

Notts News

Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

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Introduction

As you peruse the AGM report, you may notice that *Notts News's* editor has acquired a variety of new roles. I'd like to thank my predecessors in those posts (Drag Sudar, Ian Fillingham, Neil Graham and Jon Swain), and to explain why this is not quite the massive burden that it might appear to be at first sight.

The County Championship and Special Events are in fact to be organised by West Nottingham CC as a whole, not specifically by me. However, a named individual is needed, and as WNCC Secretary it makes sense for my name to be attached.

Adding the Records Secretary's job is not a huge amount of extra work, as I already have to keep detailed records to produce *Notts News* and the web site. If anything, the overall reporting of results should be speeded up.

The role of League Secretary is the main additional job. Just don't start any disputes, OK?

Erratum

You may have noticed a strange heading in the last issue – 'Bullet Editor's Report'. Obviously that should have read 'Bulletin', not 'Bullet'. My defence is that the whole issue was thrown together during the second half of Italy vs. Germany in the hope that I'd get to see the end of the game.

Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the AGM (held on 11 July) will appear in due course; here's a brief round-up of the decisions made and the new officers.

The proposal to reconstitute the Finance Committee as an Executive Committee to run NCA affairs was approved. The Executive Committee will consist of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, League Secretary and Congress Director, along with other members co-opted to specific meetings to deal with individual activities, as necessary.

Consideration of a proposal to adopt a membership scheme similar to that of the recently trialled Northern Membership Scheme, which would replace the existing Game Fee system and result in NCA members also becoming members of the ECF, was deferred to a Special General Meeting to be held in September.

Trophies were presented to the Divisional champions, the County Champion (Michael Barnes) and the Winner of the Best Game prize (Robert Richmond). (The winning game appears at the end of this issue; you can also play through it on the NCA web site.)

Various officers stood down from their posts, and the President, Michael Barnes, had come to the end of his three-year term, requiring new officers to be elected. Unusually, there were two candidates for the latter post, Maurice Hill (Nomads) and David Levens (West Nottingham). David Levens was elected by 17 votes to 4. All other posts attracted

either a single candidate or remain vacant. The full list of new officers and vacancies is (from my notes, and subject to confirmation):

- ♦ **President:** David Levens
- ♦ **4NCL Captain:** Tony Wright
- ♦ **U175 Captain:** Vacant – there is unlikely to be an U175 county team in any case
- ♦ **U125 Captain:** Vacant
- ♦ **U100 Captain:** Vacant
- ♦ **League Secretary:** Ian Kingston
- ♦ **Records Secretary:** Ian Kingston
- ♦ **LMC members:** Alex Posazhennikov, Maurice Hill, Barry Redburn, Steve Burke, Drag Sudar; Reserve: Graham Ladds (*my notes are indecipherable here – I think there are other reserves, and I'll update this once I have the official list*)
- ♦ **ECF Representative:** Robert Richmond
- ♦ **MCCU Representatives:** Vacant
- ♦ **Congress Director:** Robert Richmond
- ♦ **County Championship Organiser:** Ian Kingston/West Nottingham CC
- ♦ **Special Events:** Ian Kingston/West Nottingham CC

The full list of officers is given on the Information page of the web site.

The County Championship will not now be held on 21/22 October as announced last week. A new date will be announced soon.

British Land UK Chess Challenge Gigafinal results

The Notts qualifiers from the Trent Megafinal competed in the penultimate stage of the UK Chess Challenge – the Gigafinal – in Manchester on 8 and 9 July. Several qualified for the last stage (the Terafinal), as follows (* indicates section winner):

- ♦ **U7 Girls:** Sophie Hudspeth
- ♦ **U10 Boys:** Thomas Wild, Andrew Garside, Neel Kothari
- ♦ **U10 Girls:** Ella Macleod
- ♦ **U12 Boys:** Toby Thurgood
- ♦ **U13 Boys:** Daniel Lin
- ♦ **U13 Girls:** Anjali Lakhani*
- ♦ **U14 Boys:** Kishan Lakhani*
- ♦ **U14 Girls:** Lateefah Messam-Sparks*
- ♦ **U15 Boys:** Ankush Khandelwal*
- ♦ **U17 Boys:** Nigel Wright
- ♦ **U18 Boys:** Billy Grewal

There were many other good performances and several near misses. Full results are available at the competition web site: <http://www.ukchesschallenge.com/>.

Forthcoming Event: Lincoln Rapidplay

Just a short note from Kevin McCarthy, Nigel Birtwistle and Nick Payne, formerly of Grantham infamy.

We have attempted the impossible in taking on the task of developing Lincolnshire Chess at 4NCL, County and Junior levels by forming our own 4NCL team/club and we are running the first of three rapidplay tournaments this upcoming season.

All Notts players are cordially invited to come and pinch our prize money and have a good day of chess. Please shamelessly plug this link for us and pass it on to all your members: <http://www.PandorasBoxChessClub.org.uk/>, which has a load of background plus details and entry form for the rapidplay.

Hard copies of the brochure are available from Kevin McCarthy (KMCCARTHYZ@aol.com) if required.

Look forward to locking horns again at 4NCL.

National Club Championship

Neil Graham

Although Newark's interest in the National Minor ended in June (see *Notts News* No. 37), they will not have far to deliver the Plate Trophy won last year after Ashfield beat Westcliff (of Southend) by 2½–1½ in the Final.

This was played at Syston and the Ashfield scores were:

Stan Cranmer	½
Phil Morgan	0
Bob Taylor	1
Malc Jackson	1

Ashfield had beaten Wycombe and Hazlemere by a similar score in the semi-final when the winning side was Richard Webster, Bob Taylor, Malc Jackson and Paul Todd.

At one time all players had to be graded Under 125 for this event; nowadays the rules state that the average grade of the team needs to be less than 125.

County Championship Finals

The finals of the various County Championship events were held on 1 July. The U150 title was won by Yorkshire, beating Notts' semi-final conquerors Cambridgeshire 10–6. In the U125 event, Bedfordshire, who beat Notts in the quarter-final, went on to win, beating Warwickshire 8½–7½ in the final. Finally, the U100 championship was won 6½–5½ by Kent, who beat Norfolk (winners over Notts in the semi-final).

More details of these and the other events can be found at <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/events/bcfnatteam/county2006/index.htm>.

Dates for the Diary: 2006/07 Season

As noted in the AGM report, the date announced in the previous issue for the County Championship is no longer valid. A new date will be announced soon.

NCA Best Game Prize 2006

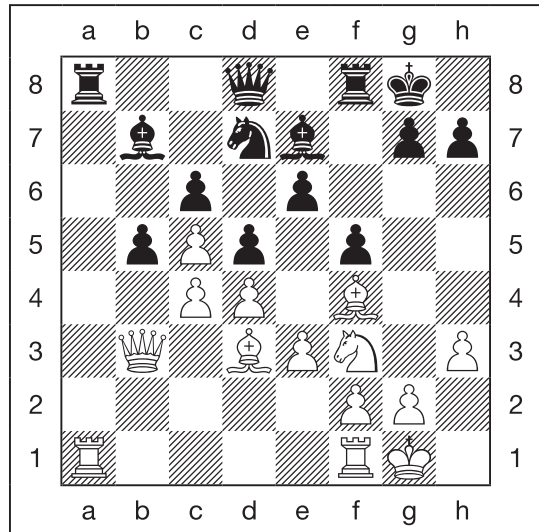
The winner of the Best Game Prize, Robert Richmond, has very kindly annotated the game for *Notts News*.

Robert Richmond – Glenn Halfpenny

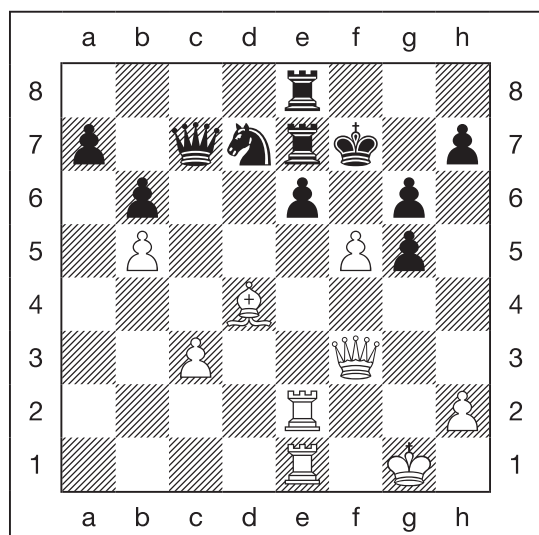
Notts League Division 1, 11 January 2006

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Bf4 (This bishop is going to be very powerful, controlling the b8 and c7 squares.) **4...Nf6 5.e3 0-0 6.Rc1 c6 7.Nf3 Nbd7 8.h3 Qa5 9.Qb3** (Better than Qc2 – avoiding the possibility of the discovered check after dxc4, Bxc4, b5, b4 and b3.) **9...Ne4 10.Bd3 Nxc3 11.bxc3 a6 12.0-0 b5 13.c5** (Neither pawn capture promises much, and I judged the e5 break by Black to be 'difficult'.) **13...f5**

(How do you assess this position? Black is cramped and has a very bad queen's bishop, but has seized space on the Q-side. White is better, but not obviously winning it would seem. However, I cannot find any better moves for Black in what follows. My initial thought was to play on the K-side and aim for e4 – however, on second thoughts...) **14.Ra1!** (Threatening a4.) **14...Bb7** (Trying to hold the Q-side. If bxa4 the black a-pawn is undefendable.) **15.a4 Qd8 16.axb5 axb5 17.c4!!**



(The Alekhine moment. In Alekhine–Bogoljubov, Nottingham (where else?) 1936, there was a similar unsupported pawn advance: 1. Nf3 d5 2. d4 Nf6 3. c4 c6 4. Nc3 dxc4 5. a4 e6 6. e4 Bb4 7. e5 Ne4 8. Qc2 Qd5 9. Be2 c5 10. O-O Nxc3 11. bxc3 cxd4 12. Nxd4 Bc5 13. Nf3 Nd7 14. Rd1 Qc6 15. Bxc4 O-O 16. Ng5 g6 17. Bb5 Qc7 18. Ne4 Be7 19. f4 Nc5 20. Nf6+ Bxf6 21. exf6 Bd7 22. Be3 Bxb5 23. axb5 Nd7 24. g3 Nxf6 25. Bd4 Nd7 26. Qf2 b6 27. Re1 Qc4 28. Rab1 Rac8 29. Qe3 Rfe8 30. Qf3 f6 31. Rb4 Qc7 32. Rb2 Re7 33. Rbe2 Kf7 34. g4 Rce8 35. g5 ffg5 and now Alekhine played 36. f5!! – one of the most famous moves in chess history.



36... Qf4 37. fxe6+ Rxe6 38. Qd5 Nf6 39. Bxf6 Qg4+ 40. Rg2 Qf5 41. Be5 Kg8 42. Rf2 Qg4+ 43. Kh1 h5 44. Rg1 Qh4 45. Rf6 Kh7 46. Rxe6 Rxe6 47. Qd7+ 1-0) **17...g5 18.Bh2 g4 19.hxg4 fxg4 20.Ne5 Bf6 (Hoping for 21.Nxg4 Nxc5.) **21.Nxd7 Qxd7 22.cxb5 cxb5 23.Bxb5 Bc6 24.Bxc6 Qxc6 25.Qb6 Rac8 26.Ra6 Qxb6 27.cxb6 Rf7 28.Ra7 Rxa7 29. bxa7 Kf7?** (29...Ra8 30.Bb8 is pretty, but it may be quicker to play the bishop around to c5.) **30.Bb8 1-0****