

Notts News

Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

2006–07 No. 1 9 August 2006

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2006 Nottinghamshire County Championship

Ian Kingston

The date and venue for the 2006 County Championship have now been fixed: the event will take place at the Beeston Youth and Community Centre, West End, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1GL on 21–22 October (ignore what was said about the date in the last issue – booking a venue this side of Christmas on any other date was a non-starter). The venue is a spacious hall a short distance from the centre of Beeston, with plenty of parking space. It's just 5 minutes by foot from Beeston bus station and 10 minutes walk from Beeston railway station.

We have changed the format of the competition slightly so that everyone has a chance to win a title. There will be four sections:

- ♦ Open
- ♦ Under 150
- ♦ Under 125
- ♦ Under 100

The winner of each section will be the Nottinghamshire County Champion for that grading bracket. There will also be junior prizes and a number of other prizes to keep everyone involved up to the final round. The entry fee will be £10 per player – a significant reduction on previous events. Full details, as well as entry forms, will be available shortly.

The aim is to revitalise the competition and make it an essential date in the calendar for Nottinghamshire's players. Put the date in your diary now and make your plans!

Special General Meeting

Andy Walker

There will be a General Meeting of the NCA on Tuesday 19 September at 7:30pm, provisionally at Gambit CC. This follows discussion at the AGM and is primarily to discuss membership of the ECF. As this has a major impact on such things as game fee, direct membership, congress fees and so on, it directly affects our pockets. Further information will be circulated in advance of the meeting if it becomes available.

Any other items for the agenda should be notified to me as soon as possible. In addition, there will be an Executive Committee meeting on Friday 15th September. Any items that you wish us to discuss should be notified to me, or to any other member of the Committee [D. G. Levens, R. J. Richmond, I. Kingston, M. J. Hill, A. J. Wright and N. Graham].

A. N. Walker
NCA Secretary
secretary@nottschess.org

County captains needed

As many of you know, last season's county teams were organised by Neil Graham (U150 and U125B), Derek

Cronshaw (U125A) and Michael Barnes (U100). Neil and Michael, in particular, went far beyond what the county's players might reasonably expect, with each of them captaining a team for which they were not qualified to play.

This season, Neil is staying on as U150 captain, but captains are needed for the U125 (just one team this season) and U100 teams. Tony Wright is looking into the possibility of running an U175 team, while David Levens is in charge of finding the other two captains.

It's not reasonable (except in an emergency) to expect people to captain a team that they can't play for, so volunteers are needed from the ranks of people who played for the teams last season. Over 50 people played for the U125 teams last year and 25 played for the U100 team; even if you remove the juniors from the equation, that's still a sizeable pool of candidates.

If you played in either of the two competitions last year, you can expect a phone call soon to ask you to be captain. Or you could short circuit the process by stepping forward now. An email to president@nottschess.org would do the trick.

County Team Championships

The MCCU U150 fixtures have been published. Notts will play on the following dates:

- ♦ 14 Oct Warwickshire (A)
- ♦ 18 Nov GMCCA (A) (likely to be intermediate venue)
- ♦ 10 Feb Staffordshire (H)
- ♦ 17 Mar Leics (H)

The captain, Neil Graham, is contacting all players in the 125–150 grading range to check on availability. If you want to play and haven't been contacted, call Neil (01623 483731)

New grading list

The new grading list was published on the ECF web site towards the end of July – if you haven't already checked your new grade, visit <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/grading/>.

A list of Notts grades will be published on the NCA web site shortly.

Fixtures

Ian Kingston

The league handbook for 2006–07, including the season's fixtures, will be posted to all club secretaries by the end of this week (they're sitting in a box beside me now). If your club's package doesn't arrive next week, please let me know.

The net loss of three teams from the league (Long Eaton 2 and 3, Fiveways 2 and Bunkers 4 out; West Nottingham 7 in) has resulted in a restructuring of the league by the LMC. There are still five divisions, but now arranged in an 8 8 8 8 7 structure instead of last year's 9 8 8 8 9. West Nottingham 2

and Mansfield 2 missed out on promotion as a consequence; Nomads 3 were reprieved from relegation.

British Championship

The British Championship and associated events are under way in Swansea, continuing until 19 August. Several NCA players are playing (some not until next week), and you can follow their progress via the official web site: <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/events/bc2006/>. At the time of writing, Notts scores are (out of 3 unless otherwise stated):

- ♦ British Championship: Ankush Khandelwal (Nomads) 1
- ♦ Major Open: David Coates (Newark) 2½; Daniel Wells (Newark) 2; Billy Grewal (West Nottingham) 1½; Richard Webster (Ashfield) 1
- ♦ U16: Ankush Khandelwal 1½; Lateefah Messam-Sparks (West Nottingham) ½
- ♦ U13: Oliver Exton (Nomads) ½/2
- ♦ 5 Day Open Morning Week 1: Marcel Taylor (Radcliffe & Bingham) ½/2
- ♦ Rapidplay (6 August): Ankush Khandelwal 5/6 (=2nd)

I hope I haven't missed anyone. I'll be in Swansea in the second week; if I have internet access I'll try to update the web site with the progress of local players.

Bunkers Jamboree 2006 – BAG Challenge II

Drag Sudar

Last year Bunkers hosted a challenge match between themselves, Ashfield and Gambit. It was such a good evening that we agreed to have another one at the end of this season.

So on Tuesday 25 July, 30 players met up at the Navigation for the second challenge match. It was a 10 board, two round jamboree with each player having 30 minutes on the clock. Neil got the event off to the best possible start by forgetting to bring the draw with him!

Kevin Harvey generously dropped himself when 11 Bunkers players turned up, but this tactical blunder proved fatal for Bunkers' chances of winning.

Round 1

In Round 1, Ashfield got 6 points, Gambit 5 and Bunkers 4.

J. Harrison	(B)	0–1	M. Barnes	(G)
P. Mercks	(G)	½–½	S. Burke	(A)
G. Halfpenny	(A)	1–0	K. Brameld	(B)
A. Griffiths	(B)	1–0	Z. Soki	(G)
B. Hayward	(G)	0–1	R. Webster	(A)
R. Taylor	(A)	1–0	M. Radford	(B)
M. Moore	(B)	1–0	A. Wright	(G)
D. Sudar	(G)	1–0	S. Cranmer	(A)
N. Graham	(A)	1–0	M. Frings	(B)
S. Parham	(B)	0–1	M. Harper	(G)
G. Hopkinson	(G)	0–1	M. Jackson	(A)
N. Wright	(A)	0–1	A. Chubb	(B)
K. Cairney	(B)	0–1	D. Padvis	(G)
K. Heath	(G)	½–½	S. McIntosh	(A)
T. Norris-Hunt	(A)	0–1	P. Allen	(B)

Round 2

In Round 2, Ashfield got 5½ points, Gambit 6½ and Bunkers 3.

S. Burke	(A)	0–1	J. Harrison	(B)
M. Barnes	(G)	0–1	G. Halfpenny	(A)
K. Brameld	(B)	0–1	P. Mercks	(G)
R. Webster	(A)	1–0	A. Griffiths	(B)
Z. Soki	(G)	1–0	R. Taylor	(A)
M. Radford	(B)	1–0	B. Hayward	(G)
S. Cranmer	(A)	1–0	M. Moore	(B)
A. Wright	(G)	½–½	N. Graham	(A)
M. Frings	(B)	0–1	D. Sudar	(G)
M. Jackson	(A)	1–0	S. Parham	(B)
M. Harper	(G)	1–0	N. Wright	(A)
A. Chubb	(B)	0–1	G. Hopkinson	(G)
S. McIntosh	(A)	1–0	K. Cairney	(B)
D. Padvis	(G)	1–0	T. Norris-Hunt	(A)
P. Allen	(B)	1–0	K. Heath	(G)

This meant that Ashfield and Gambit were tied on 11½ points. A playoff (three five-minute games) was arranged with Kevin and Patrick drawing out three pairings at random.

Richard Webster clinically took Gary Hopkinson apart piece by piece. Glenn missed Tony's sacrifice and was mated. Sally battled gamely against Brian but experience finally told with Brian forcing through a passed pawn. So Gambit narrowly defended their 'title'.

NCJS Young Masters (24 July)

The National Chess Junior Squad Young Masters tournament was held at Millfield College, Somerset, from 18–23 July. Although the results aren't yet available on the competition's web site, news has reached me that Ankush Khandelwal (Nomads) won the event, despite a loss to Billy Grewal (West Nottingham) in the last round. Billy finished fourth. More details: Ankush scored 7½/10; Billy 6½; Kishan Lakhani 5; and Anjali Lakhani 4 (best unrated player).

Forthcoming Event: Lincoln Rapidplay

The organisers of the Lincoln Rapidplay on 28 August have asked me to remind everyone about the event. Details and entry form are at <http://www.pandorasboxchessclub.org.uk/>. If you're thinking of playing, but aren't quite sure, please get in touch with Kevin McCarthy (kmccarthy@aol.com): he's trying to get a handle on the likely number of entrants so that the right amount of equipment will be available.

A note on by-lines

Articles in *Notts News* are written by various people, and the name of the contributor appears after the title. If there is no by-line, that means that I wrote the piece in my capacity as editor. However, sometimes (as in a couple of items in this issue) my name will appear, indicating that I'm not wearing my editorial hat, but am instead writing in some other capacity.