

Notts News

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18th Nottingham Rapidplay

Sunday 18 February

Nottingham High School, Waverley Mount, Nottingham
NG7 4ED

- ♦ Open: open to all players
- ♦ Major: for players graded below 140
- ♦ Minor: for players graded below 110

Six-round Swiss. Thirty minutes per player for all moves.
Play starts at 10:00 a.m.

Enter now: entry forms have been sent to all NCA clubs.
Alternatively, contact Robert Richmond on 0115 945 5908.

Hastings International

Three NCA players competed in this year's Hastings Masters, which ran from 28 December to 1 January. All three put in good performances: Richard Webster (Ashfield) 3½/9; Amisha Parmar (West Nottingham) 2/6; Lateefah Messam-Sparks (West Nottingham) 3/9. Lateefah also competed in the New Year Morning B tournament, winning the event with a perfect 4/4.

Handicap Knockout

The second round is now under way, with West Nottingham Nightmare becoming the first team to claim a semi-final place. The match went to the last game, with both players' flags hanging in a complex and unclear position. Examination of the clock afterwards showed that West Nottingham won the game by barely two seconds.

Newark B – West Nottingham Nightmare

West Nottingham Nightmare		B1	B2	B3	Total
A1 Kingston, I.	(143)	1	1	1	3
A2 Willoughby, R.	(113)	0	0	0	0
A3 Heining, D.	(109)	0	½	1	1½
					4½

Newark B		A1	A2	A3	
B1 Coates, D.	(161)	0	1	1	2
B2 Combie, A.	(139)	0	1	½	1½
B3 Wollerton, G.	(123)	0	1	0	1
					4½

West Nottingham Nightmare win as lower-graded team

NCA history

Ian Kingston

If you've been to the NCA web site over the holiday period, you may have noticed that I have started to add some archive material about the league championship. The information comes from data supplied by Drag Sudar, John Crawley and Neil Graham, to whom I'm very grateful.

Not surprisingly, there are gaps in the information. The league tables are complete back to 1993–94, with the exception of 1998–99, for which the Division 4 table is missing. There are then some gaps; the missing seasons are:

1992–93
1985–86
1981–82
1974–75 to 1979–80
1971–72
and all seasons before 1968–69

Tables for 1968–69, 1969–70 and 1970–71 haven't yet reached the web site, but I have the data.

Does anyone have information about any of the missing years? I can easily find out who won the championship and divisional titles, since they're engraved on the trophies, but what I'd like are the league tables – in whatever form they happen to be, whether ancient word processor files or yellowing photocopies.

Similarly, I'd like to add information about any other NCA competitions (County Championship, Congress, Rapidplay, Blitz and any other events, major or minor). If anyone holds copies of any relevant information, no matter how incomplete, I'd love to have it. Anecdotes, stories and pictures are welcome too. All original material will be returned or archived.

League results

Division 1

Newark 1 – Ashfield 1

1 Coates, D.	(161)	1	–	0	Halfpenny, G.	(162)
2 Ladds, G.	(154)	½	–	½	Burke, S.	(161)
3 Blake, R.	(137)	0	–	1	Graham, N.	(133)
4 Combie, A.	(139)	½	–	½	Jarvis, D.	(148)
5 Aiton, K.	(131)	½	–	½	Morgan, D. P.	(134)
		2½ – 2½				

Division 2

Gambit 2 – Nomads 1

1 Wright, A. J.	(154)	½	–	½	Hill, M.	(132)
2 Sudar, D.	(134)	½	–	½	Mann, M.	(–)
3 Hunter, S.	(139)	1	–	0	Kendall, T.	(118)
4 Tassi, J.	(131)	½	–	½	Ince, D.	(116)
5 Edwards, R.	(126)	1	–	0	Darby, L.	(107)
3½ – 1½						

Division 3

No matches this week.

Division 4

Radcliffe & Bingham 2 – Gambit 4									
1	Murfet, G.	(113)	1	–	0	Harper, M.	(109)		
2	Redburn, B.	(95)	½	–	½	Hobson, B.	(99)		
3	Morley, S.	(88)	½	–	½	Fillingham, I.	(94)		
4	Erlingsson, E.	(–)	0	–	1	Padvis, D.	(100)		
5	Falgate, M.	(74)	0	–	1	Gretton, M.	(89)		
			2		– 3				

Ashfield 5 – West Bridgford 2									
1	Norris-Hunt, T.	(68)	1	–	0	Hill, F.	(102)		
2	Pacitto, A.	(–)	1	–	0	Default	(–)		
3	Swift, S.	(–)	½	–	½	Milford, M.	(69)		
4	Beeby, F.	(50)	1	–	0	Gold, D.	(–)		
5	Saunders, R.	(–)	1	–	0	Tys, S.	(70)		
			5		– 0				

½ point penalty applied: Rule D9

Gambit 4 – West Nottingham 4									
1	Harper, M.	(109)	1	–	0	Williamson, E.	(114)		
2	Hobson, B.	(99)	0	–	1	Day, J.	(119)		
3	Fillingham, I.	(94)	½	–	½	Willoughby, R.	(114)		
4	Padvis, D.	(100)	½	–	½	Thacker, S.	(105)		
5	Gretton, M.	(89)	½	–	½	Crawley, J.	(67)		
			2½		– 2½				

Division 5

No matches this week.

League tables

Division 1

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 University 2	7	6	1	0	25	10	15	0	13
2 West Bridgford 1	7	5	1	1	21	14	7	0	11
3 Ashfield 1	8	4	2	2	24	16	8	0	10
4 Mansfield 1	7	3	2	2	18½	16½	2	0	8
5 University 1	7	2	1	4	16½	18½	–2	0	5
6 Newark 1	7	1	2	4	12½	22½	–10	0	4
7 Gambit 1	6	1	1	4	11½	18½	–7	0	3
8 Bunkers 1	7	1	0	6	11	24	–13	0	2

Division 2

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 Long Eaton	7	6	0	1	25	10	15	0	12
2 West Nottingham 1	7	6	0	1	23½	11½	12	0	12
3 West Nottingham 2	7	4	1	2	19½	15½	4	0	9
4 Gambit 2	7	3	1	3	17½	17½	0	0	7
5 Ashfield 2	8	2	2	4	17½	22½	–5	0	6
6 Nomads 1	8	2	1	5	16	24	–8	0	5
7 Grantham 1	6	2	0	4	11	19	–8	0	4
8 Ashfield 3	6	0	1	5	10	20	–10	0	1

Division 4

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 West Nottingham 4	8	5	2	1	25½	14½	11	0	12
2 Nomads 3	7	5	1	1	24	11	13	0	11
3 Gambit 4	7	5	1	1	19½	15½	4	0	11
4 University 3	7	3	2	2	19½	15½	4	0	8
5 Ashfield 4	7	3	1	3	19	16	3	0	7
6 Radcliffe & Bingham 2	7	1	1	5	14½	20½	–6	0	3
7 West Bridgford 2	6	0	2	4	9	21	–12	0	2
8 Ashfield 5	7	1	0	6	9	26	–17	0	2

Divisions 3 and 5 are unchanged since last time and have been held over.

Christmas puzzle answers

The four puzzles set last time asked you to find mistakes rather than brilliant moves. Here now are the answers. All four games were played at last year's Olympiad.

The first position (3Q4/5p2/lp2qkp1/p1p4p/PIp4P/1P4P1/5PK1/8; Black to move; Batchuluun–Kozlov) asked for the losing continuation found by Black. There are only four legal moves, so it shouldn't have been too hard. The blunder was 54...Kf5?? 55. Qg5+ Ke4 56. Qe3+, when Black resigned because of 56... Kf5 57. Qf4#.

The second puzzle was really a trick question, because in Escobar Forero–Ziska (2r2k2/1b6/pp1rp1Q1/5N2/P3PP2/1P5P/2qp2PK/3R4; Black to move) there was no real worst move. I asked for 'the most conclusive way to lose', and the correct answer was that Black resigned – there's no coming back from that! Instead, Black could have saved the game by playing 41... exf5 42. Qxd6+ Kg7 43. Qe7+ Kh8 44. Qf6+ Kg8 45. Qg6+ Kh8, with perpetual check – not too hard to find.

The next position (1r1r3k/p4ppp/nP1P4/2pN1b2/2P4q/1Q3B2/P4PPP/R3R1K1; White to move; Mkrtchian–Zhao Xue) is less dramatic, but typical of the sort of thing that everyone misses from time to time. Instead of 22. Re5, White could have won a piece by 22. Qb5 Nb4 23. Nxb4 cxb4 24. Qxf5. The apparently well-blocked fifth rank and the need to find a backward knight move probably played a part in the double oversight.

And finally, a lesson in not believing everything you see on the Internet. In Bareev–Efimenko (8/RP5p/4k3/1P6/5p2/4KP2/2r4P/5b2; White to move) the mysterious appearance of 42. Ke4?? followed by 'Black resigns' was the fault of the technology, not the players. The moves were being relayed directly by the electronic chessboards in use, which automatically detect and transmit the moves. In reality, White actually played 42. Kxf4, but after the players shook hands and reset the pieces the white king was placed on e4, signifying a win for White. This somehow confused the software, leading to the bizarre 'double blunder' that never happened.