

Notts News

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Congress result update

The missing result from the Minor has been tracked down:
Neil Milson 0–1 Ken Heath.

Championship decider

After the long wait through the Easter vacation, University 2 faced Ashfield 1 in their final match with the Championship at stake. Long odds for Ashfield, obviously: only a 5–0 win would be good enough. But pressure sometimes does funny things.

The two captains – Ian Thompson and Steve Burke – both sent reports, so I'll let them speak for themselves.

Ian Thompson

With six players available I decided to sit out last night's game, in which University 2 needed only to avoid a 5–0 defeat. Alex Therrien's early draw secured the title. In a queenless middle game, Alex's doubled pawns looked slightly vulnerable, but provided useful squares for his knights, and his opponent had no way through. In the evening's only remarkable game, Billy Grewal lost (!) to a piece sacrifice by Glenn Halfpenny. Alex later pointed out that he did have a defence, but after missing it Billy's king was in no-man's land, and the only kingside pawn on his second rank belonged to his opponent. John Emanuel levelled the scores, building up a large advantage in piece activity in an IQP position before demolishing his opponent on the kingside. In the remaining two games, Antony Clare and Jamie Hillman both looked roughly level throughout, although Antony may have missed a winning trick shortly before agreeing a draw in a rook ending. Jamie was a pawn down, but used his better coordinated pieces to force a position in which his queen could continually harass the opposing king.

Steve Burke

So we didn't manage to achieve the near impossible, but we did put up a good fight and for a while it did look as if we might just have a chance.

As their official start time is 7:15 the four of us that were there started about 7:20 and Glenn arrived just afterwards, to be met by an immediate draw offer from Billy Grewal, which raised a laugh all around but was politely declined :-)

My winning attempt against Alex Therrien began with an exchange of queens on move 5, which isn't quite what I had anticipated, but in exchange I got a big advantage that could have led to a win. (See game below if you're interested how.)

Glenn proceeded to enter the spirit of things by sacrificing for a massive attack, while Richard and Derek gained early pluses and Andrew was doing OK.

As we approached the two-hour mark I was beginning to slip behind on the clock trying to find ways to win my game. After a look down the boards I realized that we were very unlikely to win all of them so I took the responsibility as captain of conceding the title by offering a draw, while I still

had a reasonable amount of time left, which Alex had little option but to accept.

That relieved the tension and left the team to play sensibly for the other two points we needed to confirm our second place ahead of West Bridgford. And it wasn't long before Glenn was rewarded for his enterprising play by finishing off Billy to put us ahead. As play proceeded, Andrew lost and Derek was held to a draw by Clare, but that left Richard in a better position against Hillman and a draw was agreed that clinched the runner-up spot for us.

I'd like to thank everyone for their efforts this year as you've all contributed vital points (or half points) to the cause at various times.

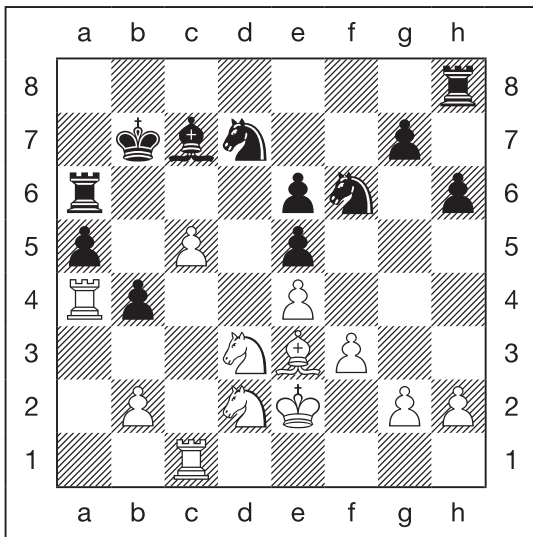
And finally here's my game as promised...

S. Burke – A. Therrien

University 2 – Ashfield 1, 24.04.2007

Notes by Steve Burke

1.d4 Nf6 2.f3!? Hoping for a transposition to the vagaries of a Blackmar Diemer Gambit. **2...d6 3.e4** I played this expecting a Pirc, or maybe a pseudo-Sicilian. **3...e5?** Black played this very quickly. I thought the game continuation was just good for me (as it is) so I expected some prepared sacrificial line. **4. dxe5** Adopting a 'show me' attitude. **4...dxe5?** This really surprised me. I had looked at 4...Nfd7!? 5.Be3 (5.exd6?! Bxd6 gives Black compensation for his pawn.) 5...Nxe5 6.Nc3; However, I actually expected 4...Nxe4!? 5.fxe4 Qh4+ 6.Ke2 when White should survive and win with the extra piece, but it would be tricky. **5.Qxd8+** Exchanging queens on move five was not what I had planned for a game where we needed to win 5–0 to take the league title, but it gives White very good winning chances. **5...Kxd8 6.Bc4!** This threat against f7 consolidates White's advantage. Black can often play such positions quite well, but the presence of the knight on f6 means that he can't meet this threat with 6...f6 and leaves Black in desperate straits. **6...Be6** He doesn't want to play this, but has no better options. **7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.Be3 c6?** Continuing with his planned development, but probably the king should now head back to the kingside. [8...Nbd7 9.Nh3 Bc5 10.Bxc5 Nxc5 11.Na3±] **9.Nd2 Kc7 10.Nh3 h6 11.Nf2 Nbd7?!** [11...Nfd7 is better as it brings all his pieces to the battlefield.] **12.Nd3 b5?!** We both thought this was necessary to stop Nc4. [12...g5 13.Nc4 Bg7 14.0–0–0 Rad8 is better but White is well ahead.] **13.a4 Bd6 14.axb5 cxb5 15.Ra5 a6 16.Ke2 Kb7** Black considered playing 16...Nb6 though after my planned reply 17.c4 (17.b3! preparing c4 is even better.) 17...Nxc4 18.Rc1 Kd7 19.Nxc4 bxc4 20.Rxc4 White is still much better. **17.c4!!** This move cracks open Black's position. **17...b4?** I expected the better option of 17...Bc7 18.Ra3 Rhc8 but White is close to winning. **18.c5 Bc7 19.Ra4 a5 20.Rc1 Ra6**



21.Rca1! This is a good move, but not the best. I was looking at ideas based on 21.Nxb4 but didn't find anything here. In fact 21...axb4 22.c6+ Rxc6 23.Ra7+!! Kb8 24.Rxc6 is clearly winning for White. **21...Nb8** I had hoped for 21...Rha8? 22.Nxb4! axb4 23.c6+ Kxc6 24.Rxa6+ Rxa6 25.Rxa6+ Nb6 winning the exchange and the game. **22.Nc4** However neither of us saw 22.Nxb4!! axb4 23.Rxb4+ Kc6 24.Rxb8 wins two pawns. **22...Nc6 23.Nc1** Maybe I should have played on. I thought that I was still much better (Fritz rates White +1.6), but it didn't look like we could win all five games and I had slipped behind on the clock while trying to find some way to gain a tangible return for my good position. ½-½

League results

Division 1

Mansfield 1 – Bunkers 1

1 Tait, J.	(197)	½	-	½	Harrison, J.	(150)
2 Cantrill, C.	(155)	½	-	½	Harvey, K.	(142)
3 Morrison, K.	(160)	1	-	0	Brameld, K.	(143)
4 Oldham, B.	(130)	1	-	0	Chubb, A.	(72)
5 Wagenbach, J.	(132)	1	-	0	Default	(-)

4 - 1

University 2 – Ashfield 1

1 Therrien, A.	(190)	½	-	½	Burke, S.	(161)
2 Grewal, B.	(177)	0	-	1	Halfpenny, G.	(162)
3 Hillman, J.	(168)	½	-	½	Webster, R.	(155)
4 Emanuel, J.	(160)	1	-	0	Toothill, A.	(158)
5 Clare, A.	(153)	½	-	½	Jarvis, D.	(148)

2½ - 2½

Newark 1 – Gambit 1

1 Wells, D.	(167)	0	-	1	Barnes, M.	(186)
2 Coates, D.	(161)	½	-	½	Mercs, P.	(176)
3 Ladds, G.	(154)	½	-	½	Swain, J.	(170)
4 Blake, R.	(137)	½	-	½	Hayward, B.	(148)
5 Combie, A.	(139)	1	-	0	Roper, K.	(143)

2½ - 2½

University 1 – West Bridgford 1

1 Posazhennikov, A.	(185)	0	-	1	Richmond, R.	(194)
2 Lam, P.	(181)	½	-	½	Walker, T.	(167)
3 Lee, D.	(163)	0	-	1	Truman, R.	(167)
4 Walker, A.	(162)	½	-	½	Thompson, B.	(150)
5 McBeth, M.	(154)	0	-	1	Place, W.	(135)

1 - 4

Division 2

Grantham 1 – Ashfield 3

1 Payne, N.	(168)	1	-	0	Cranmer, S.	(139)
2 Pierbattisti, G.	(146)	1	-	0	Sayer, R.	(103)
3 Holt, C.	(134)	0	-	1	Lewis, T.	(107)
4 Palmer, T.	(113)	1	-	0	Morrey, A.	(104)
5 Mason, B.	(102)	½	-	½	Jackson, M.	(107)

3½ - 1½

Division 3

Newark 2 – Fiveways

1 Combie, A.	(139)	1	-	0	Flynn, D.	(132)
2 Wollerton, G.	(123)	1	-	0	Griffiths, D.	(106)
3 Aiton, K.	(131)	1	-	0	Bowen, L.	(113)
4 Myers, R.	(115)	1	-	0	Default	(-)
5 Harper, G.	(83)	½	-	½	Thorsen, A.	(105)

5 - 0

½ point penalty applied: Rule D9

West Nottingham 3 – Gambit 3

1 Lin, D.	(118)	½	-	½	Tassi, J.	(131)
2 Nehra, P.	(-)	½	-	½	Roper, K.	(143)
3 Burley, P.	(114)	0	-	1	Carlton, A.	(121)
4 Willoughby, R.	(113)	½	-	½	Brown, A.	(87)
5 Berdunov, N.	(-)	1	-	0	Hopkinson, G.	(101)

2½ - 2½

Radcliffe & Bingham 1 – Fiveways

1 London, N.	(126)	½	-	½	Flynn, D.	(132)
2 Toms, D.	(129)	1	-	0	Griffiths, D.	(106)
3 Zerdazi, Y.	(-)	1	-	0	Bowen, L.	(113)
4 Nailard, M.	(106)	1	-	0	Default	(-)
5 Murfet, G.	(113)	1	-	0	Default	(-)

4½ - ½

Mansfield 2 – Nomads 2

1 Wagenbach, J.	(132)	0	-	1	Mann, M.	(-)
2 Oldham, B.	(130)	½	-	½	Pynegar, T.	(106)
3 Smith, V.	(114)	1	-	0	Darby, L.	(107)
4 Harrison, R.	(99)	1	-	0	Mann, A.	(96)
5 Walker, R.	(104)	1	-	0	Cronshaw, D.	(96)

3½ - 1½

Division 4

The result of the Nomads 3–West Nottingham 4 match was given the wrong way round last week: it should have been 3½–1½ for Nomads. The individual game results and the league table were correct.

Ashfield 5 – University 3

1 Justice, E.	(81)	0	–	1	Satz, A.	(146)
2 Todd, P.	(81)	0	–	1	Hemani, G.	(–)
3 Swift, S.	(–)	0	–	1	Jones, D.	(–)
4 Pacitto, A.	(–)	0	–	1	Zhou, S.	(–)
5 Beeby, F.	(50)	0	–	1	Yang, J.	(112)
	0	–	5			

Division 5

West Nottingham 5 – Gambit 5

1 Zhang, M.	(78)	1	–	0	Groves, A.	(67)
2 Clegg, T.	(58)	1	–	0	Fredericks, E.	(76)
3 Alfred, A.	(63)	0	–	1	Watson, R.	(68)
4 Gupta-Kaistha, A.	(44)	0	–	1	Ali, H.	(77)
	2	–	2			

Bunkers 3 – Grantham 2

1 Wilson, R.	(74)	1	–	0	Smith, B.	(77)
2 Parham, S.	(59)	0	–	1	Smith, P.	(78)
3 Chubb, A.	(72)	1	–	0	Cumbers, C.	(76)
4 Cairney, K.	(42)	0	–	1	Allgood, R.	(85)
	2	–	2			

League tables

All promotion and relegation indications are provisional.

Division 1

As reported above, University 2 claimed the championship by successfully fending off Ashfield 1. At the other end of the table, Newark 1's slight chance of survival was ended when they drew against Gambit 1.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 ^C University 2	14	9	3	2	44½	25½	19	0	21
2 Ashfield 1	14	8	3	3	39½	30½	9	0	19
3 West Bridgford 1	14	7	4	3	40½	29½	11	0	18
4 Gambit 1	14	5	4	5	38	32	6	0	14
5 Mansfield 1	14	5	4	5	35	35	0	–2	12
6 University 1	14	5	1	8	31	39	–8	0	11
7 ^R Newark 1	14	3	4	7	29½	40½	–11	0	10
8 ^R Bunkers 1	14	2	1	11	22	48	–26	0	5

Division 2

Grantham 1's battle for survival was brought to a successful conclusion, condemning Nomads 1 to Division 3 (incorporating Nomads' very own mini-league next year).

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 ^C Long Eaton	14	12	1	1	48	22	26	0	25
2 ^P West Nottingham 1	14	12	0	2	47	23	24	0	24
3 Gambit 2	14	6	2	6	38	32	6	0	14
4 West Nottingham 2	14	6	2	6	36½	33½	3	0	14
5 Ashfield 2	14	4	4	6	32	38	–6	0	12
6 Grantham 1	14	5	1	8	27½	42½	–15	0	11
7 ^R Nomads 1	14	4	1	9	30½	39½	–9	0	9
8 ^R Ashfield 3	14	1	1	12	20½	49½	–29	0	3

Division 3

In the one unfinished division, Radcliffe & Bingham 1 clinched promotion, while Gambit 3 lost their relegation battle when they could only manage a draw with West Nottingham 3. Fiveways' apparently easy task of surviving by not losing their last three matches too heavily turned into a nightmare when a player shortage struck, and they now need to draw their last match.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 ^P Radcliffe & Bingham 1	14	9	1	4	39	31	8	0	19
2 Mansfield 2	13	7	3	3	38½	26½	12	0	17
3 Newark 2	13	6	3	4	40	25	15	0	15
4 West Nottingham 3	13	5	3	5	33	32	1	0	13
5 Nomads 2	13	5	2	6	31	34	–3	0	12
6 Bunkers 2	14	4	3	7	28½	41½	–13	0	11
7 Fiveways	13	5	1	7	26	39	–13	0	11
8 ^R Gambit 3	13	2	4	7	29	36	–7	0	8

Division 4

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 ^C University 3	14	10	2	2	46	24	22	0	22
2 ^P Nomads 3	14	9	1	4	44	26	18	0	19
3 West Nottingham 4	14	8	3	3	41	29	12	0	19
4 Gambit 4	14	7	4	3	38	32	6	0	18
5 Ashfield 4	14	6	3	5	36½	33½	3	0	15
6 Radcliffe & Bingham 2	14	3	3	8	30	40	–10	0	9
7 ^R West Bridgford 2	14	2	2	10	24½	45½	–21	0	6
8 ^R Ashfield 5	14	1	2	11	20	50	–30	0	4

Division 5

West Nottingham 5's draw with Gambit 5 had the dual effect of winning the division for themselves and ensuring Grantham 2's promotion. Grantham made doubly sure by drawing their last match.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	Pn	Pt
1 ^C West Nottingham 5	12	7	3	2	33	15	18	0	17
2 ^P Grantham 2	12	6	4	2	30	18	12	0	16
3 Gambit 5	12	5	5	2	25½	22½	3	0	15
4 Bunkers 3	12	4	5	3	23½	24½	–1	0	13
5 University 4	12	4	2	6	22	26	–4	–2	8
6 West Nottingham 7	12	3	2	7	19	29	–10	0	8
7 West Nottingham 6	12	2	1	9	15	33	–18	0	5