

Notts News

Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

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NCA AGM

As the provisional date for the NCA AGM clashed with a football World Cup match (which could possibly involve England), the Rules Revision Meeting voted to put the AGM back by a week. So the AGM will be on Tuesday 11 July, at 7:30 p.m. at Gambit Chess Club. Provisionally, the agenda will be:

1. Courtesies – apologies/minutes
2. Officers' reports
3. Presentation of prizes
4. Election of officers
5. Any other business

Any items for the agenda that do not fall within the above should be notified to me as soon as possible and in any case no later than Tuesday 20 June.

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Hon Sec, NCA

NCL: final weekend (27–29 May)

Richard Truman

Thanks to everyone who turned out at the Bank Holiday weekend, when as usual we had a mixture of the good and the not so good. The first team kicked off with a draw against Guildford, who ended up getting promoted, which was a decent result (and thanks here to Michael McBeth for stepping in at what seemed like very short notice). We then came badly unstuck against Cheddleton (typified by yours truly making a fingerslip on move three (yes, 3!)), but recovered to thrash Monmouth and end up sixth, missing a promotion place by 3 points. This was really a fair bit adrift considering that we only played two of the five teams above us and how tight the division was. See the final table for details.

The second team had a relatively easy game against Addlestone on the Saturday, turned in a good result against Slough Sharks 4 (who beat the first team earlier in the season) on the Sunday, but on the Monday found SCS too strong: as one player commented, the first team ended up with then easier last round draw on paper.

Round 9

Guildford-ADC 4 – Nottinghamshire 1

1 Richardson, Keith B.	2240	1 – 0	Barnes, Michael H.	2200
2 Abayasekera, Roger	2185	0 – 1	Richmond, Robert J.	2190
3 Allinson, Julian	2205	½ – ½	Mercs, Peter J.	2110
4 Punnett, Alan K.	2155	0 – 1	Truman, Richard G.	2070
5 Stimpson, Philip M.	2090	½ – ½	McBeth, Michael	2050
6 Smart, Michael R.	2070	1 – 0	Burke, Steven J.	2065

3–3

Addlestone – Nottinghamshire 2

1 Dupré, Paul D.	2050	0 – 1	Lakhani, Kishan	2010
2 Gibson, Christopher	1970	1 – 0	Webster, Richard J.	2020
3 Klein, Cornelia	1905	0 – 1	Thompson, Brian	2030
4 Albrecht, Theo	1855	½ – ½	Graham, Neil	1930
5 Burgess, Thomas	1820	0 – 1	Wright, Antony J.	1920
6 Seale, Denis	1875	0 – 1	Lakhani, Anjali	1755

1½–4½

Round 10

Nottinghamshire 1 – Cheddleton

1 Barnes, Michael H.	2200	½ – ½	Wallace, Paul	2235
2 Richmond, Robert J.	2190	½ – ½	Acey, Gerald	2140
3 Mercs, Peter J.	2110	0 – 1	Buxton, David E.	2110
4 Truman, Richard G.	2070	0 – 1	Bennett, Patrick	2080
5 Walker, Andrew N.	2095	½ – ½	Soames, Anthony R.	2005
6 Burke, Steven J.	2065	½ – ½	Laurence, Geoffrey	1970

2–4

Nottinghamshire 2 – Slough Sharks 4

1 Lakhani, Kishan	2010	½ – ½	Varnam, Liam D.	2110
2 Webster, Richard J.	2020	½ – ½	Sparkes, Daniel A.	2030
3 Thompson, Brian	2030	½ – ½	Makepeace, Philip J.	2050
4 Harrison, John	2015	1 – 0	Coates, David	2025
5 Wright, Antony J.	1920	0 – 1	Edgell, Ben P.	2095
6 Lakhani, Anjali	1755	½ – ½	Winchcombe, Andrew	1870

3–3

Round 11

Monmouth – Nottinghamshire 1

1 Varley, Peter	2172	0 – 1	Richmond, Robert J.	2190
2 Beveridge, Nigel K.	2050	0 – 1	Mercs, Peter J.	2110
3 Davis, Lee	2025	½ – ½	Truman, Richard G.	2070
4 Waterfield, John	2035	0 – 1	Burke, Steven J.	2065
5 Roberts, Dave	1863	½ – ½	McBeth, Michael	2050
6 Allford, Zane	1764	0 – 1	Lakhani, Kishan	2010

1–5

Nottinghamshire 1 – SCS

1 Webster, Richard J.	2020	½ – ½	Reynolds, D. Ian	2125
2 Thompson, Brian	2030	0 – 1	Lutton, E. Josiah	2125
3 Graham, Neil	1930	½ – ½	Kilpatrick, Callum	2070
4 Wright, Antony J.	1920	½ – ½	Sen, Subin	2045
5 Lakhani, Anjali	1755	½ – ½	Heard, Andrew H.	2030
6 Lavelle, Terry W.	1815	0 – 1	Lutton, J. Arnold	1940

2–4

Full NCL results for the 2005–06 season can be found at <http://www.4ncl.co.uk/>.

National Club Championship

Graham Ladds

In the last three years Newark have won the Minor competition trophy twice and the Plate last year. However, we shall not be bring any silverware home this time.

Unfortunately, we lost in the semi-final to Maidstone (played at Whittlesford near Cambridge) 2½–1½. With Daniel Wells unavailable, David Coates played on top board and drew. I won on board 2, but Ian Burrige and Marcus Fox both lost.

Congress round-up

Dave Dunne (Fiveways) scored 4/5 to share 3rd place in the Minor section of the Huddersfield Congress, held on 12–14 May; Ankush Khandelwal (Nomads) shared 3rd place in the Rotherham Rapidplay in April, scoring 4/6; and David Levens (West Nottingham) finished equal 2nd in the Rhyl Open, scoring 3½/5.

Ankush also scored a notable first at the Ilford Congress, held on 27–29 May, with his first win over an International Master: Simon Williams (rating 2478 ELO; approximately 235 ECF). That became the springboard for him to go on and win the Open with a score of 5½/6, ahead of IM Philip Morris (220) and Robert Eames (200), who both scored 4½/6.

ECF Grand Prix

Several Notts players are among the leaders in the various sections of the ECF Grand Prix. Amisha Parmar (West Nottingham) has a narrow lead in the Female Prix, while her club mate Lateefah Messam-Sparks is in 8th place. Ankush Khandelwal (Nomads) leads in the Junior Prix, with Amisha Parmar in 8th. Darran Ince (Nomads) currently lies in 4th place in the 124–100 Graded Prix, and Dave Dunne (Fiveways) also holds 4th place in the Under 100 Graded Prix.

The Grand Prix continues until the ECF Congress in August.

Olympiad news

As mentioned recently, two players with Notts connections, Abigail Cast and Mark Ozanne, competed in the Turin Olympiad recently, representing Wales and Guernsey respectively. Abigail, playing on Board 1, scored 4½/11; Mark scored 5/11 on Board 3.

England's performances were below par overall. The men's team finished 19th (seeded 13th), but even that result flatters them slightly, since they didn't play any of the other top 20 finishers. Ray Keene's summary in *The Times* (8 June) seems pretty accurate: 'disappointing, but not catastrophic'. The women ended up in 42nd place (seeded 35th).

Setting parochial matters aside for a moment, the open event was convincingly won by Armenia, while Ukraine won the women's competition. Full results at <http://schach.wienerzeitung.at/tnr3410.aspx?lan=1>.

Given the usual near-absence of media coverage, it's been interesting to look at the online coverage of the Olympiad, particularly that produced by the home federations.

Helen Milligan and Jacob Aagard provided round-by-round coverage of the Scottish teams at <http://www.chessscotland.com/archives/olympiad2006.htm> – plenty of colour and some good photographs.

Mark Adams and Tim Kett provided detailed reports on the Welsh teams at http://www.welshchessunion.co.uk/html/olympiad_2006.html, including all of the Welsh players' games.

Ireland isn't technically a home nation, of course, but Mark Orr provided daily reports, photographs and games at <http://www.icu.ie/articles/display.php?id=29>.

I couldn't track down anything for Jersey (the Jersey Chess Federation doesn't appear to have a web site), and while there was also nothing about the Olympiad on the Guernsey Chess Federation site, there was plenty of coverage on the local BBC site (for example http://www.bbc.co.uk/guernsey/content/articles/2006/05/23/chess_olympiad06_3_feature.shtml) written by team member Garry Forbes.

As for England, the best the ECF could manage was this: http://www.englishchess.org.uk/national/2006/olympiad-news_may06.htm. No pictures, no details – disappointing, to say the least. A more colourful set of reports can be found at <http://www.bcmchess.co.uk/news/olympiad2006.html>.

On the political front, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov was re-elected as FIDE President, easily beating off the challenge of Dutch businessman Bessel Kok.

ECF news

There are interesting goings-on at the ECF just now. Chief Executive Roy Heppinstall is ill, and Cyril Johnson (Director of Junior Chess) has stepped in as Acting Chief Executive. Robert Richmond (West Bridgford) has resigned as Director of Finance and Geoff Steele (ECF Company Secretary) has taken on the role. David Lettington has resigned as County Championship Controller and Julie Johnson takes over for the rest of the season. All this is from the ECF web site: http://www.englishchess.org.uk/national/2006/ecf-announcements_may06.htm.

In addition, the Midland Counties Chess Union newsletter *The Middle Game* (issue 22, May 2006) reports that the Northern Membership Scheme (NMS) has been terminated by the ECF. The NMS was a pilot scheme within the Northern Counties Chess Union (NCCU) intended ultimately to replace the Game Fee system that presently funds the grading system. Until recently, the NMS was believed to be progressing well – there were some problems, but that's what a pilot scheme is supposed to unearth. The details of the scheme's collapse can be found in <http://www.midlandcountieschessunion.co.uk/MIDDLE%20GAME%202022.pdf>, although there is no doubt that the NCCU view of the situation will differ. There has been no official word from the ECF.

Also reported in *The Middle Game* is that the late John Robinson left the BCF (which still exists as a legal entity) the extraordinary sum of £650,000 in his will. The BCF/ECF now has to find a way of using this money without incurring a huge inheritance tax liability – junior chess seems to be the likely beneficiary.