

Notts News

Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

2006-07 No. 41 19 May 2007

<http://www.nottschess.org/> nottsnews@nottschess.org

Copyright © Nottinghamshire Chess Association 2007

Nottinghamshire U150-Cumbria U150

Ian Kingston

We probably couldn't have asked for an easier quarter-final tie: Cumbria were giving away an average of over 15 grading points per board, and on the bottom eight boards we had almost a 24 point advantage – enough, if the high boards played solidly, for an overwhelming win on paper. But it didn't quite turn out that way.

The match started brightly enough: Kevin Harvey was first to win, and I confess that I didn't see anything of his game, my attention having been taken by Alex Combie's attack. An exchange sacrifice exposed his opponent's king, and when the dust cleared Alex had won back the exchange along with a couple of pawns, leaving a simple endgame win. Meanwhile, Matt Basey was demonstrating how to win without using his queenside pieces, and although his opponent probably resigned prematurely, we were happy enough with an early 3-0 lead.

There was a harbinger of what was to come, however, on Board 13, where John Tassi lost rather conclusively to a much lower graded player. The three-point margin was soon restored when I delivered checkmate, my opponent apparently having taken his cue from Matt's approach to using his queenside pieces, but when I looked around at the rest of the games it wasn't easy to see where the remaining 4½ points were going to come from. Brian Hayward was level; Keith Brameld and Steve Hunter were both in trouble; Will Place had an edge, but no more; Keith Roper was a pawn down, and next to him Drag Sudar was a pawn up. I think I miscounted pieces in Neil Graham's game, since he appeared to be the exchange down, but five minutes later he was a rook up. Dave Flynn had definitely dropped the exchange; David Toms had a strong attack; Bob Taylor was pressing hard without having a clear win; and Oliver Exton's position was unclear. So maybe we could get five points – enough to win, but not with a lot to spare. Fortunately, the wins on Boards 2, 3 and 5 had given us some insurance in terms of board count.

At this stage I wondered whether we were going to see a repeat of the Leicestershire match, where all the bad positions turned in our favour. I was even toying with the idea of just repeating the same match report, with a few changes of name. Brian drew, as expected, and Keith Roper won the pawn back for a dead drawn pawn ending. Then David Toms produced some unanswerable mate threats, and at 6-2 the pressure seemed off.

No such luck. All the remaining positions resolutely refused to follow the pattern of the previous match. Drag was unable to make anything of his extra pawn, but no matter – Neil was definitely a rook up with an easy win. But when I walked round to the other side of the board, I discovered that the captain had only a minute or two left on his clock. By that stage, his advantage was the exchange and two pawns, and as his opponent had just a king and knight Neil could do no worse than draw. Probably every spectator saw the wins that Neil missed, but it's a different story when your flag is hanging, and Neil had to call it a day when he reached a dead drawn K + P vs. K ending.

Dave Flynn lost, so we still needed a point from the last four games. Oliver's game had clarified somewhat (if you can call having two pieces for four pawns 'clear'), and he simplified into an ending of K + B + 2P vs. K + 3P. Unfortunately, it was completely drawn, as his opponent could easily reach K + B + h-pawn vs. K, but with Oliver having the wrong bishop. Alert to the situation, Bob (still pressing, but not winning) promptly offered a draw, which was accepted, and thus we

NCA Blitz Championship

Monday 4 June 2007

West Nottingham Chess Club, Bramcote Memorial Hall,
Church Street, Bramcote, Nottingham NG9 3HD

- ♦ Six-round Swiss
- ♦ 10 minutes per player per game
- ♦ Prizes: Open, U150, U125 and U100; veteran (over 50); junior; team
- ♦ Entry fee: £3.00 per person on the night

For more details, see http://www.nottschess.org/2006_07/blitz.html

High-speed fun!

Nottinghamshire U150 – Cumbria U150 19 May 2007

Board	Grade	Score	Grade
1 Brian Hayward	148	½-½	147
2 Ian Kingston	143	1-0	139
3 Matt Basey	148*	1-0	137
4 Keith Brameld	143	0-1	137
5 Kevin Harvey	142	1-0	133
6 Steve Hunter	139	0-1	131
7 Alex Combie	139	1-0	130
8 Will Place	135	½-½	124
9 Keith Roper	143	½-½	123
10 Drag Sudar	134	½-½	121
11 Neil Graham	133	½-½	117
12 Dave Flynn	132	0-1	107
13 John Tassi	131	0-1	106
14 David Toms	129	1-0	104
15 Bob Taylor	127	½-½	97
16 Oliver Exton	128	½-½	93
8½-7½			

staggered over the winning line. Keith and Steve struggled on, but neither could salvage anything.

The match was held at Alwoodley Chess Club in north Leeds, who proved to be excellent hosts, providing generous refreshments throughout the match.

Our semi-final opponents will be Hertfordshire on 9 June. Venue to be decided.

Handicap KO

Mansfield defeated West Nottingham Daydream 5–4 in the second semi-final of the Handicap Knockout this week to earn themselves the chance to go one better than last year, when they lost the final to Bigmat Yobs. Their opponents will be the team they beat in last year's semi-final, West Nottingham Nightmare.

The match will be played at a neutral venue on a date to be decided.

Mansfield – West Nottingham Daydream					
West Nottingham Daydream		B1	B2	B3	Total
A1	Levens, D.	(166)	0	½	0 ½
A2	Basey, M.	(155e)	0	½	1 ½
A3	Collins, J.	(130)	0	1	1 2
					4
Mansfield		A1	A2	A3	
B1	Tait, J.	(197)	1	1	1 3
B2	Morrison, K.	(160)	½	½	0 1
B3	Wagenbach, J.	(132)	1	0	0 1
					5

There appears to be some doubt about the Collins–Wagenbach result – it may have been a draw. It has no effect on the match result.

Summer Chess

I'm repeating this here with a couple of updates. Thanks to Drag Sudar for confirming that Gambit will indeed be open over the summer.

Open

- ♦ **Ashfield:** open every Wednesday evening at the Summit Centre for the months of May, June and July but closed throughout August.
- ♦ **Bunkers:** should be open as usual, though turnout might be sporadic. There are usually a couple of us at the club from 8–8:30 p.m. onwards. All are welcome to attend. It's nice at the Navigation in summer since you can play chess outside next to the canal.

- ♦ **Gambit:** open all summer (AGM 29 May, which you might wish to avoid). There is a possibility of one or two blitz tournaments.
- ♦ **West Bridgford:** most weeks there will be people present, but there may not be every week, and it may be worth ringing Tim Walker or Frank Hill beforehand.
- ♦ **West Nottingham:** open every Monday except for Bank Holidays; closed in August. There will be some special events (including the NCA Blitz). Avoid 30 July (club AGM).

Closed

- ♦ **Radcliffe & Bingham:** closed, but reopening on 21 August.
- ♦ **Nomads:** closed until the first Monday after the August Bank Holiday.

Lincoln Rapidplay

From Kevin McCarthy: The Lincoln Rapidplay takes place on Sunday 2 September. It has a new improved venue at Lindum plus a generous sponsor, so there are three good prizes in the Open plus U180/U165/U150 grading prizes. In the U140 section prizes go down to 5th place plus U125/U110/U95 grading prizes and three junior prizes

Brochures available from KMCCARTHYZ@aol.com. Details will be online at <http://www.PandorasBoxChessClub.org.uk/> very shortly when arbiters/controllers have been confirmed.

NCA Best Game Prize

A reminder about the best game prize. Entries should go to David Levens (not me, as printed last week – but if they do come to me I'll pass them on). Rob Richmond (last year's winner) will judge the entries.

Tesco sells more chess sets

Spotted in the *Daily Telegraph* (via the ECF web site): a strange article (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml?xml=/money/2007/04/16/cclife16.xml>) full of apparently randomly selected chess terminology based on the factoid that Tesco is currently selling 2000 chess sets a month, 'a "significant rise" from two years ago and a Tesco record'. It seems that the nation's business leaders are seeing chess as a way to help them improve their business skills. I can't help but feel that picking up a chess set from Tesco isn't going to make that much difference, but who knows?