

# Notts News

## Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

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### TWO WEEKS TO GO!

#### Nottinghamshire County Championship 2006

21–22 October

Beeston Youth and Community Centre, West End,  
Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1GL

This year, everyone has a chance to win a County Championship title – with four graded sections, plus the junior championship, anyone who can put together a good run of form could win one of the trophies.

Highlights:

- ♦ Four graded sections: opportunities for everyone
- ♦ 17 prizes in total
- ♦ Fun prizes: Game of the Day and Slow Starter prizes to keep everyone involved right to the end
- ♦ Excellent venue
- ♦ Sponsorship from four local businesses
- ♦ Just £10 to enter

This is a great opportunity to play in a local competition and support the NCA's efforts to widen participation in the only weekend tournament exclusive to Notts players.

**Enter now:** entry forms are available from the NCA web site (<http://www.nottschess.org/>) and all NCA clubs.

Alternatively, contact Ian Kingston via email ([chess@iankingston.com](mailto:chess@iankingston.com)) or on 0115 967 8367.

#### County Championship

Entries are flowing in nicely except – oddly – in the Under 150 section. You still have a couple of weeks in which to enter, so don't delay – send your entry in now!

If you don't have an entry form see the box above for details of how to get one.

#### Stalemate or checkmate?

David Levens

After being elected President of the NCA, at the last AGM, I took the chair for the first time at the Special General Meeting, held at Gambit on Tuesday 19 September. Without any doubt this was truly a baptism of fire.

The intended purpose of this meeting was to discuss fully the proposition to have our own membership scheme before the ECF attempts to impose its own scheme on every chess player in the land. But before we could even begin discussing this some members insisted on having the minutes of the last AGM read out. Very reluctantly I agreed to this. By the time this was completed, and matters arising were dealt with, a very valuable hour had elapsed and I have since wondered if this delaying tactic was the true intention of those who

insisted on the AGM minutes being read. Certainly some of the matters arising were quite irrelevant to the purpose of a Special General Meeting – minutes of the AGM are *not* usually read out and discussed until a year later, at the next AGM – and one member left before the end, which may have made a big difference to the final outcome.

After a very long, and often tedious, discussion, during which almost everyone had a say (though some still haven't learnt the courtesy of speaking through the chair), the proposition was finally put to the vote and defeated by the narrowest of margins, 11 votes to 12. However, even before this vote, some members insisted that this was a constitutional issue and a prior vote had to be taken which decided in their favour, meaning that for the main proposal to be passed it needed a 66% majority vote. Things will therefore remain as they are.

However, the new Executive Committee was disturbed by several issues that arose during the evening and the attitude of some members. There was implied criticism of this committee for not yet having sorted out a set of rules and for not yet being able to inform members of its plans for the future. For goodness sake, give us a break! At the time of the SGM we had only been in office two months, a period that included the summer holidays, and most of us still work full time. I don't recall any previous administration making dramatic improvements to our association, even after a period of three years in office. Several members also bewailed the choice of the weekend for the next County Championship, 21/22 October. Apparently it clashes with the Scarborough congress and this choice will deprive some members of the opportunity of playing in both events. Yet many of those complaining rarely compete in the County Championships anyway. If these players are so concerned with the future of the NCA shouldn't their own county come before Yorkshire?

There was further implied criticism of your committee for not yet having found an U125 team captain. Out of 60 or so players eligible for this role there has yet to be a single volunteer [*But see story below – Ed.*] Another complaint was that we are doing too much for juniors and not enough for the 'rabbits' – not my choice of word.

It is my view that we now have a very strong and able executive committee that *will* deliver, but, in fairness, we should be given a year before we are judged, not two months.

In our short time in office we have set up a good County Championship, which gives almost everyone a chance of winning something, and have found four sponsors willing to support this event for the next three years. We have also spent time at a freshers fair in the city and there is a strong possibility that we will soon be able to announce one or two new teams entering the league, either this year or next. We continue to seek out sponsors for our next Nottingham Congress and also for our 4NCL teams. Regarding what we intend doing for the rank and file membership, may I remind

you all that if it were not for our many juniors we would not have had an U125 team last year, nor, probably, an U100 team. Most of us playing today started playing as juniors. That said, I intend putting on a series of coaching evenings for all players sometime in the New Year – details will follow when ready.

## There were four people

David Levens

There were four people: SOMEBODY, NOBODY, ANYBODY and EVERYBODY. At the Notts Chess Association AGM we needed SOMEBODY to do a job. EVERYBODY was too busy as usual and, while ANYBODY could have done it, NOBODY volunteered!

Unfortunately, when NOBODY volunteered EVERYBODY complained that SOMEBODY should have been willing to do a job that ANYBODY could have done easily. The trouble is, of course, whenever SOMEBODY does a job that NOBODY wants, EVERYBODY complains that ANYBODY could have done it better!

The truth is that until EVERYBODY realises that there is always a job for SOMEBODY to do, that ANYBODY can always give a little time to help, then NOBODY will ever do anything and this association will cease to function. Think about it.

## County U125 captain

It's taken a while, but we do at last have a County U125 captain – Lateefah Messam-Sparks. Please give her your full support.

Neil Graham's efforts in this saga should not go unrecorded. When no one stepped forward at the 11th hour to take on the job, Neil kept the possibility of an U125 team alive by negotiating a postponement of the opening fixture (which would otherwise have been defaulted). It's work like this, which the majority of us are never aware of, that keeps the NCA going.

## MCCU Membership Scheme

The issue of membership of the ECF is not one that is going to go away. The Midland Counties Chess Union (MCCU) has set up its own scheme which offers membership of the ECF for just £10 (compared with the lowest fee of £16 if you join the ECF as a Direct Member). The benefits (in the MCCU's own words) are:

All your games will be graded free of ECF game fee; you will be entitled to reduced entry fees in Congresses that chose [sic] to offer discounts to ECF members; you will be entitled to the ECF magazine Chessmoves free of charge; and you will receive a detailed print out of how your grading has been calculated. You will get a membership number & a membership card which you can use to claim game fee discounts.

An FAQ about the scheme is attached to this issue of Notts News as a Word document. An accompanying poster which you can display at your club or school is available for download: [http://www.nottschess.org/2006\\_07/pdf/MCCU\\_poster.pdf](http://www.nottschess.org/2006_07/pdf/MCCU_poster.pdf).

## Notts News distribution

Notts News goes to over 100 people via email. However, more than 250 people played in the league last year, which means that a fair few of you are only seeing Notts News if

there happen to be printed copies at your club. If you want to be added to the circulation list, just drop me a line.

Occasionally, delivery of Notts News to individual addresses fails. Mostly these are one-off occurrences caused by an over-full mailbox or a technical problem with the recipient's ISP. However, if an address fails three weeks running, I'll remove it from the distribution list. I'll try to contact anyone that this happens to, but it will never be the highest priority – there are too many other things to do. If you suddenly stop receiving Notts News, let me know and I'll try to fix the problem.

## East Midlands Junior Rapidplay Grand Prix

The first leg of the 2006–07 East Midlands Junior Rapidplay Grand Prix took place on 7 October at Dovecote Primary School, West Bridgford.

Entries continued to rise, with 93 players aged from 7 to 18 taking part, compared with 67 in the equivalent competition last year. The winners were:

- ♦ **Under 18:** Lateefah-Messam Sparks
- ♦ **Under 14:** Eric Williamson
- ♦ **Under 12:** Andrew Garside
- ♦ **Under 10:** Sohum Dhir

For more details, see the tournament web site: <http://www.westnottinghamchess.org/emj/>.

## World Championship Match

The bizarre twists and turns of the match between Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov generated plenty of column inches of coverage in the mainstream press, which I won't rehearse here (although I do now have enough toilet-related jokes to last a lifetime). See ChessBase.com for reasonably accurate coverage if you want all the details. Two powerful victories in Games 8 and 9 have seen Topalov take a 5–4 lead, including the default in Game 5. Kramnik continues to play under protest, although it seems unlikely that the default will be overturned.

## League results

### Division I

Gambit I – West Bridgford I									
1	Barnes, M.	(186)	1	–	0	Richmond, R.	(194)		
2	Mercs, P.	(176)	½	–	½	Walker, T.	(167)		
3	Hayward, B.	(148)	0	–	1	Thompson, B.	(150)		
4	Wright, A.	(154)	0	–	1	Budd, C.	(128)		
5	Roper, K.	(143)	½	–	½	Place, W.	(135)		
			<b>2</b>		<b>– 3</b>				

Mansfield I – Ashfield I									
1	Tait, J.	(197)	½	–	½	Khandelwal, A.	(187)		
2	Cantrill, C.	(155)	½	–	½	Halfpenny, G.	(162)		
3	Morrison, K.	(160)	½	–	½	Webster, R.	(155)		
4	Foreman, S.	(145)	0	–	1	Toothill, A.	(158)		
5	Wagenbach, J.	(132)	1	–	0	Graham, N.	(133)		
			<b>2½</b>		<b>– 2½</b>				

## Division 2

West Nottingham 2 – Grantham 1					
1 Kingston, I.	(143)	½	– ½	Payne, N.	(168)
2 Basey, M.	(–)	1	– 0	Palmer, T.	(113)
3 Keetley, M.	(136)	1	– 0	Cumbers, C.	(76)
4 Collins, J.	(130)	1	– 0	Smith, P.	(78)
5 Messam-Sparks, L.	(121)	1	– 0	Default	(–)
4½ – ½					

Ashfield 2 – Nomads 1					
1 Morgan, D. P.	(134)	0	– 1	Hill, M.	(132)
2 Graham, N.	(133)	1	– 0	Exton, O.	(128)
3 Taylor, R.	(127)	½	– ½	Marriott, R.	(121)
4 Robinson, A.	(117)	½	– ½	Kendall, T.	(118)
5 Cranmer, S.	(139)	0	– 1	Ince, D.	(116)
2 – 3					

## Division 3

Fiveways – Nomads 2					
1 Best, I.	(117)	0	– 1	Exton, O.	(128)
2 Bowen, L.	(113)	0	– 1	Ince, D.	(116)
3 Griffiths, D.	(106)	½	– ½	Darby, L.	(107)
4 Thorsen, A.	(105)	½	– ½	Thurgood, T.	(109)
5 Dunne, D.	(100)	0	– 1	Pynegar, T.	(106)
1 – 4					

Bunkers 2 – Gambit 3					
1 Brameld, K.	(143)	0	– 1	Gibson, G.	(107)
2 Jennings, G.	(143)	1	– 0	Chambers, A.	(–)
3 Moore, M.	(104)	0	– 1	Hopkinson, G.	(101)
4 Frings, M.	(70)	0	– 1	Fillingham, I.	(94)
5 Parham, S.	(59)	0	– 1	Brown, A.	(87)
1 – 4					

## Division 4

West Nottingham 4 – Ashfield 4					
1 Day, J.	(119)	0	– 1	Wright, N.	(98)
2 Williamson, E.	(114)	1	– 0	Clarke, P.	(94)
3 Nehra, P.	(–)	1	– 0	Potter, C.	(90)
4 Willoughby, R.	(114)	1	– 0	McIntosh, S.	(91)
5 Thacker, S.	(105)	1	– 0	Dyce, R.	(83)
4 – 1					

Correction: Board 4 for Radcliffe & Bingham 2 against Nomads 3 was Kristjan Sigurdsson, not Erlingsson.

## Division 5

West Nottingham 6 – West Nottingham 7					
1 Zhang, M.	(78)	1	– 0	Maini, K.	(–)
2 Alfred, A.	(63)	0	– 1	Maini, A.	(0)
3 Alfred, L.	(22)	0	– 1	Gupta, Y.	(10)
4 Keetley, C.	(–)	0	– 1	Ford, S.	(–)
1 – 3					

Grantham 2 – Gambit 5					
1 Smith, B.	(77)	1	– 0	Roper, K.	(143)
2 Smith, P.	(78)	½	– ½	Hobson, B.	(99)
3 Allgood, R.	(85)	0	– 1	Padvis, D.	(100)
4 Cumbers, C.	(76)	½	– ½	Heath, K.	(55)
2 – 2					

## League tables

### Division 1

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 Ashfield 1	2	1	1	0	6	4	2	0	3
2 Mansfield 1	2	1	1	0	6	4	2	0	3
3 Bunkers 1	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	0	2
4 West Bridgford 1	2	1	0	1	4½	5½	–1	0	2
5 University 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 University 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Gambit 1	2	0	0	2	4	6	–2	0	0
8 Newark 1	1	0	0	1	1½	3½	–2	0	0

### Division 2

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 West Nottingham 1	2	2	0	0	8½	1½	7	0	4
2 Nomads 1	2	2	0	0	6	4	2	0	4
3 Long Eaton	1	1	0	0	4	1	3	0	2
4 Ashfield 2	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	0	2
5 West Nottingham 2	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	0	2
6 Gambit 2	1	0	0	1	2	3	–1	0	0
7 Ashfield 3	2	0	0	2	3	7	–4	0	0
8 Grantham 1	2	0	0	2	1½	8½	–7	0	0

### Division 3

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 Gambit 3	1	1	0	0	4	1	3	0	2
2 Nomads 2	1	1	0	0	4	1	3	0	2
3 West Nottingham 3	1	1	0	0	3½	1½	2	0	2
4 Bunkers 2	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	0	2
5 Newark 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Radcliffe & Bingham 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Mansfield 2	1	0	0	1	1½	3½	–2	0	0
8 Fiveways	2	0	0	2	2	8	–6	0	0

### Division 4

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 West Nottingham 4	2	2	0	0	7½	2½	5	0	4
2 Ashfield 4	2	1	0	1	6	4	2	0	2
3 Gambit 4	1	1	0	0	3½	1½	2	0	2
4 Nomads 3	1	0	1	0	2½	2½	0	0	1
5 Radcliffe & Bingham 2	2	0	1	1	4	6	–2	0	1
6 University 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 West Bridgford 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Ashfield 5	2	0	0	2	1½	8½	–7	0	0

### Division 5

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 West Nottingham 5	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	0	2
2 West Nottingham 7	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	0	2
3 Bunkers 3	1	1	0	0	2½	1½	1	0	2
4 Gambit 5	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1
5 Grantham 2	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1
6 University 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 West Nottingham 6	3	0	0	3	2½	9½	–7	0	0