

# Notts News

## Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

2006-07 No. 44 16 June 2007

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### County U150 semi-final: Hertfordshire-Nottinghamshire

Bob Taylor and Ian Kingston

(This report is a combination of acting captain Bob's notes and Ian's observations, as both of us had long games. It's a bit less coherent than usual as a result.)

This match proved to be every bit as tough and as close as expected against a slightly higher graded team. After three hours' play there were only three results, including a win for Stan Cranmer (whose sacrificial attack was undoubtedly winning, even before his opponent donated his queen) and a loss for Alex Combie, who dropped a piece. Remind me (Bob) not to put three 'T's together in the board order, because we all lost – David Toms' game was one of attack and counter-attack in which he lost after running short on time; and John Tassi and I (Bob) also lost. Phil Morgan, as a late replacement for Neil Graham, excelled himself by winning. Around this time the match was level, following wins for Drag Sudar and Will Place, but with three games to go the situation did not look good. My (Ian's) game had gone from good to bad after carelessly playing a move that I'd already rejected; Brian Hayward's position was no more than level; and Oliver Exton had a good queen and pawn endgame; but we needed to pick up more than 1½ points from these three games because of the board count situation. Unfortunately, neither Brian nor Ian could squeeze out an extra half point (losing and drawing, respectively), and although Oliver played extremely well to convert Q+g-pawn vs. Q in the last game to finish, we already knew our fate.

#### Hertfordshire U150 – Nottinghamshire U150 9 June 2007

Board	Grade	Score	Grade
1 Antony Hall	149	½–½	Brian Hayward 148
2 Adam Batson	148	1–0	Ian Kingston 143
3 Jon Barnes	148	½–½	Kevin Harvey 142
4 Richard House	143	½–½	Keith Brameld 143
5 Anthony Burrows	142	1–0	Alex Combie 139
6 Brian Judkins	141	½–½	Steve Hunter 139
7 Paul Lawrence	141	½–½	Tim Lane 139
8 Simon Morris	137	0–1	Stanley Cranmer 139
9 Mike Price	137	0–1	Will Place 135
10 James Aldred	136	½–½	Keith Roper 143
11 Mark Topham	136	0–1	Drag Sudar 134
12 David Edney	135	0–1	Philip Morgan 134
13 Mark Harris	134	1–0	David Toms 129
14 Ian Mutton	133	1–0	John Tassi 131
15 Jon Spencer	133	1–0	Robert Taylor 127
16 Paul Kenning	131	0–1	Oliver Exton 128
8–8			

I (Bob) would like to thank all who played and supplied the cars to get to the matches. And many thanks to Tim for his support.

And of course, the whole squad would like to thank Neil for his exemplary efforts throughout the season in putting together yet another successful campaign. Nothing contributes more to a team at this level than good captaincy.

### AGM

A reminder that the Annual General Meeting of the NCA will be held on Monday 2 July at West Nottingham CC, starting at 7:30 p.m. The main purpose of the meeting is to receive and discuss reports from officers and committees, and to elect those for next season. Any items for the agenda should be submitted to me no later than 18 June, preferably by email to Andy Walker ([secretary@nottschess.org](mailto:secretary@nottschess.org)).

### Minutes

Minutes of the 2006 AGM and draft minutes of the SGM are included with this issue of *Notts News*.

### Proposed changes to the Constitution, to be discussed at the AGM

The following proposed changes are from Drag Sudar (Gambit).

#### Section: Meetings, Paragraph: 11a

Either Add:

- iv. To present the minutes of a general meeting to the next general meeting.

Or Add:

- iv. To present the minutes of an Annual General Meeting to the next Annual General Meeting.
- v. To present minutes of any other type of general meeting to the next general meeting.

(Clarifying exactly when minutes of AGMs and other meetings should be presented)

#### Section: Special meetings, Paragraph: 16

Alter:

Any five members

To:

Any five affiliated clubs

And Delete:

An affiliated club is deemed to be one member for this purpose

(Proactive change, anticipating a potential future individual membership scheme, retaining the right of clubs (rather than individuals) to deliver a written requisition for a meeting)

## Officers' Reports

As mentioned last time in the AGM announcement, officers' reports are to be published in advance of this year's AGM. For that to happen, I need to receive them by 21 June. To date, I have yet to receive any reports (including my own, but that's my problem).

Reports do not have to be lengthy – a brief summary (100–150 words) of what each officer has done during the season will be sufficient.

Please send reports to Ian Kingston: [nottsnews@nottschess.org](mailto:nottsnews@nottschess.org).

## Executive Committee minutes

Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of January and March are now available online at [http://www.nottschess.org/2006\\_07/executive.html](http://www.nottschess.org/2006_07/executive.html). Apologies for the delay.

## Best game prize

The best game prize remains open for entries. Dig through those scoresheets (or search your ChessBase files) for your best game of the season – it could be good enough to win!

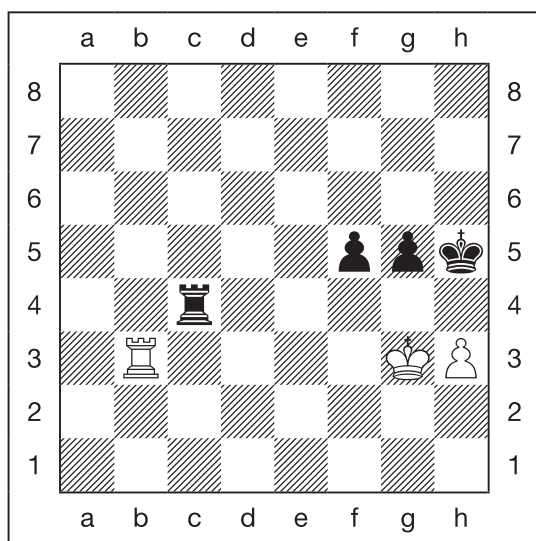
Send your entries to David Levens ([david@chesscoach.co.uk](mailto:david@chesscoach.co.uk)) by the end of June.

## That R+P endgame

[This is a follow-up to the endgame tactic published in the previous issue's report on the NCA Blitz Championship – Ed.]

Richard Webster

I was preparing to give a lecture on rook endgames the other night when I came across the following position in *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*:



Smyslov–Keres, USSR ch, Moscow 1949  
White to play

This is equivalent to the position I had against Mike Barnes.

White should draw with 1. Rb8! f4+ 2. Kg2 Rc2+ 3. Kf3! Rc3+ 4. Kg2 Rg3+ 5. Kh2 Re3 6. Kg2 Kg6 7. Rf8 was sufficient, Dvoretsky also notes that 7. Ra8 Kf5 8. Ra5+ Re5 9. Ra8 would draw as well.

## South Lakes Congress

Paul Todd (Ashfield) writes: I won a share of third prize at the South Lakes Congress Minor 2 Tournament over the weekend 1–3 June (score 4/5). This came as something of a relief after my dreadful performance at the Notts Congress!

## Postscript

It's been a long trek through my inbox to see what needs to go into this issue, and I have a nagging feeling that I've missed something out. If I have, please let me know so that I can rectify the matter.

Other bits and pieces that might be of interest:

- ♦ There's a piece about a simultaneous display by David Bronstein that I promised to publish ages ago and haven't yet got round to.
- ♦ Connected to that, there is a sizeable pile of archive material to start work on. Don't hold back if you have something from the past that might be added.
- ♦ There'll be some changes on the web site to prepare for next season and to tidy up one or two pages that don't work very well at present.
- ♦ Finally, any Apple Macintosh owners who have been having trouble using the NCA web site with the Safari web browser (not many, I suspect, but you never know) will be pleased to know that I've fixed a bug in the main navigation menu so that you can now actually see the text on that menu. As far as I know, the web site now works as intended on all reasonably modern browsers, and degrades gracefully and in usable fashion on older browsers. Any observations to the contrary will be gratefully received.

## **Minutes of the AGM of the Notts Chess Association held on 11 July 2006 at Gambit Chess club**

Present: M Barnes (Pres), D Sudar, R Richmond, T Wright, A Carlton, B Hayward, J Swain, D Padviss, D Levens, I Kingston, J Collins, P Burley, T Clegg, J Crawley, R Willoughby, J Waddingham, A Posazhennikhov, B Redburn, M Hill, G Ladds, A Combie, C Holt, K Harvey, J Harrison, A Morrey, R Taylor, N Graham (27)

### **1. Apologies, minutes of 2005 AGM and matters arising**

Apologies from received from A N Walker, D Cronshaw and S Burke.

MB read the minutes of the 2005 AGM.

Matters arising: NG was concerned we have no third party insurance for public events. RR said all schools already have £20m insurance. AJW said he had checked with the venues before the congress. The ECF run scheme costs about £90 of which they keep about £20. NG still wanted cover – just in case. This was referred to the Exec Committee.

MH asked if the 04-05 accounts were audited. MB said RR had done so. JW was the Treasurer at the time. The final audited loss for 2004-05 was £649.

NG concerned that some clubs do not attend the AGM. Wanted formal proposal to be agreed at next meeting. AJW said that if clubs pay their way then it is their choice not to use their vote. A straw poll “that attendance should be compulsory by a representative of a club” was lost by 8-10.

### **Officers' Reports**

**President:** MB presented written report. Added Nottm High School won the National schools competition for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running.

**Secretary:** ANW had reported to the Bulletin

**Treasurer:** See Bulletin and spreadsheet. A very healthy surplus of £509 was made subject to audit. AJW noted that the congress saved money on venue, postage, printing, careful money control and no expenses. MH noted that we were still recovering from the awful Rushcliffe Leisure Centre venue. The accounts were accepted subject to audit.

**4NCL:** NG said there had been two teams in Division 4. All the results had been in the bulletin. The first team slightly underachieved and the 2<sup>nd</sup> team slightly overachieved. Only Notts players were used.

**U175:** MB said Dick Edwards had never received details of the Jamboree despite requests for the information. MB had spoken to DE and, in view of the two 4NCL teams, agreed that it was not worth running an U175 or Open team.

**U150:** NG reported all match reports and results in the bulletin. They won the MCCU section for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running and were narrowly beaten by Cambridgeshire in the National Semi finals. He was very pleased with the players and thanked them all for their support.

**U125:** MB explained that NG came up with the idea to run two U125 teams so the competition was regionalised and travelling minimised. No volunteers for captains came forward so NG also ran a U125 team and MB an U100 team. NG reported that it should be the responsibility of players within this grading category and not higher grades who are unable to also play.

**U125A:** NG reported W1 D1 L1, didn't quite qualify and all results in bulletin. Lots of juniors played and a full team was fielded for each match. If a combined team was entered it could have been as good as any county in the country. He thanked everyone.

**U125B:** The team won the MCCU East group, won the semi final but lost the MCCU final. Won a preliminary match v Sussex but then lost 9-7 to Bedfordshire in the National quarterfinal. DC would not be standing for re-election. DS said NG & MB had made Herculean efforts to get 44 players to Bedford on 20 May for the national quarterfinals.

**U100:** See written report. The team had fielded 26 players giving many a chance. The team reached the MCCU final and narrowly lost to Shropshire. After an excellent win v Essex they lost in the national semi final. MB thanked all who played, particularly the drivers.

**Correspondence:** MB to chase up Keith Walters who was just back from holiday. The competition only finished on 30 June.

**League Secretary:** DS reported another quiet season with 42 entries. Compiling the fixture list proved tricky after 5 more teams moved their home night to Tuesday but he believed he had satisfied every club's requirements. There were 10 defaults generating £80 in fines. He thanked the Records Secretary and the LMC for their efforts and contributions, and wished his successor well. He also passed on S Burke's offer to assist the new league secretary with the fixtures if required.

**Records Secretary:** Ian Fillingham was not present and the meeting agreed he had done a good job again. IK thanked him for sending results for the bulletin promptly.

**LMC Chair:** MH said the league was well run. Apart from a frivolous request for adjudication, which caused amusement, everything else went smoothly.

**Grading:** BMH had done the grading. He had passed the required information to the ECF. All went ok.

**ECF Rep:** AJW could not attend the last meeting and RR went instead. The ECF is now a limited company. It has a smaller but not necessarily better management Board. Change is still needed. Concern was expressed about the acting head. A new membership scheme had just been announced (more later).

**MCCU Rep:** None of the three reps made the last meeting. AJW reported the MCCU is on a downward spiral with the Julie Johnson run bulletin the only positive. The organisation lacks direction. AJW had struggled to get a British Champ qualifying place & NG struggled to recover the associated bursary. The meetings are not quorate.

**Website/Bulletin:** See report in the 39th Notts News of the year. IK thanked all contributors, especially IF. DS inquired about access and navigability. IK agreed to pass on the password to the NCA Secretary and said he was reviewing the sites structure.

**Congress/Rapidplay:** AJW gave big thanks to NG. The events went well but numbers still not high enough. He encouraged all club members to support their local congress.

**County Championship:** This was held in early April. A small entry but well contested and everyone had a good time at a good venue. The result was a tie on points and sum of progressive scores. Usually there is only one winner decided by sum of opponents scores. This was not originally applied since one of the early

opponents of one player withdrew (although he would still have won!). NG announced before the last round that a ten minutes play off would be held, this was not on the entry form. The winner of the play off feels the title should be shared. Although a play off was also needed in the U125 this was left unresolved as a three way tie. The open trophy has been engraved with both names.

**Publicity Director:** DL reported the Football Post column had ceased after a change of editor. He had been on the radio twice talking about junior chess.

**Knock out:** See report. Bigmat Yobs beat Mansfield 5.5 to 3.5 in the final. AP raised that there was no rule if the teams were of identical grades. This will be addressed in the revised rules. MH said the reserved weeks affected the league. MB agreed and was already proposing to remove them to help the league secretary with fixtures.

**Special Events:** JTS reported blitz result was in bulletin. MB won for 3<sup>rd</sup> year in row and Gambit won the clock as team prize. He asked if May was the right time and how we can widen participation. Events at other clubs on other nights may help.

MB said the 21-22 October 06 date for the county championship chosen by the finance committee is the same as Scarborough and so should probably be moved. IK said he was considering WN running the event but their venue was not available for that date. MB said it was preferable to hold it early in the season and noted that two weeks later was free of county matches and competing congresses.

#### **Executive Committee:**

MB presented this as the way forward with the idea of a general flexible structure with key officers and event organisers co-opted. EC should have reps from different clubs. He proposed a core of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Congress Secretary and League Secretary. The meeting agreed to DS's proposal that the EC adopt the rules of the finance committee as a starting point for the rules of the EC, before more formal rules were defined.

NG proposed an amendment from "League Secretary" to "LMC representative". The proposer accepted this. AEC suggested an U120 rep but after discussion this was rejected by 12 votes to 3.

The MB proposal amended by NG was accepted by 22 votes to 1.

#### **Break from 9.15 to 9.30**

Trophies were handed out where returned, it was noted that the £10 fine for non return of trophies before the end of April **would** be applied:

Division 1: won by Gambit 1 (trophy not returned by Mansfield)

Division 2: won by Bunkers 1 (Newark returned on day so needs engraving)

Division 3: won by Ashfield 3 (trophy not returned by West Nottingham)

Division 4: won by Newark 2 (trophy presented to Alex Combie)

Division 5: won by West Bridgford 2 (trophy returned on day by Ashfield so needs engraving)

Knockout: Bigmat Yobs

10 minutes Blitz: M. Barnes

Best Game Prize: Robert Richmond (£15) for game v Glen Halfpenny

#### **Elections:**

**President:** There were two nominations, David Levens and Maurice Hill. DL said his priority would be junior chess and sponsorship. MH felt that training should be made available for all, not just juniors and the NCA organised on more dynamic lines.

After both candidates left the room there was acknowledgement of the strengths of both candidates. Both were felt to be very suitable. In a vote DL was elected with 17 votes to 4 for MH.

**Secretary:** Andrew Walker

**Treasurer:** Robert Richmond

**4NCL:** Tony Wright (voted by the players two weeks earlier)

**U175:** Unlikely to be a team entered

**U150:** Neil Graham

**U125A:** Vacant

**U125B:** Vacant

**U100:** Vacant

**Correspondence:** Keith Walters

**League Secretary:** Ian Kingston

**Records Secretary:** Ian Kingston

**LMC:** Maurice Hill, Wallace Bryce, Steve Burke, Drag Sudar, Alex Posazhennikhov and Barry Redburn

**LMC Reserves:** Chris Holt, Graham Ladds, Vacancy.

**Grading:** Brian Hayward

**ECF Rep:** Robert Richmond

**MCCU Rep:** Vacant (x3)

**Website/Bulletin:** Ian Kingston

**Congress/Rapidplay:** Robert Richmond

**County Championship:** Ian Kingston/West Nottingham chess club

**Knock out:** Michael Barnes

**Special Events:** Ian Kingston

**Executive Committee:** Five members plus others as co-opted by Committee. President, Secretary, Treasurer, Congress Secretary and League representative.

### **ECF Membership scheme**

There was a long discussion on the emerging details of the ECF proposal for a membership scheme to be run by constituent bodies for £10 per person per year to replace Game Fee. The emerging proposals from the ECF are lacking in detail and fail to answer many questions.

RR was in favour and presented some background details.

MB spoke against saying that the NCA would pay £500 more. AEC was against since the ECF gave nothing back to the ordinary player. NG agreed the ECF didn't but still was in favour. AJW spoke for, saying we should pay more to help the ECF. DS spoke against saying it was not justifiable to spend £500 more for no return.

NG proposed a meeting in September for a full discussion, the Exec committee to provide detailed proposals. This was agreed by the meeting.

### **Any other business**

Only seven clubs have entered the league so far and the rest are reminded the closing date is 15 July.

A request was made for a list of key holders of the NCA equipment to be compiled by the Association secretary and minuted at the next meeting.

**Meeting closed at 10.31**

# Nottinghamshire Chess Association

## General Meeting, 19th September 2006

Special General Meeting of the NCA held at Gambit Chess Club, Federation House, at 7:30pm on Tuesday 19th September 2006, called by request of the Annual General Meeting to discuss the proposed Membership Scheme.

**Present:** D. G. Levens [President, in the chair], A. N. Walker [Secretary], R. Richmond [Treasurer], M. H. Barnes, D. Blampied, A. E. Carlton, L. Darby, I. Fillingham, D. Griffiths, N. Graham, K. Harvey, B. M. Hayward, M. J. Hill, G. Hopkinson, K. Kearney, I. Kingston, M. Moore, A. E. Morrey, D. Padvise, K. W. Roper, D. Sudar, J. A. Tait, R. Taylor and A. J. Wright.

### 1. Courtesies

*Apologies* were received from G. Ladds and J. T. Swain.

*Minutes* of the previous General Meeting, the 2005–06 AGM, which had been taken by M. H. Barnes, then President, in the absence of the Secretary, were read to the meeting by the President, following a discussion about procedure. They were accepted, with the correction that Bigmat Yobs had won the KO final against 'League Champions' rather than against 'Mansfield'.

*Matters arising:* There was further debate about whether these should be taken at this meeting. The President eventually ruled that at least it was better to take them now than to spend the time deciding whether or not to take them. All trophies had now been returned. Executive Committee [EC] had been asked to look at insurance, and this had now been taken out. The accounts had not yet been audited. West Notts CC would pay two years together. The website password had been passed to the Secretary.

There was a long discussion about the date of the County Championship, which clashed with the Scarborough Congress. It was agreed that this was a serious problem which should be avoided in future, but no suitable venue had been available on other dates before Christmas. The date had been discussed and agreed within EC.

D. Sudar asked about the rules under which EC was operating. A. J. Wright said that for financial matters, EC was applying the rules of the former Finance Committee. Positions left vacant at the AGM had not all been filled. T. Norris-Hunt was the new U100 captain, and D. Griffiths was an LMC reserve, but no MCCU representatives were forthcoming, nor was an U125 captain. It was pointed out that teams that could not find a captain would inevitably fold. D. Sudar suggested that a key to the equipment should be kept at Gambit CC. He also pointed out that we had not yet set a budget for this year; the Treasurer said this was conditional on tonight's decision.

### 2. Voting

It was confirmed that all those at the meeting had the right to vote, and the meeting was reminded that any votes were on the basis of one person, one vote.

### 3. Membership Scheme

[Report and proposals prepared by the Treasurer and circulated before the meeting.]

There was discussion about whether the proposals should be treated as constitutional, on the basis that the scheme created individual members of the NCA, thus requiring a two-thirds majority. This would depend on what proposals eventually materialised, so the decision was deferred.

The Treasurer introduced his proposals. The scheme was simpler than that presented to the AGM, would be voluntary and would give rise to Congress discounts and other benefits available to ECF members. Active members of the NCA would benefit, but the overall figures would be much the same. A. J. Wright said that the ECF would benefit, and so therefore would players, if it was properly funded. M. H. Barnes said that the ECF was not offering more, and that patchy local schemes would not work. The President said he was involved in a number of sports, and all were more successful than chess, because they were funded nationally by the players. M. J. Hill said that sponsors could be attracted by organisations able to point to lists of members, but that the ECF needed to communicate better with its membership. The President pointed to the lack of proper coaching schemes as one area in which the ECF could do more to benefit us all given better funding.

Following an adjournment at 9:22pm, J. A. Tait asked whether the new scheme would cost more. The Treasurer said that in round terms, the amount paid by us to the ECF would stay the same; the NCA would pay more, but members would pay less, and the extra was easily affordable. Our financial circumstances meant that club fees, and therefore clubs, would be unaffected, but some members would gain. D. Sudar said that the NCA could break even under the present 'game fee' scheme or lose approximately £700 under the new scheme; that money could instead be used for the benefit of Notts chess. I. Fillingham said we could reduce League fees, and D. Griffiths that we could spend on publicity; A. J. Wright said that we were talking about at most £4 per player per year; but M. H. Barnes said it was just giving money away. D. Padvis suggested that the issues should be referred back to clubs, but A. J. Wright said that all those interested were here. The President said that the cost was the biggest issue, and did we want chess to go forwards?

N. Graham, seconded by A. J. Wright, proposed that the League fees should remain at £57/£50, *status quo*. M. H. Barnes, seconded by A. E. Carlton, proposed that they should instead be reduced to £50/£40. The Treasurer said either set of fees was acceptable to him; but the proposals amounted to a substantive vote on the scheme. The first proposal was passed by 13 votes to 7, and the second proposal withdrawn.

N. Graham suggested that we should adopt the new scheme for one year only, in order to move forward. D. Sudar said that even for one year we should not waste £700, we should not be the guinea pigs. B. M. Hayward said that it implied taking money out of our reserves, and would be £6-800 every year; but A. J. Wright said that sometimes we have to take risks. M. H. Barnes said that the NCA was not just for the 40-odd people who would gain. A. E. Carlton said that the proposals amounted to moving from pay-as-you-play to a poll tax. The President said that the previous speaker had been vociferous in his complaints about the present scheme; but A. E. Carlton replied that his problem was with the increasing commercialisation of chess. I. Fillingham compared with the situation in football; but N. Graham said that players had to join the Notts FA merely to set foot on a pitch. Members then drew attention to the lateness of the hour, and called for a decision.

The Secretary, seconded by I. Kingston, proposed that the scheme be referred back to the EC for detailed consideration, taking account of points and concerns raised at this meeting. M. H. Barnes asked for it to be minuted that in his opinion this proposal was a constitutional change, and called for a vote on whether it should need a 66% or a 50% majority. The meeting voted by 11 votes to 10 that a 66% majority was needed, whereupon the proposal was lost by 11 votes to 10, and the scheme abandoned.

Meeting closed at 10:55pm.