

Notts News

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British Universities Rapidplay Championship

John Emanuel

On Saturday 17 February, the Nottingham University Chess Club sent a team to play in the inter-university tournament at Warwick University. It was a good tournament and the team was hard done by to finish second due to an inferior countback score to that of Sheffield University.

The team was seeded fourth and that led to an easy first match against Warwick 4, with a convincing 4-0 win. We were rewarded in the next round with a tough match against Warwick 1, where unfortunately after two good wins by Sida and Alejandro we could only draw 2-2 after I was too greedy in the opening and paid the price. In the next round we faced the Warwick 3 team and managed a 3-1 win. Next up were the eventual winners, Sheffield, where a solid game from Alex and a very strong attack from myself resulted in a 2-2 draw.

The next round would turn out to be the most exciting. In a tense match with Imperial, all four games went into the last ten minutes and unfortunately Sida blundered in time trouble. But with two time scrambles on Boards 1 and 2 we were able to save the game with seconds to spare for a 2-2 draw.

Even though the top four teams were evenly matched, there was the inevitable problem in the last round, where all the leading teams were drawn against significantly weaker sides. We were given the harder of those games and against a reasonable Warwick 2 team, with an average grade of 142, were able to produce a good result, winning 4-0. But unfortunately that was not enough, as Sheffield had managed to beat Birmingham 3-1. This meant that there was a three-way tie on 17 points between Sheffield, Warwick and ourselves, but due to the draw in Round 2 (when Sheffield had won 4-0) we came second due to a lower sum of progressive scores. Nevertheless, this was a good result for a team that was outgraded in three of the matches. Hopefully next year we can go one better.

Individual scores

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Total |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| Alex Posazhennikov | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| John Emanuel | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Alejandro Satz | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Sida Zhou | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |

Final standings

| | | |
|---|--------------|-----|
| 1 | Sheffield | 17 |
| 2 | Nottingham | 17 |
| 3 | Warwick | 17 |
| 4 | Imperial | 16½ |
| 5 | Birmingham 1 | 13½ |
| 6 | Imperial 2 | 13 |
| 7 | Warwick 2 | 13 |

(12 teams)

CHE 55

Andy Walker

Driving in to work this morning, I happened to spot "CHE 55" driving the other way along Derby Road. Before you ask, no I don't usually spend my waking hours reading number plates, nor trainspotting, nor counting lamp-posts. Anyway, by the time it had registered, I was too late to see who was driving, or even what sort of car it was (beyond "fairly small and black"). Any ideas? Is this "one of us"? Or Cyril Johnson? Or a top GM? Or merely a supporter of revolutions in central/southern America? Too small for Tim Rice or Ray Keene, I suppose. Any ideas?

League results

Division 1

| University 2 – Gambit 1 | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---|---|---------------|-------|
| 1 Emanuel, J. | (160) | 0 | – | 1 Barnes, M. | (186) |
| 2 Thompson, I. | (167) | 1 | – | 0 Merces, P. | (176) |
| 3 Clare, A. | (153) | ½ | – | ½ Swain, J. | (170) |
| 4 Satz, A. | (146) | 0 | – | 1 Hayward, B. | (148) |
| 5 Hemani, G. | (–) | ½ | – | ½ Roper, K. | (143) |
| | | 2 | – | 3 | |

| Mansfield 1 – Newark 1 | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|----|---|--------------|-------|
| 1 Tait, J. | (197) | 1 | – | 0 Wells, D. | (167) |
| 2 Cantrill, C. | (155) | ½ | – | ½ Ladds, G. | (154) |
| 3 Morrison, K. | (160) | 0 | – | 1 Blake, R. | (137) |
| 4 Foreman, S. | (145) | 1 | – | 0 Combie, A. | (139) |
| 5 Wagenbach, J. | (132) | 1 | – | 0 Aiton, K. | (131) |
| | | 3½ | – | 1½ | |

Division 2

In Issue No. 26, West Nottingham 2–Ashfield 3 was incorrectly reported as 4½–1½. The correct score is 4½–½. Thanks to Bob Taylor for the correction.

| West Nottingham 1 – Nomads 1 | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|----|---|----------------|-------|
| 1 Levens, D. | (167) | 1 | – | 0 Hill, M. | (132) |
| 2 Basey, M. | (–) | 1 | – | 0 Marriott, R. | (121) |
| 3 Messam-Sparks, L. | (121) | 0 | – | 1 Kendall, T. | (118) |
| 4 Kingston, I. | (143) | 1 | – | 0 Ince, D. | (116) |
| 5 Collins, J. | (130) | ½ | – | ½ Thurgood, T. | (106) |
| | | 3½ | – | 1½ | |

David Levens: Being team captain isn't always a lot of fun. For a long while the final result seemed to be in some doubt. I had no idea what was going on on Board 3 between Lateefah and Tim; John looked as if he had the worst of it; and Ian, after a tiring rapidplay the previous day [no excuse! – ed.] found that his alter ego Captain Blunder had resurfaced after a long vacation. This should have cost Ian the game, but luckily Darran failed to take advantage.

Ashfield 2 – Long Eaton

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|---|---|---------------|-------|
| 1 Taylor, R. | (127) | 0 | – | 1 | Evans, R. | (181) |
| 2 Graham, N. | (133) | 0 | – | 1 | Lakhani, K. | (166) |
| 3 Morgan, D. P. | (134) | ½ | – | ½ | Robins, A. | (146) |
| 4 Robinson, A. | (117) | ½ | – | ½ | Gibson, G. T. | (144) |
| 5 Cranmer, S. | (139) | 1 | – | 0 | Lakhani, A. | (116) |

2 – 3

Phil Morgan: It is a law of chess physics that Long Eaton always beat Ashfield 2. In the last two matches between these teams Long Eaton won without their top two boards; here they fielded their strongest team and a massacre was expected. Instead, a miracle nearly happened, but then the law reasserted itself.

Division 3

Fiveways – West Nottingham 3

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|---|---|--------------|-------|
| 1 Flynn, D. | (132) | 0 | – | 1 | Day, I. | (119) |
| 2 Bhayat, S. | (126) | 0 | – | 1 | Lin, D. | (118) |
| 3 Bowen, L. | (113) | 0 | – | 1 | Burley, P. | (114) |
| 4 Griffiths, D. | (106) | 1 | – | 0 | Berdunov, N. | (–) |
| 5 Thorsen, A. | (105) | ½ | – | ½ | Crawley, J. | (68) |

1½ – 3½

Gambit 3 – Bunkers 2

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|---|---|------------|-------|
| 1 Tassi, J. | (131) | 0 | – | 1 | Harvey, K. | (142) |
| 2 Gibson, G. | (107) | ½ | – | ½ | Moore, M. | (104) |
| 3 Hopkinson, G. | (101) | 0 | – | 1 | Allen, P. | (95) |
| 4 Brown, A. | (87) | 1 | – | 0 | Parham, S. | (59) |
| 5 Chambers, A. | (–) | 1 | – | 0 | Swords, M. | (–) |

2½ – 2½

Division 4

Nomads 3 – Gambit 4

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|---|---|---|----------------|-------|
| 1 Pynegar, H. | (86) | 0 | – | 1 | Harper, M. | (109) |
| 2 Cronshaw, D. | (96) | ½ | – | ½ | Hobson, B. | (99) |
| 3 Smith, P. | (87) | 0 | – | 1 | Fillingham, I. | (94) |
| 4 Dawson, R. | (74) | ½ | – | ½ | Padvis, D. | (100) |
| 5 Mather, G. | (–) | 0 | – | 1 | Gretton, M. | (89) |

1 – 4

Nomads 3 – University 3

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|---|---|---|------------|-------|
| 1 Cronshaw, D. | (96) | 0 | – | 1 | Satz, A. | (146) |
| 2 Mann, A. | (96) | 0 | – | 1 | Jones, D. | (–) |
| 3 Dawson, R. | (74) | 0 | – | 1 | Hemani, G. | (–) |
| 4 Smith, P. | (87) | 1 | – | 0 | Jacobs, P. | (101) |
| 5 Craig, G. | (–) | 0 | – | 1 | Yang, J. | (112) |

1 – 4

Ashfield 4 – West Nottingham 4

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|---|---|---|----------------|-------|
| 1 Morrey, A. | (104) | 0 | – | 1 | Williamson, E. | (114) |
| 2 Clarke, P. | (94) | ½ | – | ½ | Lim, E. | (74) |
| 3 Potter, C. | (90) | 1 | – | 0 | Berdunov, N. | (–) |
| 4 Dyce, R. | (83) | 1 | – | 0 | Thacker, S. | (105) |
| 5 Todd, P. | (81) | 0 | – | 1 | Crawley, J. | (67) |

2½ – 2½

Division 5

University 4 – Gambit 5

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|---|---|---|----------------|------|
| 1 Pym, J. | (106) | 1 | – | 0 | Fredericks, E. | (76) |
| 2 Hamby, S. | (–) | 0 | – | 1 | Heath, K. | (55) |
| 3 Ferris, S. | (–) | 1 | – | 0 | Watson, R. | (68) |
| 4 Keller, S. | (–) | 0 | – | 1 | Ali, H. | (77) |

2 – 2

League tables

Division 1

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Df | Pn | Pt |
|--------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| 1 University 2 | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 32½ | 17½ | 15 | 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 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 26½ | 23½ | 3 | 0 | 11 |
| 5 Gambit 1 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 23½ | 26½ | –3 | 0 | 9 |
| 6 University 1 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 21½ | 23½ | –2 | 0 | 7 |
| 7 Bunkers 1 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 17½ | 32½ | –15 | 0 | 5 |
| 8 Newark 1 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 15½ | 29½ | –14 | 0 | 4 |

Division 2

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Df | Pn | Pt |
|---------------------|----|----|---|---|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| 1 West Nottingham 1 | 11 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 38 | 17 | 21 | 0 | 20 |
| 2 Long Eaton | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 33½ | 16½ | 17 | 0 | 17 |
| 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 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 23½ | 31½ | –8 | 0 | 8 |
| 6 Grantham 1 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 18½ | 31½ | –13 | 0 | 7 |
| 7 Nomads 1 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 19½ | 30½ | –11 | 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 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 27 | 18 | 9 | 0 | 12 |
| 3 Fiveways | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 20½ | 24½ | –4 | 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 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 20½ | 24½ | –4 | 0 | 6 |
| 8 Bunkers 2 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 23 | –11 | 0 | 5 |

Division 4

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Df | Pn | Pt |
|-------------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| 1 West Nottingham 4 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 31 | 19 | 12 | 0 | 15 |
| 2 Gambit 4 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 28½ | 21½ | 7 | 0 | 15 |
| 3 University 3 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 31 | 19 | 12 | 0 | 14 |
| 4 Ashfield 4 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 32 | 28 | 4 | 0 | 13 |
| 5 Nomads 3 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 28 | 22 | 6 | 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 Gambit 5 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 15½ | 16½ | –1 | 0 | 9 |
| 4 Bunkers 3 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 19 | –2 | 0 | 9 |
| 5 University 4 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 17½ | 18½ | –1 | 0 | 8 |
| 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 |