

Notts News

Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

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nottsnews@nottschess.org

General Meeting (Rules Revision Meeting) of the NCA

To be held at Gambit CC at 7:30 on Tuesday 6 June 2006.

Agenda

1. Courtesies and minutes
Apologies; minutes of meeting of 7 June 2005; date of next meeting.
2. Proposed changes to League Rules
(As previously circulated in Notts News)
3. Report of Finance Committee
4. Any Other Business

The draft minutes of the 2005 RRM were circulated with the papers for the 2005 AGM; I can supply a further copy to anyone who wants one. Please advise me of any proposed changes or corrections. Hard copy of those minutes and of the proposed League rule changes will be made available at the meeting.

Andrew N. Walker
Hon Sec, NCA

EPSCA Under 11 Inter-Association Championship

Nottinghamshire's Under 11 team finished 6th in the national final, held on 13 May at Hampton School. This represents a big improvement on last year, when Nottinghamshire failed to qualify for the final. Perhaps more significant is the fact that this was a young team – most of the players will still be eligible next year.

Special mention should be made of the three players on Boards 1–3 – Brandon Clarke, Srikar Varadaraj and Andrew Garside – who scored 8/9 against the best that the rest of the country could offer.

Team	R1	R2	R3	Total
1 Wey Valley (Surrey)	16½	16	17½	50
2 Sussex	14½	15	15½	45
3 Yorkshire	12	15½	14	41½
4= Richmond	14	12	14½	40½
Hertfordshire	13	12	15½	40½
6 Nottinghamshire	11½	13½	12	37
7 Kent	11	10½	12½	34
8 Barnet	11	13	9	33
9 Oxfordshire	11	8	8	27
10 Berkshire	9	7½	7½	24
11 Wiltshire	7½	10	5	22½
12= Manchester	6	8	8	22
Lincolnshire	9	6	7	22
14 Staffordshire	6½	8½	6	21
15 Somerset	8	5	6½	19½
16 Oldham	5	5	5½	15½
17 Cheshire & North Wales	4½	4½	6	15

The tournament was a three-round jamboree over 20 boards.

The Nottinghamshire squad is coached by John Crawley, Trevor Williams, Bob Simpson, David Levens and Ian Kingston.

County Championship Quarter-Finals

Three matches, two semi-final places booked – not a bad day's work for the county's teams. The semi-finals will both be in Peterborough on Sunday 11 June – avoiding a clash with England's opening World Cup match on Saturday.

Nottinghamshire U150 – Sussex U150

Ian Kingston

Neil Graham signed off his last report with the hope that the team hadn't used up all its luck in the Midlands stages. I'm pleased to say that there was something still left in the tank, but as always seems to happen it was a close-run thing.

On paper there was practically nothing between the teams on the top eight boards, while on the bottom eight Notts had an advantage of over 10 grading points per player. But in truly perverse fashion, the top half yielded most of the points, while the bottom half struggled. As the afternoon wore on, the early lead established by Notts looked more and more fragile and thoughts began to turn to the possibility of resorting to board count to separate the teams. Notts reached 7½ points when Tony Wright demonstrated sound technique to win a nice bishop endgame and Steve Hunter successfully withstood some unpleasant pressure to secure a draw. That left Phil Morgan and David Toms to find half a point between them, as

Nottinghamshire U150 – Sussex U150 20 May 2006

Board	Grade	Score	Grade
1 Tim Lane	148	0–1	Jim Graham 148
2 Ian Kingston	144	1–0	Ray Williams 145
3 Keith Brameld	142	0–1	John Cannon 142
4 Steve Hunter	140	½–½	Anthony Higgs 140
5 Kevin Harvey	138	1–0	Alan Palmer 138
6 Dave Flynn	137	1–0	Jerry Stone 137
7 John Tassi	137	½–½	Keith Davies 135
8 Tony Wright	134	1–0	Peter Rayment 132
9 Neil Graham	136	½–½	Brian Izzard 130
10 Drag Sudar	131	½–½	Tim Woods 123
11 George Murfet	131	0–1	John Scholey 121
12 David Toms	131	½–½	Jamie Wilson 121
13 Phil Morgan	128	0–1	Graham Thomas 120
14 Shane Bhayat	127	0–1	Mick Plumb 113
15 Keith Roper	125	½–½	Paul Taylor 111
16 Marcel Taylor	126	1–0	Daniel Hirsch 110

8–8

Notts win on board count

it was now becoming clear that the board count would be in our favour.

Phil had the exchange for a couple of pawns, and under normal circumstances a win was certainly possible. Unfortunately, he was desperately short of time, and his flag fell while he was definitely not worse. Meanwhile, David had fought back from being a piece for two pawns down, constructing an apparently impenetrable fortress. Somehow this transformed itself into an unclear queen and pawn endgame, but the Sussex player manoeuvred cleverly to set up a queen exchange that gained a crucial tempo in the ensuing pawn race.

And that was when our small reservoir of luck yielded its last drop of good fortune: in a straightforward endgame with no fewer than three winning plans, David's opponent opted for a fourth option that led to a simple K + h-pawn vs. K draw. Much relief all round, and fitting reward for the captain's Herculean efforts in finding players.

Nottinghamshire U125 – Bedfordshire U125

Derek Cronshaw

Neil Graham and Mike Barnes worked wonders to produce 3 teams for Saturday 20 May. It seemed that everyone who could push a pawn was pressed into service, from baby-faced assassins to grizzled veterans. In the U125 match, Henry Pynegar and Michael Zhang, who don't yet play regular league chess, got us off to a flying start and for a time it looked as though we might pull off the impossible. However the odds proved too great and we eventually lost, 9–7.

Ah, well; it will have to be the World Cup...

Nottinghamshire U125 – Bedfordshire U125

20 May 2006

Board	Grade	Score	Grade
1	Mike Nailard	121	1/2–1/2 John Harbour
2	Rob Willoughby	111	1/2–1/2 George Ward
3	Mick Harper	107	1/2–1/2 Mark Atlay
4	Toby Thurgood	105	0–1 Pierre Casabeith
5	Daniel Lin	104	0–1 Mike Botteley
6	Ben Hobson	104	1–0 Les Mabb
7	Jixin Yang	104	0–1 Nigel Staddon
8	Derek Cronshaw	105	1–0 Chuck Robbins
9	Oliver Exton	98	1–0 Barry McLoughlin
10	David Dunne	99	1/2–1/2 Jon Bilsberry
11	Len Morell	89	0–1 Colin Solloway
12	Peter Smith	87	0–1 Kevin Bryant
13	Ebrahim Fredricks	80	0–1 Mark Puffett
14	Henry Pynegar	75	1–0 Turner Suvok
15	John Buttery	84	0–1 Jack Tattersall
16	Michael Zhang	–	1–0 Peter Housden

7–9

Essex U100 – Nottinghamshire U100

Michael Barnes

Firstly thank you to all who played for both the U125 and U100 teams, often at short notice.

The clash with the U125 match meant that eight players under 100 were not available. Also, the time of year meant that several people were on holiday or playing cricket. So a much weakened team were playing against a team with a

lowest grade of 87. We were outgraded by an average of 16 points a board.

All players fought right to the end and made it as difficult as possible for their opponents, which is great for the whole team. First to finish was Andrew Garside, who won well against a 92 grade who several times told me he couldn't believe how good he is. Ashton only lost to a one move blunder after being about equal after 25 moves. Ken on bottom board played steadily and got what turned out to be a crucial half point. Graham Gibson played one of the best five games of his life to destroy his opponent. Clifford won after being a piece down.

When the dust settled we needed one point from the last two games. Edwin Justice defended really well in a difficult position for about two hours when his phone rang after it had switched itself on in his pocket, resulting in an automatic default. Really unfortunate. Jonathan Day was a pawn up in a rook ending, but with split pawns. He lost one but outplayed his opponent in superb fashion to win.

So the semi-final is on Sunday 11 June vs. Norfolk (probably) at 1 p.m. at Peterborough (to avoid the England World Cup match on Saturday). This will be the same venue as the U150 match vs. Cambridgeshire.

I now face the problem of who to leave out, as many regular players who played for the U125 team are now available. I thank all who played and apologise if anyone is offended.

Essex U100 – Nottinghamshire U100

20 May 2006

Board	Grade	Score	Grade
1	J. MacWain	94	0–1 Jonathan Day
2	C. Phillips	98	0–1 Graham Gibson
3	D. Lewis	99	1/2–1/2 Barry Redburn
4	S. Burns	95	1–0 Matthew Moore
5	G. Gooding	95	0–1 Clifford Potter
6	A. Haydon	95	1–0 Edwin Justice
7	V. Chtym	94	0–1 Hamzah Ali
8	G. Lane	92	0–1 Andrew Garside
9	R. Prickett	91	1–0 Ashton Alfred
10	M. Crane	87	1–0 Mike Falgate
11	L. Whittaker	89	1–0 Terry Norris-Hunt
12	W. De Jong	89	1/2–1/2 Ken Heath

6–6

Notts win on board count

Best game prize

A reminder that you have until the end of May to get your entries for the NCA Best Game prize to Michael Barnes (mhbcchess@yahoo.co.uk).

Olympiad news

Neil Graham writes to say that as well as Abigail Cast representing Wales at the current Olympiad, another player with Nottinghamshire connections is competing. Mark Ozanne, who played for Ashfield a couple of seasons ago, is on Board 3 for Guernsey – he is a native of the island and is now a member of Exeter CC.

The official Olympiad site (<http://www.chessolympiad-torino2006.org/eng/>) struggled to provide live games early on, but seemed to get the problems fixed for Round 5.