

Notts News

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Introduction

Last week was a busy one, so this is a double issue to catch up with County, 4NCL and league matches.

Don't forget – if you collect this issue in time you still have the chance to enter the Nottingham Rapidplay – see box for details.

Finally, if this is the first time you've seen *Notts News*, or if you've been relying on copies printed out by members of your club, you can receive it directly by sending an email to the editor at the address in the masthead above.

Nottinghamshire U150 – Staffordshire U150

Bob Taylor

Kevin was the first to finish with a draw, but then the results started to go against us, with Notts behind all the way to the end. Stan finished with a draw, while David Toms managed to fork his opponent's king and rook. Alex Combie played an excellent game; his opponent got a pawn to b2, ready to queen, but Alex took it off with his rook then marched his h-pawn down the board to queen with his opponent's king and knight too far away to catch it. As I was playing I couldn't dwell too long at the boards; I was lucky to come away with a win. Dave Flynn's game was the last to finish, but he was fighting to keep down the deficit rather than secure the draw for us, and he eventually halved his game after an arduous struggle – less than a minute left on both players' clocks.

Ian Kingston adds:

The clash with the 4NCL meant that Notts were missing Neil Graham and me, which can't have helped. There wasn't a lot

Nottinghamshire U150 – Warwickshire U150 10 February 2007

Board	Grade	Score	Grade
1 Brian Hayward	148	0-1	Derek Laight 148
2 Keith Brameld	143	0-1	Philip Porter 147
3 Kevin Harvey	142	½-½	John Staniforth 144
4 Steve Hunter	139	½-½	Steve Hill 144
5 Tim Lane	139	½-½	Martyn Harris 141
6 Stan Cranmer	139	½-½	Derek Perks 138
7 Alex Combie	139	1-0	Peter Leary 137
8 Will Place	135	1-0	Manoj Arora 136
9 Dave Flynn	132	½-½	Dairmid Gibson 133
10 John Tassi	131	0-1	David Daniels 132
11 Bill Ray	131	1-0	Ken Francis 132
12 Phil Morgan	134	0-1	Steve Wilcox 127
13 David Toms	129	1-0	John Day 126
14 Richard Edwards	126	0-1	Steve Harris 120
15 Oliver Exton	128	0-1	Max Wootton 116
16 Bob Taylor	127	1-0	Peter Broomhall 106

7½-8½

of choice though – Tony Wright had to work overtime to get 12 players to travel to Sunningdale.

The defeat leaves Notts needing to win or draw the final match against Leicestershire on 17 March to guarantee qualification. Please do everything you can to keep the date free. The current table (compiled by Neil Graham) looks like this:

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Nottinghamshire	3	2	0	1	25½	22½	4
2 Warwickshire	3	2	0	1	25	22	4
3 Greater Manchester	3	2	0	1	24½	23½	4
4 Staffordshire	3	0	1	2	23	24	2
5 Leicestershire	2	0	0	2	13	19	0

If the 'For' and 'Against' totals look odd, that's because one board in the match between Warwickshire and Staffordshire was declared void following a dispute, thus making the match score over 15 boards only.

4NCL – Rounds 5 and 6

Nottinghamshire I

David Levens

After coaching our County Under 11s for an hour early on Saturday morning, Ian Kingston and I set off on a 3 hour drive to Sunningdale Park, near Ascot, in the Royal County of Berkshire. We took a brief rest at Toddington Services, where we bumped into our illustrious captain, Tony Wright, and other brave members of our two 4NCL teams. Problems with the way the RAC worded our directions and a typical motorway hold-up meant that we arrived a little late, and I found myself with 10 minutes on my clock, on Board 2, against the highest-rated player in the opposition side, Metropolitan! My opponent's ELO was 2194. Nevertheless, I soon acquired a strong attack and, according to Fritz, the silicon monster, I

LAST CHANCE TO ENTER!

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 on the day before 9:30 a.m.

held a winning position out of the opening (the new Grivas system in the Sicilian Defence). Unfortunately, at the critical point I missed the best move, as we all do at times, and a draw was agreed after the best part of 4 hours.

On average we were outgraded by 58 ELO points per board, except on Board 1 where Rob Richmond struggled in vain to get a much needed victory. Pete Mercs, with the black pieces on Board 3, had the worst of his game for some time and eventually went down to G. Dickson who, I believe, finished joint first in the British Seniors a couple of years ago. I confess that I didn't see a lot of the other games, as I was too busy dealing with my own problems! The two Richards, Truman and Webster, drew on Boards 4 and 6 respectively, but, most unfortunately, Kishan Lakhani, who played superbly, blundered in time trouble in an overwhelmingly won position and we went down 2-4.

Surprisingly, dinner that night was a cheerful affair, considering the fact that we couldn't muster up a single win between the twelve members of both teams!

After a lousy night's sleep (caused by a hot room or too much wine – I know not), I took my old body for an early morning run in the hope of freshening up. It didn't work. Although, once again, I obtained a distinct advantage from the opening (against a disgustingly young 167 from FCA Solutions 2 and, for the second time, the officially strongest player on the opposition side), I missed far too many things to deserve to win and resigned after 6 hours' play. Meanwhile, Rob and Pete, sitting either side of me, were battling grimly away. Rob had an interesting game, one in which I was never sure who was winning, but it fizzled out in to a draw, while Pete went into his second ending of the weekend, which he determinedly and deservedly won. Richard Webster on Board 6 got on the wrong side of a Milner-Barry Gambit and lost fairly quickly. Richard Truman scored another draw, but Kishan this time crushed his opponent in short order. Result: 3-3 and a valuable point gained. I'm quite sure that had we played nearer to home, instead of having to travel so far, we would have done better, but we remain on target for promotion to Division 3, having already played most of the top sides.

Nottinghamshire 2

Ian Kingston

After the successes of the first two weekends in the Midlands, the lengthy away trip to Sunningdale was always likely to prove difficult. Not only were our teams missing a few regulars, but the southern teams, playing closer to home, were expected to be stronger, and so it proved. Notts 2 faced Conquistadors in Round 5, who had the luxury of moving their Board 3 player from Round 1 down to Board 6. My game was first to finish – a disappointing short draw in which I could find no sensible way to proceed after my opponent made the draw offer. Tony always seemed to have the draw in hand, but Maurice and Anjali both lost. I didn't see how Neil's draw came about, but with Brian struggling it looked like a heavy defeat. However, he hung on well and scrambled his way to a draw.

On Sunday we faced Halesowen, again slightly stronger than us on paper. Maurice bounced back with a win, while Anjali won the exchange and seemed to be winning. Tony held a small but solid plus on top board, but I managed to get my move order wrong on the Black side of the King's Gambit and fell into serious trouble. Brian wasn't doing too well either (possibly tired after Saturday's very long game), and when he and Neil both lost defeat looked likely. Things got even worse

when Anjali's rook became trapped, but somehow it escaped. Meanwhile, I'd been feeding the dying embers of my position by throwing no fewer than three pawns on the fire and was quite lost – and an hour down on the clock. Luckily for me, my opponent got confused about which winning plan to follow and ended up having to take a perpetual. Anjali then lost confidence in her position and took a draw, and Tony's good bishop vs. bad bishop position failed to yield anything significant, resulting in a narrow defeat for the team.

Despite the results, we all enjoyed the trip. Everyone on the team managed at least half a point. Tony Wright is to be congratulated on getting everything organised so efficiently and at the same time putting in such a solid top-board performance.

Round 5

Metropolitan – Nottinghamshire 1					
1	Noden, Nicolas	2185	½ – ½	Richmond, Robert J	2227
2	Fogarasi, Norbert	2194	½ – ½	Levens, David	2085
3	Dickson, George	2174	1 – 0	Merces, Peter J	2066
4	Calvert, D Ian	2066	½ – ½	Truman, Richard G	2027
5	Djabri, Zafer M	2071	1 – 0	Lakhani, Kishan	1968
6	Fegan, Chris	2058	½ – ½	Webster, Richard J	1976
4-2					

Nottinghamshire 2 – Conquistadors 1					
1	Wright, Antony J	2020	½ – ½	Prizant, Michael	2140
2	Thompson, Brian	2000	½ – ½	Archer-Lock, C	2065
3	Kingston, Ian	1965	½ – ½	Foster, James C	1914
4	Graham, Neil	1915	½ – ½	Lee, Jia Shen	1930
5	Hill, Maurice J	1910	0 – 1	Winchcombe, Andrew	1895
6	Lakhani, Anjali	1830	0 – 1	Cork, David J	1960
2-4					

Round 6

Nottinghamshire 1 – FCA Solutions 2					
1	Richmond, Robert J	2227	½ – ½	Fraser-Mitchell, J	2073
2	Levens, David	2085	0 – 1	Goldsworthy, Patrick	2089
3	Merces, Peter J	2066	1 – 0	Kendall, Paul S N	2080
4	Truman, Richard G	2027	½ – ½	Elwin, Adrian G	2048
5	Lakhani, Kishan	1968	1 – 0	Valentine, Brian J	2010
6	Webster, Richard J	1976	0 – 1	Majer, Chris E	2012
3-3					

Nottinghamshire 2 – Halesowen					
1	Wright, Antony J	2020	½ – ½	Walker, Nicholas A	2115
2	Kingston, Ian	1965	½ – ½	Palmer, Ryan	2010
3	Thompson, Brian	2000	0 – 1	Doran, Michael J	2005
4	Hill, Maurice J	1910	1 – 0	Pugh, Glyn D	2000
5	Graham, Neil	1915	0 – 1	Lee, Darren	1955
6	Lakhani, Anjali	1830	½ – ½	Banks, Peter	1715
2½-3½					

Apology and Clarification

David Levens (President)

Although I've only received one complaint it would seem that an article I wrote in *Notts News* [No. 7, 7 October; ed.] at the start of the season has offended some past and present officers of the NCA.

I have worked on various committees, on and off, for well over 50 years (since I was 14 in fact). I have worked mainly as Chairman or Secretary, sometimes as both, and once or twice

as publicity officer. My involvement has included: chess clubs, county associations, the BCF, NPSCA and EPSCA; running clubs and associated athletics organisations; football clubs; youth groups; chairman of Derby Writers' Guild for four years; church organisations; local community organisations and political parties. And for three years I was a District Councillor for Amber Valley.

In consequence I am the very last person to deliberately and publicly criticise anyone who has given up their valuable time to do a job that, in all probability, nobody else wanted!

However, it is clear to me that my comments could have been construed as a criticism of past and present officers, though that was never the intention. Please, all of you who have felt slighted by my words accept my heartfelt and unreserved apologies for any hurt or offence so caused.

League results

Digital uncertainty

As many of you know, Ashfield and West Nottingham use digital game timers for some matches. Some people don't like them, but in my experience the benefit of knowing *exactly* how much time remains to the next time control far outweighs the reassuring tick-tock of inaccurate analogue clocks. However, this week's match between West Nottingham 2 and Ashfield 3 revealed a detail about the use of digital clocks that players might like to be aware of.

Ashfield's Alan Robinson was in serious time trouble approaching the first time control. The clock showed that he had 4 seconds in which to play his next three moves. When he pressed the clock after playing his 35th move, the clock reached 0:00 and automatically added 15 minutes to both players' time. Alan's clock now showed 15:00. It also showed the black bar that indicates which player was first to use all of the time allocated for the first time control.

The question was: had Alan successfully reached the time control? The clock's instruction manual was unclear on this point, but the issue was resolved by Alan's opponent, Michael Keetley, declining to claim a win on time – he had a comfortably won position anyway. (I have to commend both players on their conduct – common sense and courtesy from both sides.)

An email to the clock manufacturer, DGT Products, clarified the situation: CEO Albert Vasse (an International Arbiter) explained that when the clock switches to the next time control, the time that is displayed is rounded up to the nearest second. So in our case, a display of '15:00' actually means '14 minutes, 59 seconds plus a fraction of a second'. Another way of looking at it is that the appearance of the black bar in the display is the exact equivalent of the flag falling on an analogue clock. The fact that the display says '15:00' (or whatever the second time control is) on a digital clock is no more relevant than the minute hand of an analogue clock pointing vertically upwards in the same situation. The flag is down, and the player is out of time.

Match reports

The simple reporting of results each week is sometimes rather dry. Facts are good, but stories are more fun. From now on, match results will sometimes (as below) contain a brief note about notable games or incidents. No need to write an essay – just send a brief email.

Division 1

University 1 – Bunkers 1					
1	Posazhennikov, A.	(185)	½	– ½	Harrison, J. (150)
2	Lam, P.	(181)	1	– 0	Brameld, K. (143)
3	Lee, D.	(163)	0	– 1	Jennings, G. (143)
4	Walker, A.	(162)	½	– ½	Harvey, K. (142)
5	Default	(–)	0	– 1	Lyons, S. (–)
			2	– 3	

Andy Walker reports that the default was the result of 'Michael McBeth somehow [being] stranded in a 2-inch snowdrift – I **think** that's what he said'.

University 2 – Newark 1					
1	Grewal, B.	(177)	½	– ½	Ladds, G. (154)
2	Emanuel, J.	(160)	1	– 0	Blake, R. (137)
3	Thompson, I.	(167)	0	– 1	Combie, A. (139)
4	Clare, A.	(153)	1	– 0	Wollerton, G. (123)
5	Satz, A.	(146)	1	– 0	Default (–)
			3½	– 1½	

Division 2

West Nottingham 2 – Ashfield 3					
1	Kingston, I.	(143)	1	– 0	Cranmer, S. (139)
2	Keetley, M.	(136)	1	– 0	Robinson, A. (117)
3	Collins, J.	(130)	1	– 0	Sayer, R. (103)
4	Messam-Sparks, L.	(120)	1	– 0	Lewis, T. (107)
5	Burley, P.	(116)	½	– ½	Morrey, A. (104)
			4½	– 1½	

Gambit 2 – Grantham 1					
1	Wright, A. J.	(154)	1	– 0	Payne, N. (168)
2	Sudar, D.	(134)	1	– 0	Mason, B. (102)
3	Hunter, S.	(139)	1	– 0	Cumbers, C. (76)
4	Tassi, J.	(131)	1	– 0	Neumann, P. (–)
5	Edwards, R.	(126)	1	– 0	Default (–)
			5	– 0	

Drag Sudar reports that 'Tony played a blinder versus Nick who decided to go gung-ho. I probably spent half my clock time watching their game, it was that interesting'.

Division 3

Mansfield 2 – Newark 2					
1	Wagenbach, I.	(132)	1	– 0	Aiton, K. (131)
2	Smith, V.	(114)	1	– 0	Myers, R. (115)
3	Walker, R.	(104)	1	– 0	O'Malia, R. (85)
4	Default	(–)	0	– 1	Harper, G. (83)
5	Default	(–)	0	– 1	Clurrow, G. (–)
			3	– 2	

*Radcliffe & Bingham 1 – West Nottingham 3					
1	Nicholson, I.	(136)	½	– ½	Day, J. (119)
2	Toms, D.	(129)	1	– 0	Burley, P. (114)
3	Taylor, M.	(120)	½	– ½	Nehra, P. (–)
4	Murfet, G.	(113)	1	– 0	Williamson, E. (114)
5	Nailard, M.	(106)	0	– 1	Willoughby, R. (113)
			3	– 2	

Division 4

University 3 – Radcliffe & Bingham 2									
1	Satz, A.	(146)	½	–	½	Nailard, M.	(106)		
2	Jones, D.	(–)	½	–	½	Redburn, B.	(95)		
3	Zhou, S.	(–)	1	–	0	Morley, S.	(88)		
4	Yang, J.	(112)	1	–	0	Morrell, L.	(88)		
5	Burrows, R.	(–)	1	–	0	Attwood, C.	(–)		
			4	–	1				

West Nottingham 4 – Ashfield 5									
1	Williamson, E.	(114)	½	–	½	Todd, P.	(81)		
2	Thacker, S.	(105)	½	–	½	Justice, E.	(81)		
3	Crawley, J.	(67)	½	–	½	Swift, S.	(–)		
4	Berdunov, N.	(–)	1	–	0	Pacitto, A.	(–)		
5	Clegg, T.	(58)	½	–	½	Beeby, F.	(50)		
			3	–	2				

Division 5

Grantham 2 – University 4									
1	Smith, B.	(77)	1	–	0	Pym, J.	(106)		
2	Cumbers, C.	(76)	0	–	1	Hamby, S.	(–)		
3	Allgood, R.	(85)	1	–	0	Ferris, S.	(–)		
4	Neumann, P.	(–)	1	–	0	Keller, S.	(–)		
			3	–	1				

1	Ford, S.	(–)	0	–	1	Chubb, A.	(72)		
2	Maini, A.	(0)	1	–	0	Parham, S.	(59)		
3	Ford, C.	(–)	1	–	0	Cairney, K.	(42)		
4	Gupta, Y.	(10)	0	–	1	Swords, M.	(–)		
			2	–	2				

League tables

Division 1

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 University 2	9	7	1	1	30½	14½	16	0	15
2 West Bridgford 1	10	6	3	1	30	20	10	0	15
3 Ashfield 1	10	5	2	3	28	22	6	0	12
4 Mansfield 1	9	3	3	3	23	22	1	0	9
5 University 1	9	3	1	5	21½	23½	–2	0	7
6 Gambit 1	9	2	3	4	20½	24½	–4	0	7
7 Bunkers 1	10	2	1	7	17½	32½	–15	0	5
8 Newark 1	8	1	2	5	14	26	–12	0	4

Division 2

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 West Nottingham 1	10	9	0	1	34½	15½	19	0	18
2 Long Eaton	9	7	1	1	30½	14½	16	0	15
3 West Nottingham 2	10	6	1	3	29	21	8	0	13
4 Gambit 2	10	4	1	5	26	24	2	0	9
5 Ashfield 2	10	3	2	5	21½	28½	–7	0	8
6 Grantham 1	10	3	1	6	18½	31½	–13	0	7
7 Nomads 1	9	2	1	6	18	27	–9	0	5
8 Ashfield 3	10	1	1	8	17	33	–16	0	3

Division 3

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 Radcliffe & Bingham 1	11	8	0	3	31	24	7	0	16
2 West Nottingham 3	8	4	2	2	23½	16½	7	0	10
3 Fiveways	8	4	1	3	19	21	–2	0	9
4 Newark 2	8	3	1	4	22	18	4	0	7
5 Mansfield 2	7	3	1	3	19	16	3	0	7
6 Nomads 2	8	2	2	4	18	22	–4	0	6
7 Gambit 3	8	2	1	5	18	22	–4	0	5
8 Bunkers 2	6	2	0	4	9½	20½	–11	0	4

Division 4

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 West Nottingham 4	9	6	2	1	28½	16½	12	0	14
2 Gambit 4	9	5	3	1	24½	20½	4	0	13
3 University 3	9	5	2	2	27	18	9	0	12
4 Ashfield 4	11	5	2	4	29½	25½	4	0	12
5 Nomads 3	8	5	1	2	26	14	12	0	11
6 Radcliffe & Bingham 2	10	3	1	6	22	28	–6	0	7
7 Ashfield 5	10	1	1	8	15	35	–20	0	3
8 West Bridgford 2	8	0	2	6	12½	27½	–15	0	2

Division 5

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 West Nottingham 5	8	5	1	2	22½	9½	13	0	11
2 Grantham 2	7	5	1	1	19½	8½	11	0	11
3 Bunkers 3	9	3	3	3	17	19	–2	0	9
4 Gambit 5	7	3	2	2	13½	14½	–1	0	8
5 University 4	8	3	1	4	15½	16½	–1	0	7
6 West Nottingham 7	9	3	1	5	14½	21½	–7	0	7
7 West Nottingham 6	10	2	1	7	13½	26½	–13	0	5