1 loss)
- Tim Spanton (Board 2): 3.5/6 (2 wins, 3 draws and 1 loss)
- Paul Batchelor (Board 3): 5.5/6 (5 wins and 1 draw)
- David Fryer (Board 4): 1/6 (1 win and 5 losses)

This placed the team in fifth place in division 2.

For similar reasons to the Ward-Higgs, Sussex were unable to raise a team for the sixth edition of this event.

Volunteers are needed

James Mansson
Sussex Correspondence team captain

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