

Notts News

Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

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Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of the new-look *Notts News*. Len Darby stepped down as editor at this year's NCA AGM, passing the baton on to Ian Kingston, who has also taken over the NCA web site (see below for more information about this). I'd like to thank Len for his sterling efforts during his time in the job.

As you probably know, Len published a comprehensive *Notts News* every couple of months. The plan this season is to publish much shorter issues (two pages at most) every week of the league season, with the goal of keeping everybody up to date with the latest news and results from the league, county championship and other events.

Notts News will be published via email as an Acrobat PDF file. Back issues will be available on the web site. I'll send a copy to everyone on the *Notts News* mailing list, which currently has about 100 names. You are welcome to redistribute it electronically or as hard copy.

If you're reading this but aren't on the mailing list, email nottsnews@nottschess.org to request a copy.

Contributions from any NCA members are welcome, especially from individual clubs. Match reports, congress reports – anything involving chess or chessplayers in Nottinghamshire will be published.

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Web site

As you may have already noticed, the NCA web site has moved from its old home to a shiny new domain: the home page is now <http://www.nottschess.org/>. The front page will contain the very latest news (usually ahead of publication in *Notts News*), with links to more detailed information elsewhere on the site and on individual club web sites, as appropriate.

As this is a brand new site, things are likely to evolve somewhat over the coming weeks and months as I work out exactly where to put things. Any suggestions for improvements will be carefully considered (in the light of what's achievable on a volunteer-run web site, of course!).

For the more technically minded: the site has been designed to comply fully with web standards, so everything should look reasonable regardless of whether you use the very latest browser or something much older.

Comments about, contributions to and suggestions for the web site should be sent to webmaster@nottschess.org.

Summer news roundup

There was plenty of activity around the NCA this summer, so the remainder of this issue is taken up with a summary of what's been going on. If I've missed anything out, please let me know.

National Club Championship

Newark won the National Club Championship Minor Plate competition in July.

Entry forms for the 2006 competitions were sent out by the BCF via email in early August. If your club didn't receive an entry form, you should contact Cyril Johnson, Director of Home Chess, to obtain one.

BCF Congress

Several NCA members competed in the BCF Congress in Douglas, Isle of Man, during August. Here's a brief summary; more details can be found on the BCF's web site.

Event	Player	Score	Position
British Championship	Paul Cumbers (Grantham)	5½/11	=21st (46 entrants)
Major Open	Ankush Khandelwal (Nomads)	3½/11	=33rd (35)
Under 16	Ankush Khandelwal (Nomads)	4/7	=9th (27)
	Daniel Wells (Newark)	4/7	
Under 14	Ankush Khandelwal (Nomads)	5/7	=1st (13)
	Lateefah Messam-Sparks (West Nottingham)	3½/7	=2nd (Girls)
Under 13	Lateefah Messam-Sparks (West Nottingham)	4/7	=2nd (Girls)
Under 150 grade	Marcel Taylor (Radcliffe & Bingham)	3/5	=7th (25)
5 Day Week 1	Marcel Taylor (Radcliffe & Bingham)	2½/5	=6th (14)
Harry Baines Week 2	Ian Kingston (West Nottingham)	5½/9	3rd (6)
Rapidplay (31 July)	Ankush Khandelwal (Nomads)	4/6	=6th (38)
Rapidplay (7 August)	Ankush Khandelwal (Nomads)	4/6	=5th (33)

Congratulations to Ankush Khandelwal: joint British Under 14 Champion!

Bunkers jamboree

Neil Graham

To mark the opening night of the Bunkers Chess Club at their new venue of The Rose of England, Mansfield Road, Nottingham, the club hosted a three-way competition with Gambit and Ashfield. The format was a 10 board Jamboree with two rapidplay games; 30 minutes on the clock each.

Round 1

John Harrison	(B1)	1–0	Glenn Halfpenny	(A1)
Mike Barnes	(G1)	1–0	John Tassi	(B2)
Richard Webster	(A2)	½–½	Peter Mercs	(G2)
Neil Graham	(A3)	½–½	Kevin Harvey	(B3)
Graeme Jennings	(B4)	½–½	Tony Wright	(G3)
Brian Hayward	(G4)	½–½	Bob Taylor	(A4)
Phil Morgan	(A5)	½–½	Adam Spencer	(B5)
Drag Sudar	(G5)	1–0	Stan Cranmer	(A6)
Patrick Allen	(B6)	½–½	Austen Carlton	(G6)

Matthew Moore (B7)	0-1	Simon Wells (A7)
Graham Gibson (G7)	1-0	Mike Frings (B8)
Alan Robinson (A8)	0-1	Ian Fillingham (G8)
Dorothy Blampied (B9)	½-½	Alan Morrey (A9)
John Prescott (G9)	1-0	Mike James (B10)
Terry Norris-Hunt (A10)	0-1	Ken Heath (G10)

Round 2

Glenn Halfpenny (A1)	½-½	Mike Barnes (G1)
Peter Mercks (G2)	1-0	John Harrison (B1)
John Tassi (B2)	1-0	Richard Webster (A2)
Tony Wright (G3)	1-0	Neil Graham (A3)
Kevin Harvey (B3)	1-0	Brian Hayward (G4)
Bob Taylor (A4)	0-1	Graeme Jennings (B4)
Drag Sudar (G5)	1-0	Phil Morgan (A5)
Adam Spencer (B5)	1-0	Austen Carlton (G6)
Stan Cranmer (A6)	1-0	Patrick Allen (B6)
Simon Wells (A7)	1-0	Graham Gibson (G7)
Ian Fillingham (G8)	1-0	Matthew Moore (B7)
Mike Frings (B8)	0-1	Alan Robinson (A8)
Alan Morrey (A9)	1-0	John Prescott (G9)
Ken Heath (G10)	½-½	Dorothy Blampied (B9)
Mike James (B10)	0-1	Terry Norris-Hunt (C10)

Final scores: Gambit 13; Ashfield 9; Bunkers 8.

Nottinghamshire wins Under 150 County Championship

Neil Graham

Nottinghamshire became National Under 150 Champions on 2 July after a nail-biting match with East Anglian champions Norfolk. The final score was 8-8 with Notts overall winners on board count by 29 to 43.

This result confirms Nottinghamshire's competitiveness at this level, as we also regained the Midlands title. Thus our overall results for the last three years are as follows:

2002-03	Midlands Champions	National Semi-finals
2003-04	Midlands Runners-up	National Semi-finals
2004-05	Midlands Champions	National Champions

Our results this year were:

Midlands Rd 1	Warwickshire	6½-9½	Nottinghamshire
Midlands Rd 2	Greater Manchester	8½-6½	Nottinghamshire
Midlands Rd 3	Nottinghamshire	9-7	Staffordshire
Midlands Rd 4	Nottinghamshire	10½-5½	Leicestershire
National Quarter-final	Nottinghamshire	9-7	Hertfordshire
National Semi-final	Leicestershire	7½-8½	Nottinghamshire
National Final	Nottinghamshire	8-8	Norfolk

Only 25 players represented the county in the seven matches and unfortunately some players had to stand aside such as the competition for places. The only disappointment was against Greater Manchester, when we defaulted two boards much to my chagrin when selected players failed to turn up. From then on it was tension all the way. In the closely contested Midland zone we trailed early leaders Staffordshire by 6-4, but won five of the last six games to finish. Leicestershire, who had already qualified, appeared to be in second gear and we had a relatively easy victory over them to overhaul our local rivals for the Midlands title. In the National quarter-final we beat Hertfordshire, with the match going down to the final two

boards, while in the semi-finals a rejuvenated Leicestershire were in much more determined form, and we again scrambled through by a narrow margin. In the final, our top three boards somehow managed to conjure up two points out of three with the match going into the last two minutes of time.

All the team contributed to a superb season, and whilst I would like to congratulate everyone a special thanks go to the players who secured those last gasp victories for us. A mention too for the juniors who played: Daniel Wells, Kishan Lakhani, Amisha Parmar and Ian Harris. It is unfortunate that other events and exams inevitably clash with the competition, but our improving juniors were reliable point scorers whenever they played. My other thanks go to the team members who could be relied upon both to turn up every match and also to score vital points. John Tassi, George Murfet, Brian Hayward and Dave Flynn played in all seven matches, with Tim Lane, Tony Wright, Phil Morgan, Kevin Harvey, Keith Roper and Sean Foreman featuring in six games each. We now come to the difficult part – defending our title in 2005-06 – and I look forward to consolidating our position as the top English county at this level.

Here are the detailed results of the epic final match:

Board	Grade	Score	Grade
1	Tony Wright 148	1-0	Dave Twitchell 149
2	Daniel Wells 146	½-½	Graham Blowers 146
3	Tim Lane 146	½-½	Jim McAvoy 146
4	Keith Walters 142	½-½	Brian Jeffrey 145
5	John Tassi 141	1-0	John Burrows 145
6	Kevin Harvey 139	0-1	Henry Duncanson 144
7	Dave Flynn 136	½-½	Tom Robinson 144
8	Keith Brameld 138	½-½	Chris Russell 143
9	Stan Cranmer 137	½-½	Nick Gorvin 143
10	Phil Morgan 137	1-0	Paul Badger 136
11	Brian Hayward 135	0-1	Les Gladwell 135
12	George Murfet 134	0-1	Chris Tuffin 129
13	Keith Roper 131	1-0	Joe Bell 128
14	Sean Foreman 126	½-½	David Guttridge 126
15	Bob Taylor 130	0-1	Greg Tebble 126
16	Neil Graham 128	½-½	Andrew Donnelly 117
Total		8-8	
Board count		29-43	

Polish visitors at West Nottingham

West Nottingham acted as host to two Polish WIMs, Agnieszka Matras and Katarzyna Toma, during July. A number of events were organised; details can be found on the West Nottingham web site.

Web sites

Finally, there's been a certain amount of web site activity over the summer:

- ◆ Bunkers set up their own site: <http://www.bunkerschessclub.org.uk/>
- ◆ ... and so did Gambit: <http://www.gambitchess.org.uk/>
- ◆ West Nottingham moved their site to <http://www.westnottinghamchess.org/>
- ◆ and as already mentioned, the NCA site also moved (see above)