

Notts News

Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

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<http://www.nottschess.org/> nottsnews@nottschess.org

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County Championship Semi-Finals

The Nottinghamshire U100 and U150 teams travelled optimistically to the Cambridgeshire village of Northborough on a hot Sunday afternoon (postponed by a day to avoid clashing with England's World Cup match against Paraguay). Just as England wilted in the heat, so did our teams, but where England were able to hang on for victory, we were not.

Nottinghamshire U150 – Cambridgeshire U150

Neil Graham

Notts lost in the Under 150 semi-finals to Cambridgeshire by 9–7 at Northborough, Peterborough. Whilst this was a disappointing result, it underlines Notts competitiveness at this level:

2002–03	Midlands Champions	National Semi-finals
2003–04	Midlands Runners-up	National Semi-finals
2004–05	Midlands Champions	National Champions
2005–06	Midlands Champions	National Semi-finals

Unfortunately, several key team members – notably Keith Brameld, Tony Wright, Dave Flynn and Keith Roper – were unavailable for this vital match. Whilst other squad members were back, I normally look to the above four players for full points. In addition, I found myself two players short on the morning of the match, one player dropping out after an unexpected death in his close family on Saturday night. I am indebted to Ian Nicholson and Ray Sayer who stood in at the last minute.

We faced Cambridgeshire at the same stage two years ago and then were comprehensively beaten 10–6 as the East Anglian side went on to win the final. Last year we had three strong juniors in the squad, but this time round we had to depend on pensioner power to pull us through. Unfortunately, although we were stronger on the upper boards, the last six boards yielded only two draws. The score was 6–6 after 12 games but towards the end the positions slipped away, with Tim Lane's top board win a mere consolation. If one board had gone the other way we would have again romped home on board count, but as Ian Kingston remarked last time, the luck reservoir had clearly run dry after our last two matches.

Ian Kingston adds:

There was always a sense that we were in trouble in this match – at no stage did we ever take the lead, although we were never, until close to the end, more than a point behind. We were also giving away an average of three grading points per board, but Ray Sayer showed how little that can mean with his draw on bottom board.

With three games remaining we trailed by a point and needed to find two points to secure a win on board count, but we were obviously losing on two boards, with only Tim Lane

having serious winning prospects. As it turned out, Tim displayed excellent technique to win a rook and pawn endgame, but the other games had already been lost.

Nottinghamshire U150 – Cambridgeshire U150 11 June 2006

Board	Grade	Score	Grade
1	Tim Lane 148	1–0	John Bell 146
2	Brian Hayward 148	0–1	Nigel Holroyd 145
3	Ian Kingston 144	1–0	Richard Donaghay 144
4	Steve Hunter 140	1–0	John Daugman 144
5	Kevin Harvey 138	½–½	Stephen Pride 143
6	John Tassi 137	½–½	Colin Byrne 141
7	Keith Walters 142	½–½	Peter Wagner 141
8	Neil Graham 136	0–1	Patrick Ribbands 141
9	Richard Edwards 135	1–0	Bernard Duff 140
10	Stan Cranmer 132	½–½	Richard Newman 140
11	Ian Nicholson 132	0–1	Mike Bradley 132
12	David Toms 131	0–1	Phil Turp 135
13	George Murfet 131	0–1	Stephen Hart 132
14	Phil Morgan 128	0–1	Peter Barkas 129
15	Marcel Taylor 126	½–½	Glyn Ward 127
16	Ray Sayer 109	½–½	Patrick Heneghan 126

7–9

Norfolk U100 – Nottinghamshire U100

Norfolk U100 – Nottinghamshire U100 11 June 2006

Board	Grade	Score	Grade
1	Crompton Clarke 99	½–½	Graham Gibson 99
2	Victor Morris 99	0–1	David Dunne 99
3	Robert Rickard 98	½–½	Oliver Exton 98
4	Nicholas Slater 96	½–½	Ted Pynegar 96
5	Gabriel Barr 93	1–0	Eric Williamson 96
6	Mark Collins 83	1–0	Barry Redburn 95
7	Steve Crane 81	1–0	Amar Mann 95
8	Mark Lavine 78	1–0	Len Morrell 89
9	Christopher Bartram 64	0–1	Peter G. Smith 88
10	Ben Slater 57	½–½	Hamzah Ali 75
11	Colin Goodchild 80	1–0	Ebrahim Fredericks 80
12	Richie Downie 64	1–0	Dorothy Blampied 66

8–4

All England Girls Gold Final

The final of the All England Girls Championships was held at Bramcote Hills Sports & Community College on 24 June.

The Nottinghamshire contenders put up a good showing, but couldn't quite manage to capture one of the titles. Lateefah Messam-Sparks (West Nottingham) came closest, scoring 4½/5 and missing out on retaining her U14 title on tie-break. Anjali Lakhani (Long Eaton) took 3rd place in the U18 with 3/5; Fatimah Ali scored 1½/5 in the U12 competition; and Ella Macleod (West Nottingham) scored 3/5 in the U10.

A full list of winners and results should appear on the ECF Women and Girls web site (<http://www.chessuk.com/>) shortly.

British Chess Championships

The British Chess Championships this year take place in Swansea from 6–18 August. The ECF has started to publish lists of entrants for the various sections at <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/events/bc2006/index.html>, and a few Notts names have already appeared in the lists: Stan Cranmer, David Coates, Marcel Taylor, Oliver Exton and Ian Kingston.

What many people may not be aware of is that you don't have to be a GM or an IM to become a British Champion. If you're old enough (over 60) you can compete for the British Senior Championship, and there are also graded championships: U175, U150, U125 and U100.

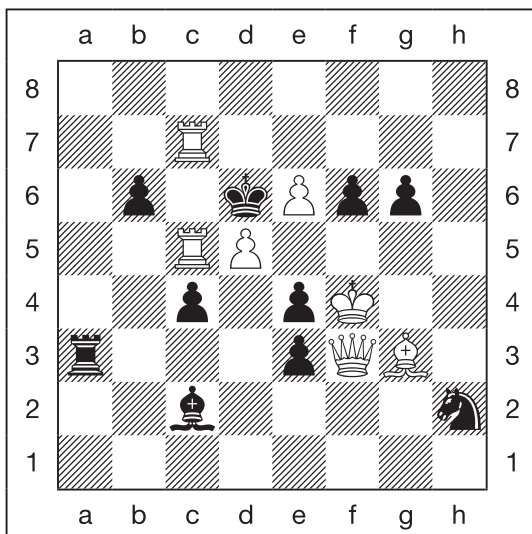
Although the main Championship event lasts for two weeks, the other competitions mostly only last for a week, so the cost can be reasonable, especially if you treat the non-chess-playing time as a holiday.

BCPS Starter Problem

This is the Starter Problem for the 2006–2007 Winton Capital British Chess Solving Championship. White, playing up the board, is to play and force mate in two moves against any defence. You may enter by sending White's first move (the key move) to:

Paul Valois
14 Newton Park Drive
LEEDS
LS7 4HH

Entries, post-marked no later than 31st July 2006, should be accompanied by a cheque or postal order for £3.00 made payable to British Chess Problem Society. Please indicate that you saw the Starter Problem in *Notts News*.



White to play and mate in 2

All competitors will receive (in mid-August) a full solution to this Starter Problem and those who get it right will also receive the postal round comprising 8 more difficult and

varied problems. Those entrants who are not members of the British Chess Problem Society will also receive a recent copy of one of that society's magazines, either *The Problemist* or *The Problemist Supplement*.

More information is available at <http://www.bstephen.freeuk.com/0607/announce.html>, where you can also check that I've copied the diagram correctly.

The NCA World Cup team

The surprising discovery that I have a namesake (Richard Kingston) playing in goal for Ghana at the World Cup sent me hunting through the other playing squads to see whether I could put together an entire NCA World Cup team. (Yes, I do have too much time on my hands.) I managed it in the end, but the side does seem to be overburdened with goalkeepers. For what it's worth, here's the team in alphabetical order:

Barry	Ivory Coast	Long Eaton
Edwards	Trinidad and Tobago	Gambit
Frings	Germany	Bunkers
Ince	Trinidad and Tobago	Nomads
James	England	Bunkers
Jones	Trinidad and Tobago	Grantham
Kingston	Ghana	West Nottingham
Lewis	USA	Ashfield
Moore	Australia	Bunkers
Robinson	England	Ashfield
Thompson	Australia	West Bridgford