

Notts News

Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

2006–07 No. 2 2 September 2006

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

Copyright © Nottinghamshire Chess Association 2006

Special General Meeting

A reminder that there is a General Meeting of the NCA on Tuesday 19 September at 7:30 p.m. at Gambit CC. This follows discussion at the AGM and is primarily to discuss membership of the ECF.

The fixture list has been cleared on that date, so there are no clashes with club commitments.

More details of the proposed new membership scheme will be published in a special edition of *Notts News* very shortly.

Handicap Knockout

Entries are invited for the team Handicap Knockout tournament. The format is the same as last year: teams of three playing rapidplay games each member of the opposition with a time handicap determined by the players' grading difference.

Clubs may enter as many teams as they wish, but no player may play for more than one team. The entry fee is £2 per team, and the prize is a chess clock for the winning team.

The only significant change from last season is that weeks have not been reserved in which to play these matches. Instead, teams will be told the date by which each match must be played.

Please send your entries, accompanied by a cheque payable to 'Nottinghamshire Chess Association', to the tournament controller, Michael Barnes (60 Portland Road, Carlton, Nottingham BG4 3PZ; Tel 01 15 987 2706; mhbchess@yahoo.co.uk). **The closing date for entries is 19 September 2006.**

Handbook corrections

Ian Kingston

All club secretaries should now have their League Handbooks, including the fixture list. There are a handful of corrections:

- ♦ pp. 4–6: Gambit 4–Nomads 3, Newark 2–Gambit 3 and Gambit 3–Newark 2 require new dates.
- ♦ p. 7: Phil Morgan's address should be *Carsic Lane*, not *Carsic Road*
- ♦ p. 8: West Bridgford's secretary should be Tim Walker, 27 Kittiwake Mews, Nottingham NG7 2DH; 01 15 970 5892

The fixture list, containing these and any other corrections, will be available for download from the web site as soon as the revised dates have been settled.

British Championship

The British Championship and associated events took place in Swansea from 6–19 August. Several NCA players took part, and two of them achieved notable successes. Ankush Khandelwal, making his debut in the main event, was ranked 61st of the 62 competitors, and I'm pretty certain he was the youngest as well. His final score of 5½/11 (sharing 28th place)

was therefore a spectacular result, which will see him gain 56 rating points.

Lateefah Messam-Sparks may not be as highly rated, but she came away from Swansea as a double British Champion. In the first week she took the Girls Under 16 title outright, while in the second week she won a crucial last round game to share the Girls Under 14 championship.

The rest of the county's players had varying degrees of success. Dave Dunne was in contention for the U100 Championship, but could only draw in the last round. Brandon Clarke, a leading member of the Notts Under 11 team, was a strong contender for the Under 10 Championship, but slipped up in the final two rounds. Final scores for the Notts players:

- ♦ **British Championship:** Ankush Khandelwal (Nomads) 5½/11
- ♦ **Major Open:** David Coates (Newark) 6½/11; Daniel Wells (Newark) and Richard Webster (Ashfield) 6/11; Billy Grewal (West Nottingham) 5½/11
- ♦ **Under 16:** Lateefah Messam-Sparks (West Nottingham) 3½/7 (Girls Under 16 Champion); Ankush Khandelwal 3½/7
- ♦ **Under 14:** Lateefah Messam-Sparks 3½/7 (Joint Girls Under 14 Champion)
- ♦ **Under 13:** Oliver Exton (Nomads) 4/7
- ♦ **Under 10:** Brandon Clarke (NPSCA) 4½/7
- ♦ **U150:** Stan Cranmer (Ashfield) 2½/5
- ♦ **U100:** Dave Dunne (Fiveways) 3½/5
- ♦ **5 Day Open Morning Week 1:** Marcel Taylor (Radcliffe & Bingham) 1½/5
- ♦ **Day Open Morning Week 2:** Ian Kingston (West Nottingham) 3/5
- ♦ **Day Open Afternoon Week 2:** Ian Kingston 3/5
- ♦ **Rapidplay (6 August):** Ankush Khandelwal 5/6 (=2nd)
- ♦ **Rapidplay (13 August):** Ankush Khandelwal 4/6

ECF Grand Prix

The ECF Grand Prix, run by Neil Graham, ended at the British Championship in August. Several NCA players appear among the leading scorers. Ankush Khandelwal won the Junior Prix;

Nottinghamshire County Championship

Don't forget!

The Nottinghamshire County Championship, for players of *all* strengths, not just the highly graded players of Division I, takes place on 21–22 October at the Beeston Youth and Community Centre. The details are being finalised and entry forms will be available very soon.

Put the date in your diary *now*!

21–22 October 2006

Amisha Parmar was 4th in the Female Prix; Darran Ince was 9th in the 124–100 graded section; and Dave Dunne was 4th in the Under 100 section. Full results can be found at <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/events/grandprix/>.

British Land UK Chess Challenge Terafinal

This year's UK Chess Challenge reached its conclusion in Sheffield on 19–20 August with around 180 competitors – the survivors of over 70,000 who started the competition. As expected, the Nottinghamshire qualifiers featured strongly, although none was able to carry off a title.

All age groups mix together in the Terafinal and Challengers events, so a player's score should be taken in conjunction with the player's age in assessing the result. The Challengers A and B competitions are of roughly equal strength. The Notts results (converted from the UK Chess Challenge scoring system to the usual 1½/0 system) were:

Terafinal (56 competitors)

Name	Score (max. 6)	Place	Age
Ankush Khandelwal	5	=3rd	15
Kishan Lakhani	4½	=6th	14
Lateefah Messam-Sparks	3½	=15th	14
Anjali Lakhani	3	=22nd	13
Brandon Clarke	3	=22nd	10

Challengers A (60 competitors)

Name	Score (max. 6)	Place	Age
Daniel Lin	4½	=6th	13
Andrew Garside	3	=25th	10
Nigel Wright	3	=25th	17
Thomas Wild	2	=43rd	10

Challengers B (61 competitors)

Name	Score (max. 6)	Place	Age
Billy Grewal	5	=3rd	18
Toby Thurgood	4	=7th	12
Neel Kothari	2½	=39th	10
Ella Macleod	2½	=39th	10

Lincoln Rapidplay

Two NCA players made the prize list at the Lincoln Rapidplay, held on 28 August. Both were in the Open section: Alex Posazhennikov (Nottingham University) and Michael Barnes (Gambit) finished =2nd with 4/6. More details and photographs at <http://www.pandorasboxchessclub.org.uk/4.html>.

East Midlands Junior Rapidplay Chess Grand Prix 2006/07

Entry forms are now available for this series of events, run by the Nottinghamshire Primary Schools Chess Association. The competition is open to all juniors, with Under 10, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 18 sections. The competition consists of three one-day rapidplay tournaments, all held at Dovecote Primary School, Clifton, Nottingham NG11 8EY. The dates are: 7 October 2006, 25 November 2006 and 19 May 2007. Entry fee £15 for all three days. Contact John Crawley (01773 827179) for more details.

Growth

David Levens

One of the main topics at the first meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee of the NCA was the need for growth. Ever since my return to the world of chess, the decline in the number of clubs and number of bodies playing this great game has been high on the agenda. But if you examine Brian Hayward's list of graded players you might realise that 39 of those players, nearly a sixth of the total, are juniors under 18. Without those juniors our decline would have been even more severe; without them juniors we probably would have struggled to field sides in the under 100 and under 125 county series.

Ever since I got elected to the NCA, originally as its Publicity Director, I have been banging on about the importance of juniors in clubs; I can see no other realistic way to increase our membership. Unfortunately, this will not happen unless there is a real will within clubs to embrace this idea wholeheartedly. We need to move out of our smoke-filled, dimly lit, cheap pub rooms and into family friendly venues. Or we can continue to play chess over a pint and preside over its further decline in the county of Notts.

This is not a new problem – it existed when I was young and forced me and some friends to form our own club (called Cedars) back in the late 1950s. Other young players in the London area soon followed suit and Mushrooms, Toadstools and the more prosaic Islington sprang up soon after. There are many advantages in pursuing this policy:

1. Juniors become adults, obviously.
2. Juniors often bring willing and helpful parents, who will provide transport, take on the roles of team captains and administrators and, in some cases, even restart their own chess careers!
3. The media are only really interested in the exploits of youngsters – that is where we will gain valuable publicity.
4. When these very enthusiastic parents realise that their children are not getting a fair deal from politicians and others, they will begin to shout very loudly at the powers that be and then, and only then, will politicians and the media sit up and take notice.

Some clubs within the UK have recognised the truth of this:

3Cs (Manchester area)	32 mainly young players
Rotherham	9 adults, 24 juniors
Richmond Juniors	146 members
Richmond and Twickenham	73 adults, 38 juniors
Rugby/Rugby Juniors	17 adults/8 juniors
West Nottingham	30 adults app, 40 juniors
Coulsdon and Purley	70 adults, 11 juniors
Coulsdon Chess Fellowship	142 adults, 349 juniors

Finally: This year's UK Chess Challenge attracted over 74,000 entries; that's 74,000 potential new chess club members! But for all the grumbles, where were our club secretaries when the local Megafinals were being staged? You might have picked up a player or two.

The Turkish Chess Federation has grown by an average of 20,000 members per year for the last 6 years and, self-evidently, that is mainly through juniors. On an official US government web site the growth in junior chess there is also mentioned with pleasure and astonishment. China, Africa and India are also seeing a boom in chess. But these encouraging signs all start from juniors – adults simply don't suddenly take

up chess in large numbers. As the old adage goes, 'You can take a horse to water but you can't make it drink'. This committee can show you the way, this committee will support you, but if you truly want growth you have to make the effort.

Alan Hart

Ray Forey

It is with real sadness that we have to report the death of Alan Hart.

For many he will be known as the Treasurer for the Derby & District League and a key person in the transition towards combining the Derbyshire League with the Derby & District League. For others particularly within the Derby Club he will be remembered as an accomplished chess player, a good Club Chairman, a friend and a gentleman. For a few of us we had the opportunity to see a little more of Alan and new him to be a talented solicitor, to have an very clear thinking mind, but above all to be a person who cared about people.

I had the privilege to attend a Thanksgiving Service to recognise and give thanks for all that Alan had done in his life. It is on such an occasion that we realise how little we know of people. What came across was that in work, in retirement and in life Alan had a desire to help people and used his talents and his time to that end.

In work he rose to become Chief Executive of Wigan Metropolitan Borough and from that post to be Chief Executive of the Equal Opportunities Commission, during which time he worked for 6 weeks in Zimbabwe preparing for and supervising the independence elections in 1980.

In retirement, he was involved in and for so many voluntary organisations that it would take a lot of space to mention, but most of them involved helping those who for one reason or

another were disadvantaged. The range included housing for young and less fortunate, Citizens Advice Bureau, YMCA, Fair Trade and Ethical Investments.

He had a deep and close involvement with the Congregational Church for whom he was a Lay Preacher, but also used his talents in many other fields such as Christian Aid, Christian Education & Training.

Everyone who spoke at the Thanksgiving Service amplified that Alan's involvement was not passive. Everything that he did was with energy, commitment and thorough professionalism.

What I will remember most is his humility. I still find it amazing that a person can do so much in his life, but only to share the parts with people where he felt it would help them or the causes that he believed in. I wish I knew him better.

ECF election

Chess politics is mostly dull, but the ECF elections in October promise to be more interesting than usual. A group led by Martin Regan of the NCCU will be standing on a unified ticket with the aim of revitalising English chess and reversing the long decline of the last two decades or more. There is a web site associated with the group's campaign: <http://www.new-ecf.co.uk/>, from which you will see that two members of the NCA (Robert Richmond and David Levens) are very much involved.

Bunkers Jamboree 2006 – BAG Challenge II

The following paragraph was omitted from the end of Drag Sudar's report in the last issue:

Thanks to Kev for organising the event, to Neil for controlling it and to everyone who turned up for a really enjoyable evening. We're already looking forward to the next one.