

Notts News

Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association

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Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 8 July, West Bridgford Chess Club, 7:30 p.m.

Dave Brown†

Geoff Gibson sends the sad and unexpected news that Long Eaton's Dave Brown has died. He writes:

Dave passed away at home [on Monday 9 June] following his return from cycling to Long Eaton – he had planned to go further, but changed his mind and returned home – perhaps he had a premonition of what was coming?

It seems he had a heart attack on his settee and passed as he had lived – a quiet, dignified man, a little eccentric but much-loved by all who knew him.

His wife said he has requested no funeral, but the family will hold a wake in his honour – details to be advised. His only request was that a beech tree be planted in his memory.

And I'll just add this: Dave was one of the tiny handful of players who seemed to treat winning and losing exactly the same. Whether resigning or accepting his opponent's resignation, Dave always had a smile on his face. He will be missed.

Annual General Meeting

Andrew Walker

As previously announced, the AGM of the NCA will be held on Tuesday 8 July at West Bridgford CC, at 7:30 p.m. Officers and committees are asked to submit their reports, if at all possible, to NN at least two weeks before the meeting [24 June]. The agenda will be:

1. Minutes of previous meetings
2. Matters arising
3. Reports of officers and committees
4. Prizegiving
5. Election of officers and committees
6. Any other business

In order to streamline proceedings, the President intends that there will be no other substantive items at this meeting, using Article 13c of the Constitution if necessary. There will be a Special General Meeting at the start of the season to discuss items referred from the RRM and any other matters that arise in the meantime. Further, the President would appreciate being notified in advance of the meeting by any officers or committee members who do not wish to continue in post, and of any other person who would be prepared to help the Association by taking on some role. There will be no call at the meeting for other candidates for posts where the incumbent is standing unless the President has been notified at least a week in advance.

There is one item of AOB that will be the subject of a straw poll at the meeting. EC took the decision last year that, as a matter of policy, NCA meetings should rotate annually between clubs with suitable premises and accessibility. This was thought to be fairer and also could promote interest in the NCA among members of the host club. However, one delegate has told me that he has been unable to attend meetings at WNCC and WBCC because of transport difficulties, and requests that all meetings should be held in central Nottingham [e.g. Gambit]. I should be grateful for comments, especially from anyone else who would have attended the AGM at Gambit but cannot at WBCC.

Best game prize

Entries for the Best Game prize are invited (with apologies for the late announcement). Any game played by any Notts player in any competition in the last 12 months is eligible for consideration. The competition will be judged by last year's winner, Ian Kingston. Entries should be sent to David Levens by Monday 30 June. All entries will be anonymised before being sent to Ian.

Entries from the lower divisions are particularly encouraged. If enough are received, additional prizes may be awarded.

Officers' Reports

A reminder (in case you missed it in the AGM item above) that Officers' Reports for the AGM should be sent to Ian Kingston as soon as possible (and before 24 June) for publication in *Notts News*.

Handicap Knockout Final

Mansfield convincingly beat Gambit Boys 7–2 in the Handicap KO Final, held on 10 June at Gambit CC. Mansfield thus retain the title, and demonstrated their mastery of this kind of chess. In the three years since the current format was adopted they have won 11 of their 12 matches, their only defeat coming in the 2005–06 final.

Gambit Boys – Mansfield					
Gambit Boys		B1	B2	B3	Total
A1 Barnes, M.	(196)	0	0	0	0
A2 Mercks, P.	(170)	0	0	1	1
A3 Ali, H.	(84)	0	0	1	1
					2
Mansfield		A1	A2	A3	
B1 Tait, J.	(191)	1	1	1	3
B2 Morrison, K.	(158)	1	1	1	3
B3 Wagenbach, J.	(142)	1	0	0	1
					7

Inter-County U100 semi-final

Neil Graham

Notts beat Surrey 6½–5½ in a match that ended in a dispute and where a ruling had to be obtained from the ECF.

On the night preceding the match unfortunately a team member dropped out, and after some two hours of phoning around, I obtained a last minute substitute in Ken Heath of Gambit. On Saturday the team set off and eventually we all arrived at Bicester, which had been deemed an intermediate venue. Our opponents hadn't all arrived at the specified time and those who were present began, with the latecomers starting without any time penalty.

Some time after this, I was approached by the opposing captain and it was pointed out that Ken was playing with the incorrect colour. The FIDE Laws are clear on this in that Article 7.2 says 'If a game has begun with colours reversed, then it shall continue, unless the arbiter rules otherwise'. One of the Surrey players had a copy of the Laws with him and this was confirmed. The opposition captain, who wanted the game restarted, reserved his right of appeal and the two players, oblivious of the error, continued without being disturbed.

By this time the results had started to filter through. Nigel Wright, making a welcome return, drew steadily, whilst Andrew Garside scored the first win for Notts with some impressive play in the Scotch Gambit. However, Surrey soon replied with a win on Board 3. Although Michael also lost, Notts took the lead with wins from Ed and Hamzah. Ed's opponent somehow lost his queen, whilst Hamzah won first the exchange, which became a rook and then two rooks before his opponent gave up. Draws from Ben, Len and Ric added to the scores and with three to play Notts were 5–4 up.

The last three games were decidedly double-edged. Derek had lost a piece but had three pawns in compensation; Pritesh's game was clearly drawn. Suddenly Pritesh went completely wrong in the ending and Derek's game was agreed as drawn, so with one game playing it was 5½–5½. As if fate had decreed this even before the match begun, it had to be Ken's game. At one time I thought that the Notts player was winning, but pawns and the position were gradually slipping away; then suddenly, when I wasn't looking, the Surrey player left his rook *en prise* when in no danger and resigned.

It would be nice to say that the match ended there, but it didn't. Ken had no idea that anything was amiss and suddenly his game had become even more in dispute. Suffice it to say

Surrey U100–Nottinghamshire U100 7 June 2008

Board		Grade		Grade
1	Julian Walker	98	½–½	Nigel Wright 97
2	Tom Middleton	98	½–½	Derek Cronshaw 96
3	Joshua Pineda	95	1–0	Sally McIntosh 94
4	Jasper Tambini	88	1–0	Michael Zhang 90
5	Barnaby Paul	85	1–0	Pritesh Patel –
6	Harvey Murray-Smith	94	½–½	Ben Hobson 86
7	Richard Jones	94	0–1	Edwin Justice 86
8	Stephen Welch	92	0–1	Hamzah Ali 85
9	Jonathan Andrew	91	½–½	Len Morrell 83
10	Balraj Gill	87	½–½	Ric Dawson 80
11	Robert Jurjevic	89	0–1	Andrew Garside 74
12	Peter Armitage	87	0–1	Ken Heath 55

5½–6½

that the details were sent by the ECF to an independent Senior Arbiter and the result stood.

This was an exceptional win for Notts who were outgraded on 11 of the 12 boards. Thanks to all the players who represented the county and we look forward to meeting Hertfordshire in the final.

Mark Radford's Chess Material blog

Navigation's Mark Radford has set up a blog in which he analyses his own games in public. In Mark's words:

Analysing and annotating your own games is a well known tool for improving at chess, and is something I've started to make more of an effort to do of late.

Rather than just keep private notebooks I decided to set up a blog on the web. You can find it at:

<http://www.chessmaterial.com/>

If the name looks a little strange you can find an explanation on the about page – also, all my other choices were already taken. There are many chess sites on the web, and many blogs, but I can't seem to find anyone doing quite this sort of thing! I've found blogs on which the bloggers annotate their games, but the annotations tend to be brief rather than going into depth.

This looks like an excellent idea. Take a look and see what you can contribute.

NAG Challenge IV

Drag Sudar

The 4th NAG (formerly BAG) challenge took place at the Navigation on 20 May. In the previous 3 years the event had been a two-round 10-board jamboree between Navigation, Ashfield and Gambit. This year Kevin, Neil and I agreed to increase the number of players per team to 12.

The Ashfield team were very strong on paper, with Steve Burke, Pablo Padilla Cabrero and Stan Cranmer added to the 2007 team. Neil clearly meant business this time.

On the other hand, Gambit were weakened by the absence of Tony Wright and Steve Hunter, and the Navigation team had a completely different look as only Kevin Harvey, Simon Parham and Mike James remained from the 2007 team.

Food was provided by the pub and proved to be great value at just £1 per eater.

In Round 1 Ashfield proved they were just as strong over the board as on paper by taking a commanding lead with 8½ points. Gambit managed only 5½ points and Navigation scored 4. There were only two surprise results, Mark Radford and Dave Griffiths (moonlighting for Navigation) beating Brian Hayward and Bob Taylor respectively.

In Round 2 Ashfield amassed another 7 points to finish first on 15½, thus ending the three-year reign of Gambit, who scored 6½ points to finish second with 12 points. Navigation scored 4½ points to finish on 8½. Once again Dave Griffiths upset the odds, this time by beating John Tassi. Rumour has it that Kevin has already opened contract negotiations with Dave for next year's event.

I hope Neil enjoys having temporary custody of the new shiny non-existent NAG Trophy before it's regained by the Gambit Boys next year.

Detailed results are on the web site: http://www.nottschess.org/2007_08/bj_2008.html.