Issue 237 September 1997

**EDITORIAL**

Scarcely an Editorial, just a request. If you’ve got word-processed copy for me, send it on a floppy disk. No point in both of us typing it out. By all means send a printed version as well, just in case. Floppies will be returned. Or you could send a data file if it’s urgent. Or fax, but that saves time only. Usual number, but telephone first.

 County match results on floppy disk, unfortunately, are more or less unusable unless they happen to be formatted my way. I can read them, but reformatting them is more bother than typing them out again. You can have my (Word 6/7/97) template if you want and it would make me very happy if you used it, but it’s unlikely to meet your private requirements. Just send them on paper.

**SO BUY THE SCCU LIST!!**

The National Grading List appeared on time on the 1st August and they started complaining at once. A number of major events, including the International ones, had been missed out. It’s not entirely clear what happened to them. Maybe graders forgot to post their results, maybe the Post Office lost them, maybe the BCF Office did. Maybe all of those. What’s disturbing is that, until the punters noticed, no one knew they were missing. Routine checks were omitted. Grading admin has been at sixes and sevens this year, due to staff shortages, but it shouldn’t have happened.

 Good news is, they’ve now got hold of the results. They went back to the graders and asked for them. Whether that means *all* the results we don’t know. They’ve gone in, and the sums have been done again.

 Bad news is, the list was done in one big print run, costing about £4 500, so there won’t be a revised second edition. About 540 grades in the published list are wrong. That must be a good three players per page. It’s largely SCCU people, Kent and Oxon in particular. A list of corrections has been prepared, and is now being supplied with every copy sold. If you bought a list without, the BCF will supply one on request. Unfortunately, it turns out that the corrections aren’t complete. They exclude people who weren’t in the original list. That is, the people who should have been but “didn’t qualify” for publication because half their games were missing. So it’s more than the 540; don’t know how many more.

THE SCCU LIST IS RIGHT. It was produced later from the corrected file, and it doesn’t miss anyone out. The same goes for the various County lists the Union has supplied. For grading limits in SCCU County matches, the SCCU list will take precedence over the BCF one. That’s official.

Here’s one they did pick up before publication. Simon D Brown, who’s a 200+ player as you probably know, came out at 150. Turned out that the London League grading had docked all its players 1000 points or something. Well, that’s what we heard. Sounds like one of those computer jobs that throw away the Thousands column. Expect they put it right for everyone, not just SDB.

To change the subject, the co-ordinator responsible for getting the new programs written has been replaced. He’s not an SCCU man. It would be nice to think the new man will get things moving. We’ll name him in due course, if he does.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

The first letter has been substantially edited. We’ve been on the phone to its author, and we think what’s below is an agreed version.

**Dear Richard**, rec 7.8.97

...For people with poor hearing *[see page 236:11]*, standing up is a good idea; a better horizon to see gestures, body language and lip reading... [Ed: - makes my Quote look sick. It wasn’t meant to be in poor taste.]

 Your Wood Green / Slough report is not that accurate in some respects, but it’s a complex subject. Decisions were completely inconsistent with precedent... In previous years the director has overturned several of the controllers’ decisions. I’m fairly disgusted, and the Barbican club looks forward to moving back into the 4NCL with renewed vigour.

 Another big concern is the Department of National Heritage grant. We need better planning and strategy (ie business and corporate plans). IT IS NOT BUMF... One thing the Civil servants wanted was details of the mechanisms for training trainers. There needs to be a body that provides certificates, qualifications, advice and vetting of the trainers. This is a concern of Bob Wade, Keith Brown and myself...

 Yours sincerely,

 **Gary Kenworthy** Waltham Abbey

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**Dear Richard**, 5.8.97

It’s always good to read your personalised account of what goes on in the higher echelons of organising chess; your reports on the BCF Management Board Meeting on 21 June and the BCF Council Meeting on 12 July are indeed droll! I hope I may be permitted to give a more balanced comment on some points.

**BCF Management Board Meeting 21 June 1997**

1. The shambles on grading was indeed a “Management Problem”,1 primarily because the extent of the difficulties came as a real shock to the Director in charge and to other Board members. One obvious requirement if you manage anything is to know what goes on and to take prompt corrective action when needed. The fact that the 1997 National Grading List has now, I understand, come out on time is due to the tremendous dedication of the Officer concerned, Roger Edwards, to whom we all owe sincere thanks.

2. Business planning is a fact of life in modern organisations and it is no surprise the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (formerly the DHN) has decided that organisations receiving grants, like the BCF, should undertake this discipline. Business planning is all about the thinking process and not the “bumf” as you delicately put it. If you are aiming to do something, you should decide what you want to achieve, consider the options available to you to carry out your plan, work out how much it will cost, decide what targets you will set to determine success and so on. Essentially, this is common sense whether you are a multi million £ international company or a chess organisation. So the point made by the DCMS that the exercise helps the grant organisations to do their job better is unarguable!

3. What on earth do you mean by “unprovoked” in relation to the paper I presented on Succession Planning? Speak to the BCF Chairman who had suggested producing a paper when I discussed the matter with him.1 “The time was wrong” only in the sense that the matter should have come before the Board years ago. At least now the subject is on the table. The fact that half the number of directorates are vacant at the time of writing this letter simply emphasises the importance of introducing Succession Planning.

**BCF Council Meeting 12 July 1997**

(1) I was touched by your comment that we appear to be in close harmony on the subject of the importance of Management Skills.3 What the majority of the Working Group tried to get across was that it is idle to pretend that chess can operate in some sort of a time warp when everything around it is changing so fast. For example, would anyone taking their first job in a bank in the 40s or 50s have remotely considered the possibility of redundancy; now look at the situation!

(2) Chess is not alone amongst recreational activities in having to face up to dramatic change, often extremely painful, in the way it manages its affairs. The Management Board should not spend so much of its time on the minutiae of chess activities but should focus on more strategic issues as the future for chess in the years ahead, how it can be more adequately financed, what happens if (when) the government grant disappears or is significantly reduced. How we should go about finding and training the Officers of the future (Succession Planning), how should we broaden the attraction of chess to a wider population, in particular to women and girls, what can be done to improve the often very poor background environment in many chess clubs. I could go on but I think you get the drift.

(3) The Management Board is likely to remain largely ineffective with too large a membership, split between “Us” and “Them”. It will still spend far too much time on minutiae, the long meetings will wear everyone out (if they bother to go), there will be little evidence of leadership from the Board to the active chess public at large, questions will arise whether the requirements of our sponsors such as the DCMS are given sufficient attention, the new Policy Unit will probably be merely a talking shop and produce little of importance for the future;4 even if it does, the Board may well disagree. As ever, successes in the BCF will depend on the diligence and dedication of a small number of key officials. Am I guessing right; time will tell!

(4) Like it or not, chess organisation, dare I say its style of management, will have to change. The BCF has achieved a great deal on the purely chess front such as the success of our international teams and the growth of the number of juniors with so much potential. But life is getting tougher especially on matters relating to finance and in finding people willing to spend their spare time on chess organisation especially when there are now so many more competing attractions, not to mention the demands of many families with both partners working. The BCF, like other chess organisations and chess in general, has to face these challenges otherwise you know what happened to dinosaurs! Yours sincerely,

 **Bryan (Fewell)** Harpenden

Ed: - I don’t, actually. But never mind. It is true that I’m free with my opinions. My tone may provoke, if you don’t share my sense of humour. But read the last sentence inside the front cover. I try not to be *factually* unbalanced. Here’s some facts. On the bumf: only the comment specifically labelled “cynical” was mine, and I said it was mine. The others were made at the meeting, by people perhaps equally cynical. On Succession Planning: I reported Bryan’s proposals, fairly I think, and I made no comment on them. All the opinions reported were expressed at the meeting, and not by me, and I think they were representative. The one about timing seemed to be the opinion of the Board. Bryan doesn’t suggest otherwise, and he was there. As for Management, and reorganisation: I know Bryan’s views and I’m not sure how I provoked him to repeat them. I expect it was my barely concealed satisfaction at the outcome, and it’ll teach me not to crow. But I think readers got the drift

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long ago, and I just reported the decisions. If I’d wanted to spend half a page on the discussion I’d have reported both sides.

 In case I’ve given the impression that I’m opposed to management and planning: I’m not, and I don’t believe anyone is.

Notes: (1) Of course it was. I just wouldn’t have bothered to say so, and I’m not so sure I’d have laid all the blame in one quarter. If we’d known then what we know now about the *real* extent of the shambles... (2) I didn’t know that. The word was used humorously. (3) That wasn’t *quite* what I said! (4) Why?

**Dear Richard**, 14.9.97

As the grading system is being revamped computer-wise, is it not also time to consider other changes?

 (1) Can anyone be a grader, or is there a qualification required as for an arbiter?

 (2) Is there a common way for ungraded players to be graded? (Such as 7 year olds being given a grade of 40, 8 year olds 50.. up to 11 year olds and over 80.) If not, there should be, to remove graders’ “opinions” of strengths of Juniors.

 (3) In the World Championships, entrants without an International Elo Rating are put at the bottom of the draw. Is it not time for ungraded players of any strength also to be put at the bottom of the draw in any congress?

 (4) Is it optional whether the controller of an Under 8 tournament enters the grades for the full BCF grading list, the Rapidplay list, or both? To mind, the time limits which apply to adult tournaments should also apply to junior ones. All under 8 events would then be Rapidplay events and graded as such, the children benefitting by seeing their grades change twice a year.

 (5) Now we have Game Fee, is it not time for the BCF to approach any congress, league or Junior Organisation, to insist, as far as they are able, that BCF grades are used? The Terafinal at the Festival Hall in August was ruined by the non use of BCF grades. Lee Gold, August 1997 BCF grade A82, was given a grade of 98 for the Terafinal, the only time he has ever had this grade. Catherine David, BCF grade A101, was given a grade of 92!!! Lee was put in the top half of the draw for the 1st round of this knock-out tournament; Catherine was put in the bottom half. As 1st round winners received +£50, I would like to know why such bias was used! I have been unable to explain to Catherine why, when she has paid over £5 in game fees, played over 60 gradable games, her achievement in obtaining a grade of A101 has been rubbished. Harriet Hunt has coached Catherine, and I have transported her to the London Junior Congress, West of England Junior Congress, Oxford League matches etc etc, and I object in the strongest terms to having our efforts and the efforts of Roger Edwards and other graders ignored. Why are we expected to pay game fees?

 I suggest that no games from any of the stages of the UK Chess Challenge are accepted by the BCF for grading unless a particular venue (e.g. Nottingham) is able to provide evidence that the draw was made using BCF grades. Any other event using non BCF grades in any form for the draw or grading of a tournament, should not be accepted by the BCF Grading Director. The “Gaffney” grades of 10 years ago could be compared with the paying of monthly compound interest to those players playing in his tournaments, whilst the rest of us were paid in BCF yearly simple interest. Irfan Nathoo entered the BCF Junior Championships in Swansea using a grade of 140 approx instead of his BCF grade of A91 (1986). Simon Ansell used his BCF grade of 97, and was put in the bottom half of the draw because so many London juniors were allowed to use non BCF grades. Those bad old days must NOT be allowed to return. London and district juniors must use the same grading system as everyone else.

 Yours sincerely, a very angry

 **Lester Millin** Begbroke, Oxon

Ed: - I don’t know whether it’s just London and district, but in a general sort of way I agree with Lester about ignoring official grades for seeding purposes. So does the SCCU Executive Committee, and it agreed 12.9.97 to raise the point at the BCF Council Meeting.

 To answer three questions (with some opinions, of course): (1) No formal qualification. Just get an organisation to nominate you as its grader. (2) There’s an official way, but I don’t know whether anyone uses it. I can’t even find my copy (it’s years old). I don’t remember that it made any special reference to juniors. But you have to draw a distinction between estimates used for grading, and estimates used for seeding. For grading purposes, there’s no problem. Or there won’t be with the new system, and I don’t care about the failings of a system they’re just about to replace. Chris Howell will know the details better than me, but the new system, effectively, will work its own estimate out when it does the sums at the end of the season. It will do this using *all* the player’s results; it’s not going to use different estimates for different events (or different methods for different areas!). That’s grading, and it doesn’t solve the seeding problem. I’m not sure you can solve the seeding problem as naïvely as Lester would, and I don’t see why seeding-estimates shouldn’t vary in the course of the season as you learn more about people. It will have no effect on the grading outcome. (4) This isn’t clear, for juniors. Adult rule for standard play is, not less than 1¼ hours each. If it’s less, you grade it as Rapidplay. Butyou’re allowed some (unspecified) latitude with juniors, and I admit I accept one-hour-each for standard grading in Kent junior events. I wouldn’t accept ¾ hour. Perhaps the rules should say how much latitude is latitude. I think it’s clear that you can’t include an event for *both*!

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**SCCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive met on Friday 12th September 1997 at the Durham Castle, London W1. 14 attended. Some items, in more or less chronological order:

**(1) Trophy**. Oh dear. Kent never returned the Harry Woolverton Trophy (Counties U100) at the end of last season, and they now announced that they had *lost it*. At least that’s one missing trophy with an honest culprit. They said they would replace it. It was brand new in 1995-6 when Kent won it, and not yet engraved.

**(2) Slough v Wood Green**. Bob Turnham of Wood Green had written to the President, objecting to the “biased and inaccurate” things reported from the SCCU Annual Council Meeting (July Bulletin, page 3). He felt that a correction should be published. He had declined an invitation to write to the Bulletin. We cannot publish a correction, because he did not say what the inaccuracies were.

**(3) Grading.** We spent a fair while on this; see the separate grading report on page 1. Lester Millin raised some matters that appear in a letter from him on page 3.

**(4) County Match Controller**. David Sedgwick said that, in view of his other commitments, he would be unable to continue as CMC after this season. Arising out of the last SCCU Council Meeting, we needed to make some proposals to the BCF on the definition of a Minor County. He invited concrete proposals by (say) 31st December.

 Counties Rapidplay Championship. News had been slow to emerge, and the recent entry form made it look like a closed MCCU event. It usually was an MCCU event, *de facto* at least. We could offer to host it ourselves in future; or we could hold an SCCU event and challenge the “MCCU” winner to play ours. It was agreed to invite offers from Counties, and have it on the agenda for the March Executive meeting.

**(5) SCCU Match Captain**. RCNLA said he hoped the MCCU challenge match was still going ahead, though he had heard nothing lately. (It should be: see below.) The Essex Centenary match was in the pipeline. RCNLA appealed to Counties to put him in touch with strong players.

**(6) Restructuring of the Union**. Sort of déjà-vu here, you might think. Basically it’s a response to July’s BCF Council Meeting (see last issue, page 5). It wasn’t really all that clear what the BCF had decided at that meeting, but a sort of impression arose that the Unions had two or three years in which to broaden their involvement with chess organisations. They’d face the chop otherwise, in terms of Management Board representation, and who’d replace them wasn’t the BCF’s problem.

 The Executive thought that a re-structuring exercise was worth while in its own right. (Well, one or two had doubts.) It is true that the SCCU represents Counties and no one else. The real questions were, who else *wants* to be represented? What would they expect to get out of it that they don’t have already? Minor questions were, what would be the status of the “independent” leagues within the Counties? How would you handle representation and voting rights? “Who’s going to re-write the Constitution?” was the least of the questions. There was some preliminary discussion, entirely positive we think, and the President will consult some of the larger organisations in our area.

 We knew one answer to one of the questions. The Hastings International Chess Congress had formally expressed an interest in joining the Union. Watch this space. There’s already no bar to it in the Constitution, but details will want sorting out. It’s for next year’s Council Meeting to decide, and we can’t think the answer will be “no”.

**(7) BCF Matters**. David Sedgwick announced that the recent FIDE Congress had accepted the BCF’s application to host the European Team Championships. The venue was not firm, but it was quite likely to be Plymouth.

 The Executive considered the Union’s response to some of the things coming up at the BCF’s September Council Meeting.

 (a) There were to be two extra places on the Management Board for the two largest game-fee contributors interested and not already entitled; with the proviso that Council would decide whether this entitlement should be restricted to leagues. We would oppose this restriction.

 (b) Game Fee Director to become Director of Game Fee and Grading. (The current Game Fee Director had resigned, and it was understood that Roger Edwards would continue, at least for a year, as national Grading Officer.) We would support this motion. We would also support Chris Howell’s election to the new Directorate. He was the only candidate.

 (c) European Club Cup. The BCF Extraordinary Council Meeting in July had, after very full discussion, resolved to select both English nominees from the 4NCL, rather than one from the 4NCL and one from the National Club. The London Chess League had now tabled a motion to reverse that decision and select one team from each. We would oppose this motion.

 (d) Counties Championship Rules. The MCCU proposed that where a Union qualifying competition includes less than three teams, so that only one team from the Union qualifies for the BCF Stage, then that team must play in the preliminary round if there is one. We would support this.

 (e) Under 18 Team Championships. The papers of the BCF Meeting said that revisions to rules not specified “would be tabled on the day for Council to approve”. We would oppose these changes, largely on the ground that you don’t table rule changes without saying in advance what they’re about.

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 (f) We would support a proposal that the Girls Under 18 Team Championships should be held on the day after the “Boys” ones. Someone said the Under 18 events should be held in term time. He suggested holding the Union events just before Christmas, and the National ones at the time vacated by the Union ones.

**(8) Future Meetings**. Executive Committee: Fridays 13th March and 15th May 1998. Annual Council Meeting: Either Saturday 27th June or Saturday 4th July, depending on the date of the BCF Finals.

**(9) Union Individual Championship 1998**. This would be offered to the Southend Easter Congress. (Our BCQ places for the 1999 Congress would be allocated at the March Executive meeting.)

**(10)** The meeting closed at 10.47 pm and your Editor caught the last train to Tunbridge Wells with 15 seconds to spare. Then someone (not your Editor) got unruly on the train and they held it up for more than an hour waiting for the police to arrive. At Tonbridge, five minutes short of where he gets off.

**BCF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING** is a bit close to the Bulletin deadline but, mindful of readers’ interest, we’ll try to squeeze it in somewhere.

**CHALLENGE MATCHES**

Things are happening with the MCCU Centenary Challenge Match. It is expected to be over 50 boards, probably at Nuneaton and probably in grading bands, some time in the next couple of months. The WECU (it’s their half-century) may also be involved. The Essex Centenary match is planned for (probably) October 1998, over 100 boards!

**BERKS** Leagues 1996-7: Div 1 1-2 Crowthorne A, Camberley A 19/24... Crowthorne were ahead on games but that doesn’t count: title shared. Div 2 1 Newbury 20/22; 2-3 Reading B, Bracknell B 16... Div 3 1 Telecom B 18/22; 2 Camberley B 17... It’s two up two down; wonder how they split ties for that.

 Premier Precision Cup: Final was Crowthorne A 4 2 Bracknell A. Plate: Reading A\* 3 3 Bourne End.

 Results Ted Matthewson

**ESSEX** League 1996-7, Division 1. The play-off is resolved, and Southend beat Wanstead (5-5) on board count. Unlike Berks, they don’t share titles. First tie-break in the League, we hear, is game points *if more than two teams are tied*. If it’s only two, as it was, then it’s result of match between them (they drew it). Then straight to play-off. Either they drew all ten games first time round, or board count and elimination aren’t applied at that stage.

 **Essex Team Blitz** 13.7.97 (8 teams) 1 Writtle 22; 2 Southend A 19... **Individual Lightning** 1 J Goldberg (Ilford) 4½/5; 2 P Barclay (Wanstead) 4½ (don’t ask)...

 And Essex swept the board in the Counties & Districts Correspondence Championships, winning all three divisions.

**KENT** County Champion is Ian Watson, for the nth time. **Summer Quick-play** Champions, for the second time in a row, are Hastings & St Leonards who beat Lewisham 8½-7½ in an exciting and fluctuating Final 14.9.97. We’re broad-minded in Kent, and we always let Hastings play in the KSQP. Crowborough too, when they feel like it. Well, Sussex don’t have a KSQP. Every county should have one. Hastings are back in Kent for the mainstream leagues1997-8, at U140 level. That is, mean grade ≤ 140.

**SUSSEX** Champion is Feliks Kwiatkowski who beat Bernard Cafferty in the final (three draws, then a win). Veterans Champion RH Williams. West Sussex Queen TJ Woods; East Sussex Queen RR Harper. McArthur Cup: Northern section The Holt; Western section Worthing; Eastern section Hastings, unopposed. Brighton went straight to the semi-finals and took the title (again) by beating Worthing 5½-½ in the final. Sussex Jamboree 12.7.97: 1-2 Brighton A, Chichester 5/6...

 Juniors, 3-4 May: U18 (8 pl) Thomas Rendle (Hastings); U14 (26 pl) 1-2 Edward Lamb (The Holt), Ben McManus (Eastbourne). Primary: U11 Joseph Carthew (Battle & Langton); U9 Matthew Moore (Gt Walstead); U7 David Howell (Seaford); Girls Nathalie McManus (Birchwood Grove). Primary Teams: U11 St Lawrence A (Hurstpierpoint); U9 1-2 Gt Walstead, St Lawrence; U7 Dorset House, Bury(?!).

 Mid-Sussex League: Div 1 Hastings I; Div 2 Crawley I; Div 3 Brighton III; Div 4 Horsham II. South-west Sussex League (one division, 8 teams): Bognor B. (Bognor A were second.)

**LONDON LEAGUE**

Eastman Cup Final: Wood Green 6½ 3½ Barbican. Average grade of the Wood Green team was 222 and a bit, and Barbican were only five points worse. Plate Final: Mushrooms 7 3 Beckenham & Bromley.

 Results Gary Kenworthy

**WRITTLE CONGRESS** (for the Essex Championship) 26-27 July 1997 attracted 33 players.

1-2 David Kraszewski (Grays: takes title), CP Botham (Ipswich, and not eligible) 4½/5; 3 Russell White (Chelmsford) 4... **Minor** (incorporated) 1-3 Paul Barclay (Wanstead), Stan Harwood (Southend), Kerry Chilvers (Writtle) 3½ They will play off.

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**BERKS & BUCKS CONGRESS** at Desborough School, Maidenhead, 23-25 August 1997

**Championship** (14 pl) 1 Gerald Moore (SW7) 4/5; 2-3 Richard Webb (Yateley), Aiden Leech (Maidenhead: age 17) 3½...

**Challengers** (14 pl) 1 John Townsend (Winnersh) 4/5; 2 CA Costello (Southall) 3...

**Reserves A** (16 pl) 1-3 Michael Lucey (Newbury), Peter Ball (Oxford), Nick Kewick (Appleton Oxon) 4/5...

**Reserves B** (16 pl) 1-2 Koichi Nicolas (Stoke Poges: age 13),Thomas Quilter (Beaonsfield: age 16) 4/5...

**Reserves C** (14 pl) 1 David Kay (Guildford: age 13) 4/5; 2 Anthony Duncan (London N4) 3½...

**Reserves D** (16 pl) 1-2 Peter Staneland ( Southall), Kenneth Smith (Eltham) 4/5...

**Reserves E** (15 pl) 1 Malcolm Dent (Reading) 5/5; 2-3 Adam Thorpe (Chinnor Oxon: age 12), Jeff Thomas (Reading) 3½...

**Reserves F** (15 pl) 1-4 Gary Loughran (Oxford), SG Hunter (Oxford), Fred Coomes (Morden), Malcolm Jamieson (Seaford) 4/5...

**Mrs Stean Cup** for best performance by an U14: Koichi Nicholas (Bucks). **Lightning Tournament**: 1 RC Noyce (Eastleigh) Results Nigel Dennis

**THANET CONGRESS** at Broadstairs, 29-31 Aug 1997

**Open** (24 ent) 1 Michael Adams (Slough) 5/5; 2-5 SJ Bibby (Whitstable), SW Giddins (Black Lion), R Palliser (Hull), J Wager (Charlton) 3½... Grading U185 GM Brown (Ashford); Best Thanet Heather Richards (Whitstable).

**Major U165** (37 ent) 1 T Philips (South Norwood) 4½/5; 2-4 M Owen (Folkestone), SJ Peters (Dartford), BJ Westover (Ramsgate) 4... Grading U145 A Bigg (Hayes Kent); Best Thanet A Atkinson (Herne Bay).

**Intermediate U130** (39 ent) 1 S Thanesan (Maidstone) 5/5; 2-3 P Havens (Broadstairs), DE Rattray (South Norwood) 4... Grading U115 G Foxon (Wokingham), E Lutton (Basildon); Best Thanet S Guy (Ramsgate).

**Minor U100** (37 ent) 1-2 A Swersky (Richmond), G Clewley (Ramsgate) 4½/5; 3 LR Jones (Beckenham) 4... Best Thanet J Cutting (Broadstairs).

**Special prizes**: Ladies Susan Richards (Whitstable); Seniors 60+ GH Redfern (Folkestone); Juniors 15- J Thanesan Results Tony Hargreaves

**13th RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY** 14th September 1997

**Open** (36 pl) 1 GM Michael Adams (London) 6/6; 2 IM Peter Large (London) 5; 3-8 Miroslav Houska (Epsom), Andrew Lewis (Twickenham), IM Ryad Rizouk (Algeria), Peter Varley (Addlestone), Gavin Wall (London), Tim Wall (London) 4... Grading U200 1 Richard Bates (Richmond) 4½ SO HE WAS 3rd DAMMIT AND JUST FOR ONCE WE’RE NOT GOING TO BACKTRACK AND CORRECT IT; 2 Jovanka Houska (Slough) 4 and she was =4th.

**Major U160** (24 pl) 1 David Lewis (Reading) 5/6; 2-4 Geraint Edwards (Kingston), David Faldon (London), Thirumurugan Thiruchelvam (New Malden) 4½... Grading U140 1-3 Shane McCabe, Ross Mooring, Donny Muter (all London) 4

**Intermediate U120** (38 pl) 1-3 Paul Battersby (Wallington), Michael Healey (London), Adam Swersky (Pinner) 5/6... Grading U100 1-2 Andrew Bigg (Oxted), Mark Wieder (Hanworth) 3½

**Minor U80** (27 pl) 1-2 Harvey Murray-Smith (Esher), Matthew Robinson (Wallington) 5/6; 3-4 Alexandra Kelly (Caterham), Amir Mughal (Southall) 4½...

Best Game Prize David Faldon; 2-Generation-Family Prize: the Houskas (8 pts). Results Richard James

**JUNIOR NEWS**

**KENT JUNIOR GRAND PRIX FINAL EVENT** at Astor of Hever School, Maidstone, 5th July 1997

**Under 18** (22 played) 1 David Moskovic 5½/6; 2 Martin Taylor 5; 3 Heather Richards 4½; 4 Mark Roberts 4...

**Under 11** (29 pl) 1 Thomas Rendle 6/6; 2-3 Paul Richards, Thomas Stradwick 5; 4-9 David Ho, Lalin Navaratne, Mark Richards, Harry Shaw, Arwen Van Der Elst, James Thanesan 4...

**Under 9** (22 pl) 1 Amir Habibi 6/6; 2 Karim Habibi 5; 3-7 Guy Aust, David Franklin, Matthew Moore, David Ridout, Thomas Sharp 4... Results Dave Vigus

**BASMANIC KASPAROV ROTARY TERAFINAL** RFH 23rd August 1997

Press handout said “Dinosaur Tournament Roars its Last”. All it seemed to mean, when you read it, was “Big Tournament Reaches Conclusion”. Hope so, anyway.

**Terafinal** (Knock-out 50/50 QP: the press release lists15 players, but it was supposed to be 16 and we’re fairly sure everyone turned up) 1 (and STRAT) Richard Cleveland (U18: Bishop Vaughan, Wales: £500 prize); 2 Nicholas Timms (U12: Millfield, Somerset); 3-4 Richard Jones (U15: Birchwood Comprehensive, Wales), David Ho (U11: Barming Kent: U11 prize of £250); 5-8 Lucy Broomfield (U18: Wallington HS Surrey); Jessie Gilbert (U10: Croydon HS Surrey); Lee Gold (U9: Northbridge House Middx); David Howell (U7: Seaford CP Sussex)...

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 There was a **Challengers Section** (20 min each: 28 pl) for previous-stage runners-up. David Ho and Lucy Broomfield played in this as well (8th=, 3rd=). Your Editor telephoned Michael Basman to ask how that happened, but got his answering machine. He hates saying complicated things to answering machines unrehearsed, so didn’t, and never got round to trying again. He’s just found out, having had another look, that *everybody* in the main event played in the Challengers, with the exception of the winner and runner-up.

**KENT U14 Squad Championships** at Sevenoaks, 13th September 1997

1-5 Oliver Cooley, Paul Richards, Russell Scott, Alistair Taylor, Peter Titmas 4/5; 6-7 Richard Cheeseman, Markku Slattery 3½...

**RUSSELL TROPHY JAMBOREE** at RGS Guildford, 14th September 1997

1 St Pauls 8/8; 2 Tiffin 7; 3 KCS 4½; 4 Whitgift 3½... 7 teams of 8. Results AJW Thorn

**SCCU COUNTY MATCHES 1997-8**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Teams entered: Br Bu C E H K M O Sy SxOpen \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*U175 \* \* \* \* \*U150 \* \* \* \* \* \*U125 \* \* \* \* \* \*U100 \* \* \* \*  | All matches are over 16 boards except in theUnder 100 (12 boards).In the fixture list below, the home side is named first. Dates are final unless otherwise agreed by match captains. If match captains agree to change any dates, they must inform the Tournament Controller in advance. And please also the Bulletin Editor, for publication. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Open** | **Under 175** | **Under 150** | **Under 125** | **Under 100** |
| Sep 27 |  |  |  | HE |  |
| Oct 4 |  | KSx |  |  | SyM |
|  11 | HBr KBu SyE |  | EM |  | HE |
|  18 |  | EM\* |  |  | EM |
|  25 | *(4NCL)* | SxSy MK |  | SxK SyO |  |
| Nov 1 | CH BrK BuSy ESx |  | SyH MK ESx |  | SyE MH |
|  8 | OC | EK SyM |  | EK |  |
|  15 | SyBr SxBu KC HO |  | HK SxSy |  | EH |
|  22 | *(4NCL)* | ESy MSx |  | ESx | HSy |
|  29 | BuE OK CSy BrSx |  | KE MSy | OH |  |
| Dec 6 |  | SxE |  | ESy |  |
|  13 |  | KSy |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan 10 |  | KM |  | KSy | ME |
|  17 | EBr SxC KH SyO |  | HE KSx |  |  |
|  24 | *(4NCL)* | KE SySx |  | SySx |  |
|  31 | BrBu CE HSy OSx |  | SyK HM | OE | HM |
| Feb 7 |  | SyE SxM |  |  | MSy |
|  14 | BuC SxH SyK EO |  | SxH ESy | KO |  |
|  21 | *(4NCL)* | MSy |  |  | SyH |
|  28 | OBu HE KSx CBr |  |  | SxH |  |
| Mar 7 | *(SCCU U18 qualifier)* | ME SxK |  |  |  |
|  14 | BuH EK BrO SxSy |  | MSx | HSy |  |
|  21 |  | SyK ESx |  | KH SxO | ESy |

The one match asterisked (18 Oct) has been re-arranged for that date: it is not as in the list previously circulated. Names and addresses on next page.237:8

Addresses:

**County Match Controller** DR Sedgwick, 23 Tierney Court, Canning Rd, Croydon CR0 6QA 0181 656 7682

**Bulletin Editor** RJ Haddrell, 48 Southview Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9BX 01892 532361

**Grading Secretary** CI Howell, 28 Fowler Close, Maidenbower, Crawley, W Sussex RH10 7UN 01293 885176

**Match captains**:

Berks O NW Dennis, Boundary House, 230 Greys Rd, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1QY 01491 576052

Bucks O SL Turvey, 29 Gordon Way, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks HP8 4QX 01494 874462 *(work 01276 808930)*

Cambs O M Ferguson, Queens College, Cambridge CB3 9ET 01223 505780

 (Outside term time: Gooserye Lodge, Beech Road, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2BX 01428 661490)

Essex O JR Cooke, 35 The Crescent, Loughton, Essex IG10 4PY 0181 281 1083

 175 JA Philpott, 50 Cranston Gardens, Chingford, London E4 9BQ 0181 527 4063

 150 D Smith, 21 Chigwell Rd, London E18 1LR 0181 530 2118

 125 RP Joyce, 215 Waterhouse Moor, Harlow, Essex CM18 6BW 01279 434028

 100 P Walker, 62 East Street, Prittlewell, Southend-on-Sea Essex SS2 6LH 01702 309693

Herts O KR Clark, 42 Honey Way, Royston, Herts SG8 7ES 01763 231296

 150 MM Wali, 56 Rowans, Welwyn Garden City, Herts 01707 331833 *(work 01707 326318 ext 4280)*

 125 Q Latif, 13 Daltry Rd, Stevenage, Herts 01438 352405

 100 A Brewis, 5 Cedar Close, Ware, Herts SG12 9PG 01920 463698

Kent O G Botley, 26 Crescent Rd, Bromley, Kent BR1 3PW 0181 464 1357

 175 A.M.Stille, 27 Milton Street, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8JT 01622 206156 or 01622 728646

 150 GF Steele, 50 Ramsgate Rd, Margate, Kent CT9 5SA 01843 297045

 125 IC Smith, 6 Little Paddocks, Molehill Rd, Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3PR 01227 794790

 100 LR Jones, 243 Worsley Bridge Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1RW 0181 650 4042

Middx 175 WB Haase, 28 New End, Hampstead, London NW3 1JA 0171 435 3189

 150 C Fewtrell, 77 Byron Way, Northolt, Middx UB5 6AZ 0181 723 8028

 100 G Snow, 3 Ravensworth Court, 570 Fulham Road, London SW6 5NN 0171 536 5693

Oxon O TR Dickinson, 3 Ivatt Walk, Manor Fields, Banbury, Oxon OX16 7WE 01295 255084

 125 M Brindley, 16 Denton Close, Abingdon, Oxon 01235 532164

Surrey O PD Dupré, 13 Russell Rd, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 2JZ 01932 887097

 175 FC Manning, 44 Willow Rd, Wallington, Surrey SM6 0PF 0181 647 0063

 150 N Clifton, 114 Windermere Rd, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2JB 0181 660 8564

 125 DJ Howes, 12 Raglan Court, Croydon, Surrey CR2 6NT 0181 681 6270

 100 RG Davey, 1 Greville Park Avenue, Ashtead, Surrey KT21 2QS 01372 813576

Sussex O P Watson, Flat 7, Regency Court, Withdean Rise, London Rd, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 6YG 01273 505480

 175 RD Hirsch, 5 Orde Close, Pound Hill, Crawley, W Sussex RH10 3NG 01293 883244

 150 P Watson as above

 125 MA Bryant, 88 Manor Rd, Hastings, E Sussex TN34 3LP 05850 25995 (U125 team secretary P Buswell, 51 Kenilworth Rd, St Leonards on Sea, E Sussex TN38 0JL 01424 444321)

**NOTES TO MATCH CAPTAINS**

Remember that the home captain should contact the away captain to confirm arrangements at least one month in advance (or two weeks, for matches played before 13th October).

**Match results**: Result sheets must be sent to DRS within one week of the match, and should also be sent promptly to the Bulletin for publication.

**Ungraded players**:In the grading-limited divisions, ungraded players may play only if cleared with DRS in advance. Where a player’s last published grade is above the limit and relates to 1992 or later, he does not intend to grant clearance. Beyond this he will proceed on a case by case basis.

 The SCCU Grading List 1997 (obtainable from CI Howell, price £4 by post) is the definitive list for this purpose. The BCF National list is less complete and less accurate and will be used only for players not appearing in the SCCU list. If using the BCF list, remember to check the correction sheets that came with it (or if they didn’t, ask the BCF office for a copy). A player will be treated as ungraded only if he appears in neither SCCU nor BCF list.

DRS will not be available between the 1st and 17th October. In this period, requests for permission to play ungraded players should go to the Grading Secretary and other urgent matters should be referred to the Union President.

**Bulletin.** Your Editor would add: Please do send all your result sheets to the Bulletin, even if you’re sure your opponents will. I need both copies as a check. Try to be prompt. And *please* be legible, and give full initials (and grades) for all players. Accuracy is important because the grader works directly from the Bulletin. If a player has just moved into your county, or hasn’t played county chess before, add a note first time round saying where he’s from. BCF reference number is helpful too, and if he hasn’t got one say so. No need for reference numbers generally, unless you think confusion’s possible.

237:9

**Corrections already**

There’s two mistakes in the Kent entry on page 8 (duplicated early, dammit). The word processor, editing last year’s list of match captains, forgot to change the Kent U150 one. He’s Steve Chick, 85 Poverest Rd, Orpington, Kent BR5 2DZ 01689 877358. It also forgot to delete their U100 captain. Kent haven’t got an U100 team. Sorry about this; we’ve checked the other counties and they seem to be right. Incidentally, the Kent U125 captain really *is* I(vor) C Smith. The other Ivor Smith, if you’re from Essex. The list sent out to counties has him as J.

|  |
| --- |
| **County matches, BCF stage 1997**. John Philpott sends an extra match and some notes. |
| Under 100 semi-final: **Suffolk** **Essex** 1 R Barnes 98 ½ ½ R Prickett 99 (B) 2 V Allen 97 0 1 B Mehanjedad 99 3 S Froud 95j 1 0 C Wiggins 99 4 G Stebbings 99 0 1 R Payne 98 5 A Barnes 93 0 1 L Trent 95 6 R Doyle 92 0 1 E Lutton 95 7 S Banham 1 0 A O’Neill 94 8 R Adams 89 0 1 C Turner 83 9 G Chapman 89 0 1 D Allen 8710 A Molloy 86 0 1 A Trent 9111 S Payne 81 1 0 S Trent 8212 E Fletcher 72 0 1 J Lutton 81 **3½ 8½** | This match never reached us at the time. Other points:**Open Final**. The Essex board 11, never mind what we said, was PR Barclay 148 (reserve). Kent gave that name, but when their version arrived we’d already copied the incorrect name from another source - not Essex - and didn’t check. PRB was there as reserve for the Essex U175 team. He gave away as many minutes as grading points, 50-odd, and “had much the better of the draw despite replying to 1 d4 with 1...e5”.**Under 100 Final**. The Essex board 1 was R Prickett, and the Essex board 5 was A O’Neill. You’ll have guessed that. We gave them their proper grades, though we had to put question marks after them. |

**BCF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

27th September 1997 at the Kennedy Hotel (well, it’s *near* the Ibis one), London NW1

Attendance will have been getting on for 50, excluding proxies and postals. Proxies and postals always complicate things. Your Editor was there with an SCCU delegate’s hat on. It was a better behaved, and more organised, meeting than its predecessor. There *were* some contentious matters and they were dealt with in a pretty civilised way, considering. Time was wasted, as always, and the meeting went on till 6.25.

**(1) Minutes of Last Meeting**, sorry. On Restructuring of Management Board (last issue, page 5, an inch from the bottom) we said it was hard to tell exactly what had been agreed. The draft minutes were in broad agreement with this statement. The September Meeting decided what *had* been agreed. But it did it on the word of someone speaking quickly and indistinctly, and the Chairman refused your Editor’s request to have it at dictation speed. Understandable, and let’s just hope the minute secretary got it. (We did get the gist, but you don’t really want to know it. The point we’re labouring, and “we” means your Editor, is the importance of having decisions clear.)

**(2) Presidents Awards** for Services to Chess. You know Fred Manning got one. There were two others: Keith Brown and Roger Simpson, both with northern associations, whom we hadn’t heard of. It is entirely fitting that Presidents Awards should go to people we haven’t heard of, if they’re outside the SCCU purview.

**(2) Trophies**. There weren’t any there to be presented, though it appeared on the agenda. Someone said the policy should be, present trophies at the appropriate time (at the Final, or whenever). As far as we know, this *is* the policy in practice. Everybody agreed with him.

**(3) European Team Championships 1999**. Came up briefly, and someone didn’t like the idea of Plymouth. Ought to be more central. Knew there’d be someone.

**(4) Grading**. Bryan Fewell proposed that the Federation should formally examine the financial and organisational implications of implementing the new system. Everyone agreed, including your Editor, but we still managed to take 20 minutes saying so. The new system is an unknown quantity. People expressed varying mixtures of ignorance, scepticism and alarm.

 Council agreed to create a new Directorate of Game Fee and Grading, and elected Chris Howell to it. There were stifled attempts, at various times during the day, to discuss FIDE’s intention of farming out the international rating system. We mention it here because Chris had expressed an interest in taking it on. It would sit well with the new system. The BCF might not need, or wish, to be involved.

**(5) Management Board**. It was agreed that the two extra places - the game-fee-related ones - should not be restricted to leagues.

**(6) BCF Chairman**. Nigel Johnson had put in a late application for this post, in competition with the incumbent, Stewart Reuben. We won’t dwell on what happened at Hove, though it came up. SWR was re-elected by a comfortable margin.

237:10

**(7) Junior Director**. Four candidates is a bit of a luxury, and more than one of them got substantial support. All spoke, and answered questions, and Brian Jones was elected by a healthy majority.

**(8) Coaching Director**. A new post, and another contested election. Three candidates this time. It went to Fred Appleton, one of the unsuccessful candidates for the junior job.

**(9) Other jobs**. Congress Director Neil Graham (also contested!); Home Chess George Thirlaway; Womens Chess Lara Barnes. Otherwise no change.

**(10) Policy Unit**. David Eustace will chair this. There was an attempt to elect other members, but it ground to a halt and the rest of the Unit, sensibly, will be co-opted at more leisure.

**(11) European Club Cup** (see 7c on page 4). Someone proposed next business, and that was that.

**(12) Counties Championship** **Rules** (7d). Carried.

**(13) Under 18 Rules** (7e). Turned out to be a re-write of the current rules, with one major change (two rounds instead of one). It was contentious, and shelved after considerable debate. The other bit (Girls on the day after) was defeated, but that presumably doesn’t mean it can’t be done. Other changes about girls have been talked about and may still come up at a later meeting.

**(14) Any Other Business**. There wasn’t time for any, so the SCCU never raised the point dealt with in Lester Millin’s letter.

**CONGRESS DIARY**

Oct 3 GOLDERS GREEN Rapidplay. Adam Raoof, PO Box 1962 NW4 4NF 0181 202 0982

 4 COULSDON JUNIOR. Scott Freeman 0181 645 9586 daytime

 4-5 METROPOLITAN CHESS CLUB CONGRESS. The Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2 4QH 0171 247 6844

 4-5 SPECTRUM WORCESTER. Norman Went, 53 New Zealand Way, Rainham, Essex RM18JT  01708 551617

 5 ESSEX JUNIOR RAPIDPLAY at Colchester + Open adults. Roger Sharman 01206 795624

 5 BEDFORD JUNIOR (London Junior Qualifier) Under 16,14,12,10,8. Nicky Harbour, 1 Beverley Grove, Bedford MK40 4BU 01234 355234

 11 WESTMINSTER Rapid. JM Sargent, 903 Longbridge Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2BU 0181 270 9196

 11 OXFORD CITY. Philip Vinaker 01865 55762

 11-12 IPSWICH JUNIOR. Mrs A Durnford 01473 727790

 12 ASHFORD JUNIOR (London Junior Qualifier) Under 18 Open / U121; U14,12,10; plus Novices 7 ‑ 17. MPJ Whitwood, 8 Iden Crescent, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 0NU 01580 892005

 17-19 MAIDSTONE BCQ. Open; U160, 130, 105; Open Rapidplay Sunday. NC Mackett, 74 Peel St, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2SD

 18 GOLDERS GREEN Rapidplay. Adam Raoof, PO Box 1962 NW4 4NF 0181 202 0982

 18 JOHN RW HARRADENCE MEMORIAL, London. N Went 01708 551617

 18 SOUTHWATER JUNIOR U11 near Horsham. SP Deere 01892 653688

 19 BUCKS JUNIOR at High Wycombe. David Balderson 01494 722069

 19 ROYSTON (Herts) JUNIOR. JG Jones 01763 853873

 19-25 GUERNSEY INTERNATIONAL. S Naftel 01481 728948

 22 COULSDON HANDICAPPED RAPIDPLAY. Scott Freeman 0181 645 9586 daytime

 24-26 SCARBOROUGH. Keith Jones 01723 352044

Nov 8-9 ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL GUILDFORD Under 18 Open / U105; one-day U14, U12 (one of each on each day). Christopher Hoffman, Royal Grammar School, Guildford GU1 3BB

 28-30 TORBAY Open, U155, U125, U100. VJ Dunleavy, 59 Belle Cross Rd, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1NL

We have not listed the 32nd Dorset Congress and the 33rd Dorset Congress, being held at the same weekend in Weymouth.

**CORRECTION**

SCCU jobs: last issue, page 3. The SCCU doesn’t have a representative to the London Chess League; David Sedgwick is representative to the London Chess *Association*. [Whoops. We did know that.]

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** *Checkpoint* (GMCCA) for August; *Chessex* for August/September; Herts CA Newsletter 1997; *Sussex Chess* 1997.

 Issue 238 November 1997

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Dear Richard**, 11.11.97

I would like to correct an opinion that you put forward in the September Bulletin (see page 237:1) regarding the grading data from the London League.

 It is correct that there was an error in the data that was submitted for Simon Brown for his London League games, however the fault could not, and did not, lie with Mike Cansdale, the London League grader. The London League data was sent to me, on forms, not on disc, and transcribed onto disc using the Gmenu program, before onward transmission to the central computer. The error was not the loss of 1000 points, worse than that, the points were reduced from 1888 to 188 (the loss of the final digit and 1700 points!). Whereas the Gmenu program has no means of telling whether 9 games for 188 points is outside the possible score for a 200+ player, the central computer reacted immediately and the error was quickly resolved.

 Your article suggests that all the London League data would be similarly affected. I can reassure you that this is not the case.

 I am sure that you will recall that I had expressed my concern, in the SCCU meetings earlier this year, that the loss of Lorraine Harding as the Grading Administrator at the BCF Office would create serious problems. Well, it could have been worse! The fact that four events were omitted was the result of the absence of a regular and reliable supply of “Input Log Details” (the print-out that shows what data the central computer has accepted). If ILDs had been forthcoming, as they had when Lorraine was in charge, the graders concerned would have been aware, without any delay, that these events had been omitted.

 Yours sincerely,

 **Martin Cath** Purley

Ed: - Here, *I* correct my opinions! But it wasn’t one, it was a story I’d heard (from a source I thought reputable) and I’m glad to correct it. What originally looked to me like “one of those computer jobs” turns out to have been an HM Cath typing error. You might as well say it was one of those computer jobs. I tried Gmenu once, and it’s a pig. But it’s only one of the reasons the system needs re-writing. As for the four events omitted, I don’t think the lack (or lateness?) of ILDs was the sole villain of the piece. ILDs aren’t the only check available, or even the most obvious one. Events are registered for game fee, so the BCF knew what results to expect. How hard *is* it to keep a list of events, and tick them off when the results arrive?

**Dear Richard**, 4.10.97

Your report (#4) in the September SCCU Bulletin concerning my emergency motion on grading to Council, which was agreed nem con, leaves out one important point. The motion not only asks for a report to the November Management Board Meeting on the financial implications of administering the new grading system but also requires an assessment of the administrative costs of producing the 1998 National Grading List; this is the priority. As I understand the situation, production of the 1998 List could involve partial use of the new system if available at that time, otherwise, presumably, we will have to soldier on with all the disadvantages of the existing one.

 Your readers should be made aware that, as things stand at the moment in the BCF Office, work on the 1998 National List could lead to a demand for a rise of 4p (16%) in the 1998/9 standard game fee to pay for a half person resource in the BCF Office to handle grading administration. The reason for this is that when the highly experienced grading administrator, Lorraine Harding, left in November 1996, no-one took on her grading work in the BCF Office which effectively left it de-skilled on grading administration; her replacement took on other duties. Work in producing the 1997 National Grading List largely fell to the National Grading Officer, Roger Edwards, who has made it clear he is unwilling to take on this responsibility in 1998.

 In his report to the September Council Meeting, Roger said that he envisaged that, when the new grading system is fully operational, a full time person would be required to run it.1 If that person were located in the BCF Office and were additional to existing resources, the on cost in game fee terms could be as much as 8p compared with now.

 It is therefore absolutely essential that the new Grading and Game Fee Director takes urgent action in discussion with the Director of Management Services to assess the administrative cost implications of producing the 1998 National Grading List as well as looking at the longer term situation as regards the new system.

 You make one rather curious comment in your notes on grading arising from my letter in your September issue: “If we had known then what we know now about the real extent of the shambles”. Considerable concern was expressed by me and minuted, as proxy for Alan Martin, at the Management Board Meeting on 21 June on the lack of effective management of grading operations which seemed to come as a surprise to many members of the Board. It was obvious that prompt and effective action needed to be taken and later events speak for themselves on the failure to do this. This is not a criticism of Roger Edwards who made a considerable personal sacrifice to get the 1997 National List out on time.

 Grading is arguably the prime benefit most chess players obtain from the BCF from payment of game fee. I very much hope the new Director will energetically tackle the challenge of organising the production of the 1998 List so it is published on time, whilst minimizing any increase in administrative costs. Also that he re-energises work on the new system which the National Grading Officer reported to Council in September had ground to a halt!

238:2

 I hope your readers help to monitor progress on these grading issues by asking questions through their delegates to the SCCU or the BCF. The next few months are crucial to production of the 1998 National List and to establishing longer term arrangements. Yours sincerely,

 **Bryan (Fewell)** Chairman, BCF Finance Committee

c.c. John Philpott, President SCCU.

 Alan Martin, London League.

1 Chris Howell (see page \*\*\*\*\*\*\*) doesn’t seem to agree. I gather, at second or third hand, that the Finance Committee is now broadly satisfied with the plans.

 Bryan doesn’t say why he thinks my remark curious. I thought I was saying that we’d have been even more concerned if we’d known how bad things really were. Important events had been omitted because no one had checked, and we didn’t know.

 Bryan’s letter, though plainly word-processed, came on paper. He can’t have read the September Editorial. Let’s do things the *efficient* way, Bryan! I scanned it in, and any errors will be down to the character-recognition software. That’s the risk you run if you send hard copy when you could have sent a floppy disk: I don’t promise to check for O(ptical) C(haracter) R(ecognition) errors. I’ll check if you’re using a steam typewriter. (People do!) I checked in Bryan’s case, and found and corrected *two* errors. Two errors in 2981 characters, if it really was two, isn’t bad going for something as stupid as a computer program. My typing, before corrections, is one or two orders of magnitude worse. But be warned that the OCR isn’t always that good. It wasn’t, for two of the other letters, and one of those was word-processed but I checked again. It can’t read handwriting. I welcome handwritten letters, and I type them out.

**Dear Richard**, 13.10.97

The September 1997 Bulletin asks for a definition of a Minor County. Logically, it should be weaker than the Open tournament but stronger than the Under 175. A Minor County tournament must be grading-restricted for any classification to make sense.

 From the Bulletins for the 1996-7 season I have worked out the average grades per board for every Open, U175 and Minor Counties match. These are shown below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Open** matches mean grdKent 11 196.8Essex 11 192.2Sussex 8 187.3Cambs 8 183.9Herts 8 178.6Surrey 8 178.1Oxon 8 177.4Berks 8 169.6Bucks 8 158.5Lancs 1 184.1Notts 1 179.3Gtr Mcr 1 176.5 | **MC** matches mean grdHerts 3 185.7Oxon 3 182.9Beds 1 176.1Suffolk 1 174.6Dorset 1 167.6Derbys 1 156.7Overall averages:Open 180.1Minor Cties 178.1U175 156.8 | **U175** matches mean grdEssex 9 162.6Kent 6 160.8Sussex 7 160.4Surrey 6 155.7Warks 1 156.3Hants 1 154.8Lancs 1 147.3 |

This brings to light some anomalies. Both Herts and Oxon have higher grades in the Minor Counties event than in the Open. In the Final Herts had a massive 190.1 against 186.1 for Oxon. This gives some food for thought.

 One could suggest that a Minor County should not exceed an average of 175 per board, for example. I hope the above may assist the Management Board in their calculations. My labours over the past few days may help to classify a Minor County, and if not there’s no harm done. I still have all the working if anyone would like it.

 Best wishes,

 **Mick Croft** Margate

Ed: - So *that’s* why he wanted copies of all last season’s issues! Surely it’s not surprising that Herts and Oxon got stronger for the BCF stage? If this comment is as long as the letter it goes with, it’s because I’ve been mulling it over as well. Mick would agree that there’s other ways of looking at these figures. For example, SCCU “Major” counties (there are four) 190-ish including some matches where the strongest counties, at the BCF stage or elsewhere, were really trying. (I think Kent were nearly 204 for the Final.) SCCU Minor counties 173-ish at the Union stage and easily 180+ for the stronger ones when they were trying. Other Unions, not much to go on but these were the strong ones and *they* were trying.

 I agree that restrictions would have to be on mean grade, not just Under X. When I suggested mean grade to David Sedgwick he said it would be a pain to monitor. It would. And will the restrictions apply at the Union stage? They’ll have to, or who’s eligible? But at the Union stage, the Minor counties (at least in theory) are trying for the Open as well. Force them to go Minor at the outset, with a grading limit, and you might as well have two separate competitions. Tell you what, let’s do it on overall mean grade and work it out at the end. So Kent, doomed to third place with one match to go, wheel out their U11 “B” team for it and turn into a Minor county. OK Kent wouldn’t, but Middx might. To be slightly more serious, counties who went for the Minor (at the outset) could be grading-restricted amongst themselves, and no holds barred when they played Kent. Matches against Kent wouldn’t count for the Minor, but the Minor counties could qualify for the Open. This might even work. It would still be a pain to monitor.

 Or you could have grading bands: not more than n players over 200, and so on. Easy to administer, but tough on the weakish county that happens to have n + 1. Someone’s suggested doing it on population-of-county. Any more ideas, anyone?

238:3

**Dear Richard**, 17.11.97

In reply to Lester Millin(237:3) the UK Challenge grades had to be announced in July, well before the 1997 BCF grades were published, to help national publicity for the event and fund-raising for a children’s charity.

 The relevant official grade then for Lester’s player was B71 from 1996, while the player he claims was preferred had no 1996 grade but a May 1997 rapid grade of A89. I explained this to Lester on the day of the final, but it evidently slipped his memory when complaining to the Bulletin.

 The updated grades actually favoured Lester’s player, whose 1996 grade and 1996 BCF congress grade of 70 (not mentioned in his letter) were given less weight than better 1997 results as well as a D100 rapid grade. But the other player also had good 1997 results, and indeed played 21 games at 110 at the 1997 BCF congress just before the UK Challenge final.

 Given how eager they are to complain now, it is curious that Lester (“those bad old days”), the Bulletin (“ignoring official grades”) and the SCCU Executive, hotfoot to the BCF Council, have all failed to mention that updated grades were used in the SCCU’s own official junior championships for 14 years, no less. Collective amnesia?

 Perhaps, but at least five of the present Executive, including Lester, the Bulletin Editor, and the signer of the SCCU cheques which were a welcome support to the junior championships, were active officials for most of that period. What are they all ashamed of? I don’t recall complaints to the Bulletin or Council during those14 years, during which the SCCU/BCF squad event helped develop Short, Adams, Sadler and other GMs as well as many strong county players. Nearly half the Kent and Essex 1997 county finalists are graduates from the SCCU junior championships.

 And a relevant point today is that the SCCU has failed to organise its own individual junior championships for nearly a decade. Instead, the Union’s talented youngsters have to trek to Newcastle or Liverpool at Easter for the BCF squad which used to be combined with the SCCU event in London. It would be easy to award SCCU junior open and girls titles to the Union’s best players via existing Opens and junior congresses, but your Executive doesn’t seem even to have discussed its own inaction for many years. It’s unfortunate that the SCCU should throw stones at somebody else’s event which attracts nearly 25,000 entrants while apparently trying to write its own junior championships out of the Union’s history.

 Finally, since Lester alleges deliberate bias against his player, I sign myself

 **Leonard Barden**

 President and former county captain, Oxfordshire Chess Association

Ed: - I append, with LWB’s permission, a recent item explaining how his updates are calculated. (He tells me it’s really a bit more flexible than this, where other relevant information is available.) Correspondence is closed on the specific details of the 1997 Terafinal. Comments on the general issues will be welcome.

**JUNIOR WORLD RANKINGS SEPTEMBER 1997** Leonard Barden

This list of leading world and British juniors shows the latest Fide rating and BCF grade or, where applicable, an update based on recent results. Lists are issued to organisers and players, and are designed to help juniors measure their current skills against the best of their generation.

 A simplified Elo-type system highlights rapidly improving juniors of all ages. The base rating is changed after each event, using a divisor for points won or lost. The divisor applied is 20 for those rated U150, 30 for 150-199, and 40 for 200+. It is doubled for rapidplay games by U15s and older.

 Examples: A Jones, rated 130, has a 7-round performance rating of 159. Jones thus gains 7x(159-130)=203 rating points. 203 is reduced by the 20 divisor to 10 points (numbers are rounded up or down). So Jones’s new rating is 140, which figure is used for evaluating his/her next qualifying event.

 J Smith, rated 170 and an U16, has a 10-round rapidplay performance rating of 195. Smith gains 10x(195-170)=250 points. The divisor of 30 becomes 68 for a rapidplay. 250 divided by 60=4, Smith’s new rating of 174 is used for his/her next event.

 This system was used by the SCCU/BCF Junior Squad in 1973-86. Professor Elo’s book *The Rating of Chessplayers* reproduced a graph of GM Julian Hodgson’s progress between ages 9-14, where squad ratings demonstrated quantum jumps and consolidations. David Short calculated Nigel’s weekly updates and included them in his book on his son’s early career.

 During the late 70s and early 80s England had more Fide rated juniors than any other nation. Today at U14(born 1.1.83ff) level we have only 6 Fide rated players as against the Ukraine with 24, Hungary 35, and Russia with 55.

 Principal events and data used for this list:

May-June: BCF Rapidplay list, minisquad championships, Agency Masters July: Fide rating list, Scottish rating list, Smith & Williamson (all events), UK Gigafinal, Newport, Highgate, World U20 Ch.

August: BCF 1997 Grading list, BCF championships and congress (all tournaments), European U10/14, Mind Sports Olympiad 30 mins, UK Terafinal, Chorley. Also: all Mill Hill, Richmond and Spectrum congresses. Awaited: Glorney/Faber Cup, Welsh rating list, Newcastle and Manchester intls. Other relevant data is welcome and can be sent via the BCF office.

 July Fide ratings in this list are updated (by normal FIDE calculation methods) if there are significant later results. Bracketed Fide ratings should be published Jan 1998. Note that Fide world and European championships have birth qualifications of 1 Jan, not 1 Sept as with BCF events.

**4NCL** first event of the season 25.10.97 suffered a disaster when the person supposed to be bringing the equipment didn’t turn up. They rustled up enough sets and boards to play Division 1, and twelve teams (of eight) in Division 2 had a wasted day.

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**Ralph Barnet Trophy** 16th August 1997: 1 Essex 14; 2 Surrey 10½; 3 Civil Service 4½. The Ralph Barnet is an annual jamboree for teams of 20.

**Insurance CC** Championship is shared by Paul Barclay and Mike Wiltshire, still level (ahead of Tony Paish) after a three-way play-off. Only the second time the title has been shared in 103 years. (Shades of Hove.)

**BRAINTREE CONGRESS** 20-21 August 1997

**Open** (16 pl) 1-2 John Anderson 192 (Grays), Richard Savory 174 (Dereham) 4/5; 3 C Paul Botham 171 (Ipswich) 3½...

**Under 160** (25 ent) 1 Lawrence Trent 120 (Ilford: age 11) 4½/5; 2-3 David Pearse 158 (Maldon), Bob Latter (Braintree) 4...

**Under 130** (32 ent) 1 Michael Newman 110 (Braintree) 4½/5; 2-4 David King (Milton Keynes), David Lilley 104 (Braintree), Paul Stukas 104 (Chelmsford) 4...

**Under 100** (37 ent) 1 Peter Elliott 92 (Chelmsford) 4½/5; 2-5 Peter Brander 88 (Chelmsford), Kenneth Smith 98 (Sidcup), Charles Szentmihaly 80e (Kings Gambit), Jim Wilson 98 (London NW) 4...

**POWDERMILL RAPIDPLAY** 14th September 1997

**Open / Major** (28 pl) 1-2 Ben Morgan 171 (Cambridge Iniv), Bill Stirling 190 (Powdermill) 5/6; 3-4 Jim Howson 187 (Dartford), John Guilfoyle145 (Islington: U152 grading prize) 4½... Grading U172 Daniel Lee (Portsmouth) 4; U132 Dominic Allen (Powdermill), Lawrence Trent (Ilford) 3½

**Under 107** (14 pl) 1 Howard Berlin 102 (Ilford) 5/6; 2 Stewart Trent 93 (Ilford) 4½; 3 Keith Woodhouse 83 (Royston) 4...

**MAIDSTONE** 17-19 Oct 1997

**Open** (33 pl) 1-4 Cliff R Chandler 202 (Phoenix), Philip H Potopaev 187 (Crystal Palace), James E Vigus 210 (Beckenham & Bromley), Richard M Webb 211 (Crowthorne) 4½/6; then 13 people on 3½. BCQ: Philip Potopaev.

**Major U160** (40 pl) 1 Thomas D Phillips 155 (South Norwood) 5/6; 2-3 Paul Lawrence 143 (St Albans), Roger JA Winterburn 153 (Lewisham) 4½; 4-11 SJ Peters 155 (Dartford), G Josephs 145 (Dartford), A Nicol 136 (Folkestone), M Finch 146 (Eastbourne), J Bashall 147 (Shrewsbury), K Majewski 142 (Maidstone), TE Rendle 132 (Hastings), Z Mehmet 153 (Lewisham) 4...

**Intermediate U130)** (29 pl) 1-4 Steve Bartlett 121 (Rainham), Peter L Childs 126 (Beckenham & Bromley), Simon Thanesan 122 (Maidstone), Julian Ward 115 (Maidstone) 4½/6; 5-6 JR McKenna 125 (Beckenham & Bromley), R Scott 112 (Danson) 4...

**Minor U105** (38 pl) 1 Konrad Sanders 104 (Danson) 6/6; 2-4 John E Fowers 104 (Phoenix), Malcolm Jamieson 70 (Eastbourne), Lalin Navaratne 91 (Maidstone) 4½; 5-9 IC Smith 104 (Whitstable), WG Ward 104 (Crowthorne), M Mannings 70 (Deal), J Shortt 85 (Chislehurst), P Ruffle 96 (Birchington) 4...

**Rapidplay** (30 pl) 1-3 Stephen W Giddins (Medway), Leo Keely (Hastings), Jim R Poulton (Wood Green) 4/5; 4-7 DC Eden (Dartford), Heather Richards (Whitstable), R Turrell (Dartford), DA Wood (Chatham) 3½...

They give numbers of white wins, black wins and draws for the standardplay events. For interest, and in that order: Open 28,20,37; Major 41,33,31: Intermediate 19,32,24; Minor 43,41,19.

**DARTFORD RAPIDPLAY** 23rd November 1997

1-3 Andrew Bigg (Hayes Kent), Martin Taylor (Rainham), John Bennett (Beckenham & Bromley) 5/6; 4-7 Mark Roberts (Dartford & Swanley), David Munford (Maidstone), Gavin Josephs (Ramsgate), Oliver Cooley (Hayes Kent) 4½... 35 played. They threw half the juniors in because entries were low, and it made a real mixed bag of a tournament. Your Editor, in his first ever(!) individual rapidplay event, got one opponent graded 50 points above him and one graded 80 points below him.

**JUNIOR NEWS**

**KENT JUNIOR CA: first Grand Prix event** at Maidstone,27th September 1997

**Under 16/14** (21 played) 1-2 Andrew Bigg, Thomas Rendle 5/6; 3-4 Amir Habibi, David Ho 4½; 5-6 Matthew Moore, Alistair Taylor 4; 7-8 Oliver Cooley, Robert Wilson 3½...

**Under 12** (24 pl) 1 Paul Richards 6/6; 2 Edmund Birkhamshaw 5; 3 Lalin Navaratne 4½; 4-5 Martin Parsons, Andrew Welch 4; 6-10 James Chapman, Edward Coughlan, Sara Higgins, Mark Richards, David Ridout 3½...

**Under 10** (24 pl) 1 David Franklin 5½/6; 2-4 Christopher Collison, Samuel Lim, Geoffrey Walters (U8) 4½; 5-7 Guy Aust, Melanie Jones, Jennifer Munroe 4; 8 Laura Weatherhead 3½...

**ESSEX JUNIOR RAPIDPLAY** **CHAMPIONSHIPS** at Colchester, 5th October 1997

**Under 14** (14 ent) 1 Dominic Allen (Powdermill) 5½/6; 2 Caius Turner (Powdermill) 5; 3 Lawrence Trent (Ilford) 4...

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**Under 12** (35 pl) 1 Alexander O’Neill (Ilford) 6/6; 2 Stewart Trent (Ilford) 5; 3-5 Joshua Rubin (Ipswich), Robert Payne (Ilford), Heather Walker (Customs Southend) 4½...

**Under 10** (28 pl) 1 Edward Morris (Southend) 5½/6; 2 Josiah Lutton (Basildon) 5; 3-4 Alan Hawrainy (Ilford), Jacob Rubin (Ipswich) 4...

**Under 8** (9 pl) 1 David Donaghy (Ipswich) 5/6; 2-5 Andrew Alexandrou (Powdermill), Abigail Flint (Chelmsford), Nathaniel Lutton (Basildon), Alex O’Toole (Southend) 4...

**Open Adult** (32 pl) 1-2 Shaun Munson (Ipswich), Terry Turner (Powdermill) 5/6; 3-5 Stephen Gregory (Ipswich), Richard Watts (Stowmarket), Steve Williams (Colchester) 4½...

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| **RICHMOND JUNIOR** Under 18 1-2 November 19971 Martin Taylor (Rainham Kent) 5½/6; 2 Thomas Rendle (Hastings) 4½; 3-6 David Edwards, Nick Kingston-Smith, Thomas Nixon, Ross Rattray (all Richmond Juniors) 4... Grading U100 Lee Gold (North London), David Howell (Seaford) 3David Howell is six (maybe just about seven by now). Here’s a position of his.White (Howell) to play.1 Rf6! and Black went ...Qxf6 instead of resigning. White won 18 moves later. Results Richard James |  |

**RGS GUILDFORD** 8-9 November 1997

**Under 18 Open** (8 pl) 1 SK Williams (Farnham College) 6/6; 2 M Broomfield 4...

**Under 18 U105** (12 pl) 1-2 NJ Bawden, CP Hoffman (both RGS) 5½/6; 3 TE Landais (RGS) 4...

**Under 14A** (Saturday: 16 pl) 1 D Kay (More House) 5½/6; 2 KL Feld (LE Holles) 4½; 3-4 C Dixon (Whitgift), D Manders (Therfield) 4...

**Under 14B** (Sunday: 14 pl) 1-2 JJ Povah (RGS), O Wilson (Wallington) 4½/6; 3-5 MJ Harborne (Frimley), BD Morgan (Warlingham), A Navias (Bearwood College) 4...

**Under 12A** (Sat: 26 pl) 1 B Jablonski (St Catherines) 5½/6; 2-3 V Aarons (S Hampstead), MJ Harborne (Frimley) 4½; 4-7 R Greensmith (Aldro), S Hegarty (Knaphill), C Kay (Sandfield), TB Macleod (MacLeod?: Aldro) 4...

**Under 12B** (Sun: 28 pl) 1 O Coddington (Portsmouth GS) 5½/6; 2 A Webb (Warneford) 5; 3-4 PT Hayward (Lawn), B Purton (Bearwood College) 4½; 5-7 D Howell (Seaford), R King (Dorcaw), J Purcell (Hollybrook) 4...

[We’ve assumed all the tournaments were 6 rounds. Worked it out for the U18 Open but not the others.]

Results AJW Thorn

**DARTFORD JUNIOR UNDER 11** 23rd November 1997

1 Sara Higgins (Sevenoaks) 5/6; 2-5 Karim Habibi, Gregory Jones (both Maidstone), Zakerey Bennett, Laura Weatherhead (both “Kent Junior”) 4½... 23 played.

# Grading and Game Fee: Current and Future Policy

*This is a (much cut down) version of a paper produced for the BCF by Chris Howell.*

As the years have passed [the] system has been completely overcome by events. The introduction of Rapidplay Grading, not supported by the Central Grading System, has meant that all sorts of contortions have to be gone through to produce lists using the same player codes from physically separate databases. The printing mechanisms are archaic, and have resulted in numerous problems with printing lists. The user interfaces of the system are unfriendly to the extent that a) most ‘computerised’ graders have written their own software to do their grading, and b) the training overhead in the office has been prohibitive.

 This has led to the Grading Processing being undertaken very largely by the only person who knows all the tricks required to circumvent the shortcomings of the system, Roger Edwards. However, it would be a serious mistake to underestimate the amount of time spent by the Office staff on grading-related issues this year.

 When the Game Fee Scheme was first introduced to replace the County Levy, the inflexibility of the Grading system meant that it had to be administered entirely separately; this has meant considerable duplication of effort within the Office, and indirectly costs money.

## Arrangements for 1997/1998

The usual array of Grading Lists will be produced for the rest of the 1997/1998 season:

* The Master List will be produced by the end of November and made available to all Graders in electronic or paper form. Technical difficulties also affect the printing of this list, but an adequate method of circumventing these has now been found.
* The November 1997 Rapidplay list will in fact appear in early December, available for a standard price of £2.50 per copy.
* A Supplementary list of New Players and Corrections will appear in February; due to the unusually large number of corrections this year (see above) this list will be made available free of charge to anyone sending a SAE to the office.
* A new player Master list will be sent to all Graders on the 30th April 1998.
* The May 1998 Rapidplay list will be issued at the end of May/first week in June, again for £2.50. This will be the last list produced using the current Grading Software.238:6
* The 1998 BCF Grading List will be available in electronic form on Friday 17th July 1988. The first printed versions will be available at the British Championships in the week beginning Monday 27th July. This list will of necessity be produced using the new Grading Software by the Grading Project Team, with all results (other than some generated by the team themselves) intended to be submitted exactly as in all recent years.

## Subsequent Development

**Grading season 1997/1998**

* Transfer of current standardplay and rapidplay databases into the database format required by the new system, which combines both.
* User-friendly interface to all functions in the office, to minimise training requirements and avoid errors caused by complications of current system.
* Ability to print current range of reports (including grading lists) on any printer or to file for transmission by email through standard methods.
* Ability to input grading results in the current {code,games,points} format generated by GMENU and other current grading software used by graders.
* Ability to calculate new grades using the identical calculation method as used currently.
* Some new reports to assist with time-consuming requirements such as ‘new player merges’ and club updates, not adequately dealt with by the old system. Reports and lists with both Rapidplay & Standardplay results in the same document.
* Limited ability to input results using the prototypes of new input programs using the new data entry format currently being finalised - desirable but not necessary.

**Grading season 1998/1999**

* Merging of Game Fee and Direct Membership information into the system; this will produce massive efficiency savings within the office and result in a very much improved service to Congress Organisers and members. Release of precisely-defined new (textual) format for result entry, allowing individual graders and third-party developers to become compatible with the new system. A conversion module for such popular programs as “Tournament Director” will be an early priority.
* The release of the BCF’s own new Grader/Organiser Pack, with programs to help with running Leagues, Congresses, All-Play-Alls and in recording individual games. These will produce Grading results in the required format automatically, for submission to the Office by disk in the post or directly by email. Written submission will remain possible also.
* A further expansion of the range of reports produced, to take in various administrative Game Fee functions (including prediction of future income), various statistical information used to monitor and correct the Grading System itself, and reports for such things as the Leigh Grand Prix. The inclusion of various archiving facilities used when each Grading List is produced. It will be possible to keep all Grading data for about 20 years within the system.
* The incorporation of the FIDE Rating List for British players, so that this information can be incorporated into reports. Also, space for one ‘foreign’ grade such as Scottish or Welsh is allocated in the database.
* Minor changes to the way in which grades are calculated for games against ‘new’ players without previous grades and for players playing less than 30 games a year.

**When adjudged desirable**

* Any desired new way of calculating grades can be used, e.g. Elo system, because the calculation scheme is now independent of the data collected.
* Printing of (say) two lists a year, each containing newly calculated Elo, Standardplay and Rapidplay grades for every player. At any one time, only one list needs to be consulted for all purposes! End January and end July suggested. More frequent lists are possible if the results come in quickly enough - this is the limiting factor.
* Grading lists made available on the Internet, as the Scottish Chess Association already does. This can be limited to Direct Members and graders (say) by use of ‘userids’ and passwords; in any case many people will always want to buy a printed list, which perhaps should include the list on CD-ROM with good browsing software.
* Automatic upgrade of grading programs throughout the country by using rapidly developing special features of the Internet so minimising administration.

## General Office Issues

A number of significant changes are required at the BCF office to support the new systems being put in place. The current operating system at the Office is now considered obsolete by the manufacturers and should be replaced with Windows 95 or NT as soon as possible. As we qualify for educational terms on such products, this will not be expensive. A simple network should be introduced at the same time, so as to allow sharing of resources including the increasingly vital modem for email and Internet access and the faster printers. Networking prices are also at a low level presently, but are unlikely to fall much lower.

 The email capabilities of the office should be extended to Directors wherever possible; each extra node on the BCF account only costs £50 per annum, and we might save more than this in postage! The offer of cheap Internet access and email through the BCF domain could also be extended (say) to DMs and Game Fee organisers, as a benefit of membership or for a small profit.

 It really is overdue for the BCF to set up its own World-Wide Web site; over fifty chess organisations have beaten us to it already, and the 4NCL and Scottish CA sites are particularly effective and impressive. We already have a few web pages available at no extra cost as part of our basic email account; let’s at least get Directors’ contact details, a rolling version of the BCF calendar and links to the FIDE, 4NCL and major news sites such as Mark Crowther’s excellent ‘The Week In Chess’.

## Financial Impact

The financial impact of these changes will in the long term be entirely positive; it is even possible that when the new systems are in place a reduction in Game Fee rates might be considered. I personally would rather see the benefits exploited by using the time saved in the Office to get involved in new activities, and only put in reductions in Game Fee in the form of discounts. An obvious example is a discount for organisations who submit their grading promptly and in the correct format, rather than simply sending in pairing cards or wallcharts. This is something that could be put in place immediately if desired.

 The downside is that there is a clear need for some capital outlay in the next year or two; clearly raising Game Fee temporarily just to put it back down again later is a nonsense, so I believe we should be prepared to run a deficit budget over the next one or even two years if necessary given the completely exceptional nature of the expense and the ultimately rosy outlook.

**Chris Howell, November 1997**

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**SCCU COUNTY MATCHES: LEAGUE TABLES**

including all results received up to

**OPEN** Br Bu C E H K O Sy Sx MP

Berks 4½ 5 8½

Bucks 2½ 4½ 6

Cambs 10½ 8 12
Essex 10½ 9½
Herts 11½ 5½ 11½
Kent 11 13½ 8
Oxon 4 4½
Surrey 7½ 11½ 5½
Sussex 10 6½

**UNDER 175** E K Sy Sx E K Sy Sx MP

Essex 10 10½
Kent 6 10½
Surrey 5½ 8
Sussex 5½ 8

**UNDER 150**  E H K M Sy Sx MP

Essex 10 9
Herts 7½ 7½=
Kent 8½ 10

Middx 6 6

Surrey 7½= 8
Sussex 7 8

**UNDER 125**  E H K O Sy Sx MP

Essex 8

Herts
Kent 8 7

Oxon 8

Surrey 8
Sussex 9

**UNDER 100** E H M Sy E H M Sy MP

Essex 8½ 5½
Herts 3½ 7½ 5½
Middx 4½ 4

Surrey 6½ 6½ 8

= match drawn

Please tell the Editor if you spot mistakes in these tables. Everything seems to have come in, up to and including matches played 15th November. An asterisk by the county name, on the following pages, means the result has been received from that side. “Sic” (or “so”) in brackets, with a player’s name, means we have copied what we received but don’t necessarily believe it. “(r)” means reserve.

We *wish* captains would give full initials, but if they won’t they won’t. And could [graphic unprintable] please have a quiet word with his.

Since we’re on the subject: Full names are important for new players. Michael Q Mouse first time round, and after that MQ by all means. The Bulletin prefers MQ to Mickey, but that’s the Bulletin for you. Some of the thorough captains (yes, there are some) go out of their way to give names exactly as in the grading list every time. Even the Bulletin thinks this a little over the top, especially when they won’t fit. And you *are* allowed to improve on the grading list. If you’re naming fifteen players in full, don’t call the other one J Smith just because that’s what the list says. You know he’s James Q Smith. Call him that, and if you’re lucky it may even find its way into next year’s list. People called James Smith with no other initials should get themselves some. People called Edward Blanchard-Wrigglesworth won’t fit in the BCF computer, let alone the Bulletin match results. Not with the existing database, anyway. Maximum 18 characters. Chris I (not J) Howell is pressing for dates of birth for identification purposes. If you start writing those on result sheets they *will* get left out.

Asked an opponent the other day, Do you spell your name with a hyphen? (We knew it got spelt both ways. Three ways actually, because without the hyphen there wasn’t always a space.) “It’s optional,” he said. Grrr. For that, we beat him.

**Ungraded players**. David Sedgwick reminds match captains that ungraded players may not play in the grading-limited divisions unless cleared with him *in advance*. One or two have offended and DRS has been more indulgent, where satisfied as to strength, than your Editor might have been.

**Match Captains**

**Kent U150**: Steve Chick is now at 7 Sequoia Gardens, Orpington, Kent BR6 0TZ. His phone number is unchanged: 01689 877358.

**Middx U100**: G Snow’s telephone number was wrong in the published list. It is 0171 736 5693.

Middx have withdrawn from the Under 175.

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| **OPEN** |
|  **Herts**\* 11.10.97 **Berks**\* 1 Phil G Maguire 198 ½ ½ PS Cooksey 200 (W) 2 Simon JB Knott 226 ½ ½ HW Murphy 193 3 Paul V Byway 196 0 1 AM Leech 187 4 Jerry F Rudge 188 1 0 DS Tucker 187 5 Alastair M Simpson 187 1 0 PJ Sharp 183 6 Simon J Roe 185 1 0 KD Smallbone 184 7 Kevin R Clark 188 1 0 IR Henderson 170 8 Andrew Gilfillan 187 ½ ½ MC Bowhay 166 9 Howard L Tebbs 182 ½ ½ PJ Colby 15210 Paul D Hatchett 181 1 0 DJ Lewis 14911 John R Denton 177 1 0 BG Millis 14812 JeremyN Fraser-Mitchell 179 1 0 NW Dennis 14113 D Ross Brennan 175 ½ ½ M Colgate 13814 Steve J Tovey 168 1 0 Ivana Houska 12315 Philip J Gregory 169 0 1 Mario Houska 12916 Terry J Turner 163 1 0 def(St Albans) **11½ 4½** | **Surrey** 11.10.97 **Essex**\*RA Bates 220 ½ ½ JW Rogers 217 def 0 1 AP Lewis 212 def 0 1 DA Sands 204RA Allicock 196 0 1 M Twyble 200KD Richardson 192 0 1 G Kenworthy 200 1DWW Gunter 190 ½ ½ JH Hodgson 196ME Osborne 188 ½ ½ JC Moore 182PD Kemp 187 0 1 PL Williamson 184TM Thrower 182 0 1 R Parker 177JM Shepley 174 1 0 T Hebbes 174S Thrower 173 0 1 WL Saunders 171K Hurst 173 ½ ½ R Heppinstall 170PM Stimpson 170 1 0 IJ Myall 168CRA Clegg 168 ½ ½ DJ Millward 168ME Page 164 1 0 CR Ramage 167FC Manning 133 0 1 IBN Smith 161(Sutton) **5½ 10½**1 Bd 5: Essex gave no grade. They’ll have spotted by now that Gary’s in the BCF list under Bradford. See footnote to Essex-Middx in the U150. Watch out Essex, there’s a Yorks plot afoot. |
|  **Kent**\* 11.10.97 **Bucks**\* 1 Danny Gormally 225 ½ ½ Gerald Moore (W) 2 Philip Morris 223 0 1 Andy Hammond 3 Ian Watson 214 1 0 Jonathan Beedle 4 Andy Mack 202 1 0 Roger de Coverly 5 John Naylor 201 1 0 Steve Law 6 Alan Hanreck 201 1 0 Brian Atkinson 7 Lyndon Gurr 201 1 0 def 8 John Sugden 196 1 0 Dave Mansfield 9 David Farndon 194 1 0 Steve James10 John Wager 193 1 0 James Burke11 Peter P Taylor 191 1 0 Richard Thursby12 Alexis Harakis 188 1 0 Dave Turner13 Chris [!I] Howell 188 ½ ½ Thomas Quilter14 James Scholes 184 1 0 Nigel Johnson15 Rory O’Kelly 183 1 0 Syringa Turvey16 Nigel Donovan 181 ½ ½ Andy Huxley(Charlton House) **13½ 2½**Neither side gave Bucks grades. | **Essex**\* 1.11.97 **Sussex**\*JW Rogers 217 (B) 1 0 DH Cummings 208AP Lewis 212 1 0 FJ Kwiatkowski 204DJ Coleman 204 0 1 DB Graham 204M Twyble 200 ½ ½ GH James 197JP Manley 205 ½ ½ F Rayner 193G Kenworthy 200 1 0 B Cafferty 192JH Hodgson 196 ½ ½ MD Nicholas 192D Sherman 191 1 0 M Broom 193PL Williamson 184 ½ ½ SJ Newman 187RP White 187 0 1 S Wade 183D Kraszewski 183 0 1 JA Dodgson 179JA Goldberg 178 1 0 PG Farr 179R Parker 177 0 1 JC Mansson 178W Saunders 171 1 0 MR Stott 177JC Moore 182 1 0 MO Costley 176T Hebbes 174 ½ ½ RJ Almond 175(Wanstead) **9½ 6½**Essex give different grades for most of the Sussex players. Looked two or three of them up, and the Sussex figures were right. |
|  **Bucks**\* 1.11.97 **Surrey** 1 Richard Webb 211 (W) 0 1 Steve H Berry 209 2 Simon Lazarus 192 1 0 Matthew N Anderton 204 3 Mike Lambshire 197 0 1 Rawle A Allicock 196 4 Jonathan Beedle 184 1 0 Jon C Benjamin 194 5 Roger de Coverly 173 0 1 Kevin D Richardson 192 6 Andy Robbings 172 0 1 Daniel B Rosen 190 7 Malcolm Armstrong 166 0 1 Marcus E Osborne 188 8 Manfred Egby 156 ½ ½ Julien M Shepley 174 9 Dave Mansfield e150 0 1 Kevin Hurst 17310 Andy Huxley e150 0 1 Philip M Stimpson 17011 Nick Butland 148 ½ ½ Chris RA Clegg 16812 Adrian Laurence 148 0 1 Ken FH Inwood 16013 James Burke 136 0 1 Paul D Dupré 15814 Dave Turner 135 1 0 Adrian DP Waldock 13515 Steve James 133 ½ ½ Eamonn P Goggin 13016 Syringa Turvey 119 0 1 Justin I Adcock 126(Marlow) **4½ 11½** | **Berks**\* 1.11.97 **Kent**\*PS Cooksey 200 (B) 0 1 Neil McDonald 237Jovanka Houska 195 0 1 Steve W Giddins 214HW Murphy 193 ½ ½ Ian R Watson 213AM Leech 187 ½ ½ Neil F Dickenson 210DS Tucker 187 ½ ½ Andrew L Mack 202KD Smallbone 184 0 1 Alan E Hanreck 201I Duvall 176 0 1 John N Sugden 196ACP Milnes 170 0 1 David A Farndon 194IR Henderson 170 1 0 Peter P Taylor 191PS Janota 168 ½ ½ Nathan SW Alfred 190J Townsend 167 0 1 Alexis M Harakis 188MW Marlow 165 0 1 Chris I Howell 186MF Redmond 156 0 1 James E Scholes 184PR Maul 155 1 0 Stuart J Williams 180PAF Watkins 152 1 0 Nigel P Donovan 181DJ Lewis 149 0 1 Chris B Rice 171(Newbury) **5 11** |

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|  **Cambs**\* 1.11.97 **Herts**\* 1 M Ferguson 226 (W) ½ ½ Phil G Maguire 198 2 B Kelly 222 ½ ½ Simon JB Knott 226 3 H Hunt 217 1 0 Neil H Bradbury 204 4 A Cohen 213 1 0 Steve Swanson 201 5 D Moskovic 204 1 0 Paul V Byway 196 6 J Rudd 197 ½ ½ Jerry F Rudge 186 7 M Shephard e190 1 0 Kevin R Clark 182 8 M Thornton 187 1 0 Andrew Gilfillan 187 9 S Foister e180 1 0 Howard L Tebbs 18210 B Morgan 171 1 0 Paul D Hatchett 18111 S White 169 1 0 Chris E Majer 18012 E Goodall 166 0 1 JN Fraser-Mitchell 17913 N Harmer 153 0 1 John R Denton 17714 B Weller e150 0 1 Philip J Gregory 16915 M Campbell 153 0 1 Barry Morris 16116 C Howell 151 1 1 0 David E Bower 159(Cambridge) **10½ 5½** | **Oxon**\* 9.11.97 **Cambs**\*Max Devereaux 208 0 1 Jonathan Parker 244 (W)Adam Hunt 208 0 1 Matthew Turner 231Matt Rose 197 0 1 Mark Ferguson 226Jochen Wittmann 186 0 1 Brian Kelly 222Alex Lewis 183 0 1 Harriet Hunt (!) 217Tim Dickinson 185 1 0 David Moskovic 204Dave Hackett 186 ½ ½ Jack Rudd 197Shashi Jayakumar 180 ½ ½ Natasha Regan 194Ed Horton 172 0 1 M Shephard e190Graham Chapman 172 1 0 Mark Thornton 187Ray Starkie 171 0 1 Ben MorganDave Bruce 166 0 1 Stuart White 169Jim Stayt 166 0 1 Ed Goodall 167Mark Hannon 165 1 0 C Howell 152 1Nick Jones 166 0 1 Mark Campbell 153Pete Ball 150 0 1 Sam Essen 142(Long Hanborough) **4 12** |

1 Both matches above. Grades for C Howell are Cambs versions. Herts said 152 and Oxon said 155. Presumably this *is* Chris J.

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|  **Surrey** 15.11.97 **Berks**\* 1 SH Berry 209 (B) ½ ½ PS Cooksey 200 2 MJ Franklin 204 ½ ½ Jovanka Houska 195 3 RA Allicock 196 0 1 HW Murphy 193 4 DB Rosen 190 1 0 AM Leech 187 5 ME Osborne 188 1 0 KD Smallbone 184 6 PD Kemp 187 1 0 L Davis 165 7 JC Marley 177 0 1 DL Roberts 177 8 SG Walker 177 ½ ½ I Duvall 176 9 DR Sedgwick 173 1 0 JT Munday 17510 CRA Clegg 168 0 1 IR Henderson 17011 KFH Inwood 160 ½ ½ ACP Milnes 17012 PD Dupré 158 1 0 PS Janota 16813 SR Jones 152 ½ ½ J Townsend 16714 EP Goggin 130 0 1 MC Bowhay 16615 JI Adcock 126 0 1 PR Maul 15516 def 0 1 NW Dennis 141(Sutton) **7½ 8½** | **Sussex**\* 15.11.97 **Bucks**\*Andrew PH Kinsman 226 ½ ½ Richard Webb 211 (W)Feliks J Kwiatkowski 204 ½ ½ Gerald Moore 202David B Graham 204 0 1 Andrew P Smith 201Luke E Rutherford 198 ½ ½ Simon Lazarus 192Geoffrey H James 197 1 0 Raymond B Edwards 185Bernard Cafferty 192 ½ ½ Hans-Peter Hansen 180Michael D Nicholas 192 ½ ½ Roger de Coverly 173M Broom 193 ½ ½ Malcolm Armstrong 166Stephen J Newman 187 1 0 Stephen Law 156S Wade 183 ½ ½ Manfred Egby 156John A Dodgson 179 0 1 Dave Mansfield e150Peter G Farr 179 1 0 Andy Huxley e150Michael R Stott 177 ½ ½Brian Atkinson 150Martin O Costley 176 1 0 Stephen P Clark 147 jRichard J Almond 175 1 0 Nicholas J Butland 148SON Hawes 168 1 0 Richard Thursby 141 j(Horsham) **10 6** |
|  **Herts**\* 15.11.97 **Oxon**\* 1 Phil G Maguire 198 ½ ½ Adam C Hunt 208 (B) 2 Simon JB Knott 226 1 0 Max L Devereaux 208 3 Steve Swanson 201 1 0 Jochen Wittmann 186 4 Paul V Byway 196 ½ ½ Tim R Dickinson 185 5 Kevin R Clark 188 ½ ½ Dave G Hackett 186 6 A Gilfillan 184 0 1 Graham W Chapman 172 7 Howard L Tebbs 182 ½ ½ Ray J Starkie 171 8 JN Fraser-Mitchell 179 1 0 Lester R Millin 176 9 John R Denton 177 ½ ½ Jim N Stayt 16610 Chris E Majer 180 1 0 Sean Terry 16011 D Ross Brennan 175 ½ ½ Dave J Bruce 16612 Philip J Gregory 169 1 0 Nick C Jones 16613 Geoff D Hollis 168 ½ ½ Peter Ball 15014 Barry Morris 161 1 0 Tony G Heslop 12215 DE Bower 159 1 0 Jonathan Kennedy 8416 David M Hill 150 1 0 def(Welwyn Garden City) **11½ 4½** | **Kent**\* 15.11.97 **Cambs**\*Neil McDonald 237 ½ ½ J Parker 243 (W)Danny Gormally 225 0 1 M Ferguson 226Philip Morris 223 0 1 B Kelly 222James Vigus 215 0 1 H Hunt 217Steve Giddins 214 0 1 A Cohen 213Ian Watson 213 1 0 D Moskovic 204Andrew Mack 202 ½ ½ N Regan 194G Botley 191 (r) ½ ½ M Shephard 190Alan Hanreck 201 1 0 P Scott 182Lyndon Gurr 201 ½ ½ M Thornton 187John Sugden 196 ½ ½ I Gooding 177David Farndon 194 ½ ½ S White 169John Wager 193 ½ ½ S Larski 167Nathan Alfred 190 1 0 P Webster 161Alexis Harakis 188 ½ ½ M Campbell 153Chris Rice 171 1 0 C Howell 152(Charlton House) **8 8** |

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| **UNDER 175** |
|  Kent**\* 4.10.97** Sussex**\*** 1 Matthew Noakes 170 (W) 0 1 Michael J Reddie 168 2 John R Cordner 170 0 1 Robert V Elliston 174 3 Steven Pullinger 169 1 0 Paul A Batchelor 168 4 Keith G Hyde 169 1 0 Andrew SJ Fleming 168 5 Robert J Everson 165 1 0 SON Hawes 168 6 Alvin N Kissoon 163 1 0 Ian G Kelly 166 7 Sidney J Jacob 161 1 0 James Graham 165 8 Mark D Brougham 159 ½ ½ AO Pickersgill 165 9 Alan Atkinson 152 1 0 Arthur Hall 16310 John H Lewin 156 0 1 David G Ratcliffe 15011 Stephen J Peters 155 ½ ½ P Greaves 15012 Barry Beavis 155 1 0 David L Roberts 14813 Zia Mehmet 153 ½ ½ Brian Izzard 14414 Roger JA Winterburn 153 ½ ½ Laurence Rackham 14215 Nicholas C Mackett 152 ½ ½ Timothy J Woods 13916 Mark M Robertson 150 1 0 R Daniel Hirsch 139(Charlton H) **10½ 5½** | **Sussex**\* 25.10.97 **Surrey**\*Robert V Elliston 174 0 1 David R Sedgwick 173 (B)Richard O’Brien 171 0 1 Chris Briscoe 171Michael J Reddie 168 ½ ½ Chris RA Clegg 168Andrew SJ Fleming 168 0 1 Kevin P Mynett 167SON Hawes 168 1 0 Paul D Dupré 158Paul A Batchelor 168 1 0 Nicholas D Grey 156Ian G Kelly 166 1 0 D Tuddenham 154AO Pickersgill 165 ½ ½ R John Wilcox 152James Graham 165 0 1 Paul R Archer 151Arthur Hall 163 ½ ½ Eric J Brodie 149Alan H Palmer 155 ½ ½ Ian S McLeod 145Ian P Judd 155 ½ ½ Paul E Barnard 141Paul R Selby 153 1 0 John B Hawson 140P Greaves 150 1 0 ST Kevin Wilkinson 139Timothy J Woods 139 0 1 Fred C Manning 133R Daniel Hirsch 139 ½ ½ KN Mehendale 132(Hassocks) **8 8**Surrey’s hero of the day was Fred Manning who didn’t know how to mate with bishop and knight but worked it out over the board. |
|  **Essex**\* 8.11.97 **Kent** 1 Tim Hebbes 174 (W) ½ ½ David JR Barnes 173 2 Trevor D Coote 173 1 0 def 3 Ken W Clow 173 0 1 Matthew D Noakes 170 4 George McNally 172 0 1 K Hyde 169 5 William L Saunders 171 1 0 def 6 Peter C Doye 170 1 0 Robert J Everson 165 7 Larry Marden 169 1 0 Sydney J Jacob 161 8 David J Millward 168 ½ ½ Mark D Brougham 159 9 Colin R Ramage 167 0 1 John H Lewin 15610 Ian D Hunnable 166 ½ ½ Alex M Stille 15511 Les J Crane 164 1 0 def12 Ivor BN Smith 161 ½ ½ Roger JA Winterburn 15313 Ray Purse 161 ½ ½ Nick C Mackett 15214 Neville H Twitchell 160 ½ ½ Peter M Titmas 13915 Andy King 156 1 0 def16 John A Philpott 152 1 0 def(Wanstead) **10 6** | **Essex**\* 22.11.97 **Surrey**Tim Hebbes 174 (B) 0 1 David R Sedgwick 173Paul R Barclay (r) 156 ½ ½ Chris RA Clegg 168Bill L Saunders 171 0 1 Martin C Page 164Martin McCall 171 1 0 defRoy Heppinstall 170 ½ ½ Neil Maxwell 160Peter C Doye 170 1 0 Kenneth FH Inwood 160Ken W Clow 173 0 1 Paul D Dupré 158George McNally 172 1 0 Nicholas D Gray 156Larry Marden 169 1 0 D Tuddenham 154Ivan J Myall 168 1 0 Stuart R Jones 152David J Millward 168 1 0 R John Wilcox 152Colin R Ramage 167 1 0 Colin PL Parker 146Ian D Hunnable 166 1 0 Ian S McLeod 145Les J Crane 164 1 0 ST Kevin Wilkinson 139Neville H Twitchell 160 0 1 Fred C Manning 133Andy D Hartland 160 ½ ½ KN Mehendale 132(Wanstead) **10½ 5½** |

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| **UNDER 150** |
|  **Essex**\* 11.10.97 **Middx**\* 1 John White 147 (B) ½ ½ R Aw 148 2 Stephen M Williams 147 ½ ½ C Fewtrell 146 3 Thomas G Winter 147 1 0 def 4 David Smith 146 1 1 0 def 5 Mark RA Murrell 146 1 0 G Brown 143 6 Jason Roberts 145 ½ ½ P Sargeaunt 143 7 Tony Drake 145 1 0 A Fulton 140 8 Laurie J Burtt 144 1 0 B Haase 140 9 Mike J Cresswell 143 ½ ½ K Morris 14010 Philip Zammit 138 ½ ½ N Tomkin 13911 Michael Erntroy 137 0 1 P Kennelly 13812 David J Rawlings 136 ½ ½ BA Tysoe 13713 David FC Bird 133 ½ ½ G McLeod 13614 Roger D Sharman 132 1 0 C Wallace 13315 Barry Sheppard 130 ½ ½ E Larkman 13916 David G Cannan 128 0 1 K Parr 108(Wanstead) **10 6**1 “The Essex board 4 does not appear in the SCCU grading list at all. He played *one* game for York last year as a result of which his Wanstead and Essex allegiances were deleted and he appears in the BCF list (only) as York RI! So much for the SCCU list being correct.” - David Smith. | **Surrey**\* 1.11.97 **Herts**\*Keith Selby 116 1 0 defClaire Thrower 146 ½ ½ Philip Primett 149Charles Fellowes 146 ½ ½ Bryan Judkins 148Ian McLeod 145 ½ ½ David Webb 148Rod Bell 143 0 1 Christopher Lovisa 147John Marshall 141 1 0 Mir Wali 136John Hawson 140 0 1 Ron Hughes 144Kevin Wilkinson 139 ½ ½ John Coles 143Don Baldock 135 0 1 Paul Lawrence 143 def 0 0 1 defFred Manning 133 1 0 John Marshall 141John W Halls 132 ½ ½ Karl Hardy 140Krishna Mehendale 132 1 0 Anthony Wall 136Jo Hart 131 0 1 Simon Charles132Jim Hale 127 ½ ½ Derek Price 136Jessie Gilbert 91 ½ ½ Tom Wright 128(Sutton) **7½ 7½**1 Both sides give the double default as a draw but 0 - 0 it is. |

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|  **Middx**\* 1.11.97 **Kent**\* 1 R Aw 148 (W) ½ ½ Dave Helsby 149 2 M Williams 146 ½ ½ Andrew Heard 148 3 C Fewtrell 146 ½ ½ Roy Parsons 148 4 Y Tello 145 0 1 Mike Wiltshire 148 5 G O’Grady 144 0 1 Mark Finch 146 6 G Brown 143 1 0 Alan Sheriff 146 7 A Fulton 140 ½ ½ Mark Jordan 146 8 B Haase 140 0 1 Kerry Kingston 146 9 K Morris 140 0 1 Derek Davis 14510 N Tomkin 139 1 0 Simon Moate 14211 BA Tysoe 137 0 1 Peter Titmas 1 13912 A Yekta 136 0 1 Ian Hames 14013 G McLeod 136 0 1 Edward Bromilow 13814 CICH Wallace 133 1 0 Robert Pooley 13815 G Jordan 131 ½ ½ David Gleed 13216 K Parr 108 ½ ½ Steve Chick 128(Northolt) **6 10**1 Bd 11: Kent match captain please note spelling. | **Essex**\* 1.11.97 **Sussex**\*John White 147 (B) ½ ½ L Rackham 142Stephen M Williams 147 ½ ½ DL Roberts 148Thomas G Winter 147 1 0 WH Partridge 148Keith S Jones 146 ½ ½ P Watson 147David Smith 146 (r) 0 1 IK Edgson 144Jason Roberts 145 0 1 PN Kington 143Tony Drake 145 1 0 TJ Woods 139Laurie J Burtt 144 ½ ½ RD Hirsch 139Mike J Cresswell 143 ½ ½ EJ Hillier 138Philip Zammit 138 ½ ½ LJ Cannon 131David J Rawlings 136 1 0 CC Dunn 132David FC Bird 138 1 0 G McCulloch 131Roger D Sharman 132 1 0 RA Clement 128David J Payne 132 0 1 RC Grundy 127Barry Sheppard 130 ½ ½ PH Benson 129David G Cannan 128 ½ ½ P Dezzani -(Wanstead) **9 7** |
|  **Herts**\*15.11.97 **Kent**\* 1 Neil Rughwani 149 1 0 Dave Helsby 149 (W) 2 Chris Louisa 147 0 1 Andy Heard 148 3 Roger Lever 147 0 1 Roy Parsons 148 4 Mir Wali 136 (r) 0 1 Mike Wiltshire 148 5 L d’Costa (?D’Costa) 141 1 0 Mark Finch 146 6 Ronald Hughes 144 1 0 Andrew Mata 146 7 John Coles 143 ½ ½ Kerry Kingston 146 8 Paul Lawrence 143 ½ ½ Derek Davis 145 9 John Marshall 141 0 1 Simon Moate 14210 Karl Hardy 140 1 0 Peter Titmas 13911 Ian Mutton 137 ½ ½ Ian Hames 14012 Anthony Hall 136 ½ ½ Stephen Casement 13713 Simon Charles 132 ½ ½ David Gleed 13214 Dave Young 133 ½ ½ Steve Chick 12815 Derek Price 134 0 1 Mike Jones 12116 Tom Wright 128 ½ ½ Geoff Bishop 120(Welwyn Garden City) **7½ 8½**Herts opponents (both matches) had trouble with Simon Charles. One | **Sussex**\* 15.11.97 **Surrey**\*L Rackham 142 (W) ½ ½ Colin Parker 146DL Roberts 148 0 1 Charles Fellows 146IK Edgson 144 0 1 Ian McLeod 145PN Kington 143 ½ ½ Rod Bell 143K Davies 143 ½ ½ John Marshall 141R Hollinghurst 140 1 0 Paul Barnard 141TJ Woods 139 0 1 Kevin Wilkinson 139EJ Hillier 138 ½ ½ Don Baldock 135LJ Cannon 131 1 0 Fred Manning 133CC Dunn 132 ½ ½ John W Halls 132MR Hickman 131 0 1 Jim Hale 127RC Grundy 127 1 0 Albert Jones 126PH Benson 129 1 0 Howard Curtis 126RA Clement 128 0 1 David Hodgson 124G McCulloch 131 1 0 Neil Clifton 106A Bradbury 124 ½ ½ Jessie Gilbert 91(Horsham) **8 8** |

said Charles Simon, the other said C Charles. How about Herts sending their results?, we asked plaintively. They just have (28th Nov) and the name’s plain enough. Promptness is appreciated.

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| **UNDER 125** |
|  **Sussex**\* 25.10.97 **Kent**\* 1 A Bradbury 124 (B) ½ ½ S Thanesan 122 j 2 C Power 120 ½ ½ M Snashall 114 3 M Plumb 115 ½ ½ N Lister 114 4 J Helliwell 120 ½ ½ P Poland 109 5 P Burgis 1 120 0 1 D Picton 113 6 M Bryant 117 1 0 IC Smith 104 7 S Deere 117 ½ ½ IB Bryan 108 8 P Smith 117 1 0 I Stoneman 104 9 D Simkins 107 1 0 A Hargreaves 10310 J Povey 114 1 0 DSJ Shipp 10111 M Curtis 116 ½ ½ J Robertson 9712 I Phillipson 115 ½ ½ AP Fabian 9713 DJ Langridge 111 0 1 T Hogg 9414 C Jefferies 111 0 1 Alistair Taylor 2 90 j15 P Buswell 103 ½ ½ J Thanesan 84 j16 S Carter 75 1 0 R Gosden 75 j(Eastbourne) **9 7**1 Bd 5: Sussex confirm the spelling. He *is* listed that way. 2 Bd 14: Kent give a second initial but since it’s T we’ll wait for confirmation. | **Surrey**\*25.10.97 **Oxon**\*David Hodgson 124 1 0 W Tutty 123 (W)David Rees 123 1 0 A Collins 121Scott Freeman 75 (r) 0 1 A Heslop 122Dominic Weston-Lewis 121 0 1 T Frost 121Chetan Deva 120 1 0 L Collins 119Steve Wood 120 ½ ½ M Duck 116Joe Xuereb 116 0 1 A Wyeth 116Keith Selby 116 ½ ½ M Brindley 116Dennis Ramsey 115 1 0 Z Marham 111David Innes 115 0 1 R Langham 111Hugh Wylie 114 1 0 D Metcalfe 108Keith Lovell 114 ½ ½ S Grigson 102Muhammed 1 Daood 111 ½ ½ D Buckland 96Chris Dixon 105 ½ ½ P Williams 88David Howes 104 ½ ½ J Kennedy 87Paul Battersby 96 0 1 M Creasey 81(Sutton) **8 8**1 Bd 13: *Looks* like -ed; BCF have -ad. |

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|  **Essex**\* 8.11.97 **Kent**\* 1 M Ashkettle 124 (B) 0 1 M Jones 121 2 M Bradford 123 1 0 S Thanesan 122 3 R Davies 123 1 0 CW Dunsmore 116 4 T Cole 123 ½ ½ M Snashall 114 5 R Ianetta 123 ½ ½ N Lister 114 6 R Payne 118 0 1 D Picton 113 7 E Walker 117 1 0 P Poland 113 8 W Petchey 116 0 1 K Sanders 104 9 R Giddens 116 ½ ½ IC Smith 10410 C Turner 113 ½ ½ A Hargreaves 10311 I Rook 112 ½ ½ DSJ Smith 10112 D Allen 110 ½ ½ J Robertson 9713 P Flint 107 0 1 K Hendrikse 9714 M Grieve 106 1 0 T Hogg 9415 G Benger 106 1 0 N Lang 7616 P Pattison 97 0 1 R Gosden 75(Wanstead) **8 8** |  |
| **UNDER 100** |
|  **Middx**\* 1.11.97 **Herts**\* 1 T Rowland 99 (W) 0 1 Michael Brookes 98 2 WGV McLaughlin 97 0 1 Richard Player 99 3 Giovanni Vasco 94 1 0 Keith Sears 96 4 Gregory Procyk 94 ½ ½ Peter Tuck 95 5 Stephen Banks 93 0 1 Nick Chandler 95 6 Barry S Miles 93 0 1 James Palmer 95 7 L McDonagh 93 0 1 Wolf Hamm 90 8 Paul Humphries 1 92 0 1 Frank Batchelor 88 9 Paul Roche 89 1 0 John Mackenzie 8910 Alem De Nardi-Jones 85 ½ ½ Maurice Kenton 7111 Cliff Ayett 76 ½ ½ Alan Brewis 7112 Graham Snow 76 1 0 John Dalton 47(Bayswater) **4½ 7½**1 Bd 8: Middx version. Herts suggest Humphry. | **Surrey**\* 1.11.97 **Essex**\*Chris Hoffman 99 j 0 1 John Sneesby 98 (W)Oliver Wilson 99 j 0 1 Katie Bates 98John Darling 98 1 0 Graham Walker 96Laila Tillett 98 1 0 Josiah Lutton 96Nicholas Bauden 1 93 j 1 0 Stewart Trent 93Harvey Murray-Smith 96 0 1 Matthew Cain 90Eric Wilson - 0 1 Alan Trent 78Richard Davey 96 1 0 John Marsh 77Bartek Jablonski 91 j ½ ½ Robert Parish“??” 2Graham Curtis 79 0 1 Heather Walker 77Chris Manders 78 j 1 0 Jonathan Livesley 61David Manders 73 j 1 0 Nicholas Fenton 58(Sutton) **6½ 5½**1 Bd 5: Essex say Bawden. 2Bd 9: Essex mc quotes various unpub-lished grades. But no doubt it’s Robert Parrish 68 (see below). |
|  **Essex** 15.11.97 **Herts**\* 1 John Sneesby 98 (B) 1 0 Michael Brooks 98 2 Katherine Bates 97 ½ ½ Robert Huhn 98 3 Josiah Lutton 96 0 1 Kris Devoti 95 4 Michael Bridger 95 1 0 Keith Sears 96 5 Ron Prickett 95 1 0 Peter Tuck 95 6 Stewart Trent 93 1 0 Des Wasik 92 7 Matthew Cain 90 1 0 Frank Batchelor 88 8 John Marsh 77 0 1 Rees 1 Gates 90 9 Heather Walker 77 0 1 Simon Morris 2 -10 Robert Parrish 68 1 0 Mark Senn -11 Jon Livesley 61 1 0 Alan Brewis 7112 Nicholas Fenton 58 1 0 John Dalton 47(Southend) **8½ 3½**1 Bd 8: he’s not Reece as in grading list. 2 Bd 9: This is a new Simon Morris, from Hertford (town, not necessarily club). An adult; not the same as the junior Simon Morris from Watford. | **Surrey**\* 15.11.97 **Middx**\*Oliver Wilson 99 (W) 1 0 William McLaughlin 97Laila Tillett 98 0 1 Teejay (so) Rowland 99Paul Battersby 96 1 0 Giovanni Vasco 94Harvey Murray Smith 96 ½ ½ Steve Banks 93Richard Davey 96 1 0 defLana Boztas 93 1 0 Andrew Harvey 93Bartek Jablonski 91 1 0 Larry McDonagh 92 (so)David Wallis 91 ½ ½ Paul Roche 89Ben Morgan 90 1 0 Sarah Hurst 80Bernard Sweetman 89 ½ ½ Carl Tams 79Colin Kay 84 0 1 Cliff Ayett 76David Morgan 82 ½ ½ Graham Snow 76(Sutton) **8 4** |
|  **Herts**\* 22.11.97 **Surrey**\* 1 Michael Brooks 98 (W) 0 1 Oliver Wilson 99 2 Stuart Tinsley 98 0 1 John Darling 98 3 Robert Huhn 98 1 0 Laila Tillett 98 4 Alison Winston 97 0 1 Bartek Jablonski 91 5 John Wholley 97 ½ ½ Harvey Murray-Smith 96 6 Nick Chandler 0 1 Richard Davey 96 7 Peter Tuck 95 1 0 Fred Bleasdale 92 8 Des Wasik 92 0 1 Ben Morgan 90 9 Frank Batchelor 88 1 0 Graham Curtis 7910 John Mackenzie 89 1 0 Chris Manders 7811 Mark Sen 1 0 Andrew Foster Yeow 8812 Stephen Burt ½ ½ David Manders 73(St Albans) **5½ 6½** |  |

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| This year’s Fleming Trophy match, belatedly: **Beds** 30.7.97 **Bucks**\* 1 P Habershon 186 (W) 0 1 Gerald Moore 197 2 def 0 1 Andy Hammond 191 3 R Freeman 170 ½ ½ Andrew P Smith 190 4 P Taylor 168 ½ ½ Natasha Regan 187 5 K Williamson 166 ½ ½ Roger de Coverly 178 6 R Mahony 168 ½ ½ Richard O’Brien 168 7 A Elwin 164 0 1 Andrew George 165 8 A Slough 159 1 0 Manfred Egby 162 9 K Bush 155 1 0 Tony Kelly 15910 I Bacon 152 1 0 Kevin Hawkins 15111 C Bullock 149 ½ ½ John Springall 15012 P Thomas 145 1 0 Adrian Laurence 14613 N Hickman 140 ½ ½ Steve James 14214 G Ward 134 1 0 Eugene Bolduc 13215 K Liddle 131 1 0 Richard Thursby 13116 E Lake 130 ½ ½ Andrew Hill 118(Milton Keynes) **9½ 6½**The grades are 1996-7 ones. | **Arbiters’ Corner**An incident in the Essex League last season has led to the following note in the October *Chessex*.*If your opponent leaves the room, for whatever reason or for however long, try not to forget that you have already made a move and make another before he returns.*Wonder which move he stopped the clock after. Apparently it was the *opponent* who got disciplined, but that was for what he said when he came back. |

**SCCU COUNTY MATCHES 1997-8**

Or what’s left of them. Matches asterisked are on re-arranged dates.

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|   | **Open** | **Under 175** | **Under 150** | **Under 125** | **Under 100** |
| Dec 6 |  | SxE |  | ESy |  |
|  13 |  | KSy |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan 10 |  |  |  | KSy | ME |
|  17 | EBr SxC KH SyO |  | HE KSx | \*HE |  |
|  24 | *(4NCL)* | KE SySx |  | SySx |  |
|  31 | BrBu CE HSy OSx |  | SyK HM | OE | HM |
| Feb 7 |  | SyE |  | \*HSy | MSy |
|  14 | BuC SxH SyK EO |  | SxH ESy | KO |  |
|  21 |  |  |  |  | SyH |
|  28 | OBu HE KSx CBr |  |  | SxH |  |
| Mar 7 | *(SCCU U18 qualifier)* | SxK |  |  |  |
|  14 | BuH EK BrO SxSy |  | MSx |  |  |
|  21 | *(4NCL)* | SyK ESx |  | KH SxO | ESy |

**GAME**. We don’t have annotated games in the Bulletin. So here’s one. It’s shamelessly filched from *Chessex* (always an excellent read, and available from Ivor BN Smith 01245 421193). Tried to get his permission, actually, but couldn’t contact him so pirated regardless. *White* R Ponomariov GM 2555, *Black* Eddie Dearing 2210: World U18 Championship Yerevan 1997. Round 1, and the only game Ponomariov lost in taking the title with 9/11. Apparently he burst into tears after Black’s 33rd move (and got mugged by a trainer after the game). How old *is* he? ED got 6, an IM norm, and a rating score of 2400. It’s a marvellous game. Our notes, very condensed, lack the exuberance of the ED originals which are their source.

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 e6 7.0–0 Nc6 8.h3 Bh5 9.a3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Be7 11.Nc3 Qd6 12.Be3 0–0 13.Qb3 Rfd8 14.Rfd1 a6?! 15.d5!? exd5!? 16.g4! Bg6 17.g5 Ne4 18.Nxd5 Qe6!? 19.Qxb7! Bf8 20.Nc7? (Nf4!) Qxh3 21.Nxa8 Qg4+ 22.Kf1! *(If 22 Kh1 Qh3+ 23 Nh2 Ng3+! 24 fxg3 Be4+ and White is mated.)* 22...Qh3+ 23.Ke1 Qh1+ 24.Bf1

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24...Ng3! 25.Nh2 (**25...Nb4 (anyway) 26.Qc7 Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1 Nxf1 28.Nxf1 Nd3+ 29.Kd2 Qxa8

*The dust has settled, White is an exchange up, but his pieces are in a terrible tangle.*

30.Kc3 Qd5 31.Rd2 h5 32.Qc4 Qa5+ 33.Kb3



33.. Nxb2! 34 Qb4 Bxb4 35 axb4 Qb5 0-1238:14

**BCF MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The MB met on Saturday 29th November 1997, back on familiar territory at the Hotel Ibis near Euston Station. Your Editor doesn’t get to attend MB meetings now, but it sounds to have been a familiar sort of meeting as well. Our correspondent (a BCF Director) described it as “very tedious”.

**(1) Grading**. Chris Howell’s paper (see page 5) was very well received. Work is still needed on financial aspects.

**(2) BCF Yearbook 1998** is out, and will be posted this week to people who’ve ordered it. Price £10 (up from £8), and that may or may not include postage. Ask the BCF Office.

**(3) BCF Website**. There isn’t one, but they’re working on it. The Federation is advertising, or is to advertise, for an Internet Officer.

**(4) European Team Championships 1999**. The Championships will be 3 - 11 July. The venue was agreed and an announcement will be made shortly. No agreement was reached on “who” should nominally run the event. (The BCF? A limited company?) A break-even budget was agreed, or possibly not.

**(5) National Chess Centre**. The Hastings Council was in the process of buying the premises. It’s a former furniture shop, currently empty, on the sea front. Usable floor space is 15,000m2 (or it could be 13,000m2) on three floors. That sounds like quite a big furniture shop. Hastings Chess Club would occupy a part of it. The whole project depends on getting lottery money and an application will be made, by a trust, in February 1998. The answer should be available in the autumn. What the Hastings Council will do with the premises if the answer’s no we can’t say, but they’ve presumably got backup plans. The BCF has made no financial commitment.

**(6) British Championships** **1999** will “hopefully” be at Scarborough. Well, one informant says hopefully and another says it’s firm.

**(7) Leigh GP**. Leigh has been taken over by Onyx (also in the waste disposal business) but sponsorship will continue. We believe the competition will be known as the Leigh Onyx GP.

**(8) Counties Under 18 Championships**. The 1998 events will have “mixed teams with no defined composition”, and if you understand that you have the advantage of your Editor. There will be one round. There will also be Girls events, on a different date.

**(9) Minor Counties Nominations**. There seems to have been doubt about who some of the Unions were nominating; decisions as to eligibility were postponed until December. Incidentally, some counties are reported to have no teams in the Open this year. Presumably for lack of match captains or players or both. Hants were mentioned.

**CONGRESS DIARY**

No time for one, sorry. Not to say room. We’ll make a virtue of necessity and call this an experiment. If there’s no outraged protests we’ll drop the Congress Diary permanently. Except for Congresses that actually trouble to send a leaflet; most don’t.

**Stop Press** 29.11.97

MCCU Centenary match is Saturday 13th December 1997 at Nuneaton. 40 boards: 10 x Open, 10 x U175, 10 x U150, 10 x U125.

 U125 match: Essex 12½ 3½ Sussex 22.11.97. Details next time.

**Match Captains**

**Kent U150**: Steve Chick is now at 7 Sequoia Gardens, Orpington, Kent BR6 0TZ. His phone number is unchanged: 01689 877358.

**Middx U100**: G Snow’s telephone number was wrong in the published list. It is 0171 736 5693.

The **Mystery Page** from page 2 was 5, and the **Mystery Date** from page 7 was 28th November. And no, we didn’t put the MP scores in. You want jam on it? (We would have, if we’d remembered, but we were already pressed for time. We’ve a feeling there’s another mistake on page 7 somewhere.)

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** *Chessex* for October; *ChessIns* for October; Manchester & District CA Bulletin for August; Surrey Girls Newsletter for November

**An apology**

Your Bulletin is probably later, this time, than it’s ever been. Sorry. Blame the Accident. The whole thing was duplicated and collated, and we’d started stuffing the envelopes, when it emerged that we’d reported some Management Board things that were supposed to be confidential. Our informant hadn’t told us they were confidential. So the back page had to be removed, re-printed on both sides and re-stapled, and we weren’t pleased.

 Issue 239 January 1998

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Dear Richard,** 9.12.97

Following up my letter on how to define a Minor County:

 In my opinion a definition based on population cannot be correct: the definition must be chess-related... If Herts and Oxon want to compete in both the Open section and the Minor Counties, with a stronger team in the latter, then the Minor Counties should find itself a new name...

 A grading-related scheme should not be too difficult to manage. I would suggest the system that we use in Kent [a limit on mean grade, match by match: - Ed]. For those of us who cannot add and divide, most people have pocket calculators. The only question that remains to be answered is - just how strong/weak should a Minor county be. Yours sincerely,

 **Mick Croft** Margate

Ed: - I think what Mick wants to say, only he’s too polite, is that Herts and Oxon were too strong for the Minor Counties and shouldn’t have been nominated in the first place. Anyway, let’s say it and see if we can’t provoke someone. I can think of people in Herts and Oxon who write letters. More on the Minor Counties on page 9.

**Dear Bulletin Editor**, 17.12.97

Don’t drop the Congress Diary, it’s useful. Except when it’s wrong, of course. The BCF Calendar often is, but it’s printed very early. Here’s a Southend 98 form hot from the press. Please list.

 Nov Bulletin of more interest to computer programmers than chess players. If BCF think that, in order to feed results into their computer, they need a full-time employee, *I* suggest if they engage another full-time employee, they don’t need a computer! Seasonal greetings and kindest regards,

 **Jack Speigel** Southend

Ed: - The need for a full-time employee was suggested at some meeting or other in 1997, as mentioned last time, but I don’t believe it’s current thinking. If they engage another full-time employee, they won’t be able to *afford* a computer. Full-time employees cost an awful lot more than computers.

**Dear Richard**, 10.12.97

Please find enclosed [the Herts U18 results to date in the Chiltern League]. May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the style and reasoned argument of the debates covered in your issues with sense and good humour, even when I disagree (slightly!).

 My main concerns for 1998 are, regardless of the assurances, the resolution of the grading system to fulfil the need for a truly efficient “rolling grade” cruncher, and also the proper organisation of junior activities, both SCCU and BCF. Yours truly,

 **Bill D’Costa** Herts U18 team

**Dear Richard**, 7.12.97

Congratulations to the Bulletin - first with the news once again!

 I refer to your comment on the last page of the November Bulletin, about “some counties having no teams in the Open this year ..... Hants were mentioned.”

 The Hampshire Chess Association suspended all activities at its 1997 AGM following the resignation of three key officers. But at a Special General Meeting on 3/Dec, it found three ‘volunteers’ and is now back in business. 1 was persuaded to take on the Secretary’s job despite my strong ties with a rival county, Devon, and Botley chess club came up with a President and a Treasurer.

 Our match captain, Dominic Tunks, is now consulting with the WECU about the rest of the county match program, but having missed more than half the matches, it is unlikely that Hampshire will be actively competing in the WECU Union stage this season. Hopefully we will be playing all our matches next season.

 For your information, Gloucestershire have also withdrawn from WECU county matches, due to lack of a Match Captain, I believe.

 Despite having moved out of the SCCU more than 20 years ago, I still find the Bulletin essential reading - you have a happy knack of being first with the news, and also of getting it right. Long may it continue.

 Best wishes,

 **John Wheeler** Secretary, Hampshire Chess Association

Ed: - I thank Messrs D’Costa and Wheeler for their kind remarks. Some might dispute the “getting it right” bit.

239:2

**WHITSTABLE RAPIDPLAY** 6th December 1997: a new event

**Open** (8 pl) 1 MJ Basman IM 5½/6, two points ahead of the field. The last issue had a 6-round Swiss with *seven* players, and impossible pairings at the end. They got round this at Whitstable by doing the rd-6 pairings after round 4. Or something. Another solution might have been, do an APA and have 25 min each per round instead of 30. Or, do an APA with one round omitted! Any thoughts? But the numbers were a disappointment.

**Under 160** (19 pl) 1-2 Mike Long (Basingstoke), Alan Atkinson (Canterbury) 5/6; 3 Martin Cutmore (Wood Green) 4½...

**Under 120** (28 pl) 1-2 Malcolm Snashall (Whitstable), Richard Cheeseman (Danson / St Olaves) 5/6; 3-4 Andrew Bigg (Hayes Kent), Russell Scott (Danson) 4½...

**Under 80** (18 pl) 1 Jan Wasserman-Fry (Whitstable) 5½/6; 2 Robert White (Beckenham) 5; 3 Alex Woodfield (Tunbridge Wells) 4½...

**BWCA NATIONAL WOMENS QUICKPLAY** Barbican, 6th December 1997

Harriet Hunt won with 6/6, from a very low entry of 16. Result gleaned from Surrey Girls Newsletter.

**14th RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY** 7th December 1997

**Open** (20 pl) 1 Peter Large IM (London) 5½/6; 2 Danny Kopec IM (USA) 5; 3 Wang Pin WGM (China) 4½... Grading U200 1 Richard Bates (Richmond) 4; 2 Martin Taylor (Rainham Kent) 3½. (Why have people started saying “Rainham Kent”? Has the Rainham across the estuary sprouted a chess club? Hope so.) U180 1-5 Paul Dupré (Walton on Thames), Andy Horton-Kitchlew (London), Shanker Menon (RJCC/London), Nick Mitchem (Kingston), Colin Purdon (Bracknell) 3

**Major U160** (21 pl) 1-2 David Faldon (London), Thirumurugan Thiruchelvam (RJCC/New Malden) 5½/6; 3-5 Geraint Edwards (RJCC/Kingston), Michael Kobylka (London), Iozeph Okosieme (London) 4... Grading U140 1 Ross Mooring (RJCC/Twickenham) 4 (so 3-6= dammit), 2 Shane McCabe (London) 3½. “A 180 tournament performance for Murugam Thiruchelvam of RJCC just four days before his ninth birthday.”

**Intermediate U120** (24 pl) 1 Luke Pettit (RJCC/Hounslow) 5½/6; 2 Adam Swersky (RJCC/Pinner) 5; 3-4 Kate Feld (Cobham), Thomas Nixon (RJCC/Kew) 4... Grading U100 1-5 Neville Belinfante (Borehamwood), Michael McTernan (Hayes Middx), Anna Partington (Epsom), Marc Pollitt (RJCC/Hampton), Jonathan Somekh (RJCC/London) 3½

**Minor U80** (22 pl) 1 Matthew Robinson (Wallington) 5½/6; 2 Trevor Pettit (RJCC/Hounslow) 5; 3 Alexei Chernikov (RJCC/London) 4½...

**2-Generation Family Prize**: Malcolm & Richard Miles (Oxted) 6½

**Best Game Prize** Gavin Wall (London) for his win against WGM Wang Pin. Results Richard James

**15th RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY** 18th January 1998

**Open** (26 pl) 1 IM Peter Large (London) 5½/6; 2 IM Richard Bates (Richmond) 5; 3-4 GM Aaron Summerscale (London), FM Simon Williams (Farnham) 4... Grading U200 1 Rob Eames (London) 4½; 2 Andy Horton-Kitchlew (London) 4; U180 Martin Taylor (Rainham Kent) 3½

**Major U160** (22 pl) 1 Ross Rattray (RJCC / Cheam) 6/6; 2-3 Shane McCabe (London), John Wolley (London) 4½... Grading U140 1-3 David Barron (Kingswood Surrey), Jo Hart (Caterham), E Michael White (Bristol) 3

**Intermediate U120** (25 pl) 1-2 Amir Habibi (Maidstone), Michael Mkpadi (London) 5/6; 3-4 David Bates (RJCC / Richmond), Claire Lusher (London) 4½... Grading U100 1 Jonathan Somekh (RJCC / London) 4; 2-3 Derek Birt (Hayes Middx), James Wingfield (RJCC / Sutton) 3½

**2-Generation Family Prize**: Hamid & Amir Habibi (Maidstone) 7 Results Richard James

**NATIONAL CLUB**

Just the second-round pairings (and Plate first round) that involve Southern Counties teams.

**Open** (22 English entries) Atherton v Ilford; Bristol & Clifton v Maidstone; Crowthorne v Hastings & St Leonards; Keynsham v Slough; Wood Green v Bradford. That’s *all* the pairings. They’re spreading the SCCU around a bit. Three teams have byes.

**Plate** Hayes Kent v Hounslow. Seven teams, including Charlton and Mushrooms, have byes.

**Major** (20 entries) Southbourne v Maidstone. Five byes, including Hastings.

**Plate** No SCCU teams in round 1. Seven byes, including Kingston, Milton Keynes and Reading.

**Intermediate** (34 entries) Wood Green v Waltham Forest, and seven byes. Round 3 pairings, already done, include Eastbourne v Phoenix, Hammersmith v Bourne End, Maidstone v Bedford, and Wood Green or Waltham Forest v Walsall Kipping.

**Plate** Cardiff v Reading; Hastings v Ashford; Southend v Wanstead & Woodford; Tunbridge Wells v Kings Head.

**Minor** no details.

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**JUNIOR NEWS**

**NATIONAL UNDER 14 TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS** at Stoke on Trent, 29th November 1997

**Championship** 1 1 Richmond 27½/36; 2 Kent 26; 3 Greater Manchester 24; 4 Warwicks 21; 5-6 Bucks, Essex 20½; 7 Cheshire & N Wales 14½; 8 Lancs 11½; 9 Wilts 9; 10 Somerset 5½

**Major** 1 Kent B 33½/36; 2 Glamorgan B (so where was their A team?) 29; 3 Richmond B 28; 4 Gtr Manchester B 23; 5 Lancs B 20½; 6 Wilts B 19; 7 Warwicks B 16; 8 Ches & N Wales B 15; 9 Herts B 12; 10 Staffs B (and theirs?) 8½; 11 Yorks B (and theirs) 7½; Somerset B 4. Think those phantom A teams *are* phantoms; the scores in the Championship section add up correctly as printed.

**Minor** 1 Kent C 27/36; 2 Lancs C 15½; 3 Glamorgan “C” 11½ Results Roger Holmes

**SURREY GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIPS** at Therfield School, 1st December 1997

**Under 18/14** (11 pl) 1-2 Jo Hart (Croydon High), Lucy Broomfield (Wallington H) 4/5; 3 Rosalind Kieran (James Allens) 3½; 4-5 (joint U14 title) Claire Thrower (St Bedes), Anna Partington (Sutton High) 3...

**Under 12** (17 pl) 1 Teresa Khoo (LEH) 5/5; 2-3 Nicole Mangion (LEH), Aly Wilson (Croydon High) 4...

**Under 10** (37 pl) 1 Sarah Hegarty (Knaphill) 5/5; 2 Catherine Bull (Danes Hill) 4½; 3-6 Meera Patel (Croydon High), Lara Moffat, Heather Megaw (both Danes Hill) 4; 7 Rebecca Gilbert (Guildford High) 3½...

Results Neil Clifton. Always enjoy working out the year-letter system. Fortunately, he explains it every time.

**LONDON JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS** at Ravenscroft School, Barnet, 13-14 and 28-30 December 1997

**Under 21 & Under 18** (combined with FIDE rated adult open) 1 Nathan Alfred (Beckenham) 4/6...

**Under 16** 1-3 Ross Rattray (Sutton: takes title), Lorin D’Costa (Royston), Stephen Clark (High Wycombe) 4½/6... Girls Champion Claire Thrower (Sutton) 3½

**Under 14** 1 Thomas Rendle (Hastings) 5/6; 2-4 Timothy Woodward (Fulham: takes title), Lorin D’Costa (Royston), Murugan Thiruchelvam (New Malden) 4½...

**Under 12** 1 Murugan Thiruchelvam (New Malden: age 9.1, nearly) 7½/9; 2-5 Kenan Boztas (Reigate), Chris Jones (Kettering), Lawrence Trent (Ilford), Jonathan Zoubaida (Wimbledon) 7... Girls Champion Alexandra Wilson (Croydon) 4

**Under 10** 1 Lee Gold (Finchley 6½/7; 2 Amir Habibi (Maidstone) 6... Girls Champion Danielle Gross (Camden) 3½

**Under 8** 1 David Howell (Seaford) 9/9; 2 Poppy Aarons (Hampstead: Girls Champion) 7... Boys Champion Alexander Gilmore (Hampstead) 6

How rare is it for the Girls Champion to score more points than the Boys Champion? Letters, please. Under 14 and Under 8 winners were not eligible for London titles. The whole thing, including qualifiers at U12 and below, attracted nearly 2000 competitors. The finals had a total entry of 472, the largest for many years.

Results Leonard Barden

**SCCU UNDER 18 JAMBOREES**

Saturday 7th March 1988 at Watford Boys School, 2 - 6.30 pm: 35 in 1¼ then QPF 30/30.

All county junior organisers should have received invitations in December. If you’re one and didn’t, get on to Nigel Dennis quick. Closing date is/was 31st January. Major Counties are Essex, Kent, Middx and Surrey, Minor are Berks, Bucks, Herts, Oxon and Sussex, and the Bulletin doesn’t know the rules. Don’t think they’re making the distinction for Girls teams. 12 boards “Boys”, 6 boards Girls. Nigel Dennis, SCCU Junior Organiser, has been asked by the BCF to respond to these suggestions: (a) discontinue the separate Girls events; (b) require at least 2 girls in each “Boys” team; (c) two rounds instead of one; (d) teams who qualify and do not take part to be excluded from following year’s final. They wanted an immediate response and he said (a) no; (b) no; (c) worth considering; (d) no, but some sort of rule may be needed. He has asked the counties for their views.

 Later (25.1.98): “boys” entries received from Berks, Herts, Surrey, Sussex. Girls from Surrey only. Oxon still deciding, Middx not entering, no word so far from the others. Surrey are strongly in favour of two rounds, Sussex and Herts against. Surrey would strongly oppose the abolition of Girls teams.

**Games** from the 14th Richmond Rapidplay 7.12.97

**Wang Pin *White* Gavin Wall *Black***: Open section. *Philidor Defence*. Best Game winner.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Be3 0—0 7.f3 d5 8.e5 Ne8 9.Nb3 Be6 10.Qd2 a5 11.0-0-0 a4 12.Nc5 b6 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.g3 c5 15.Bh3 Nc7 16.Ne2 d4 17.Bf2 Qd5 18.Kbl a3 19.b3 Qxe5 20.Nf4 Bg5 21.Rhe1 Qf622.Qe2 Bxf4 23.gxf4 Re8 24.Qc4 Nba6 25.f5 b5 26.Qd3 Nb4 27.Qd2 Ncd5 28.Bg3 exf5 29.Rxe8+ Rxe8 30.Re1 Re3 0-1

**Timothy Emiola *White* Peter Szabo *Black***: Major section. *English Opening*

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Bb4 3.g3 Bxc3 4.dxc3 d6 5.Bg2 Ne7 6.Bg5 f6 7.Bd2 Nbc6 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Qc2 Rb8 10. 0-0 b6 11.e3 Qe8 12.Rael Qh5 13.Bcl Bg4 14.Nh4 g5 15.Bxc6 Nxc6 16.Ng2 Bf3 17.h4 Qg4 18.Kh2 e4 19.Rgl Ne5 20.Nf4 Qf5 21.Ng2 Ng4+ 22.Khl Nxf2+ 0-1239:4

**Luke Pettit *White* Michael McTernan *Black***: Intermediate section. *Italian Four Knights*

1.e4 e5 2.N13 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Bc4 d6 5.Ng5 d5 6.Nxd5 Nxd5 7.Nxf7 Kxf7 8.Q13+ Ke7 9.exd5 Nd4 10.Qe4 Qd6 11.c3 Nf5 12.d4 h6 *13.dxe5* Qg6 14.b3 1(17 15.e6+ Kf6 16.Bd3 Bd6 17.h4 Qh7 18.Bg5+ Kg6 19.Qxf5+ Kh5 20.g4#

**BCF Yearbook 1998**

The SCCU has a limited number of copies available. Free to Union Officers, otherwise £7 including postage. BCF price is £10. Contact the SCCU Secretary: RJ Haddrell, 48 Southview Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9BX 01892 532361. First come first served.

**SCCU COUNTY MATCHES: LEAGUE TABLES**

including all results received up to 26.1.98

**OPEN** Br Bu C E H K O Sy Sx MP

Berks 7 4½ 5 8½ 4 1 :5

Bucks 7 2½ 4½ 6 0 :4

Cambs 10½ 8 12 13½ 6 3½:5
Essex 9 9 10½ 9½ 4 :4
Herts 11½ 5½ 4 11½ 2 :4
Kent 11 13½ 8 12 8½ 4½:5
Oxon 4 4½ 7½ 7½ 0 :4
Surrey 7½ 11½ 2½ 5½ 8½ 2 :5
Sussex 12 10 10 6½ 3 :4

**UNDER 175** E K Sy Sx E K Sy Sx MP

Essex 10 10½ 10½ 12 4 :4
Kent 6 4½ 10½ 4 1 :4
Surrey 5½ 11½ 8 9 2½:4
Sussex 5½ 5½ 8 7 ½:4

**UNDER 150**  E H K M Sy Sx MP

Essex 8½ 8 10 9 3½:4
Herts 7½ 7½ 7½= ½:3
Kent 8 8½ 10 11 3½:4

Middx 6 6 10 1 :3

Surrey 7½= 6 8 1 :3
Sussex 7 5 8 ½:3

**UNDER 125**  E H K O Sy Sx MP

Essex 8½ 8 3½ 12½ 2½:4

Herts 7½ 8 ½:2
Kent 8 12 7 1½:3

Oxon 8 8 1 :2

Surrey 12½ 4 8 8 2 :4
Sussex 3½ 9 8 1½:3

**UNDER 100** E H M Sy E H M Sy MP

Essex 8½ 5 5½ 6½ 2 :4
Herts 3½ 7½ 5½ 5½ 1 :4
Middx 7 4½ 4 1 :3

Surrey 6½ 6½ 8 3 :3

= match drawn

The tables tend not to be independently checked, but they have been this time. Please tell the Editor if you spot mistakes that have slipped through. Everything’s come in, up to and including 17.1.78, except KH (Open) played on that day. That result has been picked up unofficially by telephone, together with two from the following weekend, and included in the tables. Full details next time.

 Some teams have qualified for the BCF stage already. We’ll leave you to work out which.

**Players**

150512K Nicholas J Bawden 93 (Surrey U100 last time) is so spelt, and listed.

151885K Alistair Taylor \*90 (Kent U125) confirms that he *is* Alistair T Taylor. BCF please note the middle initial. His grade should not have gone in the Bulletin, at any rate not without the star, because it’s an unpublished master-list grade.

And you’ll have noticed that DSJ Shipp (Kent U125) turned into DSJ Smith for the Essex match 8.11.97. We were close.

**SCCU Under 200 League**. You will remember that Kent, at the start of the season, were making noises about an U200 section. They haven’t done anything about it yet (Christmas Eve 1997). Keep you posted.

239:5

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| **OPEN** |
|  **Berks**\* 29.11.97 **Sussex**\* 1 HW Murphy 193 (W) 0 1 DH Cummings 208 2 AM Leech 187 0 1 FJ Kwiatkowski 204 3 KD Smallbone 184 ½ ½ DB Graham 204 4 PJ Sharp 183 0 1 LE Rutherford 198 5 MV Taylor 180 1 0 KI Norman 198 6 I Duvall 176 ½ ½ GH James 197 7 IR Henderson 170 0 1 F Rayner 193 8 ACP Milnes 170 ½ ½ M Broom 193 9 MW Marlow 165 ½ ½ SJ Newman 18710 PS Janota 168 1 0 S Wade 18311 J Townsend 167 0 1 JA Dodgson 17912 MC Bowhay 166 0 1 PG Parr 17913 PR Maul 155 0 1 JC Mansson 17814 MF Redmond 156 0 1 MR Stott 17715 WP Tickner 154 0 1 MO Costley 17616 K Savoy 138 0 1 RJ Almond 175(Newbury) **4 12** | **Cambs**\* 29.11.97 **Surrey**J Parker 243 (B) 1 0 R Bates 220M Turner 233 1 0 S Berry 209M Ferguson 226 1 0 M Anderton 204B Kelly 222 1 0 R Allicott (so) 196A Cohen 213 1 0 K Richardson 192J Rudd 197 1 0 D Gunter 190D Moskovic 204 1 0 D Rosen 190N Regan 194 1 0 M Osborne 188M Shephard e190 0 1 P Kemp 187I Gooding 176 1 0 J Shepley 174B Morgan 171 1 0 G Briscoe 171S White 169 1 0 P Stimpson 170S Larski 167 ½ ½ C Clegg 168E Goodall 167 ½ ½ K Inwood 160P Webster 160 1 0 P DupréR Farzaneh-Far 156 ½ ½ HT 1 Jones 152(Cambridge) **13½ 2½**1 Bet he insisted on that |
|  **Bucks**\* 29.11.97 **Essex**\* 1 Miroslav Houska 211 ½ ½ Jonathan Rogers 217 (B) 2 Richard Webb 211 ½ ½ Andrew P Lewis 212 3 Gerald Moore 202 0 1 David Coleman 204 4 Simon Lazarus 192 0 1 David Sands 204 5 Mike Lambshire 197 0 1 Graham Moore 207 6 Jonathan Beedle 184 ½ ½ Mike Twyble 200 7 Raymond B Edwards 185 ½ ½ Gary Kenworthy 200 8 Hans-Peter Hansen 180 0 1 John H Hodgson 196 9 Roger de Coverly 173 0 1 Mark Rich 18410 Majid Mashayekh 173 ½ ½ R Parker 17711 Andrew MJ Robbings 172 1 0 W (Bill) Saunders 17112 Malcolm Armstrong 166 1 0 Tim Hebbes 17413 Dave Mansfield e160 0 1 John C Moore 18214 Matthew George 160 1 0 David Millward 16815 Stephen Law 156 1 0 Colin Ramage 16716 Adrian Laurence 148 ½ ½ IBN Smith 161(Marlow) **7 9** | **Oxon**\* 29.11.97 **Kent**\*M Devereaux 208 ½ ½ N McDonald 237 (B)A Hunt 208 0 1 James E Vigus 210M Rose 197 ½ ½ Neil F Dickenson 210J Wittman 186 ½ ½ Alan E Hanreck 201A Lewis 183 0 1 Lyndon R Gurr 201D Hackett 186 1 0 John N Sugden 196S Jayakumar 180 ½ ½ John D Wager 193R Starkie 171 ½ ½ Peter P Taylor 191G Chapman 172 1 0 Nathan SW Alfred 190D Bruce 166 0 1 Alexis M Harakis 188J Stayt 166 ½ ½ Gordon Botley 191M Hannon 165 1 0 James E Scholes 184N Cundy 162 ½ ½ RMR O’Kelly 183N Jones 166 1 0 Stuart J Williams 180S Terry 160 0 1 Nigel P Donovan 181P Ball 150 0 1 David J Horton 179(Long Hanborough) **7½ 8½** |
|  **Sussex**\* 17.1.98 **Cambs** 1 FJ Kwiatkowski 204 0 1 M Ferguson 226 (B) 2 DB Graham 204 0 1 H Hunt 217 3 LE Rutherford 198 0 1 A Cohen 213 4 GH James 197 ½ ½ D Moskovic 204 5 F Rayner 193 0 1 J Rudd 197 6 B Cafferty 192 1 0 N Regan 194 7 MD Nicholas 192 ½ ½ S White 169 8 M Broom 193 1 0 E Goodall 167 9 SJ Newman 187 1 0 M Campbell 15310 JA Dodgson 179 ½ ½ CJ Howell11 PG Farr 179 ½ ½ S Essen 14212 JC Mansson 178 1 0 BK Tan 14113 MR Stott 177 1 0 C Kremer 1 13014 MO Costley 176 1 0 C Brown 12815 RJ Almond 175 1 0 def16 RV Elliston 171 1 0 def(Brighton) **10 6**1 Not listed by BCF. Converted foreign grade? (It would help if match captains said when they’d done this.) | **Essex**\* 17.1.98 **Berks**\*EJ Dearing 208 (W) ½ ½ HW Murphy 193AP Lewis 212 1 0 DS Tucker 187DJ Coleman 206 1 0 KD Smallbone 184DA Sands 204 0 1 PJ Sharp 183M Twyble 200 ½ ½ MV Taylor 180PL Williamson 184 ½ ½ I Duvall 176RP White 187 ½ ½ JT Munday 175JA Goldberg 178 1 0 IR Henderson 170R Parker 177 ½ ½ J Townsend 167JC Moore 182 0 1 MC Bowhay 166W Saunders 171 1 0 PR Maul 155T Hebbes 174 0 1 MF Redmond 156R Heppinstall 170 1 0 WP Tickner 154IJ Myall 168 1 0 BG Millis 148DJ Millward 168 ½ ½ Alan B Jones 140CR Ramage 167 0 1 NW Dennis 141(Writtle) **9 7** |

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|  **Surrey\*** 17.1.98 **Oxon**\* 1 PJ Sowray 213 (W) ½ ½ M Devereaux 208 2 SH Berry 209 0 1 A Hunt 208 3 FC Manning 133 (r?) 0 1 M Rose 197 4 DB Rosen 190 ½ ½ J Wittman 186 5 PD Kemp 187 1 0 T Dickinson 185 6 TM Thrower 182 0 1 D Hackett 186 7 JM Shepley 174 ½ ½ S Jayakumar 180 8 S Thrower 173 1 0 G Chapman 172 9 K Hurst 173 0 1 R Starkie 17110 DR Sedgwick 173 ½ ½ L Millin 16711 PM Stimpson 170 0 1 D Bruce 16612 CRA Clegg 168 1 0 S Terry 16013 MC Page 164 ½ ½ P Ball 15014 KFH Inwood 160 1 0 W Burt 14915 AN Smith 156 1 0 T Heslop 12216 EP Goggin 130 1 0 J Kennedy 87(Sutton) **8½ 7½** |  **UNDER 175****Kent** 13.12.97 **Surrey**\*JR Cordner 170 (B) 0 1 DR Sedgwick 173RJ Everson 165 0 1 C Briscoe 171SJ Jacob 161 0 1 PM Stimpson 170J Allen 161 1 0 CRA Clegg 168MD Brougham 159 ½ ½ MC Page 164AA Atkinson 152 0 1 RGR Harris 164JH Lewin 156 ½ ½ KP Mynett 162PC Rutland 155 0 1 KFH Inwood 160SJ Peters 155 1 0 N Maxwell 160AM Stille 155 0 1 PD Dupré 158RJA Winterburn 153 ½ ½ AN Smith 156P Wood 151 1 0 defC Charles 149 0 1 AS James 155MR Wiltshire 148 0 1 D Tuddenham 154CM Brown 146 0 1 RJ Wilcox 152 def 0 1 PR Archer 151(Charlton House) **4½ 11½** |
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|  **Sussex** 6.12.97 **Essex**\* 1 Richard O’Brien 171 0 1 Tim Hebbes 174 (B) 2 Robert V Elliston 174 1 0 Martin McCall 171 3 ASJ Fleming 168 0 1 Roy Heppinstall 170 4 Michael J Reddie 168 ½ ½ George McNally 172 5 Paul A Batchelor 168 0 1 Larry E Marden 169 6 SON Hawes 168 1 0 Ken W Clow 173 7 Ian G Kelly 167 ½ ½ David J Millward 168 8 AO Pickersgill 165 ½ ½ Colin R Ramage 167 9 Arthur Hall 163 ½ ½ Ian D Hunnable 16610 Alan H Palmer 155 ½ ½ Les Crane 16411 Ian P Judd 155 0 1 Ivor BN Smith 16112 Paul R Selby 153 0 1 RE Waldteufel 16313 Stephen Blewitt 151 1 0 Mark Weighell 16114 David G Ratcliffe 148 0 1 NH Twitchell 16015 Laurence Rackham 142 0 1 Andy Hartland 16016 Paul Smith 119 0 1 Andy King 156(Hassocks) **5½ 10½** | **Kent** 24.1.98 **Essex**\*Matthew D Noakes 170 1 0 Tim Hebbes 174 (W) def 0 1 George McNally 172Robert J Everson 165 0 1 William L Saunders 171Sid J Jacob 161 ½ ½ Peter C Doye 170Mark D Brougham 159 0 1 Larry E Marden 169Andy G Ropek 157 1 0 Ivan J Myall 168John H Lewin 156 ½ ½ Ken W Clow 173Barry Beavis 155 0 1 David J Millward 168Stephen J Peters 155 ½ ½ Colin R Ramage 167Paul C Rutland 155 0 1 Ian D Hunnable 166Zia Mehmet 153 0 1 Les Crane 164Roger JA Winterburn 153 0 1 Ivor BN Smith 161Nick C Mackett 152 0 1 Roberto E Waldteufel 163 def 0 1 Neville H Twitchell 160 def 0 1 Andy Hartland 160Adrian M Lawrence 139 ½ ½ Sid Kalinsky 157(Charlton H)  **4 12** |
| **UNDER 150** |
|  **Kent\*** 29.11.97 **Essex\*** 1 Cosmo Charles 149 ½ ½ John White 147 (W) 2 Geoff Steele 149 0 1 Stephen Williams 147 3 Andy Heard 148 ½ ½ David Smith 146 4 Mike Wiltshire 148 ½ ½ Jason Roberts 145 5 Terry Lloyd 147 ½ ½ Tony Drake 145 6 Alan Sherriff 146 ½ ½ Laurie Burt 144 7 Mark Jordan 146 ½ ½ Philip Zammitt 138 8 Derek Davis 145 0 1 David J Rawlings 136 9 Simon Moate 142 0 1 Peter Walker 13610 Clive Davis 142 1 0 David FC Bird 13311 Ian Hames 140 ½ ½ Roger D Sharman 13212 David Gleed 132 1 0 David J Payne 13213 Ricky Turrell 130 0 1 Ian Maclachlan 13114 Peter Childs 128 ½ ½ Barry Sheppard 13015 Steve Chick 128 1 0 David G Cannan 12816 Mike Jones 121 1 0 Ian Gunn 116(Charlton House) **8 8** | **Middx**\* 29.11.97 **Surrey**\*R Aw 148 1 0 defC Fewtrell 146 ½ ½ Colin Parker 146G Brown 143 1 0 Charles Fellows 146P Sargeaunt 143 ½ ½ Ian McLeod 145K Dan 142 ½ ½ Rod Bell 143A Fulton 140 ½ ½ John Hawson 140K Morris 140 ½ ½ Don Baldock 135N Tomkin 139 ½ ½ Fred Manning 133BA Tysoe 137 1 0 Krishna Mehendale 132G McLeod 136 ½ ½ Jo Hart 131G Wallace 133 0 1 Dennis Rattray 127G Jordan 131 1 0 Jim Hale 127E Larkman 129 0 1 Howard Curtis 126P Staneland (so) 109 (so) 1 0 Chris Goode 123K Parr 108 ½ ½ Michael Bolan 112J Marchant 102 1 0 Neil Clifton 106(Northolt) **10 6** |

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|  **Kent**\* 17.1.98 **Sussex**\* 1 Cosmo Charles 149 (W) ½ ½ Laurence Rackham 142 2 David C Helsby 149 1 0 David L Roberts 148 3 Geoff Steele 149 0 1 Ian K Edgson 144 4 AH Heard 148 1 0 Brian Izzard 144 5 Mike R Wiltshire 148 1 0 PN Kington 143 6 Mark Finch 146 ½ ½ Keith Davies 143 7 AJ Sherriff 146 ½ ½ Ralph Hollinghurst 140 8 Mark A Jordan 146 1 0 Timothy J Woods 139 9 KRP Kingston 146 1 0 Eric J Hillier 13810 Clive R Davis 145 0 1 LJ Cannon 13111 Simon Moate 142 1 0 C Chris Dunn 13212 Peter M Titmas 139 ½ ½ Michael R Hickman 13113 Stephen J Casement 137 ½ ½ Peter H Benson 12914 Ian A Hames 140 1 0 RC Grundy 12715 Stephen Chick 128 1 0 Gary McCulloch 13116 Peter L Childs 128 ½ ½ Richard A Clement 128(Charlton House) **11 5** | **Herts** 17.1.98 **Essex**\*Neil R Rughwani 149 ½ ½ John White 147 (W)Brian D Judkins 148 ½ ½ Stephen M Williams 147Roger Lever 147 0 1 Thomas G Winter 147Christopher Lovisa 147 1 0 Mark RA Murrell 146Lorin D’Costa 141 1 0 J Arnold Lutton 145Ronald Hughes 144 1 0 Jason Roberts 145Simon T Cook 144 1 0 Tony Drake 145John Coles 143 ½ ½ Mike J Cresswell 143Ronald Clayton 146 0 1 Peter Walker 136Paul Lawrence 143 ½ ½ Philip Zammit 138Karl Hardy 140 0 1 David J Rawlings 136John S Marshall 141 1 0 David FC Bird 133Simon Charles 132 ½ ½ Roger D Sharman 132David P Young 133 0 1 Ian Maclachlan 131Thomas C Wright 128 0 1 Barry Sheppard 130Derek Price 134 0 1 David G Cannan 128(Welwyn) **7½ 8½** |

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| **UNDER 125** |
|  **Essex**\* 22.11.97 **Sussex**\* 1 M Bradford 123 (W) 0 1 A Bradbury 124 2 R Davies 123 1 0 M Plumb 115 3 T Cole 123 0 1 P Helliwell 120 4 R Iannetta 123 1 0 MA Bryant 117 5 L Trent 120 j 1 0 J Parker 117 6 R Payne 118 j 1 0 P Dezzani e116 7 E Walker 117 j 1 0 P Simpkins 107 8 W Petchey 116 1 0 M Curtis 116 9 R Giddens 116 j 1 0 E Cherry e11010 C Turner 113 j 1 0 N Pestelle 10011 D Allen 110 j 1 0 P Buswell 10612 S Trent 93 j 1 0 T Peffer 9913 M Grieve 106 ½ ½ E Lamb 9614 G Benger 106 0 1 J Bryant 8915 P Flint 107 1 0 S Carter 7516 P Pattison 97 1 0 M Shorrocks e50(Wanstead) **12½ 3½** | **Oxon**\* 29.11.97 **Herts**\*H Tutty 123 (B) 1 0 J Leake 123I Brooke 122 0 1 L Noble 121A Helsop (so) 122 1 0 M Flatt 122T Frost 121 1 0 M Barnes 121A Collins 121 0 1 T Lowson 112M Duck 116 1 0 J Lanaway 118A Wyeth 116 0 1 T Sims 112M Brindley 116 ½ ½ P Laskier 117G Brown 115 1 0 A Humphreys 113F Fallon 112 0 1 T Berg 110R Langham 111 0 1 J Moore 110S Grigson 102 ½ ½ D Marchand 109D Buckland 96 0 1 G Lunn 106P Williams 88 0 1 R Murris 1 106J Kennedy 87 1 0 J Gorman 106M Creasey 81 1 0 Q Latif 104(Long Hanborough) **8 8**Bd 14. 1 Of course it’s Morris. It *says* Murris, and by this time we’d got a bit tired of checking the names we couldn’t read. |
|  **Essex**\* 6.12.97 **Surrey**\* 1 M Bradford 123 (B) 1 0 Jim McGing 123 2 R Davies 123 0 1 David Hodgson 124 3 C Barrett 123 ½ ½ David Rees 123 4 R Iannetta 123 0 1 Arnold Hunt 122 5 M Ashkettle 124 1 0 Chetan Deva 120 6 T Cole 123 0 1 D Weston-Lewis 121 7 R Joyce 123 0 1 Kenan Boztas 120 8 def 0 1 Dennis Ramsey 115 9 W Petchey 116 0 1 Hugh Wylie 11410 def 0 1 Muhammad Daood 11111 I Rook 112 0 1 David Innes 11512 M Grieve 106 ½ ½ Chris Dixon 10513 G Benger 106 ½ ½ David Howes 10414 J Figgins 104 0 1 Paul Battersby 9615 P Pattison 97 0 1 Lana Boztas 9316 E Lodge 96 0 1 Ben Morgan 90(Wanstead) **3½ 12½** | **Kent**\* 10.1.98 **Surrey**\*MR Jones 121 (B) 1 0 J McGing 123R Springett 122 1 0 D Hodgson 124RC Fenn 123 ½ ½ D Rees 123GL Bishop 120 1 0 A Hunt 122G Battye115 1 0 K Boztas 120M Snashall 114 ½ ½ D Weston-Lewis 121DC Picton 113 1 0 T Chase 114PD Poland 109 1 0 D Ramsey 115IB Bryan 108 1 0 H Wylie 114K Sanders 104 1 0 J Xuereb 116ID Stoneman 104 0 1 D Innes 115IC Smith 104 ½ ½ G Morse 106JR Thompson 101 0 1 C Dixon 105AP Fabian 97 1 0 D Howes 104T Hogg 94 1 0 L Boztas 93AT Taylor \*90 ½ ½ B Morgan 90(Charlton H) **12 4** |

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|  **Herts**\* 17.1.98  **Essex**\* 1 D Green 120 (W) ½ ½ M Bradford 123 2 L Noble 121 ½ ½ C Barrett 3 J Leake 123 0 1 R Ianetta (so) 123 4 M Sutton 119 1 0 M Ashkettle 124 5 T Lowson 112 0 1 T Cole 123 6 M Flatt 122 0 1 L Trent 120 j 7 C Byrne 117 1 0 R Payne 118 j 8 M Barne 121 0 1 E Walker 117 j 9 P Laskier 117 ½ ½ W Petchey 11610 J Lanaway 118 1 0 R Giddens 116 j11 T Berg 110 ½ ½ C Turner 113 j12 J Moore 110 ½ ½ D Allen 110 j13 D Marchand 109 1 0 I Rook 11214 G Lunn 106 ½ ½ P Flint 10715 R Morris 106 ½ ½ G Benger 10616 Q Latif 104 0 1 P Pattison 97(Welwyn) **7½ 8½** | **BCF Rapidplay Grading List**The November list (well, it came out in December) is available from Chris Howell, 28 Fowler Close, Maidenbower, Crawley, W Sussex RH10 7UN 01293 885176. £2.50 (DMs £2.25) payable to SCCU. Go on, treat yourself. |

|  |
| --- |
| **UNDER 100** |
|  **Middx**\* 10.1.98 **Essex** 1 T Rowland 99 (B) 1 0 def 2 WGV McLaughlin 97 1 0 Katie Bates 98 3 Keith Grice 97 1 0 Graham Walker 96 4 Derek Birt 96 0 1 Josiah Lutton 96 5 Stephen Banks 93 0 1 Michael Bridges (so) 95 6 Barry S Miles 93 1 0 Ronald Prickett 95 7 Larry McDonagh 93 0 1 Matthew Cain 90 8 Andrew Havery 93 0 1 John Marsh 77 9 Paul M Roche 89 0 1 Heather Walker 7710 Ted Bradley 83 1 0 Jon Livesley 6111 Carl EG Tams 1 0 Nicholas Fenton 5812 Cliff W Aylett 76 1 0 Robert Parish 47(Durham Castle) **7 5**Some obvious mis-spellings (bds 3, 8 and 10) have been corrected without comment. If they were right all along, let us know. | **Herts**\* 17.1.98 **Essex**Michael Brooks 98 ½ ½ John Sneesby 98 (B)Stuart Tinsley 98 0 1 Katie Bates 97Robert Huhn 98 1 0 Graham Walker 96Nick Chandler 95 ½ ½ Josiah Lutton 96Kris Devoti 95 1 0 Heather Walker 77Peter Tuck 95 0 1 Michael Bridger 95Rees Gates 90 1 0 Ron Prickett 95Frank Batchelor 88 ½ ½ Matt Cain 90John Richardson 0 1 John Marsh 77Simon Morris 1 0 1 Jonathan Livesley 61Alan Brewis 71 1 0 Nicholas Fenton 58Stephen Burt 0 1 Robert Parrish 68(Welwyn) **5½ 6½**1 Still the new Simon Morris. Couldn’t he get himself a middle initial or something? |

**SCCU COUNTY MATCHES 1997-8**

Or what’s left of them. Matches asterisked are on re-arranged dates.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Open** | **Under 175** | **Under 150** | **Under 125** | **Under 100** |
| Jan 31 | BrBu CE HSy OSx |  | SyK HM | OE | HM |
| Feb 7 |  | SyE |  | \*HSy | MSy |
|  14 | BuC SxH SyK EO |  | SxH ESy | KO |  |
|  21 |  |  |  |  | SyH |
|  28 | OBu HE KSx CBr |  |  | SxH |  |
| Mar 7 | *(SCCU U18 qualifier)* | SxK |  |  |  |
|  14 | BuH EK BrO SxSy |  | MSx |  |  |
|  21 | *(4NCL)* | SyK ESx |  | KH SxO | ESy |
|  28 |  |  |  |  | \*EM |

The late Essex-Middx date (U100, 28th March) has been agreed with David Sedgwick but they’ve got to phone the result straight through!

**County Matches: BFC Stage 1997-8**

The SCCU is “due for” an extra place in the Open this year.

Dates, all divisions:

Preliminary round 25th April

Quarter-finals 16th May

Finals Saturday 4th July at Ratcliffe College, Ratcliffe, Leics. (Nat Club Finals are 5th July at the same venue.)

 Incidentally the Controller, Cyril Johnson, has asked for copies of all SCCU result sheets at Union level. We’ll send him the Bulletin. Presumably he’s asked the other Unions as well. He aims to catch the people who break the rules by playing for more than one county in different Unions. It happens, apparently. Don’t know how promptly he’s expecting to pick the offences up, or what sanction he has in mind. He’s thinking about rule changes, which would doubtless specify the sanction.

239:9

**Minor Counties 1997-8**

Still no BCF decision on what counties qualify as “Minor” this year. Union nominations were to have been vetted in November, then December, and for whatever reason it still hasn’t been done. The SCCU nominations, if you remember, are Berks, Bucks, Herts and Surrey, and there’s no obvious reason why any of those should be rejected. But read on.

**Minor Counties: the future** 26.1.98

**Dear Richard**,

 Following the request for interested parties to submit their views regarding the definition of a Minor County, I have received, either directly or through the Bulletin, submissions or comment from Nigel Dennis (Berkshire), Chris Lean (Hertfordshire), and Mick Croft and Nicholas Mackett (both Kent). I would like to thank all of them for their trouble. In essence, the ideas proposed fall into three broad areas: overall population of County (Mackett); average strength of team (Croft, Dennis, and one idea from Lean); historical results (a second idea from Lean).

 I react negatively only to the overall population concept. This has hitherto been vigorously opposed by the SCCU and I am in no doubt that it would effectively debar my own county, Surrey, from the National Stages. (All my comments refer only to the Open and the Minor, not to the grading limited Divisions.)

 The objection to the average strength of team basis is simply the difficulty of administration, and I would welcome constructive ideas as to how the problems might be overcome. Failing any solutions, I feel that there will need to be a reversion to determining eligibility on the basis of historical results; as indicated below, this is under consideration elsewhere.

 It is not only within the SCCU that the present rules are causing problems. At Open Division level, there is essentially a split between two large Unions with highly competitive Championships (MCCU and SCCU) and three smaller ones with fewer teams (EACU, NCCU and WECU). The current rules requiring Unions to submit nominations as to eligibility which the BCF Management Board then approves or otherwise, emanate from the MCCU and appear to operate satisfactorily only within that Union. Of the others, the EACU play only in the Minor, the NCCU only in the Open, and the WECU seek places in both. I have no objection in principle to the WECU so doing, but there is a danger that they could thereby obtain an unduly privileged position and the Management Board has been exercised by this in each of the three years since the current rules came into force.

 For these reasons, I understand from Cyril Johnson, the new BCF Counties Championships Controller, that, quite apart from any motions which the SCCU may put forward, there may well be some “official” proposals for changes to take effect next season. Amongst the ideas under consideration is simply a reversion to the former rule that, in order to be eligible for the Minor, a county must not have been nominated for the National Stages of the Open in the current year or in any of the preceding four years. The SCCU never wished to see this rule altered and I imagine that its reintroduction would satisfy our present concerns.

 Any proposals which the SCCU wishes to submit to the meeting of the BCF Council on 25th April will need to be formulated at the meeting of the SCCU Executive Committee Meeting on 13th March and John Philpott has asked me to prepare a paper for our meeting. My paper will reflect the submissions already received, any discussion which may take place at the meeting of the BCF Management Board on 14th February, and responses to the coverage in this issue of the Bulletin. I would be grateful if any such responses could be submitted to me by 21st February. Yours sincerely,

 **David Sedgwick** SCCU County Match Controller

Ed: - Nigel Dennis suggests mean grades, calculated over the previous four seasons to eliminate short-term fluctuations. Chris Lean would use the previous season’s results (rather than grades, because it’s easier). But he would use them only for “intermediate” teams: the obvious Major teams would be Major and the obvious Minor teams would be Minor, leaving (in his prototype version, for the SCCU) four teams in the middle which would split two and two according to results. Don’t know how this would work out in the other Unions. He adds that he can see no reason why the previous year’s BCF Minor Champion should be automatically unMinored. Hear hear.

 You *can* apply match-by-match grading restrictions for the current season, dispensing with the historical approach, but counties would have to decide at the outset whether they wanted to be Minor or not (and someone would have to check their arithmetic for every match). A statistically dubious survey has revealed that checking a match by hand takes less than a minute. If you take the match captains’ word for the grades, that is. For the matches between Minor counties in the SCCU stage, ten minutes a season will do nicely. Applying the penalties might take longer.

**Corrected Grades**. Another fax from DRS, still with a County Match Controller’s hat on, addresses a different question.

**Dear Richard**, 26.1.98

I understand from Chris Howell that a comprehensive list of corrections to the August 1997 BCF Grading List is to be incorporated in a supplementary grading list to be issued in February 1998. Most of the players affected will either have been listed in the previous supplementary list or have received appropriate individual notification. However, there will be a number of players, probably about 100, who will in the February list be the subject of a correction of which they will have had no previous knowledge or intimation.

 In contrast to its equivalent last year the forthcoming list will be widely available and will be issued whilst SCCU County Matches are still in progress.1 Hence I have been considering the problem of eligibility for the small group of players who will be corrected from, say, 174 to 176 or vice versa. This raises a more general issue as to whether mid-season corrections should affect eligibility for events already in progress and in my opinion this has never been adequately addressed at BCF level. I have therefore suggested to Chris Howell that the topic should be considered at the forthcoming BCF Management Board meeting on 14th February.

 So far as the SCCU County Championships are concerned, my provisional ruling, following consultation with John Philpott, is that where a correction is published in the February list which has previously neither been published nor notified to the player concerned, this does not affect in either direction the player’s eligibility for the remaining matches of the grading limited Divisions. If I feel that I need to alter this decision following the meeting of the BCF Management Board, a circular will be issued to match captains. Yours sincerely, **David Sedgwick**

1 And it’s free (Ed). Send stamped addressed DL envelope to the BCF office. Graders should get a copy automatically.

239:10

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| --- | --- |
| The MCCU Centenary Match: **MCCU** 13.12.97 **SCCU**\* 1 L Cooper 208 (W) 0 1 N McDonald K 235 2 A Dyce 205 0 1 Mark Ferguson C 225 3 DW Anderton 196 ½ ½ Richard Bates S 220 4 R James 194 0 1 Gary Kenworthy E 200 5 D Garner 183 0 1 CI Howell K 186 6 PC Gibbs 175 0 1 HJ Edwards *MCCU* 153 7 SN Gilmore 174 0 1 G McNally E 172 8 O Hardy 170 ½ ½ R O’Brien Bu 171 9 P Mercs 169 ½ ½ DJ Millward E 16810 A Longson 164 1 0 C Ramage E 16711 AM Brown 163 ½ ½ IBN Smith E 16112 D Price 161 ½ ½ M Weighell E 16113 M Johnson 160 1 0 D Pearse E 15814 B Pribanich 159 1 0 R Weeber E 15415 AM Rogerson 156 0 1 SC Howell K/Sx? 15216 RJ Forey 154 1 0 JA Philpott E 15217 RA Beach 190 ½ ½ J White E 14718 M Fox 149 1 0 T Winter E 147 119 S Gordon 147 1 0 J Roberts E 14520 N Graham 145 1 0 STKWilkinson 2 Sy 13921 J Sawiak 145 0 1 D Bird E 13322 J Hoddy 140 1 0 F Manning Sy 13323 W Murray 139 ½ ½ K Mehendale Sy 13224 F Jimenez 129 0 1 K Groce E 13225 AK Ghasi 128 1 0 T Allen E 12526 P Kelman 123 ½ ½ C Turner E 11327 R Taylor 121 ½ ½ D Allen E 11028 AR Powis 119 1 0 RCN Lee-Anderson K29 P Shelley 95 1 0 SK Ghasi *MCCU* 9830 H Ratner 93 ½ ½ G Barron *MCCU* 110(Nuneaton) **16 14**Also played: JM Robinson 91 ½ ½ RCN Lee-Anderson | The intended 40 boards didn’t happen. MCCU guested for SCCU on 6, 29 and 30. MCCU bd 17 (correspondent says 18, think he means 17) was really bd 5 but moved down to avoid a couple of defaults. SCCU county affiliations supplied by the Bulletin, hope correctly. Match captain really hasn’t got a published grade.Notes: 1 Bd 18: says 148 but there isn’t a T Winter 148. There’s only one T Winter. Shouldn’t have said that, we’ll never get TG now.2 Bd 20: says K Wilkinson. There are eight K Wilkinsons, if you count AK and ST Kevin (but not Paul K). The only one with the right grade is ST Kevin, who’s thoughtfully provided a full name if you can be bothered to use it. (We can do you a Kevin Wilkinson of Maidstone but it ain’t him.)  **CHILTERN LEAGUE** 1997-8Bucks Juniors 9½ 10½ Herts Juniors 27.9.97; Herts Juniors 18½ 1½ Berks Juniors 4.10.97; Oxon A 17 3 Herts Juniors 19.10.97; Herts A 14½ 5½ Herts Juniors 8.11.97; Herts Juniors 16 4 Bucks Juniors 6.12.97 Results Bill D’Costa**EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 1999**(3-11 July)The venue has been confirmed as the Riviera Centre, Torquay (which is also hosting the 1998 British). |

**CONGRESS DIARY**

This list includes only the congresses we’ve received details of.

Feb 14 GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

 15 KINGS HEAD RAPID. Tony Suttill, 7 Lonsdale Rd, London W11 2BY 0171 229 9750 before 9 pm

Mar 1 16th RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY. Richard James, Ennerdale, 4 Sandersfield Gardens, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2DQ 0181 898 1190 or 0181 891 7547

 15 LETCHWORTH RAPIDPLAY (Leigh/BCF registered). Mark Pateman, 24 Brays Manor, Stotfold, Hitchin, Herts SG5 4DW 01462 733039

Apr 4 BEXLEYHEATH JUNIOR with KENT LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP. Chris Higgins, 3 Charterhouse Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3YE 01732 460762

 7-8 MAIDENHEAD JUNIOR U18,13,11,9. R Brugge, 16 Wootton Way, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4QU 01628 636276

 10-13 SOUTHEND OPEN BCQ incorporating SCCU Individual Championship. FIDE rated. Plus 5-rd Swisses in graded sections. Howard Grist, 124a Oakleigh Park Drive, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 1RU. Telephone enquiries to George Smith 01702 556086

 10-13 SURREY CONGRESS at Sutton. FC Manning, 44 Willow Rd, Wallington, Surrey SM6 0PF 0181 647 0063

 18 GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

 26 TONBRIDGE JUNIOR U18,16,14,12,10,8. RJ Haddrell, 48 Southview Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9BX 01892 532361

**Kent Representative** on the SCCU Executive (he’s also Maidstone Secretary) has a new address and phone

 number. NC Mackett, 16 Clare House, Lesley Place, Maidstone ME16 0UE 01622 726079. That address rings a bell. (Oddly enough, the phone number doesn’t.)

 Issue 240 March 1998

**EDITORIAL**

Can’t believe it’s six months since I wrote an Editorial. You’re getting self-effacing, Richard. Time for another. This season’s SCCU county competitions, just completed, have been amazingly close-fought. I don’t just mean the Open, where going into the final round only one team was assured of nomination (and there were three places). Final round elsewhere was humorously full of possibilities. In the U125 it *could* have given us a quadruple tie for second place, and the side that actually came second would have been bottom. Naturally, it was also possible for them to be first. Last match in the U100, unfortunately defaulted in the end, might have done almost anything. I admit the U150 doesn’t quite fit the pattern, and Essex messed it up good and proper in the U175, but it’s been an exciting end to the season and I’m glad we have grading limits now. To put it another way, for those who inconsiderately remember my first thoughts on the subject: I’m glad, now, that we have grading limits. Who knows, with the BCF’s agreement we may even get them in the Minor Counties in a year or two.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Dear Mr Haddrell**, 15.2.98

Probably not the correspondent from Oxon you were expecting, but I was provoked (as you hoped someone would be) by your gloss on Mick Croft’s letter (January Bulletin) about Minor Counties.

 In my view, Oxon’s success in the Minor Counties event has been the result, more than anything, of hard work and determination from our county captains (Dave Hackett last season and, earlier in the decade, Dave Metcalfe).

 The number of players available to an Oxfordshire captain is quite small, as I believe the following figures1 will show:

1996 to 1997 season

Grade band players Grade band players

210-220 2 180-189 5

200-209 3 170-179 11

190-199 4 160-169 8

Total: 33 players

1 I have included Oxford League players who never play for the county, but have excluded Oxford University players who have never shown an inclination to represent Oxon.

The average grade of Oxon teams in the Open section last season was 177, compared with 182.3 in the Minor Counties. I should imagine most counties would be able to field stronger teams for a few matches, with a national prize to play for.

 The data below shows Oxon’s performance in the Minor Counties last season. As a grader, the results interest me quite a bit, because they suggest either that Oxon players are super-heroic, or that they are undergraded.

Avge Oxon grade Opponents & avge grade Expected result Actual result

181 Suffolk 175 9-7 12½-3½

181 Dorset 166 10½-5½ 12-4

186 Herts 190 7½-8½ 9-7

Having played for Oxon for many years - in the old Championship and the current Open events - I have no doubt that we should count as Minor within an SCCU context.

 Would it not be sensible to establish a mean grade requirement for the Minor Counties, and for qualifiers from the SCCU (and other strong Unions if appropriate) to have to abide by this? In practice this would discommode only a very few players who might have to be excluded in the national stages, and would give a county like Oxon something to play for - an incentive the team hasn’t had this season.

 Yours sincerely,

 **Ray Starkie** Oxford

Ed: - I agree about mean grades, and so does the SCCU Executive. Only I’d do it at the Union stage as well (between counties self-declared as Minor). The next correspondent suggests a different approach to this idea.

**Dear Mr Haddrell**, 18.2.98

As a veteran of county chess, but only a fairly new appointment as a team captain, I have recently made two discoveries: first, the very existence of your excellent bulletin, and second, the very arbitrary nature of qualification of a county for the Minor Counties Championship. Whereas it is obvious what is being achieved by winning the Open Counties Championship, or any of the five graded sections, one could not say the same about the Minor Counties.

 I believe that any county that does not stand a reasonable chance of winning its Union championship should be eligible for the Minor Counties. If you exclude the “stronger” Minor Counties, you give them nothing to play for. For example, this season, Cambs/Essex/Kent/Sussex have won all their fixtures against the other 5 competing counties, often by big margins. By excluding stronger Minor Counties, you would merely create a new tier of average Minor Counties competing for an even more dubious prize against the weakest counties.

240:2

 I also do not agree with comments that last season’s Minor Counties was competed by over-strength teams.

The recent Herts v Surrey match (the result of which is enclosed with this letter) shows both teams with an average

grade of over 187! If Minor Counties were only allowed to field teams with an average grade of, say, 175, the net

result would be that the top players of some Minor Counties teams would be unable to represent their county, and perhaps seek allegiance with another county.

 My suggestion for a fair Minor Counties tournament would be to allow each county to play its strongest side, but in fixtures between Minor Counties (and for the purpose of the Minor Counties championship only - not the Open) to handicap a team whose average grade is above 175. The penalty could perhaps be 1 game point for each 50 grading points by which the stronger team’s aggregate grade exceeds 2800 (=16 x 175) or the weaker team’s aggregate grade if higher. For this purpose, to avoid the inclusion of lightweight players, the grade of any player under 150, or defaulted board, would be taken as 150. The result needed to win the match would therefore be calculable and determined at the start of the match.

 Yours sincerely,

 **Kevin R Clark** Royston

**SCCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive met on Friday 13th March 1998 at the Durham Castle W1. Seventeen of the eighteen members were there, the eighteenth was not a county rep, and it was a very much better-humoured meeting than the next one down sounds to have been. Main points, in more or less chronological order:

(1) SCCU Council Meeting 1998 will be on Saturday 27th June.

(2) A volunteer has been found to take over as SCCU County Match Controller when David Sedgwick retires at the end of this season. Not sure that the Bulletin should name him, but he’s well qualified and he’s not currently on the Executive. There, we’ve revealed his sex.

(3) BCF office had been broken into a few days before the meeting. Computers and a fax machine were stolen. They were insured and the data was backed up; delays will have been inevitable but by the time you read this they *should* be fully operational again.

(4) BCF Policy Unit was to propose a radical change: see “BCF Policy Unit” on page 3. This was a recent development and we had seen nothing in writing.

(5) Treasurer said all counties were paid up. He can’t always say as much by March.

(6) County Match Controller said there had been no major problems but he mentioned a few things; like, someone had objected to Bognor as a county match venue (complaint not upheld); and Herts had gone on playing their champion on board 1 (complaint not received). He regretted Kent’s recent default against Sussex in the U175.

(7) Junior Organiser said there no longer seemed to be a marked divide between our Major and Minor counties at U18 level. At the recent SCCU Jamborees there had been an overlap in terms of mean grade; and the two strongest players had been in the Minor Counties. He proposed to have a single combined jamboree next year.

(8) SCCU Individual Championship 1998-9 would be at the Sutton Easter Congress; BCQ places Maidstone, Sutton, Southend.

(9) BCET School Shield nomination was decided, but we never say who it was until the award’s official. (We *are* allowed two nominations. Last year we made one and it was the only nomination there was. It got an award.)

(10) Restructuring of Union. Some felt, in view of the Policy Unit’s ideas (see below, again), that it might be best to put this on hold till we knew what was happening. Most disagreed. After considerable discussion, largely on ways of not swamping the Executive, the following straw polls were held. (a) What should be the rights of representation at Council? Counties two reps, other organisations one. (b) Should other organisations pay half the County membership fee? Yes. (c) Should each County have an automatic representative on the Executive? Yes, by a fair majority. (Such reps would not be Council reps *in addition* to the two mentioned under (a)). (d) Should each other organisation have one? No, by a large majority. (e) How many places should there be for them? Opinion was divided between four and five maximum. (f) Should there be two Council Meetings a year, to give other organisations a fairer crack of the whip? NO.

 It was agreed that we should not propose to change the Union’s name.
 A sub-committee will work on the detailed draft of constitutional changes and bring it back to the Executive at the next meeting. It was thought important to present a draft to this year’s Council Meeting.

(11) BCF County Match Rules. The BCF had mooted some changes, to come before Council in April. Their suggestions, and Executive reactions: (a) Minor Counties. Proposed: no team to be admitted which has reached the BCF stage of the Open in the preceding two seasons. Agreed. Proposed: no team to be admitted which has finished in the top half of its Union Open competition in the current season. Not agreed; it could give teams an incentive to lose matches. (It was thought that the BCF had already taken this on board.1) We would prefer a limit on mean grade in the BCF stage. (b) All divisions. Proposed: a Union to have two nominees as of right, in any division, if at least three teams have completed their fixtures in its Union-stage competition; and three nominees if at least seven have completed their fixtures. The Executive had sympathy with this but was uneasy about the possibility of too many preliminary-round matches. Maybe the three and the seven were too low. (Especially, perhaps, if a Union competition is not all-play-all?) We would tell the BCF our opinions.

240:3

(12) National Finals 1997-8 (Counties Championship and Nat Club). The Executive had reservations about the venue. It’s at Ratcliffe (where?) near Syston (where?) in Leicestershire. The Executive’s reservations were based not on its ignorance of the topography of Leicestershire, but on the remoteness of Ratcliffe from railway stations and hotels. Three miles and six miles, respectively. In the BCF’s defence the Bulletin has to say that the venue, or at any rate one called Syston Leics, has been used as a mid-way venue in semi-finals more than once in the last few years, by SCCU teams, and without apparent reluctance. This is an answer, of sorts, to the railway objection; it’s not an answer to the hotel one.

1 That’s what we thought. It later emerged that the BCF’s “top-half” proposal would, in fact, be put to Council. The SCCU will therefore have counter-proposals on the agenda suggesting a mean-grade limit.

 The Bulletin has been musing about matches which both sides want their opponents to win. (It’s possible.) Clearly, you need to field your strongest side. The aim, for each player, will be to establish an advantage so overwhelming that he can force his opponent to checkmate him. Up to a point, play will be normal. Well, sort of. Attacks that win material are fine. Attacks that force checkmate or win of material are useless, because your opponent will just hang on to the material and let you mate him. Some modifications to the rules will be needed. Resignation will count as a win; and defaults, or any form of unacceptable behaviour, will be penalised by win of the game.

 It was left to DRS to suggest the obvious and prosaic un-problemist alternative: play the match normally, but with a previously agreed and notarised undertaking to report all the results backwards. It is interesting that, either way, you *do* need to field your strongest team. And either way, it is recommended that the match should not be graded.

**BCF MANAGEMENT BOARD**

An SCCU representative reports:

The Management Board met on 14 February from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The meeting was relatively hard going, and tempers showed signs of fraying on more than one occasion.

 The 1997/98 forecast appeared to be marginally better than budget. The draft of the 1998/99 budget presented to the meeting showed a substantial deficit. (>£20,000). The meeting voted to recommend to Council that on the basis of a 2p increase in Game Fee (to 27p standard play/13½p rapidplay) the deficit should be no more than £2,000. A number of Directors volunteered or were required to make cuts, but more will need to be identified to achieve this target.

 David Anderton attended to give a presentation on the Hastings International Chess Centre, in respect of which a lottery application will be submitted during March. The meeting gave its approval to the proposal to form a charitable company limited by guarantee, 5 out of the 11 directors of which will be nominated by the BCF, which would lease the Centre at a peppercorn rent from the Hastings Borough Council if the application were to succeed and the necessary matching funding could be raised. It also authorised the Chairman to sign a letter of intent for the BCF to occupy office space at the Centre for a minimum of 25 years subject to certain conditions and to take the lead role in developing the provision of chess related training and competitions at the Centre.

 It was resolved that the European Team Championships 1999 will be organised by and through the medium of the BCF rather than by a separate limited company.

 A joint paper by Chris Howell and Roger Edwards on the new grading system was agreed nem con. Hopefully they will both now be left in peace to get on with it.

 Neil Graham presented a policy paper on Congress Chess. One of his proposals was to rationalise procedures for qualifying events; while each Union would still be able to nominate its champion and allocate two other qualifying places to a local congress or congresses, it would be required to pay the entry fee of the former, and the congresses would each be looked to for a £50 contribution toward the entry fee. These “requirements” were dropped; while the SCCU does in practice pay its champion’s entry fee, it really should not be up to the BCF to tell us that we have to do so. Under the proposals the Surrey Easter Congress and the Hastings Weekend Open will lose their automatic places granted by the BCF, but each is still likely to obtain a place by virtue of being a large payer of Game Fee.

 Alan Martin has resigned as a trustee of the BCF Youth Chess Trust. This now has no trustees.

 JA Philpott volunteered to present a paper to a future meeting on the subject of honoraria.

 As a result of the guillotine, a number of agenda items were not discussed. The papers received indicated that the Policy Unit is now operating and currently comprises David Eustace (Chairman), Stewart Reuben (ex officio as BCF Chairman), Fred Appleton and Matthew Turner.

**BCF POLICY UNIT**

A few weeks ago it emerged that the Unit was to propose a radical change to the Federation’s revenue structure; and it’s coming up at the April Council Meeting. There would be a new lower tier of Direct Membership, linked to grading and (perhaps) completely replacing the Game Fee. The Bulletin is not privy to the Unit’s deliberations, but has spoken to a couple of people who have been. The Unit has talked of a basic membership fee in the region of £10 a year, alongside the more expensive bells-and-whistles-attached existing one. Game Fee would “not necessarily” (one informant) be abolished. Intention seems to be that non-members would not have their games

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graded; which, in practical terms, probably means that events wishing to be graded would have to insist on membership for all players. The other version, in which non-members just wouldn’t have their grades published, “has not been ruled out” (same informant); and that’s a whole other ball game.

 This, if it’s doable, is seen as the best way of increasing the Federation’s income. (Doubling or tripling the Game Fee might bring in a similar amount.) The April Meeting will be asked whether it wishes the Unit to proceed. It will not have escaped readers’ notice that Game Fee is only six or seven years old and was introduced with the overwhelming approval of Council. Your Editor supported it then but will listen to argument.

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At this point we have to report that Fred Appleton died suddenly of a heart attack at the weekend of the 14th-15th March. He was 4NCL Chairman and, since September, the BCF Director of Coaching.

 We must also note the sudden death, on 10th February, of Paul Battersby. He was 32. He belonged to the Wallington and Coulsdon clubs and was an active member of this year’s Surrey U125 and U100 teams. He leaves a widow but no children.

**CONGRESS RESULTS**

**KINGS HEAD RAPIDPLAY** 15th February 1998 attracted 153 players.

1-2 K Arkell 236 GM (Midland Monarchs), M Hebden 249 GM 5½/6; 3-9 R Bates 220 IM (Richmond), A Cherniaev 2465 IM, S Jackson 185 (Wood Green), J Naylor 201 (Coulsdon & Hackney), J Nunn 259 GM, J Plaskett 223 GM, M Sadler 262 GM (Maidstone) 5; 10-14 C Crouch 220 IM (Barbican/Harrow/Pinner), A Summerscale 237 GM (Slough), T Wall 214 (Coulsdon), R McMichael 194 (Kings Head), J Pigott 211 (Kings Head) 4½... **Grading** 199-180 S Jackson; 179-160 N De Peyer 165 (Kings Head) 4; 159-140 PJ Kelly 157 4; 139-120 KB Nicholas 125 (RGS High Wycombe) 4; 119-100 DJ Cork 114 3; Under 100 S Hurst 80 (Edmonton) 3½ **Junior** 15-14 KB Nicholas; 13-12 S Clark 147 (RGS H Wycombe); 11-10 R Mooring 136 (Richmond Juniors: listed as 13 on 1.1.97); U10 T Thirumurugan it says here 126? (Richmond Juniors).

Some grades supplied by the Bulletin. Tony Suttill writes:

 At a time of falling entries for tournaments, we were lucky to attract exactly the same number of entrants and players as last year, 53 entries being taken on the day (our highest ever). There were only 12 players with a BCF grade of 213 or more (or equivalent 2300+), but 6 were GMs (again a record for us), with only Aaron Summerscale missing out on a share of the prizes. The tournament was one of our best ever, the presence of so many GMs contributing, but whether we continue will be a matter for our AGM - we again made a deficit and cannot continue doing so, the whole purpose of these tournaments initially being to raise money for the Club, thus keeping subscriptions down.

**NORTH ESSEX RAPIDPLAY** at Colchester, 15th February 1998

**Open** (19 ent) 1 Gary Kenworthy (Powdermill) 5½/6; 2 Russell White (Chelmsford) 5; 3-4 Jason Dilley (Grantham), Jim Howson (Dartford) 4½... Junior Chris Bates (Colchester) 3½

**U125** (34 ent) 1 Michael Bridger (Southend) 5½/6; 2 Robert Payne (Ilford) 5; 3-5 John Lambert (Clacton), John Sneesby (Basildon Juniors), Peter Sonneburg (Sudbury) 4½... Slow Starters Nicholas Fenton (Colchester), Alistair Hung (Writtle), Robert Parish (Colchester), Catherine Taylor (Saffron Walden) - Slow Starters all juniors.

**U11** (28 pl) 1-2 Matthew Jellett (Southend), Edward Morris (Southend) 5/6; 3-5 Henry Duncanson (Norwich), James Heppell (Norwich), Antony O’Toole (Southend) 4½... Slow Starter Leah Oaker (Basildon)

**U9** (21 pl) 1 Lee Wicks (Colchester) 5½/6; 2 Peter Poobalasingham (Barnes) 5; 3-6 Andrew Alexandrou (Powdermill), Patrick Hanson (Saffron Walden), Andrew Lillie (Leyton), David Smith (Saffron Walden) 4... Slow Starter David Donaghy (Ipswich)

**16th RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY** 1st March 1998

**Open** (16 pl) 1 IM Peter Large (London) 6/6; 2 Gavin Wall (London) 5; 3 IM/WGM Susan Lalic (Cheam) 4... GradingU200 1-2 Steve Ledger (Bedford), David Wood (Chatham) 3½; U180 Martin Taylor (Rainham Kent) 3½

**Major U160** (20 pl) 1 Tony Kelly (High Wycombe) 5/6; 2‑4 Bruce Birchall (London), Thomas Dougherty (RJCC/London), John Woolley (London) 4½... Grading U140 1 Ben Chamberlain (RJCC/Surbiton) 4; 2-3 Chetan Deva (RJCC/Weybridge), Tyrone Woo (London) 3½

**Intermediate U120** (24 pl) 1-2 Thomas Nixon (RJCC/Kew), Chris O’Bee (Ilford) 5/6; 3 Maor Shine (London) 4½... Grading U100 1 Robert Heaton (RJCC/New Malden) 4; 2 Jonathan Somekh (RJCC/London) 3½

**Minor U80** (42 pl) 1-4 Peter Alexander (RJCC/Surbiton), Sagar Deva (RJCC/Weybridge), David Manders (Ashtead), Chris Manders (Ashtead) 5...

**2-generation Family Prize**: John & Chris Kelly (Northampton) 7½

**Best Game Prize**: Gavin Wall, for his win against Richard Bates (see page 16). Results Richard James

*White* **Michael Mkpadi**, *Black* **Ricky Alboni**. Richmond Rapid (Intermediate)

**

 Black to play

24...d4!! 25 Nxc6 Bxc6 26 Re1 Rxh2+ 27 Kg1 Rxg2+ 28 Kf1 Rh1+ 29 Bg1 Rhxg1#

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**JUNIOR NEWS**

**WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS** at Cannes, 8-12 December 1997. Bit out of date, but we’ve only just received the information, and half the English contingent were SCCU. More than 500 played, *four* of them English (a source of wonder to many of the other countries). No medals, but **Under 14** Desmond Tan (Surrey) 6½/11; **Under 14 Girls** Heather Richards (Kent) 7/11; **Under 12** Simon Buckley 6½/11; **Under 10** Gawain Jones 7/11. Results Sue Richards

**LANGLEY PARK JUNIOR** at Beckenham, 24th January 1998

**Under 18** (3 pl) 1 Martin Taylor 6/6; 2 Mark Roberts 4... Well, we’ve had six-round Swisses with seven and eight players, how about three? In fact they played a double-round APA and the byes seem to have got added to the scores.

**Under 16** (4 pl, double-round APA again) 1 Thomas Rendle 5/6; 2 Andrew Bigg 3...

**Under 14** (23 pl) 1 Oliver Cooley 6/6; 2 Amir Habibi 4½; 3-6 Thomas Sharp, Russell Scott, Richard Cheeseman, Joseph Al Malah 4...

**Under 11** (31 pl) 1 Daniel Diamond 5½/6; 2-6 Karim Habibi, Zakerey Bennett, Samuel Lim, Thomas Stradwick, Arwen Van Der Elst 4½; 7-10 Adam Boakes, Matthew Bates, Laura Weatherhead 4...

**Under 9** (17 pl) 1-2 Christopher Collison, Gregory Wellman 5/6; 3-6 Geoffrey Walters, Lechj Sikorski, James McKeever, David Christie 4... Results David Brown

**CANTERBURY JUNIOR** 7th February 1998

**Under 18/14** (18 pl) 1-3 Robert Wilson (Sevenoaks), Andrew Bigg (Hayes), Paul Higgins (Sevenoaks) 4½/6; 4-5 Russell Scott (Danson), Raymond Gosden (Whitstable) 4...

**Under 11** (21 pl) 1-2 Thomas Stradwick, Adam Boakes (both Bromley); 3 Stephan Wassermann-Fry (Sevenoaks) 4½; 4-7 Edward Coughlan (Sevenoaks), Gregory Jones, Robin Jones (both Maidstone), Sarah Broadbent (Bromley) 4...

**Under 9** (13 pl) 1-4 James McKeever (“Steephill”), Aram Karakashian (Danson), Christopher Collison (Maidstone), Joseph Arigho-Stiles (Sevenoaks) 6/8; 5 Matthew Hadfield (Maidstone) 5½...

**“TIMES” NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP** Interzonal stage

Rd 1 Bedford Modern (16.0) 1½ 4½ Northgate High Ipswich (14.2); Hymers College Hull (14.10) 2½ 3½ King Edward VI Camp Hill Birmingham (15.5); K Edward VII Lytham (15.3) 2½ 3½ Bluecoat Liverpool (13.7); Q Elizabeths Barnet (16.0) 3 3\* Aylesbury GS (15.2); Q Elizabeth Wakefield (13.6) 3½ 2½ Yarm School (where?: 14.7); Radyr School Cardiff (13.4) 3½ 2½ Hereford Cathedral School (14.8); St Columbs College Derry 16.1) 2 4 Hyndland School Glasgow (16.5); St Pauls London (16.4) 5½ ½ Winchester College (15.11); Temple Sutton Southend (10.11) 0 6 Maidstone Boys GS (14.5)

 Rd 2 (last 16) Bluecoat v QE Wakefield; Hampton v Torquay GS; Hyndland v Nairn Academy; Camp Hill v Magdalen College School Oxford; Maidstone GS v Tiffin Kingston upon Thames; Manchester Grammar v Radyr; Northgate v Nottingham High; Aylesbury GS v St Pauls

**Plate** Bedford Modern (B team?:12.0) 1 5 Magdalen College School (B team?: 12.6); Bolton School (12.3) 1 5 Lancaster RGS (15.10); Fitzalan High Cardiff (14.11) 0 6 Torquay Boys GS (13.2); Greenwood Academy v RGS Newcastle; Hasmonean High Hendon (14.3) 2 4 K Harold School Waltham Abbey (13.11); Kings College School Wimbledon (14.4) 6 0 Oathall Community College Haywards Heath (13.4); North Bridge House (12.2) 4 2 Haberdashers Askes Elstree (13.2); Q Elizabeths Junior School Wakefield (10.5) beat Old Hall Comprehensive Rotherham (13.11); Shrewsbury School w/o Katherine Lady Berkeleys School Wooton Under Edge (where?).

 Rd 2 (last 16) Arden Solihull v Shrewsbury School; K Harold v St Olaves Orpington; Lancaster RGS v Greenwood Academy *or* RGS Newcastle; Magdalen College School v Torquay GS; Nicolson Institute Stornoway v Methodist College Belfast; North Bridge House v Ipswich School; Q Elizabeths v Kings School Grantham; Westminster School v Kings College School Wimbledon

 Yes, three schools (and a pair) were in both Championship and Plate. Results Mitchell Taylor

**ROTARY UK CHESS CHALLENGE** is in its third year and entries are up by 36% in terms of schools, and 39% in terms of players. 1997-8 totals: 986 schools, 33 386 players. Surrey are top on both counts. SCCU figures, with national rankings: 1 Surrey 108 (4131); 2 Middx 66 (2317); 5 Essex 52 (1890); 7 Kent 50 (1690); 11 Sussex 27 (840); 13 Herts 23 (840); 14 Berks 24 (765); 15 Bucks 22 (750); 22 Oxon 18 (555). It goes down to 38-9 Guernsey and Jersey, both on 1 (30). Scotland and Wales, being rather big counties, are 6th and 8th respectively. Biggest school entries are Park Hill (Essex) and RGS Newcastle with 120 players each.

 Megafinals are 2nd or 3rd April (except Scotland); Gigafinal is 12th July at Nottingham; and Terafinal (a 16‑player KO) is 29th August in London.

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“If your postcode starts with CR, SE, SW or SM, you are eligible for East Surrey: and if it starts with GU, KT, RG, RH or TW, you are eligible for West Surrey.” - East Surrey Girls v West Surrey Girls (Freeman Challenge Cup) 20.6.98. There’s going to be border wars in SE if Kent see that.

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**NEW COMPETITION NEXT YEAR?**

Nigel Dennis has circulated proposals for a possible SCCU U14 inter-county competition. Teams of ?12, with a grading restriction (?U90). If everyone plays, he suggests three preliminary groups (APA ?double round); and a jamboree final for the three winners, which might be held alongside the U18 qualifiers. There has not yet been time to get reactions from the counties.

 For other NWD proposals, see Executive Report (page 2).

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**SCCU UNDER 18 JAMBOREES**

7th March 1998 at Watford Boys School

The boys have first names as well this time, so we’ve printed them all. Oh, except for Bucks. Bucks gave first names for girls only, so Bucks players of both sexes just get their initials. Spotted three wrong grades from the BCF August list, but it’s the season for that. We weren’t looking for them, and didn’t check for others; so grades as supplied, even where known to be wrong.

 White on left. 35 in 1¾ + QPF 30/30.

**MAJOR COUNTIES** (on right hand side, White “floated” up)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  1 Tim Hebbes 174 E 0 1 Mark Roberts 180 K 2 Matthew Broomfield 171 S 1 0 Simon Armour 161 E 3 Thomas O’Brien 155 E ½ ½ Michael Duggan 170 S 4 Alvin Kissoon 165 K ½ ½ Lawrence Trent 120 E 5 Bobby Payne 118 E ½ ½ Rosalind Kieran 153 K 6 Sujit Kapadia 149 S ½ ½ Iain Gunn 116 E 7 Robert Giddens 116 E ½ ½ Martin Moore - S 8 Andrew Bigg 135 K 1 0 def E 9 Graham Walker 96 E 0 1 Leigh Bennett 131 K10 Keval Gudka - S 0 1 Josiah Lutton 96 E11 Stewart Trent 93 E 0 1 Nicholas Bawden 93 S12 Paul Richards 97 K 1 0 Jason Klimach 78 E | Martin Taylor 178 K 1 0 Thomas Thrower 182 SAndrew Bamford 170 S ½ ½ Matthew Noakes 170 KPeter Titmas 138 K ½ ½ Oliver Payne 151 SKevin Tam 113 S ½ ½ Stephen Casement 137 KKevin Smyth 129 K 1 0 Gavin Chu 89 SChristopher Hoffman - S 0 1 Simon Thanesan 124 K |

Positions: 1 Kent (mean grade 145) 9½/12; 2 Surrey (132) 5; 3 Essex (119) 3½.

**MINOR COUNTIES**

On unnumbered boards, White “floated” up.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  1 Adam Hunt 208 O ½ ½ Costas Harris 163 H Peter Jackson 150 H ½ ½ Aiden Leech 187 Br 2 David Gold 172 Br ½ ½ Thomas Rendle S 3 Liam Blanc 168 Br 1 0 K Thursby 141 Bu John Bryant 89 S ½ ½ Wayne Tutty 123 O 4 James Buchanan 105 O ½ ½ James Foster 128 Br 5 Graham Morris 105 O 0 1 A Hughes 127 Bu Ivana Houska 123 Br 1 0 def H 6 K Nicholas 125 Bu 1 0 Edward Lamb 96 S 7 Adrian Jones 112 Br 1 0 Oliver Taylor 48 O Simon Wright 83 O 1 0 Daniel Triggs 86 S 8 L Goodwin 106 Bu 0 1 Malcolm Bovey 108 Br 9 Kenneth Hunt 105 O 0 1 Nick Chandler 95 H Jonathan Griffin - H 1 0 Mark Honickberg 91 Br10 Andrew Navias 95 Br 0 1 David Boyle 61 S11 Joshua Pitts 87 Br 0 1 T Fuller 88 Bu Charlie Linford - S 0 1 Claire Morris 77 O12 Judith Rawlings 54 O ½ ½ Tom Sams 63 Br | Laurence Rackham 142 S ½ ½ M George 160 BuS Clark 147 Bu 0 1 Stephen Bough OChristopher Lovisa 147 H 1 0 Ben McManus 128 ST Quilter 130 Bu 0 1 Lorin D’Costa 141 HRhys Bowen 97 S 0 1 Liam Varnam 124 Br def H 0 1 Jonathan Kennedy 87 OIain Murray - H 0 1 H Lossock 102 BuMatthew Moore 106 S ½ ½ Andrew Tang - HDavid Howell 85 S 1 0 A Thorpe 82 BuE Cormack 91 Bu 1 0 Robin Netherway 81 OOliver Drasar 113 H 1 0 Peter Baker 70 SN Balderson 89 Bu ½ ½ Paul McGowan 50 H |

Positions: 1 (tie-break) Berks (mean grade 121) 7/12; 2 Herts (113) 7; 3-4 Bucks (116), Oxon (101) 6; 5 Sussex (96) 4. Not sure what tie-break method was in use, but it’s hard to think of one that puts Herts first.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **GIRLS FIRST TEAMS**On unnumbered boards, White “floated” up. 1 Iva Anguelov 144 M 1 0 Ellen Walker 117 Heather Walker 77 E 0 1 Ruth Bates 161 S 2 Claire Thrower 148 S 1 0 Alison Winston 97 M 3 Lucy Styles 92 M ½ ½ Lucy Broomfield 133 S Jo Hart 130 S 1 0 Francesca Berlin 56 E 4 Isobel Huang-Doran - E 0 1 Mary Hinks-Edwards 91 M 5 def M 0 1 Leah Oaker 41 E Laura Perham - E 0 1 Kate Feld 97 S 6 Anna Partington 68 S 0 1 Naomi Attar 78 MPositions: 1 Surrey (mean 123) 4½/6; 2 Middx (98) 3½; 3 Essex (63) 1 | **GIRLS SECOND TEAMS****Surrey Middx**Jessie Gilbert 91 (B) 1 0 Hannah Storer 77Ali Wilson 67 1 0 Elaine Bettany -Joanne Sui Tit Tong 46 1 0 Annake Treon -Sarah Hegarty 79 1 0 Sacha Malde -Harriet Bates 67 1 0 Shilpa Kodati -Laura Cooke - 1 0 Susannah Pritchard - **6 0**They called this a jamboree, but we thought we’d print it like a match. |
| **FRIENDLIES** (for grading, if anyone’s doing it):Ivana Houska 123 Br 1 0 Andrew Bigg 135 KJonathan Kennedy 87 O 1 0 Leah Oaker 41 E |  |

**QUALIFICATION FOR BCF FINALS** (“Boys” 4th April, Girls 23rd May)

In each event, one team qualifies. They’ve been known to accept two nominations, to fill gaps no doubt. NWD

has asked what the chances are in the “Boys” Minor, and awaits a reply. The Finals once again include a Girls

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Second Teams event, and the BCF will be running it themselves this time. There is also a Girls Minor event. Can we fiddle Middx in as Minor? Wouldn’t ask, only no one’s ever told us what Minor means in U18 circles. Ah, DRS has found out. It’s in the 1993 Yearbook. One of these days we’ll get the BCF to put all their rules in every time, and not make you scurry around in the loft finding out which YB it’s in. Well, it’s where our copy was, after the spring clean. You’re Minor if you haven’t been nominated in the Major in either of the two previous years. Unless they’ve changed it since. Research in past Bulletins (not in the loft) suggests that Middx *are* Minor.

**NYCA UNDER 16 CHAMPIONSHIPS** at Solihull, 14th March 1998

1 Richmond 31/36; 2 Kent 29½; 3 Glamorgan 23½; 4-5 Bucks, Manchester 23; 6 Warwicks 21½; 7-8 Cheshire, Wilts 16½; 9-10 Surrey, Yorks 14½; 11 Berks 13½; 12 Staffs 4½; 13 Lincs 2½ Results AJW Thorn

**KENT** Primary Championships 28th February 1998

**U11** (16 pl) 1 Edmund Birkhamshaw 5/6; 2 Harry Shaw 4½; 3-4 Sara Higgins, Robert White 4...

**U10** (15 pl) 1 Amir Habibi 5½/6; 2 Stephan Wassermann-Fry 5; 3-4 Daniel Diamond, David Franklin 4...

**U9** (18 pl) 1 Thomas Sharp 5/6; 2-3 Karim Habibi, Jason Halle 4½...

 **Schools League** 1997-8: Senior last-four event 18.3.98. From 14 entrants, St Olaves GS Orpington managed to get an “A” and a “B” team to the last four. No one’s done that before. But Maidstone GS stole the show by regaining the title they lost to St Olaves last year. St Olaves “A” were second. Results Us

**ESSEX** Junior Championships 28th Feb / 1st March 1998

**U18/16/14** (20 ent) 1 Lawrence Trent (Ilford: age 11) 5½/6; 2-4 Michael Bridger (Leigh on Sea), Iain Gunn (Maldon), J Ezra Lutton (Basildon) 4...

**U11** (27 ent) 1 Nicholas Jellett (Southend) 5½/6; 2 Matthew Jellett (Southend) 5; 3 Andrew Murphy (Stock) 4½...

**U9** (24 ent) 1 Abigail Flint (age 7: Chelmsford) 5½/6; 2-3 David Smith (Saffron Walden), Joe Martin (Saffron Walden) 5; 4 Alex O’Toole (Southend) 4½... Results *Chessex*

**EPSCA ZONALS**

**Under 11** at Maidenhead 21st March 1998

1 Wilts 40/60; 2 (tie-break presumably) Hants 40; 3 Devon 38½; 4 Somerset 38; 5 Bucks 31; 6 Sussex 30½; 7 Cornwall 21½; 8 Berks 20½; 9 South Glos 10. Top four qualified for Final. Believe they split ties on Number of Wins. When we mentioned the Football League a while ago, someone said we were out of date. But we understand that, whatever they’re called now, they attach even more weight to Wins than EPSCA do. Fair enough, if you’re consistent about it. But can it be right to score draws as half a win, then devalue them on tie-break?

**Under 9** 14th March 1998

**South-East** at Barnet: 1 Richmond 31½/36; 2 Barnet 25½; 3 Kent 25; 4 Wey Valley 24½; 5 Sussex 23½; 6 Essex 20; 7 NW London 17½; 8 Bucks 14; 9 Suffolk 12; 10 Herts 9; 11 S London 7½; 12 Croydon 5. Top 5 qualified.

**“Yeovil”** at Yeovil: 1 Somerset 27/37; 2 Devon 19; 3 Wilts 16½; 4 Berks 16; 5 Hants 15½; 6 Cornwall 14. Top three qualified, and Hants get there as hosts. Results (but not comments) Nigel Dennis, Brian Lacey

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**ESSEX**: North Essex League 7½ 9½ Southend and District League 28.2.98. “The absence of Writtle players was due to a clash of fixtures”, but the Bulletin doesn’t know which side the Writtle players would have been on. Writtle were engaged in a double-round friendly against Freising (Germany), which they won 12½-7½; followed by an APA 5-minute match which they won 51½-48½. (Work that one out.) Former Writtle player Christoph Braun was top board for Freising, and we don’t know whether Writtle had him on loan from Freising in the first place.

 Essex Centenary arrangements are well advanced. There will be a match Essex Past v Essex Present on the 3rd October 1998, and a match v Rest of SCCU on the 11th. Plus a Centenary Dinner.

**NATIONAL CLUB**

Pre-season questionnaire to entrants: (1) As the prizes are now equal, should the entry fees be the same for all sections? (2) Should the Scots and Welsh continue to go straight to the last 16 in the Open? (3) Should the U125 and U100 be a car-friendly 4 boards rather than 5? (4) Should there be limits on mean grade rather than straight Under X, and if so should there still be a (higher) straight maximum? (This presumably means all sections except the Open, though only the U100 is mentioned. Questionnaire suggests that the idea would be a mean of U100, but you’d have to change the figure if you wanted to maintain the strength of the competition.) Just noticed (5): Should the Open regain its qualifying place in the European Club? There’ll be ructions if they raise that *again*.

\* means win on board count or elimination. Or handicap presumably, in the Handicap.

**Open** (22 English entries)

Rd2: Atherton 3 3\* Ilford; Bristol & Clifton 3 3\* Maidstone; Crowthorne 5 1 Hastings & St Leonards; Keynsham 2 4 Slough; Wood Green 5½ ½ Bradford.

Rd3 (by 5th April): Crowwood v Wood Green; Ilford v Crowthorne; Maidstone v Wandering Dragons; Slough v Atticus. The Bulletin cannot place Wandering Dragons or Crowwood. Neither name appears in our BCF club list.

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**Plate** Rd 1 Hayes Kent 3½ 2½ Hounslow. Rd2 Bedford v Grimsby & District; Charlton v Gloucester; Guildford v Hayes Kent; Mushrooms v Southbourne.

**Major** U175 (20 entries)

Rd 2 Great Lever (Gtr Mcr) 3½ 1½ Hunts Cross (?); Northampton 2 3 Writtle; Southbourne 4 1 Maidstone.

Rd 3 Great Lever v Morecambe; Guildford v Gloucester; Hastings v Writtle; Southampton v Southbourne.

**Plate** Rd 1 Cosham 3 2 Teignmouth. Rd 2 Undercliffe (Yorks) v Bradford; Huddersfield v Warley Quinborne; Kingston v Milton Keynes; Reading v Cosham.

**Intermediate** U150 (34 entries)

Rd 2 Wood Green 2 3 Waltham Forest. Round 3 Ashfield 4 1 Hereford; Eastbourne 3 2 Phoenix; Gt Lever 3 2 Grimsby; Hammersmith 1½ 3½ Bourne End, Maidstone 3 2 Bedford; Morecambe 2 3 Rose Forgrove; Thornbury \*2½ 2½ Walsall Kipping; Southbourne *no result* v Waltham Forest.

Rd4 (by 14 Apr) Bourne End v Eastbourne; Rose Forgrove v Gt Lever; Southbourne *or* Waltham Forest v Maidstone; Thornbury v Ashfield.

**Plate** Rd1 Basingstoke 2½ 2½ \*Cosham; Cardiff 3½ 1½ Reading; Hastings 3 2 Ashford; Northampton WMC 3½ 1½ Warley Quinborne; Prescot & Knotty Ash 3½ 1½ Crusaders; Southend 3 2 Wanstead & Woodford; Tunbridge Wells 1 4 Kings Head; Yorkshire Copperworks w/o scr Heywood.

Rd2 Cardiff v Northampton WMC; Cosham v Hastings; Kings Head v Southend; Prescot & KA v Yorkshire Copperworks.

**Minor** U125 (37 entries)

Rd 2 Hereford 1½ 3½ Aberystwyth; West End 0 5 Alwoodley (both Yorks); Rose Forgrove (Yorks) 2 3 Tamworth (Staffs); Rushall (Staffs) *no result* v Grays; Heywood (Gtr Mcr) 1½ 3½ Amber Valley (Derbys); Cowley 3 2 Basingstoke; Kings Head *no result* v Bourne End; Southampton Univ 1 4 Maidstone; Whitstable w/o scr Capablanca (?); Southampton 2 3 Tunbridge Wells.

Rd3 Maidstone v Whitstable; Kings Head *or* Bourne End v Rushall *or* Grays. Rest have byes. Now there’s a man who won’t give you a bye because your result’s late. Another course might have been to tell them thanks very much and we don’t need Rd3 now. But the Bulletin doesn’t know the circumstances.

Rd4 Aberystwyth v Kings Head *or* Bourne End *or* Rushall *or* Grays (!); Amber Valley v Alwoodley; Tamworth v Cowley; Tunbridge Wells v Maidstone *or* Whitstable.

**Plate** Rd1 Musketeers (WECU) 3 2 Totnes; Great Lever (Gtr Mcr) 3½ 1½ Prescot & Knotty Ash; Barton Youth Centre (?) scr w/o Ashfield (Notts); Reading w/o scr Kilndown; Phoenix 1 4 Waltham Forest. Byes: Hastings, Hull, Walsall Kipping.

Rd2 Ashfield v Hull; Musketeers v Reading; Walsall Kipping v Gt Lever; Waltham Forest v Hastings.

*The Minor, subject to initial delays when its designated controller didn’t control it, suffered further misadventures but is believed to be on an even keel now. The Chief Controller, Bob Turnham, has taken over.*

**Under 100** (9 entries)

Rd2 (by 8 March) Reading v Maidstone; Basingstoke v Grappenhall (NCCU?) or Finchley.

**Plate** Rd1 Syston (Leics) v Grays; Eastbourne v Coulsdon & Purley.

**Handicap Rapidplay** (at least 22 entries). Mean grades in brackets, but we don’t know the handicap rules. See if you can work them out.

Rd2 Poulton Le Fyld (137) 0 8 White Swan (Gtr Mcr) 181; Southbourne (182) 5½ 2½ \*Keynsham (143); Rainham (188) 4½ 3½ \*Bourne End (162); Crowthorne (193) 3 5 Slough (168).

Rd3 White Swan v Crowley; Bourne End v Guildford A; Slough v Maidstone; Bedford v Keynsham.

**Plate** Rd1 Basingstoke (147) 2 6 Cardiff (173); Imperial College (159) 7 1 University of London (146). Rd2 Abercynon v Cardiff; Gt Lever v Imperial College; Mushrooms v Basildon; Southampton Univ v Guildford B.

With acknowledgments to the various controllers. The Bulletin hopes it’s added the initial entries up correctly.

Time for some County Matches. We’ll have a Game first.

*White* **KR Clark** (Herts), *Black* **JH Hodgson** (Essex)

County match: Open 28.2.98

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Bc4 Qc7 6.Qe2 Nb6 7.Bb3 d3 8.Qe4 Qc6 9.Nd2 Qxe4+ 10.Nxe4 Nc6 11.Nf3 h6 12.0-0 g5 13.Re1 g4



                    White to play

14.Nd6+ exd6 15.exd6+ Kd8 16.Ng5 hxg5 17.Bxg5+ Be7 18.Rxe7 Nxe7 19.Bxf7 Nbd5 20.Re1 d2



                   White to play

21.Rxe7 d1Q+ 22.Re1+ Ne7 23.Bxe7#

U175 county match Essex-Surrey 7.2.98 (Essex White) 1 d4 d5 2 Bf4 c5 3 e3 Qb6 4 Nc3 a6 5 Nxd5 Qa5+ 6 c3 f6 7 Bc7 1-0 “Is seven moves a record for a decisive game in an SCCU competition?” It may be, but if so it was equalled six weeks later by another member of the team, against Sussex this time. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.d4 Nc6 5.Be2 Nxe4 6.d5 Ne5 7.Qa4+ 1-0

In a recent match, the two sides sent in differing results for one of the games. Unconfirmed reports say it was the classic case. The players shook hands. Then one of them told his match captain, “I won”; and the other one told his match captain, “I drew”. Not sure how the captains would have sorted that out, ten days afterwards, but it is sorted. 240:9

**SCCU COUNTY MATCHES: FINAL LEAGUE TABLES**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OPEN** |  K | Sx |  C |  H |  E | Br | Sy | Bu |  O | GP | MP |
| 1 Kent |  |  8 |  8 | 12 | 10½ | 11 |  8½ | 13½ |  8½ | 80 | 7 |
| 2 Sussex |  8 |  | 10 | 10½ |  6½ | 12 | 13 | 10 | 10½ | 80½ | 6½ |
| 3 Cambs |  8 |  6 |  | 10½ |  9½ | 13 | 13½ | 11½ | 12 | 84 | 6½ |
| 4 Herts |  4 |  5½ |  5½ |  | 10½ | 11½ |  9 |  8½ | 11½ | 66 | 5 |
| 5 Essex |  5½ |  9½ |  6½ |  5½ |  |  9 | 10½ |  9 | 10½ | 66 | 5 |
| 6 Berks |  5 |  4 |  3 |  4½ |  7 |  |  8½ |  9 |  9½ | 50½ | 3 |
| 7 Surrey |  7½ |  3 |  2½ |  7 |  5½ |  7½ |  | 11½ |  8½ | 53 | 2 |
| 8 Bucks |  2½ |  6 |  4½ |  7½ |  7 |  7 |  4½ |  | 11½ | 50½ | 1 |
| 9 Oxon |  7½ |  5½ |  4 |  4½ |  5½ |  6½ |  7½ |  4½ |  | 45½ | 0 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **UNDER 175** |  E | Sy | Sx |  K |  E | Sy | Sx |  K | GP | MP |
| 1 Essex |  | 10½ | 10½ | 10 |  | 10½ | 12 | 12 | 65½ | 6 |
| 2 Surrey |  5½ |  |  8 | 11½ |  5½ |  |  9 |  9 | 48½ | 3½ |
| 3 Sussex |  5½ |  8 |   |  5½ |  4 |  7 |  | 16d | 46 | 1½ |
| 4 Kent |  6 |  4½ | 10½ |  |  4 |  5 |  0d |  | 30 | 1 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **UNDER 150** |  K |  E |  M |  H | Sy | Sx | GP | MP |
| 1 Kent |  |  8 | 10 |  8½ | 11 | 11 | 48½ | 4½ |
| 2 Essex |  8 |  | 10 |  8½ |  8 |  9 | 43½ | 4 |
| 3 Middx |  6 |  6 |  |  8½ | 10 | 12 | 42½ | 3 |
| 4 Herts |  7½ |  7½ |  7½ |  |  7½ |  8½ | 38½ | 1½ |
| 5 Surrey |  5 |  8 |  6 |  7½ |  |  8 | 34½ | 1½ |
| 6 Sussex |  5 |  7 |  4 |  7½ |  8 |  | 31½ |  ½ |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **UNDER 125** |  O |  H | Sy |  E | Sx |  K | GP | MP |
| 1 Oxon |  |  8 |  8 |  8½ |  8 | 10 | 42½ | 3½ |
| 2 Herts |  8 |  |  8 |  7½ |  9½ | 12 | 45 | 3 |
| 3 Surrey |  8 |  8 |  | 12½ |  8 |  4 | 40½ | 2½ |
| 4 Essex |  7½ |  8½ |  3½ |  | 12½ |  8 | 40 | 2½ |
| 5 Sussex |  8 |  6½ |  8 |  3½ |  |  9 | 35 | 2 |
| 6 Kent |  6 |  4 | 12 |  8 |  7 |  | 37 | 1½ |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **UNDER 100** | Sy |  E |  H |  M | Sy |  E |  H |  M | GP | MP |
| 1 Surrey |  |  6½ |  6½ |  8 |  |  5½ |  8 |  4 (32½) | 38½ | 4 |
| 2 Essex |  5½ |  |  8½ |  5 |  6½ |  |  6½ | 12d (32 ) | 44 | 4 |
| 3 Herts |  5½ |  3½ |  |  7½ |  |  4 |  5½ |  |  9 |  | 35 | 2 |
| 4 Middx |  4 |  7 |  4½ |  |  |  8 |  0d |  3 |  |  | 26½ | 2 |

Results boxed have been used for tie-break where teams finished level on matches. In two cases the tie remained and it went to overall game points. Which, in the U100, meant a further complication: one of the teams tying for first place had won a match by default. For tie-break purposes those 12 points did not count towards overall games. The other tying team, correspondingly, was docked the average of the two scores it made against the defaulter. It’s in the rules. Figures in brackets are game points after this adjustment.

 The rule *can* mean that it’s against a team’s interests to win by default. In Essex’s case the end‑of-season default ensured their place in the BCF Stage, but robbed them of the chance to come first. They have lodged an appeal against the application of the rule.

**BCF Stage**

Qualifiers: top two in each competition (three in Open). Minor Counties: 1 Herts, 2 Berks. Draw for BCF Stage:

**Open** Quarter-final (A) W1 v M2 (B) M1 v S3 (C) N v S2 (D) S1 v W2

**Minor** Quarter-final (A) E1 v M3 (B) W v M2 (C) M1 v S2 (D) S1 v E2

**Under 175** Quarter-final (A) E v M2 (B) S1 v N2 (C) N1 v M1 (D) W v S2

**Under 150** Preliminary round (X) E2 v M2 (Y) S2 v W2; Quarter-final (A) W1 v (X) (B) S1 v N2 (C) N1 v (Y) (D) E1 v M1

**Under 125** Preliminary round (X) N2 v W; Quarter-final (A) E1 v M2 (B) M1 v E2 (C) N1 v S2 (D) S1 v (X)

**Under 100** Quarter-final (A) W v N1 (B) M1 v S2 (C) E v N2 (D) S1 v M2

**Semi-finals, all events** (A) v (C) (B) v (D)

Dates, all divisions: Preliminary round 25th April; Quarter-finals 16th May; Semi-finals 13th June; Finals Saturday 4th July

**Players**

C Kremer (Cambs v Sussex 17.1.98, last issue) was C Kreuzer. We queried it but didn’t solve it. Sussex match captain isn’t the only one this season who’s had trouble with Cambs handwriting. Cambs aren’t the worst.

There’s a new candidate for Most Over-Qualified Tea Boy. In a critical end-of-season match, a player graded well over 200 turned up only to find that his match captain had thought him unavailable. Too late to put him in, so he stayed on and helped with the teas.

**Published grades**

Noticed, by accident, that a match captain in one of the grading-limited divisions has been using uncorrected grades from the BCF Autumn list. Two (maybe more?) of his players were affected; fortunately, eligibility wasn’t. Got a note, later, from an Open match captain who’s been doing the same thing. The SCCU list, which incorporates the corrections, was official for SCCU matches. The corrections *are* in force for the BCF stage. The rules refer to the BCF grading list “current on the 1st September”. BCF’s correction-supplement was pre-season all right. Not sure whether it really *was* out by the 1st September, but if it wasn’t the front cover pretends it was. Which neatly avoids deciding what “current” means when a grade gets corrected after the 1st September. Like February, say. Or March (or April?) if you’re late. Last we heard, they still hadn’t decided whether the “February” corrections would apply.

240:10

**COUNTY MATCH RESULTS**

(Complete. Everything’s in.)

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| **OPEN** |
|  **Cambs**\* 31.1.98 **Essex**\* 1 J Parker 243 (W) ½ ½ JW Rogers 217 2 M Turner 233 1 0 AP Lewis 212 3 M Ferguson 226 1 0 DJ Coleman 208 4 H Hunt 217 1 0 DA Sands 204 5 A Cohen 213 0 1 M Twyble 200 6 A Harley 206 0 1 JP Manley 205 7 D Moskovic 204 ½ ½ G Kenworthy 200 8 D Hassabis 199 ½ ½ JH Hodgson 196 9 M Shephard e195 ½ ½ PL Williamson 18410 S Foister e190 0 1 MC Rich 18411 M Thornton 187 0 1 JA Goldberg 17812 P Scott 182 1 0 RP White 18713 D Rosenberg 177 ½ ½ R Parker 17714 B Morgan 171 1 0 JC Moore 18215 S White 169 1 0 W Saunders 17116 S Larski 167 1 0 I Myall 168(Cambridge) **9½ 6½** | **Kent**\* 17.1.98 **Herts**\*Neil McDonald 237 1 0 Phil G Maguire 198 (W)Philip Morris 223 1 0 Steve Sorenson 201James Vigus 210 ½ ½ Philip Borman 201 1Andy Mack 202 ½ ½ Paul V Byway 196Lyndon Gurr 201 ½ ½ Jerry F Rudge 186John Sugden 196 1 0 Kevin R Clark 188John Naylor 201 1 0 Andrew Gilfillan 187David Farndon 194 0 1 Howard L Tebbs 182John Wager 193 1 0 JN Fraser-Mitchell 179Peter Taylor 191 ½ ½ Chris E Majer 180Gordon Botley 191 ½ ½ John R Denton 177Alexis Harakis 188 1 0 Philip J Gregory 169Chris Howell 188 ½ ½ Barry Morris 161Rory O’Kelly 183 1 0 David E Bower 159Nigel Donovan 180 1 0 John Cook 158Chris Rice 171 1 0 David M Hill 150(Charlton House) **12 4**1 Bd 3: can’t identify |
|  **Oxon**\* 31.1.98 **Sussex**\* 1 M Devereaux 208 (B) ½ ½ DH Cummings 208 2 A Hunt 208 ½ ½ FJ Kwiatkowski 204 3 M Rose 197 0 1 DB Graham 204 4 A Lewis 183 0 1 LE Rutherford 198 5 J Wittman 186 0 1 GH James 6 T Dickinson 185 1 0 B Cafferty 192 7 S Jayakumar 180 0 1 KI Norman 198 8 G Chapman 172 0 1 MD Nicholas 192 9 R Starkie 171 0 1 M Broom 19310 D Bruce 166 0 1 SJ Newman 18711 M Hannon 165 1 0 JA Dodgson 17912 J Stayt 166 0 1 PG Farr 17913 S Terry 160 1 0 MR Stott 17714 N Hepworth 154 0 1 MO Costley 17615 P Ball 150 1 0 RJ Almond 17516 W Burt 149 ½ ½ J Graham 165(Long Hanborough) **5½ 10½** | **Berks**\* 31.1.98 **Bucks**\*PS Cooksey 200 (B) 0 1 Richard Webb 211DS Tucker 187 0 1 Andrew P Smith 202KD Smallbone 184 1 0 Gerald Moore 202PJ Sharp 183 1 0 Jonathan Beedle 184MV Taylor 180 ½ ½ Robert J Richmond 185DL Roberts 177 1 0 Leon Wooldridge 174I Duvall 176 ½ ½ Roger de Coverly 173IR Henderson 170 1 0 AMJ Robbings 172ACP Milnes 170 1 0 MJ Armstrong 166PS Janota 168 1 0 Anthony G Kelly 165J Townsend 167 ½ ½ Matthew George 160MC Bowhay 166 0 1 Stephen Law 156PR Maul 155 0 1 William EC Hughes 156MF Redmond 156 1 0 Andy Huxley e150PAF Watkins 152 ½ ½ Brian Atkinson 150BG Millis 148 0 1 Andrew J Hughes 127(Wokingham) **9 7** |
|  **Herts**\* 31.1.98 **Surrey** 1 Phil G Maguire 198 (B) 0 1 Richard A Bates 220 2 Simon JB Knott 226 1 0 Peter J Sowray 213 3 Steve Sorenson 201 0 1 Steve H Berry 209 4 Philip Borman 201 0 1 Russell G Granat 197 5 Paul V Byway 196 ½ ½ Rawle A Allicock 196 6 Jerry F Rudge 186 1 0 Jon C Benjamin 194 7 Alastair M Simpson 187 1 0 Kevin D Richardson 192 8 Simon J Roe 185 0 1 M Anderton 2041 9 Andrew Gilfillan 187 0 1 Daniel B Rosen 19010 Kevin R Clark 188 ½ ½ Peter D Kemp 18711 Chris E Majer 180 1 0 Julien M Shepley 17412 JN Fraser-Mitchell 179 1 0 David R Sedgwick 17313 John R Denton 177 1 0 Paul Dupré 158 114 D Ross Brennan 175 0 1 Philip M Stimpson 17015 Philip Gregory 169 1 0 Chris RA Clegg 16816 Marry Morris 161 1 0 Ken FH Inwood 160(St Albans) **9 7**1 Bds 8, 13: both late substitutes, to judge from the Herts result sheet. | **Bucks**\* 14.2.98 **Cambs**\*Andrew P Smith 202 0 1 Mark Ferguson 226 1 (B)Gerald Moore 202 0 1 Brian R Kelly 222Mike Lambshire 197 1 0 Aron J Cohen 213Jonathan Beedle 184 ½ ½ David M Moskovic 204Robert Richmond 185 ½ ½ Jack Rudd 197Raymond B Edwards 185 ½ ½ Natasha Regan 194Leon Wooldridge 174 0 1 Martin Shephard e190 2Hans-Peter Hansen 180 ½ ½ Mark H Thornton 187Majid Mashayekh 173 ½ ½ Ian Gooding 177Roger de Coverly 173 ½ ½ Ben Morgan 171Andrew MJ Robbings 172 0 1 Stuart A White 169 1Malcolm Armstrong 166 0 1 Stanislav Larski 167Matthew George 160 0 1 Edward R Goodall 166 1Stephen Law 156 0 1 Mark C Campbell 153Manfred Egby 156 ½ ½ NC Pyper 151Brian Atkinson 150 0 1 Chris RL Kreuzer 130(Marlow) **4½ 11½**1 Bucks mc: “Cambridge gave grades of 226 Ferguson, 169 White, 167 Goodall. I have, however, quoted grades from the 1996/7 [1997/8? - Ed] BCF Grading list for these players. I understand  |
| that there have been some amendments of this list, which may account for the discrepancy, but I am not in receipt of these amendments.” We have printed the correct versions, and one was from Bucks. 2 Yes, the estimate has changed. |

240:11

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|  **Sussex**\* 14.2.98 **Herts**\* 1 FJ Kwiatkowski 204 1 0 Philip Borman 201 (B) 2 DB Graham 204 0 1 PV Byway 196 3 LE Rutherford 198 1 0 JF Rudge 186 4 GH James 197 1 0 KR Clark 188 5 BJ Denman - ½ ½ A Gilfillan 187 6 M Broom 193 ½ ½ HL Tebbs 182 7 SJ Newman 187 ½ ½ JN Fraser-Mitchell 179 8 JA Dodgson 179 ½ ½ CE Majer 180 9 PG Farr 179 1 0 JR Denton 17710 JM (so) Mansson 178 ½ ½ DR Brennan 17511 MR Stott 177 0 1 PJ Gregory 16912 MO Costley 176 ½ ½ Terry J Turner 16313 RJ Almond 175 1 0 B Morris 16114 RV Elliston 174 ½ ½ DE Bower 15915 IG Kelly 167 1 0 John Cook 15816 R O’Brien 171 1 0 def(Brighton) **10½ 5½** | **Essex**\* 14.2.98 **Oxon**\*JW Rogers 217 (W) 0 1 S Ansell 216AP Lewis 212 1 0 M Devereaux 208M Twyble 200 ½ ½ T Dickinson 185JP Manley 205 ½ ½ D Hackett 186G Kenworthy 200 1 0 G Chapman 172JH Hodgson 196 ½ ½ R Starkie 171PL Williamson 184 1 0 D Bruce 166JA Goldberg 178 ½ ½ L Millin 167RP White 187 0 1 N Cundy 162R Parker 177 1 0 S Terry 160JC Moore 182 1 0 N Hepworth 154D Kraszewski 183 ½ ½ N Jones 166W Saunders 171 1 0 P Ball 150R Heppinstall 170 ½ ½ M Cundy 150D Millward 168 ½ ½ W Burt 149IBN Smith 161 1 0 J Buchanan 105(Writtle) **10½ 5½** |
|  **Surrey** 14.2.98 **Kent**\* 1 Richard Bates 220 (B) ½ ½ Neil McDonald 237 2 Susan Lalic 221 ½ ½ Ian Watson 214 3 PJ Sowray 213 ½ ½ James Vigus 210 4 Stephen H Berry 209 ½ ½ Alan Hanreck 201 5 Mathew (so) N Anderton 204 1 0 Lyndon Gurr 201 6 Michael J Franklin 204 1 0 Chris Cooley 205 7 Rawle A Allicock 196 0 1 John Sugden 196 8 KD Richardson 196 ½ ½ David Farndon 194 9 David Gunter 190 0 1 Peter Taylor 19110 Daniel Rosen 190 ½ ½ Nathan Alfred 19011 Peter Kemp 187 ½ ½ Alexis Harakis 18812 Philip Stimpson 170 1 0 Gordon Botley 19113 Chris Clegg 168 0 1 James Scholes 18414 Martin Page 164 0 1 Stuart Williams 18115 Ken Inwood 160 0 1 Nigel Donovan 18016 R John Wilcox 152 1 0 Syd Jacob 162(Sutton) **7½ 8½** | **Kent**\* 25.2.98 **Sussex**\*PJ Morris 223 (B) 0 1 DH Cummings 208SW Giddins 214 ½ ½ FJ Kwiatkowski 204AL Mack 202 ½ ½ DB Graham 204AE Hanreck 201 1 0 LE Rutherford 198LR Gurr 201 0 1 GH James 197John Naylor 201 1 0 B Cafferty 192JN Sugden 196 1 0 F Rayner 193JD Wager 193 0 1 BJ DenmanPP Taylor 191 0 1 M Broom 193NSW Alfred 190 1 0 MD Nicholas 192AM Harakis 188 0 1 SJ Newman 187Ian (so) Galloway 184 1 0 JC Mansson 178RMR O’Kelly 183 0 1 PG Farr 179JR Bayford 183 ½ ½ MO Costley 176NP Donovan 181 ½ ½ MR Stott 177DJ Horton 179 1 0 RJ Almond 175(Charlton House) **8 8** |
|  **Cambs**\* 28.2.98 **Berks**\* 1 J Parker 243 (B) 1 0 def 2 M Ferguson 226 1 0 Jovanka Houska 195 3 B Kelly 222 1 0 KD Smallbone 183 4 H Hunt 217 ½ ½ DS Tucker 185 5 A Cohen 213 1 0 MV Taylor 180 6 A Harley 206 1 0 I Duvall 176 7 D Moskovic 204 1 0 JT Munday 175 8 D Hassabis 199 1 0 ACP Milnes 170 9 N Regan 194 1 0 MC Bowhay 16610 P Crocker 194 1 0 MF Redmond 15611 M Shephard e190 1 0 PR Maul 15512 M Thornton 187 ½ ½ WP Tickner 15413 def 0 1 P Watkins 15214 S Larski 167 ½ ½ DJ Lewis 14915 M Campbell 153 ½ ½ LD Varnam 12416 CJ Howell 152 1 0 Mario Houska 129(Cambridge) **13 3** | **Oxon**\* 28.2.98 **Bucks**\*Adam Hunt 208 (W) ½ ½ Richard Webb 211Tim Dickinson 185 ½ ½ AP Smith 202Jochen Wittmann 186 1 0 Gerald Moore 202Ray Starkie 171 0 1 Jonathan Beedle 184Graham Chapman 172 0 1 RJ Richmond 185Dave Bruce 166 0 1 RB Edwards 185Phil Vainker 168 ½ ½ Hans-Peter Hansen 180Nick Jones 166 0 1 Roger de Coverly 173Sean Terry 160 0 1 Majid Mashayekh 173Nick Hepworth 154 ½ ½ Malcolm Armstrong 166Peter Ball 150 1 0 AG Kelly 165Allan Short 154 0 1 Matthew George 160Mark Cundy 150 0 1 Dave Mansfield e160Simon King 142 0 1 Stephen Law 156Stephen Bough 135 ½ ½ Andy Huxley 150George Spalding 117 0 1 Stephen Clark 145(Long Hanborough) **4½ 11½** |
| 240:12 **Herts**\* 28.2.98 **Essex**\* 1 PG Maguire 198 ½ ½ AP Lewis 212 (W) 2 SJB Knott 226 1 0 DJ Coleman 204 3 Steve Swanson 201 0 1 DA Sands 204 4 Philip Borman 201 1 0 GJ Moore 207 5 JF Rudge 186 0 1 M Twyble 200 6 SJ Roe 185 1 0 JP Manley 205 7 Andrew Gilfillan 187 0 1 G Kenworthy 200 8 KR Clark 188 1 0 JH Hodgson 196 9 HL Tebbs 182 ½ ½ PL Williamson 18410 JN Fraser-Mitchell 179 1 0 JA Goldberg 17811 CE Majer 180 ½ ½ R Parker 17712 JR Denton 177 1 0 JC Moore 18213 D Ross Brennan 175 0 1 RP White 18714 SJ Tovey 168 1 0 D Kraszewski 18315 Barry Morris 161 1 0 W Saunders 17116 DE Bower 159 1 0 I Myall 168(St Albans) **10½ 5½** | **Essex**\* 14.3.98 **Kent**\*JW Rogers 217 (B) ½ ½ Neil McDonald 237AP Lewis 212 ½ ½ Danny Gormally 225DA Sands 204 ½ ½ James Vigus 215G Moore 207 ½ ½ Andrew Mack 202M Twyble 200 ½ ½ Alan Hanreck 201JP Manley 205 ½ ½ John Naylor 201G Kenworthy 200 0 1 Lyndon Gurr 201JH Hodgson 196 ½ ½ David Farndon 194D Sherman 191 ½ ½ John Wager 193P Williamson 187 0 1 Peter Taylor 191MC Rich 183 ½ ½ Paul O’Donovan 190J Goldberg 178 ½ ½ Nathan Alfred 190R Parker 177 0 1 Alexis Harakis 188RP White 187 ½ ½ Chris Howell 186JC Moore 182 0 1 Iain Galloway 184W Saunders 171 0 1 Nigel Donovan 181(Wanstead House) **5½ 10½**“This is the first match I can recall where no Essex player contrived a win. This recall goes back to the mid-1950s!” - Essex mc. It *must* be quite rare for a county team to score 34% and not win a game. |
|  **Sussex**\* 14.3.98 **Surrey** 1 DH Cummings 208 (B) 1 0 PJ Sowray 213 2 FJ Kwiatkowski 204 0 1 SH Berry 209 3 DB Graham 204 ½ ½ RA Allicock 196 4 LE Rutherford 198 1 0 DB Rosen 190 5 GH James 197 ½ ½ PD Kemp 187 6 BJ Denman - 1 0 DWW Gunter 190 7 B Cafferty 192 1 0 def 8 M Broom 193 1 0 C Briscoe 171 9 MD Nicholas 187 0 1 PM Stimpson 17010 SJ Newman 187 1 0 CRA Clegg 16811 JA Dodgson 179 1 0 MC Page 16412 PG Farr 179 1 0 PD Dupré 15813 JC Mansson 178 1 0 RJ Wilcox 15214 MR Stott 177 1 0 def15 MO Costley 176 1 0 def16 RJ Almond 175 1 0 def(Brighton) **13 3** | **Bucks**\* 15.3.98 **Herts**\*Richard Webb 211 (B) 0 1 Simon Knott 226Andrew P Smith 202 0 1 Steve Swanson 201Jonathan Beedle 184 ½ ½ Jerry F Rudge 186Robert J Richmond 185 ½ ½ Kevin R Clark 188RB Edwards 185 1 0 defHans-Peter Hansen 180 ½ ½ Howard L Tebbs 182Roger de Coverly 173 ½ ½ JN Fraser-Mitchell 179Majid Mashayekh 173 ½ ½ Chris E Majer 180AMJ Robbings 172 0 1 John R Denton 177Malcolm Armstrong 166 1 0 D Ross Brennan 175Matthew George 160 0 1 Philip J Gregory 169Dave Mansfield e160 1 0 Barry Morris 161WEC Hughes 156 1 0 David E Bowey 159Adrian Laurence 146 ½ ½ John Cook 158Brian Atkinson 150 ½ ½ Steven Weston 150Andrew J Hughes 127 0 1 Christopher Lorisa 147(Slough) **7½ 8½** |
|  **Berks**\* 14.3.98 **Oxon**\* 1 HW Murphy 193 (W) ½ ½ Adam Hunt 208 2 KD Smallbone 184 0 1 Joel Ouaknine 183 3 DS Tucker 187 ½ ½ Jochen Wittmann 186 4 PJ Sharp 183 ½ ½ Alex Lewis 183 5 I Duvall 176 0 1 Graham Chapman 172 6 JT Munday 175 ½ ½ Phil Vainker 174 7 C Purdon 172 0 1 Ray Starkie 171 8 IR Henderson 170 ½ ½ Dave Bruce 166 9 ACP Milnes 170 1 0 Lester Millin 16710 MW Marlow 165 ½ ½ Sean Terry 16011 PS Janota 168 1 0 Mark Cundy 15012 J Townsend 167 1 0 Peter Ball 15013 MC Bowhay 166 1 0 Will Burt 14914 MF Redmond 156 1 0 Soo Chuen Tan 14215 PR Maul 155 1 0 Wayne Tutty 12316 DJ Lewis 149 ½ ½ Tony Heslop 122(Newbury) **9½ 6½** | Heard from an SCCU county, not necessarily about anything in this issue: “The whole afternoon represented an object lesson by [the home side] in how not to organise a county chess match. Play got under way ten minutes late, and would have been even further delayed had the away players not set up much of the equipment. There were no score sheets provided, but fortunately the [away] captain had an emergency stock with him. There were also no refreshments, although honourable mention should be made of some of the [home] team who left the premises during play to bring back teas or coffees for their opponents.. it should not have been left to the away captain to bring back a tin of biscuits from the local Co-op. The match was played in a room with an even squeakier floor than that at the 1997 British Championships at Hove. When three fire tenders arrived.. in mid-afternoon, one began to suspect that there was some form of curse on the proceedings.” Ed: - The home side also defaulted some games, without notice, but we won’t say how many or everyone will be looking for their deerstalkers. Squeaky floor and a local Co-op will have set some of you off already. |

240:13

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| **UNDER 175** |
|  **Surrey**\* 24.1.98 **Sussex** 1 RK Thomas 174 (B) 1 0 PA Batchelor 168 2 DR Sedgwick 173 1 0 AO Pickersgill 169 3 C Briscoe 171 0 1 MJ Reddie 168 4 D Malcolm 169 1 0 ASJ Fleming 168 5 CRA Clegg 168 1 0 IG Kelly 167 6 JS White 165 ½ ½ A Hall 163 7 MC Page 164 0 1 E Pesonen 163 8 RGR Harris 164 0 1 AH Palmer 155 9 KP Mynett 162 ½ ½ PR Selby 15310 STK Wilkinson 139 0 1 P Greaves 15011 A Andrews 161 1 0 DG Ratcliffe 15012 K Inwood 160 1 0 L Rackham 14213 PD Dupré 158 ½ ½ LJ Cannon 13114 HT Jones 152 ½ ½ TJ Woods 13915 RJ Wilcox 152 0 1 RD Hirsch 13916 FC Manning 133 1 0 def(Sutton) **9 7** | **Surrey**\* 7.2.98 **Essex**\*RK Thomas 174 (W) 0 1 AR Brett 173DR Sedgwick 173 0 1 TD Coote 173Matthew Broomfield 171 0 1 Tim Hebbes 174Chris Briscoe 171 ½ ½ Roy Heppinstall 170David Malcolm 169 ½ ½ LE Marden 169CRA Clegg 168 1 0 George McNally 172JS White 165 1 0 WL Saunders 171ME Page 164 ½ ½ KW Clow 173S Macdonald-Ross 162 0 1 DJ Millward 168KFH Inwood 160 ½ ½ ID Hunnable 166Neil Maxwell 160 0 1 IBN Smith 161PD Dupré 158 0 1 CR Ramage 167ND Grey 156 ½ ½ Les J Crane 164RJ Wilcox 152 0 1 RE Waldteufel 163PR Archer 151 0 1 NH Twitchell 160STK Wilkinson 139 1 0 AD Hartland 160(Sutton) **5½ 10½** |
|  **Essex**\* 21.3.98 **Sussex** 1 Trevor D Coote 173 (W) 1 0 Andrew SJ Fleming 168 2 Tim Hebbes 174 1 0 AO Pickersgill 169 3 Larry E Marden 169 ½ ½ Michael J Reddie 168 4 George McNally 172 0 1 Paul A Batchelor 168 5 William L Saunders 171 1 0 SON Hawes 168 6 Martin McCall 171 ½ ½ Ian G Kelly 167 7 Ivan J Myall 171 1 0 Arthur Hall 163 8 David J Millward 168 ½ ½ Paul R Selby 153 9 Ivor BN Smith 161 1 0 Philip Greaves 15010 Ken W Clow 173 ½ ½ Paul Watson 14711 Colin R Ramage 167 ½ ½ LJ Cannon 13112 Ian D Hunnable 166 1 0 R Daniel Hirsch 13913 Les J Crane 164 1 0 RC Grundy 12714 Roberto E Waldteufel 163 ½ ½ David J Cork 11415 Neville H Twitchell 160 1 0 def16 Mark Weighell 161 1 0 def(Wanstead House) **12 4** | **Surrey**\*21.3.98 **Kent**RK Thomas 174 (W) ½ ½ DJR Barnes 173DR Sedgwick 173 1 0 defD Malcolm 169 0 1 S Pullinger 169CRA Clegg 168 0 1 AN Kissoon 163MC Page 164 1 0 R Everson 165RGR Harris 169 0 1 S Jacob 161S Macdonald-Ross 162 1 0 M Brougham 159A Andrews 161 1 0 J Lewin 156AN Smith 156 1 0 defA James 155 ½ ½ R Winterburn 153RJ Wilcox 152 1 0 P Wood 151PE Barnard 141 1 0 P Eldridge 146K Mehendale 132 ½ ½ I Hames 140FC Manning 133 ½ ½ A Habibi 107(Sutton)  **9 5**Boards 15 and 16 double-defaulted |

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| **UNDER 150** |
|  **Surrey**\* 31.1.98 **Kent** 1 Colin Parker 146 (W) 0 1 Cosmo Charles 149 2 Charles Fellows 146 ½ ½ Andy Heard 148 3 John Nyman 146 ½ ½ Roy Parsons 148 4 Ian McLeod 145 ½ ½ Mike Wiltshire 148 5 Rod Bell 143 ½ ½ Mark Finch 146 6 John Marshall 141 0 1 Andrew Mata 146 7 Paul Barnard 141 ½ ½ Alan Sherriff 146 8 John Hawson 140 0 1 Kerry Kingston 146 9 Kevin Wilkinson 139 1 0 Derek Davis 14510 Don Baldock 135 0 1 Simon Moate 14211 Fred Manning 133 0 1 Peter Titmas 13912 Krishna Mehendale 132 ½ ½ Stephen Casement 13713 Dennis Rattray 127 1 0 Ian Hames 14014 Jim Hale 127 0 1 Steven Chick 12815 Howard Curtis 126 0 1 Peter Childs 12816 Chris Goode 123 0 1 Mike Jones 121(Sutton) **5 11** | **Herts** 31.1.98 **Middx**\*Oliver Lenton 149 0 1 R Aw 148 (W)Bryan (so) Judkins 148 1 0 M Williams 146Christopher Lovisa 147 1 0 C Fewtrell 146Roger Lever 147 0 1 Y Tello 145Lorin D’Costa 141 0 1 G Brown 143Ronald Hughes 144 0 1 A Fulton 140John Coles 143 1 0 B Haase 140Karl Hardy 140 ½ ½ K Morris 140John Marshall 141 ½ ½ N Tomkin 139Ian Mutton 137 0 1 P Kennelly 138Anthony (so) Hall 136 ½ ½ BA Tysoe 137Mir M Wali 136 0 1 G McLeod 136Colin Kidd 136 0 1 CICH Wallace 133Simon Charles 132 1 0 E Larkman 129Dave Young 133 1 0 P Tabberer 118Thomas Wright 128 1 0 K Parr 108(“Nicholas Breakspear School”) **7½ 8½** |
| 240:14 **Sussex**\* 14.2.98 **Herts** 1 L Rackham 142 (B) ½ ½ N Rughwani 149 2 DL Roberts 148 ½ ½ O Lenton 149 3 WH Partridge 148 ½ ½ AP Primett 149 4 IK Edgson 144 ½ ½ BD Judkins 148 5 PN Kington 143 0 1 C Lovisa 147 6 K Davies 143 1 0 def 7 LJ Cannon 131 1 0 def 8 TE Rendle 132 ½ ½ J Coles 143 9 TJ Woods 139 ½ ½ P Lawrence 14310 EJ Hillier 138 ½ ½ J Marshall 14111 RD Hirsch 139 0 1 K Hardy 14012 CC Dunn 132 0 1 A Hall 13613 PH Benson 129 ½ ½ MM Wali 13614 RC Grundy 127 0 1 DP Young 13315 RA Clement 128 ½ ½ D Price 13416 JL Bryant 89 1 0 TC Wright 128(Brighton) **7½ 8½** | **Essex**\* 14.2.98 **Surrey**\*John White 147 (B) ½ ½ Colin Parker 146Stephen M Williams 147 1 0 Charles Fellows 146Thomas G Winter 147 0 1 John Nyman 146Keith S Jones 146 1 0 Ian McLeod 145David J Rawlings 136j 0 1 Paul Barnard 141 def 0 1 Kevin Wilkinson 139Tony Drake 145 0 1 Don Baldock 135Laurie J Burtt 144 0 1 Fred Manning 133Mike J Cresswell 143 ½ ½ Krishna Mehendale 132Philip Zammit 138 1 0 defDavid FC Bird 133 1 0 Jim Hale 127Ian Maclachlan 131 1 0 Howard Curtis 126Barry Sheppard 130 0 1 David Hodgson 124David G Cannan 128 1 0 defCarlton Barrett 123 0 1 Neil Clifton 106Iain Gunn 116 1 0 Alexandra Kelly 85(Wanstead) **8 8** |
|  **Middx**\* 14.3.98 **Sussex**\* 1 R Aw 148 (B) ½ ½ L Rackham 142 2 M Williams 146 1 0 DL Roberts 148 3 P Staneland (so) 109 (r) 0 1 WH Partridge 148 4 G Brown 143 1 0 IK Edgson 144 5 K Dan 142 ½ ½ K Davies 143 6 A Fulton 140 1 0 BJ Izzard 144 7 K Morris 140 1 0 R Hollinghurst 140 8 WB Haase 140 1 0 LJ Cannon 131 9 N Tomkin 139 1 0 TJ Woods 13910 W Dennison 139 1 0 EJ Hillier 13811 P Kennelly 138 ½ ½ RD Hirsch 13912 BA Tysoe 137 0 1 MR Hickman 13113 A Ogannisian 137 1 0 PH Benson 12914 G McLeod 136 ½ ½ RA Clement 12815 G Jordan 131 1 0 def16 E Larkman 129 1 0 JL Bryant 89(Northolt) **12 4** | **UNDER 125****Oxon**\* 31.1.98 **Essex**\*I Brooke 122 (B) 0 1 M Bradford 123A Heslop 122 1 0 C Barrett 123A Collins 121 ½ ½ R Ianetta (so) 123G Spalding 117 1 0 L Trent 120M Duck 116 ½ ½ T Cole 123A Wyeth 116 ½ ½ R Joyce 123M Brindley 116 1 0 R Payne 118B Cornes 114 ½ ½ W Petchey 116F Fallon 112 0 1 R Giddens 116R Langham 111 ½ ½ C Turner 113J Booker 103 1 0 D Allen 110S Grigson 102 0 1 S Collins 111D Buckland 96 0 1 M Grieve 106S Booker 96 0 1 P Flint 107P Williams 88 1 0 def 1J Kennedy 87 1 0 P Pattison 97(Long Hanborough) **8½ 7½**1 Oxon name a player; Essex say “default”. |
|  **Surrey**\* 24.1.98 **Sussex**\* 1 D Hodgson 124 (B) ½ ½ A Bradbury 124 2 D Rees 123 ½ ½ C Power 120 3 C Goode 123 0 1 P Helliwell 120 4 D Weston-Lewis 121 ½ ½ M Plumb 115 5 K Boztas 120 1 0 M Bryant 117 6 D Howes 104 (r) ½ ½ S Deere 117 7 M Daood 111 0 1 P Burgis 120 8 T Chase 114 1 0 P Dezzani e115 9 D Ramsey 115 ½ ½ CJ Parker 11710 H Wylie 114 ½ ½ D Simpkins 10711 J Xuereb 116 0 1 M Curtis 11612 D Innes 115 ½ ½ I Phillipson (so) 115 113 K Lovell 114 1 0 P Buswell 10614 C Dixon 105 ½ ½ M Moore 10615 G Morse 106 1 0 E Lamb 9616 P Battersby 96 0 1 J Bryant 89(Sutton) **8 8**1 Bd 12: corrected to 114 in August supplement (if it *is* Philipson). Noticed afterwards, by accident, that Burgis (bd 7) is also a point too high, and for the same reason. The Bulletin has done no systematic check. Sussex grades, here and elsewhere, are as supplied by the match captain(s). | **Kent**\* 14.2.98 **Oxon**\*M Jones 121 (B) 0 1 I Brooke 122R Springett 122 ½ ½ T Frost 121RC Fenn 123 ½ ½ A Collins 121G Battye 115 0 1 G Spalding 117N Lister 114 0 1 M Brindley 116D Picton 113 1 0 J Wyeth 116W Stock 115 0 1 M Duck 116PD Poland 109 0 1 B Cornes 114IB Bryan 108 1 0 Z Marham 110 2K Sanders 104 ½ ½ R Langham 111I Stoneman 104 ½ ½ F Fallon 112R Thompson 101 0 1 J Booker 103J Robertson 97 ½ ½ D Buckland 96AP Fabian 97 1 0 S Booker 96T Hogg 94 0 1 P Williams 88AT Taylor \*90 ½ ½ D Metcalfe 108(Charlton House) **6 10** |
|  **Herts**\* 7.2.98 **Surrey**\* 1 def (B) 0 1 D Hodgson 124 2 def 0 1 J McGing 123 3 C Byrne 117 1 0 D Weston-Lewis 121 4 J Leake 123 0 1 C Goode 123 5 T Lowson 112 0 1 A Hunt 122 6 T Simms (so) 112 1 0 M Daood 111 7 P Laskier 117 1 0 T Chase 114 8 J Lanaway 118 ½ ½ D Ramsey 118 9 M Barnes 121 1 0 H Wylie 11410 J Moore 110 0 1 K Lovell 11411 G Halsall 108 1 0 1 D Howes 10412 G Lunn 106 1 0 J Pol 108 213 R Morris 106 0 1 G Morse 10614 N Belinfante 109 ½ ½ K Hosea15 R Claret 103 1 0 R Morgan 9016 QA Latif 104 1 0 B Williamson 85(St Albans) **8 8**1 Bd 11: we deciphered this name by getting a list of everyone graded 108, and browsing. 2 Bd 12: same here. Fancied Pog, but Pol it was. | 240:15**Kent**\* 21.3.98 **Herts**MR Jones 121 (B) 0 1 L Noble 121RC Fenn 123 1 0 S Collins 123G Battye 115 0 1 C Byrne 117N Lister 114 0 1 L Roche 122D Picton 113 ½ ½ T Lowson 112W Stock 115 0 1 T Sims 112PD Poland 109 0 1 K Griggs e120IB Bryan 108 0 1 P Laskier 118K Sanders 104 0 1 M Barnes 121ID Stoneman 104 1 0 T Berg 110IC Smith 104 ½ ½ T Lanaway 118JR Thompson 101 0 1 J Moore 110J Robertson 97 0 1 D Marchand 109AP Fabian 97 ½ ½ G Lunn 106KE Hendrikse 97 0 1 R Morris 106T Hogg 94 ½ ½ G Halsall 108(Charlton House) **4 12** |
|  **Sussex**\* 28.2.98 **Herts**\* 1 HW Osborne 122 (B) 1 0 L Noble 121 2 Roy K Hunt 118 0 1 Steven Collins 123 3 Anthony Bradbury 124 0 1 CJ Byrne 117 4 PJ Helliwell 120 ½ ½ JA Leake 123 5 Con Power 120 0 1 T Lowson 112 6 Michael Plumb 115 1 0 TJ Sims 112 7 MA Bryant 117 1 0 K Griggs e120 8 JA Povey 114 0 1 P Laskier 117 9 David Simpkins 107 0 1 Matthew Barnes 12110 Michael Curtis 116 0 1 TE Berg 11011 Ian Philipson 115 ½ ½ ARC Humphreys 11312 John Bryant 89 1 0 J Moore 11013 Matthew Moore 106 0 1 QA Latif 10414 G Cox 105 1 0 G Lunn 10615 T Peffer 99 0 1 RE Morris 10616 N Pestelle 98 ½ ½ G Halsall 108(Bognor Regis) **6½ 9½** | **Sussex**\* 21.3.98 **Oxon**A Bradbury 124 (W) 0 1 W Tutty 123P Helliwell 120 ½ ½ I Brooke 122M Plumb 115 0 1 A Heslop 122C Power 120 ½ ½ A Collins 121M Bryant 117 1 0 T Frost 121C Parker 117 ½ ½ G Spalding 117P Dezzani e116 ½ ½ M Duck 116M Curtis 116 0 1 Z Marham 111D Simpkins 107 ½ ½ D Metcalfe 108G Cox 105 0 1 J Buchanan 105J Bryant 89 1 0 J Booker 103P Buswell 106 1 0 P Staniland 102T Peffer 99 1 0 S Grigson 102S Carter 75 1 0 D Buckland 96W Avery 58 ½ ½ C Kerrigan 96M Shorrocks e33 0 1 C Morris 77(Crawley) **8 8** |

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| **UNDER 100** |
|  **Herts**\* 31.1.98 **Middx**\* 1 Michael Brooks 98 1 0 T Rowland 99 (B) 2 Robert Huhn 98 ½ ½ WGV McLaughlin 97 3 Stuart Tinsley 98 0 1 Keith Grice 97 4 Kris Devoti 95 1 0 Derek Birt 96 5 Keith Sears 96 1 0 Stephen Banks 93 6 Nick Chandler 95 1 0 Barry Miles 93 7 Peter Tuck 95 1 0 Larry McDonagh 1 93 8 Rees Gates 90 ½ ½ Phil S Humphry 92 9 Frank Batchelor 88 1 0 Anthony Cook 8610 Alan Dowling ½ ½ Ted Bradley 8311 David Wong ½ ½ Cliff W Aylett 7612 Mark Senn 1 0 Graham Snow 76(St Albans) **9 3**1 Bd 7: we’ve been spelling this McDonagh*l*. Presumably because match captains have (Herts one does). Middx have lost the *l*, and the grading list agrees. Our version doesn’t print much of a space between the MCDONAGH and the L (no *arry*). The new all-singing-all-dancing list will use mixed case. “Won’t it, Chris?”, we said, and he said yes!!! | **Middx**\* 7.2.98 **Surrey**\*T Rowland 99 (B) ½ ½ John Darling 98WGV McLaughlin 97 0 1 Laila Tillett 98Keith Grice 97 1 0 defDerek Birt 97 0 1 Bartek Jablonski 91jGiovanni Vasco 94 ½ ½ Richard Davey 96Stephen Banks 93 1 0 David Briscoe -Barry S Miles 93 1 0 Fred Bleasdale 92John Revolta 93 1 0 Bernard Sweetman 89Larry McDonagh 93 1 0 John Barrow 78jTed Bradley 83 1 0 Chris Manders 78j def 0 1 Graham Curtis 79Graham Snow 76 1 0 David Manders 73j(Durham Castle) **8 4** |
| 240:16 **Surrey**\* 21.2.98 **Herts**\* 1 Oliver Wilson 99 (W) 0 1 Richard Player 99 2 John Darling 98 1 0 Keith Sears 96 3 Laila Tillett 98 0 1 Nick Chandler 95 4 Nick Bawden 93 1 0 Peter Tuck 95 5 Harvey Murray-Smith 96 1 0 Des Wasik 92 6 Lana Boztas 93 1 0 Rees Gates 90 7 Richard Davey 96 1 0 Frank Batchelor 88 8 David Briscoe - 1 0 John Mackenzie 89 9 Fred Bleasdale 92 0 1 Alan Dowling -10 David Wallis 91 1 0 Mark Senn -11 Bernard Sweetman 89 1 0 Alan Brewis 7112 Graham Curtis 79 0 1 Stephen Burt(Sutton) **8 4** | **Essex**\* 21.3.98 **Surrey**\*John Sneesby 98 ½ ½ Alec Palmer 99Katie Bates 98 0 1 Jesse Gilbert 91Julian Winkworth 98 1 0 Oliver Wilson 99Graham Walker 96 1 0 Laila Tillett 98Josiah Lutton 96 1 0 Nick Bawden 93Michael Bridger 95 1 0 Bartek Jablonski 91Ron Prickett 95 ½ ½ Harvey Murray-Smith 96Stewart Trent 93 0 1 Richard Davey 96Alan Trent 78 0 1 David Briscoe -John Marsh 77 0 1 Fred Bleasdale 92Heather Walker 77 1 0 Andrew Foster-Yeow 88Edward Morris 77 ½ ½ John Barron 82(Southend) **6½ 5½** |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| *White* **Richard Bates**, *Black* **Gavin Wall**. Best Game,Richmond Rapid 1.3.981.d4 f5 2.Nc3 d5 3.e4 dxe4 4.Bf4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6 6.fxe4 fxe4 7.Bb5 Bg4 8.Nge2 e6 9.h3 Bh5 10.g4 Bg6 11.Bg5 Be7 12.Nf4 0-0 13.Nce2 Nd5 14.Nxe6  Black to play14...Bxg5!! (or maybe the exclamation marks belong with move 17?) 15.Nxd8 Bh4+ 16.Kd2 Bg5+ 17.Ke1 Raxd8 18.Bc4 Ncb4 19.h4 e3 20.Bb3 Be4 21.Rh2 Rf2 22.Rxf2 Bxh4 23.a3? (“losing a vital tempo. 23 Kf1 exf2 24 Rc1 looks unclear.”) exf2+ 24.Kf1 Nxc2 25.Qc1 Nxa1 26.Qxa1 Kh8 27.Qc1 Rf8 28.Bxd5 Bxd5 29.b3 Bg5 30.Qb1 Bh4 31.Nc3 Re8 0‑1 | **Quotes**“West End 5 0 Bolton did not enter.” - A National Club result.“Notice is given that the Finance Council meeting will be at the Queen’s Hotel, Leeds, starting at 1:30 pm.” - BCF *ChessMoves*.*And he kept a straight face while he said it*“Tony Suttill, Director of Management Services, would like to remind *ChessMoves* readers that Direct Members and Delegates to Council are entitled to attend Management Board meetings as observers.” |  |

**CONGRESS DIARY**

Apr 7-8 MAIDENHEAD JUNIOR U18,13,11,9. R Brugge, 16 Wootton Way, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4QU 01628 636276

 10-13 SOUTHEND OPEN BCQ incorporating SCCU Individual Championship. FIDE rated. Plus 5-rd Swisses in graded sections. Howard Grist, 124a Oakleigh Park Drive, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 1RU. Telephone enquiries to George Smith 01702 556086

 10-13 SURREY CONGRESS at Sutton. FC Manning, 44 Willow Rd, Wallington, Surrey SM6 0PF 0181 647 0063

 18 GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

 25 ST OLAVES at Orpington. Open; U14/11. St Olaves Chess Club, St Olaves School, Goddington Lane, Orpington, Kent BR3 9SH; or phone Nathan Alfred 0181 650 3939

 26 RICHMOND RAPID. Open; U160/120/80. Stephen Mooring, 65 Lincoln Avenue, Twickenham TW2 6NH 0181 893 8003

 26 TONBRIDGE JUNIOR U18,16,14,12,10,8. RJ Haddrell, 48 Southview Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9BX 01892 532361

May 9 GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**: 4NCL Bulletins for November and January; *Chessex* for February/March; Surrey Girls Newsletter for February

 Issue 241 May 1998

**SCCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive met on Friday 15th May at the Durham Castle, London W1. 12 (out of 18) attended.

**(1) Grading**. When the BCF goes over to six-monthly lists, will we want to follow suit? Not too obvious, and it will probably come up at the AGM (Saturday 27th June). The BCF list will combine standard and rapid play. Better re-phrase that. It will give both. And something Elo-style, we believe. Next year’s mid-season list may be the dying gasp of the “Partial” series, and we’d hardly want to do an SCCU version of that.

**(2) SCCU U100 Championship**. As noted last time, Essex had appealed against the application of the tie-break rules following their win by default against Middx. The Controller’s application of the rules had put Essex second, by the narrowest of margins, on adjusted game points. The method of calculation is explained in your March Bulletin. The Rules & Appeals Sub-Committee concluded, as it had to, that the rule had been correctly applied. It is understood that the Essex match captain accepts this, but disapproves of the rule.

**(3) County Matches: qualification for BCF Stage**. The outgoing SCCU County Match Controller warned of the possible consequences of defaulted matches in future. Well, there were two this year. The new BCF rules (see last issue, and next item) say a Union gets two nominees, in any division, if at least three teams have *completed their fixtures* in the Union stage; and three nominees if at least seven have. This means that a single defaulted match could cost us a qualifying place.

**(4) Accounts**. The provisional Accounts showed a surplus for 1997-8 of more than £500: very much better than budget. A significant factor was a personal donation of £300 from the Union Match Captain, RCN Lee-Anderson.

**(5) SCCU Junior Individual Championships**. A decade ago, the Union used to hold annual Junior Championships in association with an event organised by a third party. LW Barden had suggested the possibility that we revive the junior championships in one form or another. There seemed no question of introducing a new event, but we could seek involvement with an existing one. The junior budget, already funding other people’s events, could equally fund SCCU Junior Championship prizes. (Prizes rather than trophies, someone said.) An U18 title might be associated with whichever congress held the SCCU Championship itself, and we might or might not want to go down to U11 or below. The Junior Organiser was invited to come back with proposals.

**(6) Counties Rapidplay Championship**. We had been thinking of holding our own event, or offering to host the National one. But it now appeared that the BCF Home Director was thinking of making the National event peripatetic anyway. 1999 was thought to be earmarked for the NCCU, but the 1998 slot (maybe late September) might still be available to us. Perhaps Essex would be interested, in their centenary year? Another possibility was Herts in theirs (2001).

**(7) Restructuring of Union: Constitution**. This is on course, and a final draft should be before Council.

**The meeting finished** at 10.40-odd, and your Editor’s excuse for missing his last train to Tunbridge Wells this time is that he had to wait so long for a Tube to Charing Cross. (His last train goes at 11.30, and he missed it by a minute. He got the positively-last midnight 06 for Tonbridge, and taxi from there. Is a one-day Travelcard valid for trains leaving after midnight? Maybe not, but it would be a brave guard who’d check tickets on the last train down from London on Friday night.)

**BCF MEETINGS 25.4.98**: an SCCU delegate reports

**MANAGEMENT BOARD** a.m.

Not a particularly good meeting, although less acrimonious than of late.

* Concern was expressed at the fact that the 30 April deadline for the submission of the business and corporate plans to the DCMS was not going to be met.
* John Poole was appointed as officer in charge of Direct Membership Scheme.
* John Toothill and Mike Fox were appointed to the Book of the Year judging panel; Ray Edwards remains chairman. There were almost 30 applicants; the opportunity to obtain free books clearly did not influence the level of interest shown.
* Brian Jones, Gary Kenworthy and Bryan Fewell were appointed trustees of the BCF Youth Trust, in addition to Jane Seymour, who is now understood to be continuing as a trustee.

**FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING** p.m.

A considerable improvement on last year’s Finance Council meeting in Birmingham.

* The version of the budget included in the papers for the meeting had indicated an unacceptably low projected level of reserves at 30 April 1999, after the budgeted 1998/99 loss of £3,541. Not for the first time in the Federation’s history, developments prior to the meeting enabled the circle to be squared. Ironically, one of the positive factors was the break-in at the BCF Office, as the insurance cover provided new equipment to replace the old heavily depreciated items, with a consequent boost to the BCF’s net assets.
* The Management Board’s recommendation of a 27p Game Fee was accepted, after a slightly less tedious debate than usual. 129 of the 177 weighted votes were cast in favour of this figure, which was therefore clearly the mode as well as the median.

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* Ray Clark indicated that the 1999/2002 corporate plan would be presented to the September Council meeting. This would mean that the Federation was finally doing its planning the right way round, and deciding the long term direction before working out the detail of how to get through the next twelve months. Perhaps there is some light at the end of the tunnel.
* The Chairman of the Policy Unit became an ex officio member of the Finance Committee with immediate effect.
* The full £3,000 set aside in the MDCA Development Fund had been spent within the three year period.
* The Policy Unit had proposed that consideration be given to exploring the raising of additional income from linking the publication of individuals’ grades to individual membership of the Federation. After debate, a motion to the effect that it would be worthwhile to consider pursuing the Policy Unit’s suggestion was extremely close on a show of hands, but lost on a card vote by 100 to 89, with 5 abstentions.
* Gary Kenworthy was appointed Director for Coaching following the death of Fred Appleton.
* In the absence of a suitable candidate, it was decided not to create the post of Director for Marketing at this stage, although this could be revisited in the interim, and the Board could appoint an Officer in the interim if necessary. It was also decided to put on hold the proposal to downgrade the post of Publicity Director to that of Publicity Officer.
* Stan Grundy CBE, the driving force behind the Rotary International Chess Initiative, was appointed an honorary life member of the BCF.
* Cyril Johnson’s proposed changes to the County Championship Rules were accepted with a few amendments. In respect of eligibility for the Minor Counties, the SCCU’s “average grade under 180” proposal was preferred to the original “must not finish in top half” suggestion. The proposed new first tie break of the lower number of defaults was rejected.
* There was some discussion on the European Team Championships, with many of the questions being of a somewhat predictable nature. A vote of confidence in the organising Committee was proposed from the floor and passed nem con.
* There was little time for discussion of the Hastings Chess Centre. A thick report from the consultants, which was intended to form the basis of the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, had been received and was being reviewed by members of the Steering Group and the BCF Finance Committee. However, the whole project was running about six weeks behind schedule. The meeting voted to include this on the agenda for September immediately after matters arising.
* Discussion about the proposed new Objects clause was also deferred to September. There was no clear consensus as to whether the text should include explicit reference to composers and solvers.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Dear Richard**, 7.4.98

Thank you for providing the best report in the UK on what the BCF is talking about at its meetings. Your reports contain both accurate detail and an overall view, something which the BCF’s own rag miserably fails to achieve.

I noticed with great interest, that despite the BCF’s attempts not to inform “Joe chess player” about its plan for a chess centre, news is slowly leaking out.

What I can not understand is how a centre for Britain, my apologies, England can be located so far from anywhere with sensible transport links. I was wondering if any other town councils had been approached, like Penzance, Keswick or Great Yarmouth. On a personal level I find it difficult to imagine Hastings as central to the SCCU. I would be interested to know what the other Chess Unions feel about this location?

Perhaps there are other reasons, am I correct in assuming that the Hastings congress is looking for a home? I wonder if a venue for this once a year event, is being put before what is best for all of British (English) chess? Could you tell me how many members of the Hastings organising committee are also members of the BCF Management Board. [Ed: - I assume this means the Congress committee. Two. It isn’t a secret, and I’m sure their Secretary would be willing to provide a list if asked. The Yearbook can be hard to fathom, and I’m not sure the Congress committee is listed. Their Secretary is Paul Buswell, and he is.]

While this whole secret project begs many more questions, I would ask one last question. This letter of intent, how much does it commit the BCF to spending / raising and from what sources? [Ed: - Nothing, as far as I know, and I *have* asked someone who knows that sort of thing. If the lottery application succeeds, that’s when the fund-raising comes in. We’d be required to find a lot of money to supplement the lottery grant, and I imagine the BCF would seek sponsorship.] The previous paragraph of the report talks about putting 2p on the game fee, to cover the “projected” deficit of £20,000 for the 1998/99 season, will there also be a raid on the BCF reserves to pay for this White Elephant? [Ed: - Don’t know, but see previous note.]

 Regards,

 **Nigel Johnson**

Ed: - This letter came by email. No postal address given, but he’s the Nigel Johnson you know about. I welcome letters by email (I’m rjh@thefree.net) but would ask for a postal address every time.

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**Dear Richard**, 6.4.98

I am very grateful for the copies of the SCCU Bulletin, I had forgotten how much interesting information I have been missing by not taking your excellent publication. Which brings me to your account of the March meeting of the SCCU Executive Committee (item 12): -

As Chief Controller of the National Club Championship I obviously had some input into the decision to use Ratcliffe College for the finals of the Counties Championship and National Club. I am sorry the SCCU Executive had reservations about the venue. Of course it is impossible to satisfy all the people all of the time. Some people may have selfish motives, and some would find fault even if the venue was next door to where they live! But I should be very interested to know if the Executive could find a comparable venue which also fulfils the required criteria:-

 i) According to the National Club entry form the championship finals “will be held at a central venue”. To my mind this means somewhere in Central England e.g. Leicestershire, and not somewhere in the North or South where teams from the wrong end of the country will have to make very long and arduous journeys.

 ii) The price has to be right. After a lot of very hard work Cyril Johnson managed to negotiate a fee that is about half that charged by the previous venue! Not many chess organisers can claim that.

 iii) The venue must have adequate parking - it is a fact that 90+% of those competing will travel by car and therefore the proximity to a railway station is much less important. Apart from which, it *is* only 3 miles from the nearest station and I always thought that it was possible to travel such a short distance by taxi.

On the whole, Ratcliffe College is as ideal a venue as we can realistically expect allowing for the location requirements and budgetary constraints.

I cannot see the relevance of the proximity to a hotel. How many people are going to stay overnight? Perhaps two or three BCF Officials and personally I am quite happy to stay in a hotel which is only 6 miles away and pay my own expenses. I have assumed that the distances quoted at the SCCU meeting were in fact correct - perhaps I am being a little naive but I have to take some things on trust as I have rather more important matters to attend to other than check exact distances from railway stations and hotels to the venue! All the best,

 Regards,  **Bob Turnham**

 Chief Controller, National Club Championship

**Dear Richard**,

Since I understand that the discussion at the last Executive meeting on the County Championship arrangements as reported in the March Bulletin has caused a certain amount of unintended controversy, I thought that it would do no harm if I reported to your readership some first hand impressions of the venue at Ratcliffe College that I gained when Cyril Johnson kindly took me over there in the course of a recent visit to Syston. These comments are written from the perspective of the captain of the Essex U175 team who will be faced, should his team qualify for the final of the competition on 4 July, with a trip to Ratcliffe to defend the title, rather than a return visit to the Clarendon Suites in Birmingham.

1. The Sports Hall where the games will take place is a spacious building with good light. Unlike the situation at the Clarendon Suites last year, it should be possible to accommodate (within reason) requests for certain of the finals to be played over more than the statutory minimum number of boards. This is a very important consideration as, should the opposition be willing, I would prefer to play over 20 rather than 16 boards in order to give as many as possible of the members of my squad a game.
2. Access by road is very easy. If one travels from the South via the M1 and exits onto the A46 at junction 21A, it is little more than a ten minute drive to the College gates. The journey as a whole compared favourably with that to Birmingham. There is ample parking space at the College.
3. I checked the distance from the nearest station (Sileby) to the College and measured it as 1.7 miles rather than the 3 miles referred to at the meeting. A rather steep hill makes walking inadvisable, but Cyril will have arrangements in hand with a local taxi firm to transport players to the venue. The journey from London is slightly longer than the 1 hour 40 minutes to Birmingham and does involve a change at Leicester or Loughborough, but does not seem too unreasonable on the Saturday (for example, the 10.00 from St Pancras will get one to Sileby, with a 30 minute wait at Leicester, by 11.58). However there does not appear to be a Sunday service to Sileby for the benefit of those playing in the finals of the National Club competition. Cyril will therefore be investigating coach times.
4. The hotel situation is also considerably better than the “nothing within six miles” that had been concerning the Executive. There is a Forte Travelodge less than two miles away, and while this would not be somewhere that I would personally wish to stay, I would be perfectly happy with the Six Hills International Hotel which is four miles from the venue. There is a wide range of other accommodation in the area.
5. As one who has enjoyed Julie Johnson’s catering at matches in Syston on more than one occasion in the past, I am very pleased to learn that the scholars will be providing refreshments under her supervision.

The ultimate success of Ratcliffe as a venue can, of course, only be judged after the event. However, apart from the specific matters that I have noted above, the overall approach that Cyril Johnson is taking towards his

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responsibilities leads me to be optimistic about Finals Weekend. As we have seen during the development of the rule changes that were adopted at the Finance Council meeting, Cyril is adopting a pro-active approach to his role

but is extremely receptive to suggestions and comments. For the Finals Weekend, the qualifiers who in the past might have received just a map with some instructions on the back can expect a full information pack with tailored directions to the venue and information about the available accommodation; the accommodation can be booked and taxis arranged if captains will advise Cyril of what is required. I consider that the Federation is extremely fortunate to have Cyril occupying the post of County Championship Controller, and hope that he will receive sufficient support for his efforts to be encouraged to retain this position on a long term basis.

 Yours sincerely,

 **John Philpott** President, SCCU

Copies to Cyril Johnson, David Sedgwick, George Thirlaway and Bob Turnham.

Ed: - What are the arguments for and against central venues? Discuss, with reference to Counties Finals and Rapidplay Championships and Meetings.

**CONGRESS RESULTS**

**GUILDFORD RAPIDPLAY** 8th March 1998

**Open** (21 pl) 1-2 Andrew Kinsman (Guildford), Bogdan Lalic (Sutton) 5½/6; 3-5 David Fryer (East Grinstead), Colin Purdon (Bracknell), Matthew Rose (Oxford) 4... Grading U175 Mark O’Neill 3½

**Under 166** (20 pl) 1 Martin Cutmore (Wood Green) 5½/6; 2 Michael Kobylka (Reading) 4½; 3-4 Dan Erichden (Guildford), Julien Shepley (Guildford) 4... Grading U150 Ross Mooring 3½

**Under 131** (41 ent) 1 Andrew Norton (Southampton) 5½/6; 2 Lucy Broomfield (South Norwood) 5; 3-5 Bernard Bruno (Worthing), Ben Chamberlain, Gary Lee 4½... Grading U116 Michael Redman (Crowborough) 4; U101 Peter Dallas (Cosham) 3

**Under 101** (56 pl) 1 R Alboni 5½/6; 2-5 Mike Gunn (Guildford), Daniel Hegarty (Richmond), Ben Purton (Bearwood), Victor Litvin 5... Grading U86 Peter Rogers (Portsmouth) 4½; Ungraded John Taylor (Winchester College) 4 Junior Joel Talbot (Basingstoke) 4½ They called the U101 the Amateur.

Results Winkworth Hill. We’d truly like to believe that, but we think it may be where he lives.

**LETCHWORTH ONE-DAY** 15th March 1998

**Open** 1-2 James Vigus (Beckenham & Bromley), Bogdan Lalic (Sutton) 4/5; 3-7 Paul Georghiou (Barnet), Mark Ferguson (Cambridge Univ), Matthew Turner (Cambridge Univ), Gary Kenworthy (also Best Herts: Bumbles Green) 3½... Grading U190 Jim Lumsden (Watford), Lahenbe Ndhlovu (Charlton) 3; U175 Richard O’Brien (Slough) 3

**Under 160** 1-2 Martin Cutmore (Wood Green), Ian Debbage (New College) 4½/5; 3 Peter Turner (Cambridge) 4... Grading U140 Lawrence Trent (Ilford) 3½ Best Herts Steven Smith (Watford) 3

**Under 125** 1-3 Paul Kennelly (Hammersmith), William Bennet (Cambridge), Mark Wieder (Orleans Park) 4½/5... Grading U110 Stewart Trent (Ilford) 3½; Junior Lee Dorrington (Rushden) 3½; Veterans PJ Radley (Royston) 3½; Slow Starter Keith Woodhouse (Royston) 2

**Under 95** 1 Chris Kelly (Northampton WMC) 5/5; 2 Richard Mycroft (Royston) 4½; 3-4 David Morgan (Coulsdon), (Hemel Hempstead) 4... Junior James Purcell (Hollybrook Jnr) 3½; Veterans John Pepper (Letchworth/Hitchin) 3; Slow Starter Alan Maddison (Letchworth/Hitchin) 2½

**Junior U14** 1 Ryan Child (Kings Gambit) 6/6; 2 Julian Winkworth (Wanstead & Woodford) 5; 3-6 David Gunn (Malden), Stephen Mullens (Stanborough School), Gerald Morgan (BMS), Joanna Harbour (Bedford) 4...

**Junior U11** 1-2 Tom Harbour (Bedford), Emos Scappatura (St Matthew School) 5½/6; 3-8 Alex Kolanis (North Bridge House School), Alan Craigen (Bedford), Stephen Weaver (Bedford), Iain Dunkeld, Farid Mohamed (both North Bridge House), Sophie Harbour (Bedford) 4½...

**Team Prize** (for teams of four): the Harbour family 74% Results Tim Thurstan

**SOUTH HERTS** at St Albans 4-5 April 1998

**Under 201** (20 ent) 1 Philip Potopaev 187 (Crystal Palace) 4½/5; 2 A Reijneveld 2086 (De Uil); 3-4 J Havenaar 2083 (Du Uil), G van Dijk 2050 (De Uil) 3½...

**Under 176** (36 ent) 1 NJ De Peyer 165 (Kings Head) 4½/5; 2-3 Richard O’Brien 171 (Slough), W van Randen 1898 (De Uil) 4; 4-8 Lorin D’Costa 141 (Royston), I Okosieme 157, David Parr 162, S Den Haan 1598 (De Uil), Terry Bean 164 3½...

**Under 150** (53 ent) 1-2 Lara Osiyemi 132 (Kings Head), PK Tart 141 (Camberley) 4½/5; 3-6 MJ Stanners 121 (Athenaeum), KB Nicholas 125 (RGS High Wycombe), Lawrence Trent 120 (Ilford), AC Hall 136 (Watford) 4...

**Under 130** (49 ent) 1-2 PS Gill 123 (Bedford), David Waltham 118 (St Albans) 4½/5; 3-4 Ellen Walker 117

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(Southend High), Martin Leman 118 (Barbican) 4...

**Under 110** (62 ent) 1-2 JE Dawson 100 (Linton), Derek Hanson 109 4½/5; 3-5 Rod Burroughs 99 (Metropolitan), Kristian Devoti 95 (Bishops Stortford), MJ Coughtrey 99 (Clacton) 4...

**Team Prize** Holland!

**KENT LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP** at Bexleyheath, 4th April 1998

1 Sue Howell (Crawley) 6/6; 2 (and U100 Champion) Susan Richards (Whitstable) 5; 3 Sara Higgins (age 11: Sevenoaks) 4... 8 played Results Roger Holmes

**SOUTHEND EASTER CONGRESS** 10-13 April 1998 attracted 157 players.

Howard Grist writes: The 42nd Southend Easter Congress saw Julian Hodgson attempt to match Mark Hebden’s feat of the previous year, when Hebden scored 7/7 to take the first prize of £500 and 40 points in the Leigh Grand Prix. However, whereas Hebden was content to simply outplay his opponents, Hodgson also threw in no less than five exchange sacrifices in his seven games. The material imbalance created by this was sufficient to register six wins, but Andrew Ledger was not bamboozled by this approach and drew. Thus Hodgson scored 6½/7 and took home the £500 first prize and the SCCU Championship, but only 37.1 Onyx Leigh Grand Prix points.

**Open** (75 pl) 1 (and SCCU Champion) Julian M Hodgson GM 254 (Streatham) 6½/7; 2 Andrew J Ledger IM 223 (Bedford) 6; 3-12 Colin S Crouch 220 IM (Barbican), Adrian Jackson 199 (British Airways: British Championship Qualifier), Stephen C Ledger 196 (Bedford), Edmund Player 183 (Stowmarket), John Anderson 190 (Basildon), Russell A James 194 (Rugby), Sheila Jackson WIM 185 (Wood Green), Andrew P Lewis FM 212 (Barbican), David Spence 175 (Ipswich), David J Millward 168 (Writtle) 5... Grading 171-185 E Player, S Jackson, D Spence; 156-170 DJ Millward; 141-155 Thomas J Dougherty 154 (Metropolitan) 4½; 126-140 Peter Walker 136 (Customs Southend), Richard M George 138 (Church Stretton) 4; U126 Lawrence Trent 120 (Ilford), Colin R Payne 117 (Dereham) 4

**Swiss A** (16 pl) 1 Brian Kemish 194 (Swindon) 4½/5; 2-3 Ivor BN Smith 161 (Writtle), John A Dodgson 179 (Hastings & St Leonards) 3½; 4 Ian McAllan 168 (Sidcup) 3...

**Swiss B** (20 pl) 1 Ronald T Gooch 134 (Southend) 4/5; 2-4 William J Elworthy 112 (Newport), David Flynn 116 (Portsmouth), Howard J Berlin 121 (Ilford) 3½...

**Swiss C** (22 pl) 1 Nigel Nice 99 (Upminster) 5/5; 2 William M Elworthy 102 (Newport) 4; 3 Andrew S Brew 105 (Basildon) 3½...

**Swiss D** (24 pl) 1 Gavin I Strachan 78 (Brentwood) 5/5; 2 Finlay Moreland 79 (Newham) 4; 3-6 Alan Trent 78 (Ilford), Roy Middleton 78 (Hadleigh), Heather Walker 77 (Customs Southend), Alastair Gunn 49 (Maldon) 3½...

**SURREY EASTER** at Sutton, 10-13 April 1998 attracted 410 players (459 last year). That’s entries, not bodies. Some people played in more than one event.

**Frank Winter Memorial Open** (80 pl) 1 Mark Hebden GM 2585 (Midland Monarchs / Birstall) 7/7(!.. and see previous congress); 2-3 Michael Basman IM 2350 (Chessington), Simon Williams FM 2315 (Hackney / Richmond) 5½; 4-8 Richard Bates IM 2430 (Richmond), Daniel Bisby 2190 (Redhill), Tryfon Gavriel 2170 (Barnet), Peter Kemp 2200 (Streatham), Gavin Wall 2320 (Richmond) 5... Grading U2205 Daniel Bisby, Tryfon Gavriel, Peter Kemp; U2155 Justin Marley 2005 (Crystal Palace); U2155 Gordon Botley 2125 (Lewisham) 4½; U2055 Justin Marley 2005 (Crystal Palace), Shanker Menon - (Richmond), Clifford O’Connor - (SW19) 4; Unrated Shanker Menon 167 (Ed), Clifford O’Connor 175 (Ed), Philip Potopaev 187 (Ed) (Crystal Palace) 4 Junior U18 Jovanka Houska 2185 (“Eng”) 4½; Slow Starters Sujit Kapadia 149 (Ed) (“Eng”) 3½

**Under 170** (69 pl) 1-2 Ilya Shevelev (Wood Green), Joseph Skielnik (Battersea) 6/7; 3 David Edwards (Richmond Juniors) 5½; 4-8 Terry Bean (Bracknell), SD Chaudhry (Hounslow), Paul McIntyre (South Norwood), Martin Page (Insurance), Paul Shepherd (Sutton) 5... Grading U160 SD Chaudhry, Paul McIntyre; U151 Philip Nizetic 4½; Junior U18 Nicholas Frost, Thomas Walton 4½; Slow Starters Ross Rattray, Paul Visser 3

**Under 145 Eric Weimann Memorial** (73 pl) 1-3 Dominic Gibbs (Flying Teapots), Jon O’Neill (Kings Head), Peter Titmas (Maidstone) 6/7; 4 David Hall (Brighton) 5½... Grading U136 Simon Illsley 5; U126 Sophie Tidman 5; U119 Garry Fox, Mark Thoms 4½ Junior U18 Andrew Bigg 5 Slow Starters David Bates, Frank Carlucci, Simon Lawrence, David Varley 2½

**Minor A U120** (58 pl) 1-2 Antony Crabb (East Grinstead), Paul Seet (Oxford Univ) 5/5; 3-7 AG Bynnersley (West London), Anthony Duncan (Islington), Kwok Man (Charlton), Donny Muter, Thomas Nixon (both Richmond Juniors) 4... Grading U111 Kwok Man 4; John Baldwin, Norman Tidy 3½; U100 Andrew Foster-Yeow, Alison Winston 3½ Junior U18 Donny Muter, Thomas Nixon; U13 Andrew Foster-Yeow, Alison Winston

**Minor B U120** (47 pl) 1-2 Ben Chamberlain, Donny Muter (both Richmond Juniors) 4½/5; 3-4 Harry Gold (East Grinstead), Thomas Nixon (Richmond Juniors) 4... Grading U113 Paul Seet, ER Tapper 3½; U105 Norman Tidy 3 Junior U18 Rachid Zoubir 3; U13 Michael Healey 3½

**Novice A U100** (49 pl) 1 Sarah Hurst (Edmonton) 5/5; 2-3 Ricky Alboni (Richmond Juniors), Joseph Al Malah (Danson) 4½... Junior U18 Anna Partington, James Wingfield 3½; U12 Zakerey Bennett, Lakshman Ruthirapathy 3

**Novice B U100** (34 pl) 1 John Bussman (Wood Green) 5/5; 2-5 Ben Morgan (Coulsdon), Jonathan Somekh

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(Richmond Juniors), Oliver Wilson (Wallington GS), James Wingfield 4... Junior U18 Ben Morgan, Jonathan Somekh, Oliver Wilson, James Wingfield; U12 Mark Goodwin, Tarek Zoubir 3½

**Veterans** **Prize** Harry Gold; **Ladies Prizes** censored; **Family Prizes** 1 Ben & David Morgan, 2 Rachid & Tarek Zoubir; **Questionnaire Lucky Draw** Andrew Foster-Yeow Results Martin Cath

**17th RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY** 26th April 1998

**Open** (21 pl) 1-2 IM Peter Large (London), FM Simon Williams (Farnham) 5/6; 3 IM Andrew Kinsman (Brighton) 4½... Grading U200 1 Abimbola Adelaja (London) 4½; 2 Michael Duggan (RJCC/Twickenham) 3½; U180 1-4 Paul Dupré (Walton on Thames), Dan Mayers (Wadhurst Sussex), Shanker Menon (RJCC/London), Murugam Thiruchelvam (RJCC/New Malden) 3

**Under 160** (18 pl) 1-2 Thomas Dougherty (RJCC/London), John Woolley (London) 5/6; 3 Simon Randall (London) 4½... Grading U140 1-3 Ben Chamberlain (RJCC/Surbiton), Michael Healey (RJCC/London), Nigel Young (Northampton) 3½

**Under 120** (30 pl) 1 Warren Dennison (London) 5½/6; 2 Peter Turner (Royston) 5; 3 Chris O’Bee (Watford) 4½... Grading U100 1 Michael Mkpadi (London) 4½; 2 Alex Kelly (Caterham) 4

**Under 80** (48 pl) 1 Inaki Garcia (London) 5½/6; 2-4 Danielle Gross (London), Harvey Murray-Smith (Esher), Trevor Pettit (RJCC/Hounslow) 5...

**Two-generation family prize**: the Alleys and the Fabiszes (both London) 7 Results Richard James

**JUNIOR NEWS**

**WEY VALLEY GIRLS U11 TRIALS** at Coulsdon, 7th February 1998 (29 pl)

1 Sarah Hegarty (Year U: Knaphill) 5/5; 2-3 Eloise Horsey (S: Milbourne), Louise Newlands (T: Croydon High) 4; 4-7 Heather Megaw (T: Danes Hill), Clare Briscoe (T: Danes Hill), Lara Moffat (T: Danes Hill), Fiona Smailes (U: Flexlands) 3½... Results Neil Clifton

**BEXLEYHEATH JUNIOR** 4th April 1998

**Under 18 / Adult** (28 pl) 1 Simon Moate (Danson) 5½/6; 2-6 Robert Wilson (Sevenoaks), Raymond Gosden (Whitstable), David Ho (Maidstone), Konrad Sanders, Russell Scott (both Danson) 4½...

**Under 11** (18 pl) 1 Thomas Stradwick (Bromley) 5½/6; 2 Zak Nathan (Hastings) 4½; 3-5 Adam Boakes (Bromley), Edward Coughlan (Sevenoaks), Gregory Jones (Maidstone) 4...

**Under 9** (11 pl) 1 Alex Cook (Hastings) 5½/6; 2-5 Joseph Arigho-Stiles (Sevenoaks), Sebastian Elliott (Hastings), Jason Halle (Bexleyheath), Aram Karakashian (Danson) 4...

**Schools Prize**: Amherst, Sevenoaks Results Roger Holmes

**24th MAIDENHEAD JUNIOR** 7-8 April 1998

**Under 18** (12 pl) 1 KB Nicholas (13: Stoke Poges) 5½/6; 2 S Spikings (13: Chesham Bois) 4; 3-5 J Povah (13: Guildford), C Hoffman (17: Oxshott), R Hansell (13: Great Kingshill) 3½...

**Under 13** (23 pl) 1-2 C Hansell (11: Gt Kingshill), D Bareham (11: Cricklade) 5/6; 3 C David (12: Oxford) 4½; 4-7 L Gold (9: N12), A Thorpe (12: Chinnor), A Navias (12: Ascot), A Turner (12: Finchampstead) 4...

**Under 11** (40 pl) 1 GP Morris (10: Abingdon) 8/9; 2 JM Purcell (10: Southampton) 7; 3-5 J Hillman (9: N20), AJ O’Toole (9: Southend), M Harborne (10: Mytchett) 6½; 6-8 M Dignam (9: Berkhamsted), JD Appleyard (9: Witney), JDW Hall (9: Swindon) 6...

**Under 9** (40 pl) 1 DJ Hall (7: Swindon) 9½/11; 2 PJ Makepeace (8: Gerrards Cross) 8½; 3-4 D Hitchens (8: Oxford), Y Ball (7: Crowthorne) 8; 5-9 NL Baranga (7: NW2), PDH Armstrong (8: Old Windsor), L Neatherway (8: Abingdon), L Brown (8: Beenham) 7...

**Schools Tournament** 1-2 Dr Challoners Amersham, Garden Suburb London12½/18... Results Nigel Dennis

**TONBRIDGE JUNIOR** 26th April 1998

**Under 18/14** (28 pl) 1-2 Andrew Bigg (Hayes Kent), Oliver Cooley (St Olaves) 5½/6; 3 Steven Pretty (Judd) 5; 4-8 Paul Higgins (Judd), David Howell (Seaford), Alistair Taylor (Whitstable CC), David Woods (Tonbridge School), Alex Woodfield (Judd) 4...

**Under 12** (Kent Championship: 16 pl) 1 David Ho (Maidstone) 5/6; 2-4 Lalin Navaratne (Maidstone), James Regan (Tunbridge Wells), David Ridout (Maidstone) 4½; 5-6 James Chapman (SE3), Sara Higgins (Sevenoaks) 4...

**Under 10** (20 pl) 1-2 James McKeever (Horton Kirby), Stephan Wassermann-Fry (Canterbury) 5/6; 3-4 Laura Weatherhead (Sevenoaks), Chathu de Silva (Maidstone) 4½; 5-7 James Graves (Coulsdon), Samuel Lim (Aylesford), David Franklin (Sevenoaks) 4...

**Under 8** (7 pl) 1 Geoffrey Walters (Edenbridge) 6/6; 2 Peter Haffenden (Sevenoaks) 5; 3 Karen Jones (Bromley) 4...

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**SUSSEX JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS** at Brighton, 2-3 May 1998

**Under 18** (6 pl) 1-2 JL Bryant, ER Lamb (both The Holt) 4½/5; 3 N Street (The Holt) 2½...

**Under 14** (20 pl) 1 Sang Nguyen (Christs Hospital) 6/7; 2 Charlie Linford (The Holt) 5½; 3-5 Ruo-Lai Chen (Christs Hospital), Peter Baker (The Holt), Grace Yip (Seaford Head) 5... Best Girl Grace Yip; Best U11 Danny Glebocki (The Holt) 4 Results Paul Watson

**KENT SCHOOLS LEAGUE** Champions 1997-8: Senior Maidstone GS; Under 16 Maidstone GS; Under 13 Judd School, Tonbridge. Primary Finals are 6th June.

**“TIMES” SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Round 2 Manchester Grammar (15.11) 6 0 Radyr, Cardiff (13.5); Hyndland Glasgow (16.6) 6 0 Nairn Academy (14.6); Nottingham High (15.7) 5 1 Northgate High Ipswich (14.3); QE Wakefield (13.6) 3½ 2½ Bluecoat Liverpool (14.6); St Pauls (16.5) 4½ 1½ Aylesbury GS (15.3); KESS Camphill (15.8) 4 2 Magdalen College School (14.10); Tiffin (15.7) 3½ 2½ Maidstone GS (15.9)

Quarter-finals: Manchester Grammar v Hyndland; Nottingham High v QE Wakefield; St Pauls v Camp Hill; Tiffin v Hampton Twickenham *or* Torquay Boys GS

**Plate** Round 2 Kings Grantham (15.11) 5½ ½ QE Wakefield Junior School (10.6); Arden Solihull w/o scr Shrewsbury School; Methodist College Belfast (16.8) 5½ ½ Nicolson Institute Stornoway (14.6); Ipswich School (14.9) 6 0 Northbridge House London (11.1); St Olaves Orpington (15.4) 6 0 K Harold Waltham Abbey (13.8); Torquay Boys GS (“B” team?) (13.6) 4 2 Magdalen College School (“B” team?) (12.8); Kings College School Wimbledon (15.0) 4 2 Westminster School (17.6)

Quarter-finals: Kings Grantham v Arden; Lancaster RGS *or* RGS Newcastle v Methodist College; Ipswich School v St Olaves; Torquay GS v Kings College School Results Mitchell Taylor

**NATIONAL U18 FINALS** 4th April 1998

**Major**: 1 Kent 9½/12; 2 Yorks 7½; 3-4 Warwickshire, Wiltshire 5½; 5 Glamorgan 4½; 6 Suffolk 3½

**Minor**: 1 Berks 9/12; 2 Notts 7½; 3 Cambs 1½. Wales and the other two Unions obviously have no Minor counties. Herts were invited, but could not make it at short notice.

**Girls events** 23rd May: we did hear someone’s half-remembered account, and we’ve forgotten half of that. Believe Surrey won the Minor Girls Second Teams, but weren’t allowed to take the title because they’re not Minor.

Went to the **KENT MEGAFINAL** the other week. There must have been about 180 children there. The most noticeable thing was new faces: new schools, new players.. and the almost complete absence of schools we knew about. The strongest school in the county was there, but hardly any of their traditional rivals. There were strong players from the Kent circuit, but not very many. It seemed to be most marked at secondary level. Not that the secondary entry was large; more than 90% of the players were U11s or younger. The competition is clearly succeeding in its aim of bringing in new players, ones the traditional events can’t reach. (*Why* can’t they?) It was nice to see lots of newcomers, playing (mostly) rather bad but enthusiastic chess. Some of them will get the bug and go on to become strong players, and those that don’t will have gained something. The Kent circuit can only be the gainer. But where were the established schools, and why isn’t the competition getting more support at secondary level? Maybe it’s just Kent.

**NATIONAL CLUB** seems to have had more than its share of defaults in the quarter-finals.

**Open** Quarter-finals Crowwood scr w/o Wood Green; Ilford 4½ 1½ Crowthorne; Maidstone 4 2 Wandering Dragons; Slough scr w/o Atticus

Semi-finals: Atticus v Wood Green; Maidstone v Ilford

**Plate** Quarter-finals Bedford w/o scr Grimsby & District; Charlton 5 1 Gloucester; Guildford 1 5 Hayes Kent; Mushrooms 4 2 Southbourne

Semi-finals: Charlton v Mushrooms; Hayes v Bedford

**Major** **U175** Quarter-finals Great Lever 1 4 Morecambe; Guildford 3 2 Gloucester; Hastings & St Leonards 3½ 1½ Writtle; Southampton 1½ 3½ Southbourne

Semi-finals: Morecambe v Guildford; Hastings v Southbourne

**Plate** Quarter-finals Undercliffe 1 4 Bradford; Huddersfield w/o scr Warley Quinborne; Kingston scr w/o Milton Keynes; Reading 1 4 Cosham

Semi-finals: Bradford v Huddersfield; Milton Keynes v Cosham

**Intermediate** **U150** Quarter-finals Bourne End 3½ 1½ Eastbourne; Rose Forgrove 4 1 Gt Lever; Thornbury\* 2½ 2½ Ashfield; Waltham Forest 1 4 Maidstone

Semi-finals: Maidstone v Bourne End; Rose Forgrove v Thornbury

**Plate** Quarter-finals Cardiff 3½ 1½ Northampton WMC; Cosham 2 3 Hastings; Kings Head 3 2 Southend; Prescot & Knotty Ash 2 3 Yorkshire Copperworks

Semi-finals: Hastings v Cardiff; Yorkshire Copperworks v Kings Head241:8

**MINOR U125** Quarter-finals Aberystwyth ½ 4½ Rushall; Amber Valley 1½ 3½ Alwoodley; Tamworth 1 4 Cowley; Tunbridge Wells 3½ 1½ Whitstable

Semi-finals: Alwoodley v Rushall; Cowley v Tunbridge Wells

**Plate** Quarter-finals Ashfield w/o scr Hull; Musketeers 2 3 Reading; Walsall Kipping 1½ 3½ Gt Lever; Waltham Forest w/o scr Hastings

Semi-finals: Gt Lever v Ashfield; Reading v Waltham Forest

**Handicap Rapidplay** (Try to work the handicap out, if you didn’t manage it last time. Solution below. The handicap did not affect any results.)

Quarter-finals White Swan (186) 3 5 Cowley (184); Bourne End (144) 1 7 Guildford A (200); Slough (235!) 4½ 3½ Maidstone (231, they saw each other coming); Bedford (199) 1½ 6½ Keynsham (206)

Semi-finals: Cowley v Keynsham; Guildford A v Slough

**Plate** Quarter-finals Abercynon (177) 4½ 3½ Cardiff (177); Gt Lever (134) 1½ 6½ Imperial College (165); Mushrooms (204) 8 0 Basildon (116); Southampton Univ (146) 4½ 3½ Guildford B (165)

Semi-finals: Abercynon v Soton Univ; Imperial College v Mushrooms

*Did you work it out?* Scores required by higher-graded team are as follows. Difference 6-15 pts: 4½; 16-25 pts: 5; 26-35 pts: 5½; 36-45 pts: 6; more than 45 pts: 6½. We assume that lower scores lose, and drawn matches are possible only between teams playing even. Like the *Times*.

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| **SCCU U180 JAMBOREE** 18th April 1998 |
|  **White Black** 1 PG Farr 179 Sx 1 0 JM Shepley 174 AR Brett 173 E1 0 1 G McNally 172 E2 2 RD de Coverly 173 Bu 0 1 TD Coote 173 E1 WL Saunders 171 E2 1 0 JC Mansson 178 Sx 3 MR Stott 177 Sx ½ ½ Majid Mashayekh 173 Bu CRA Clegg 168 Sy 0 1 NH Twitchell 160 E2 4 LE Marden 169 E1 ½ ½ MJ Reddie 168 Sx M Armstrong 166 Bu 1 0 AM Andrews 161 Sy 5 PA Batchelor 168 Sx 0 1 DJ Bruce 166 O DJ Millward 168 E1 1 0 PD Dupré 158 Sy 6 Andy King 156 E2 ½ ½ Steve Law 156 Bu HT Jones 152 Sy 0 1 IBN Smith 161 E1 7 Eugene Bolduc 135 Bu ½ ½ Sean Terry 160 O PR Barclay 156 E2 1 0 CR Ramage 167 E1 8 Arthur Hall 163 Sx 1 0 RJ Weeber 154 E2 LJ Crane 164 E1 ½ ½ Ivana Houska 123 Bu 9 Mark Weighell 161 E1 0 1 Will Burt 149 O SL Turvey 119 Bu 1 0 PR Selby 153 Sx10 Paul Watson 147 Sx 0 1 SM Kalinsky 157 E1 KN Mehendale 132 Sy ½ ½ Andrew Hill 115 Bu | **White Black**RJ Nixon 175 O 1 0 LM Wooldridge 174 BuRK Thomas 174 Sy 1 0 Phil Vainker 174 OGraham Chapman 172O 1 0 RA Heppinstall 170 E1AD Hartland 160 E2 ½ ½ JN Stayt 166 OMatthew George 160 Bu ½ ½ DG Pearse 158 E2NC Jones 166 O ½ ½ AO Pickersgill 169 SxRJ Wilcox 152 Sy 0 1 IG Kelly 167 SxPeter Ball 150 O 1 0 John Nyman 146 SyRoy Watts 153 E2 ½ ½ FC Manning 133 SySE King 142 O 1 0 TG Winter 147 E2 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Oxon | Essex 2 | Essex 1 | Bucks | Sussex | Surrey |  |
|  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  |
|  | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |  |
|  | 1 | 1 | 0 | ½ | ½ | 0 |  |
|  | ½ | ½ | ½ | 1 | ½ | 0 |  |
|  | 1 | ½ | 1 | ½ | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | ½ | ½ | 1 | ½ | ½ | 0 |  |
|  | ½ | 1 | 0 | ½ | 1 | 0 |  |
|  | 1 | 0 | ½ | ½ | 1 | 0 |  |
|  | 1 | ½ | 0 | 1 | 0 | ½ |  |
|  | 1 | 0 | 1 | ½ | 0 | ½ | Tie-break: |
|     | 7½ | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4½ | 2 | (1) most wins |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (2) board count: bds won plus ½ x bds  |
| Mean grd | 162.0 | 158.7 | 166.3 | 149.4 | 166.9 | 155.0 |  drawn |
| Oppts mean grd | 160.4 | 160.6 | 157.0 | 160.9 | 160.1 | 159.3 | (3) bottom board elimination |

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| **COUNTY MATCHES: BCF STAGE**Quarter-finals, unless labelled “Preliminary” |
| **OPEN** |
|  **Kent**\* 16.5.98 **Dorset** 1 Neil McDonald 237 1 0 Bob Noyce 195 2 Ian Watson 214 ½ ½ Martin Simons 184 3 James Vigus 210 1 0 Alan Pleasants 191 4 Alan Hanreck 201 1 0 Bruce Jenks 172 5 Lyndon Gurr 201 1 0 Paul Kemp - 6 John Sugden 196 1 0 Len Laker 166 7 John Wager 193 ½ ½ John Tyrer - 8 Peter Taylor 191 1 0 David Keddie 166 9 Nathan Alfred 190 0 1 Tim Lines 15910 Paul O’Donovan 190 1 0 Steve Crisp 15511 Iain Galloway 184 1 0 Derek Needham 15312 RMR O’Kelly 183 1 0 David Balfour 15113 Nigel Donovan 181 1 0 Dennis Papworth 14614 Stuart Williams 180 1 0 Michael Litchfield -15 David Horton 179 ½ ½ Gavin Cartwright 13716 Martin Taylor 178 1 0 Neal Phillips 139(Crawley) **13½ 2½**Ed: Should such encounters occur in the National stage? | **Sussex**\* 16.5.98 **Lancs**FJ Kwiatkowski 204 1 0 J Horner 221 (B)DB Graham 204 0 1 JE Littlewood 214LE Rutherford 198 1 0 DB Lund 208GH James 197 ½ ½ NW Ivell 202BJ Denman - ½ ½ D Bisby 197B Cafferty 192 ½ ½ H Hughes 193KI Norman 198 0 1 B Hague 192M Broom 193 ½ ½ P Jowett 181MD Nicholas 192 ½ ½ S Barnes -SJ Newman 187 0 1 L Kay 186JA Dodgson 179 1 0 D Lees 178PG Farr 179 1 0 M Peacock 173MR Stott 177 1 0 CV Murray 170MO Costley 176 ½ ½ S Appleby 156RJ Almond 175 ½ ½ S Riley 168IG Kelly 167 0 1 C Hanley 155(Syston) **8½ 7½** |
| **M1 v Cambs**Cambs lost. |  |
| **MINOR COUNTIES** |
|  **Herts**\* 16.5.98 **Beds** 1 SJB Knott 226 (W) 0 1 Dave Ledger 203 2 Steve Swanson 201 ½ ½ Steve Ledger 196 3 Philip Borman 201 ½ ½ M Macdonald-Ross 194 4 Paul V Byway 196 0 1 Laurent Berlandier 2225 5 Jerry F Rudge 186 ½ ½ Graham Smith 188 6 Kevin R Clark 188 ½ ½ Richard Freeman 176 7 Howard L Tebbs 182 ½ ½ Paul Kendall 173 8 JN Fraser-Mitchell 179 1 0 Kieran Bush 172 j 9 Chris E Majer 180 0 1 Brian Valentine 16810 John R Denton 177 1 0 Richard Ormesher 16611 Philip Gregory 169 ½ ½ Adrian Elwin 16312 D Ross Brennan 175 ½ ½ Pete Taylor 15913 Lorin D’Costa 147 j 1 0 Kevin Williamson 15714 CD Lovisa 147 j 1 0 Phil Thomas 15115 David E Bower 159 1 0 John Shaw 14916 Steven Weston 150 1 0 Charles Bullock 143(St Albans) **9½ 6½** | **Lincs** 16.5.98 **Berks**\*N Djipa 213 (W) 1 0 PS Cooksey 200JD Ball 202 0 1 Jovanka Houska 195N Stead 190 1 0 HW Murphy 193J Dilley 196 ½ ½ DS Tucker 187N Birtwistle 181 1 0 KD Smallbone 184P Levermore 181 ½ ½ PJ Sharp 183J Mutton 175 1 0 JT Munday 175A Bulbeck 172 ½ ½ C Purdon 172K Palmer 165 1 0 IR Henderson 170G Ladds 160 ½ ½ ACP Milnes 170D Georgiou 159 1 0 PS Janota 168MJ Turp 157 1 0 J Townsend 167E Nottingham 153 0 1 MC Bowhay 166R Blake 148 0 1 MF Redmond 156S Allott 143 0 1 DJ Lewis 149J Van Gemeren 135 ½ ½ LD Varnam 124(Oundle) **9½ 6½** |
| **UNDER 175** |
|  **Devon** 16.5.98 **Surrey**\* 1 P Lane 170 (B) 1 0 JM Shepley 174 2 A Brusey 166 1 0 def 3 D Regis 164 0 1 DR Sedgwick 173 4 A Pickering 163 ½ ½ C Briscoe 171 5 CJ Bellers 161 ½ ½ PM Stimpson 170 6 PE Halmkin 159 ½ ½ CR Clegg 168 7 N Frost 156 1 0 MC Page 164 8 D Hill 153 1 0 ND Grey 156 9 J Gorodi 148 0 1 AN Smith 15610 RC Towers 149 0 1 AS James 15611 M Abbott 149 1 0 1 SR Jones 15212 I Taggart 148 ½ ½ SR Jones 15213 W Ingham 144 0 1 PE Barnard 14114 S Homer 144 0 1 FC Manning 13315 IS Annetts 142 1 0 def16 RH Jones 128 1 0 def(Bristol) **8 8**Devon won on board count. | **Lancs v Essex** 16.5.98Lancs pulled out on the eve of the match, suspected victims of a clash with the FA Cup Final. We understand that there were no Lancs teams playing in the FA Cup Final. We believe there were no Essex ones either. But we did hear that an Essex U175 player, a lifetime supporter of a team that was in it, had given up the chance of a Cup Final ticket in order to play chess. This must have annoyed him.1 Bd 11 (left): given as 128, and he is so listed until you look in the August supplement. Our guess is that Devon knew, and he’s given as 149 in their U150 match against Essex. Funny thing, we’ve never met an August correction that took anyone across an eligibility boundary, for county matches. Suppose there must be some. |

241:10

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| **UNDER 150** |
| Preliminary match: **Essex**\* 25.4.98 **Devon** 1 Robin Slade 149 (B) ½ ½ R Towers 149 2 John White 147 1 0 M Abbott 149 3 Steve Williams 147 0 1 M Cox 147 4 Tom Winter 147 ½ ½ W Ingham 144 5 Keith Jones 146 ½ ½ P Kennedy 141 6 Tony Drake 145 1 0 S Pope 141 7 Jason Roberts 145 1 0 J Duckham 136 8 Laurie J Burtt 144 0 1 A Roderick 130 9 Mike J Cresswell 143 ½ ½ R Jones 12810 Peter Walker 136 0 1 P Roberts 12811 Phil Zammitt 138 ½ ½ W Moffatt 12612 Roger Sharman 132 0 1 G Sparke 12413 Mark E Brazier 130 1 0 T Praile 12114 Barry Sheppard 130 1 0 J Vasey 11715 Terry Cole 123 ½ ½ A O’Reilly 11316 Iain Gunn 116 ½ ½ L Guard 110(Wootton Bassett) **8½ 7½** | All divisions:Some non-SCCU names have been corrected, in line with the grading list. We only checked the ones that rang alarm bells. One of them turned out to be in the “February” supplement, with a corrected grade which the match captain hadn’t used. Was he supposed to? The Bulletin is not aware that there’s been a ruling. Eligibility was not affected anyway. We’ve also corrected one SCCU name, in line with the grading list and with the spelling the match captain has been using all season. |
|  **Kent**\* 17.5.98 **Lancs** 1 C Charles 149 (B) 1 0 J Whitfield 147 2 D Helsby 149 1 0 J Tennant-Smith 143 3 G Steele 149 1 0 A Bosworth 148 4 M Wiltshire 148 ½ ½ J Hopkins 148 5 A Heard 148 1 0 E Dobson 145 6 M Finch 146 0 1 C Liddle 141 7 A Sherriff 146 1 0 R Townsend 146 8 M Jordan 146 1 0 P Furlong 149 9 K Kingston 146 ½ ½ D Talbot 14510 D Davis 145 1 0 D Palmer 13911 I Hames 140 ½ ½ R Wild 13612 S Casement 137 ½ ½ D Gaston 12913 S Chick 128 0 1 P Jones 12914 P Childs 128 1 0 I McNeill 11015 MR Jones 121 0 1 W O’Rourke 13616 def 0 1 Fred Jones -(Syston) **10 6** | **Yorks** 17.5.98 **Essex**\*Roger Jennings 146 0 1 John White 147 (B)Eddie Hurwitz 145 0 1 Stephen M Williams 147Mark Reishmann 147 ½ ½ Thomas G Winter 147Paul RH Clarke 134 ½ ½ David Smith 146Alan Coupe 133 0 1 Mark RA Murrell 146Clive W Davies 133 1 0 Tony Drake 145S Alexandrowicz 135 ½ ½ Jason Roberts 145Ron Summerskill 135 ½ ½ Laurie J Burtt 144Bob Letton 133 1 0 Mike J Cresswell 143Tom Wheldon 136 ½ ½ Philip Zammit 138Geoff M Smith 130 ½ ½ David J Rawlings 136Colin Proctor 132 1 0 David FC Bird 133J Alexandrowicz 126 0 1 Roger D Sharman 132Ian Strickland 121 0 1 Ian Maclachlan 132Alan Miles 111 0 1 Mark E Brazier -Norman Matthews 107 ½ ½ Terry Cole 123(Uppingham School) **6½ 9½** |
| **UNDER 125** |
|  **Lancs** 17.5.98 **Herts**\* 1 A Dunkerley 124 (B) ½ ½ L Noble 121 2 G Jones 123 ½ ½ S Collins 123 3 S Flaherty 119 ½ ½ C Byrne 117 4 P Worsley 122 1 0 L Roche 122 5 A Smith 112 1 0 T Lowson 112 6 D Jones 118 1 0 T Sims 112 7 M Hamer 109 0 1 P Laskier 117 8 K McMahon 115 ½ ½ M Barnes 121 9 B O’Rourke 114 1 0 K Griggs e12010 S Shokrollahi 114 1 0 J Lanaway 11811 B Howells 119 1 0 T Berg 11012 E Anderson 105 0 1 D Marchand 10913 G Hughes 113 0 1 J Moore 11014 C Tillotson 92 ½ ½ D Chapman 10815 S White 114 1 0 G Lunn 10616 A Rigby 105 1 0 Q Latif 104(Syston) **11 5** | **Oxon v N2/W**Oxon won. |
| 241:11**UNDER 100** |
|  **Surrey**\* 9.5.98 **Notts** 1 Nick Bawden 93 j 1 0 Graham Neil 99 2 Bartek Jablonsky 91 j 1 0 Rob Davies - 3 Laila Tillett 98 1 0 Harvinder Landa 94 4 Harvey Murray-Smith 96 ½ ½ E Fredericks 72 5 Lana Boztas 93 0 1 Dorothy Blampied 97 6 Richard Davey 96 1 0 Ken Heath 71 7 David Briscoe - ½ ½ Dave Dunne 68 8 David Wallis 91 1 0 Suzanne Cobb 67 9 Graham Curtis 79 0 1 S Tys 5610 Chris Manders 78 j 1 0 Somia Rana -11 Simon Matthews 81 j 0 1 C Parish 5912 David Manders 73 j 1 0 Ben Lamy -(Milton Keynes) **8 4** | **S Staffs** 18.5.98  **Essex**\*J Button 95 1 0 J Sneesby 98B Hall 94 0 1 J Winkworth 98D Buckley 94 0 1 G Walker 96D Bull 93 ½ ½ J Lutton 96D Mackintosh 89 0 1 M Bridger 95P Gavin 89 0 1 R Prickett 95R Dolan 77 1 0 defJ Evans 92 0 1 S Trent 93P Nixon 71 ½ ½ M Cain 90K Moore 71 1 0 defJ Hennion 68 ½ ½ E Morris 77B Lynham - 0 1 A Trent 78(Bicester) **4½ 7½** |

**4NCL 1997-8: FINAL TABLES**

The last two rounds were played over the weekend of 23-24 May. Actually, in Division 2 they played Round 1 last. We believe ties are split by (1) overall game points and (2) result of match between tied teams.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DIVISION 1 P W D L MP GP 1 M Monarchs 11 10 1 0 21 60 2 Invicta Knights 11 9 0 2 18 57 3 Slough 11 9 0 2 18 54½ 4 Wood Green 11 8 0 3 16 54 5 Barbican 11 7 0 4 14 50 6 Richmond 11 5 1 5 11 43 7 BCM 11 5 0 6 10 46 8 NW Eagles 11 3 1 7 7 40 9 Bristol 11 3 0 8 6 3510 Guildford 11 3 0 8 6 3511 Northumbria 11 1 2 8 4 2612 SW Dragons 11 0 1 10 1 27½“With a final desperate lunge, Bristol escape the drop by virtue of beating Guildford early in the season!” | DIVISION 2  P W D L MP GP 1 Barbican 2 11 7 2 2 16 53 2 Simpsons 11 7 2 2 16 51½ 3 Wessex 11 8 0 3 16 45½ 4 White Rose 11 7 1 3 15 50 5 Witney & Swindon 11 7 0 4 14 50 6 Gwent Dragons 11 4 2 5 10 41 7 Invicta Knights 2 11 4 1 6 9 41½ 8 Kings Head 11 4 1 6 9 41½ 9 Bristol 2 11 2 4 5 8 4210 Coulsdon & Purley 11 4 0 7 8 41½11 Nidum Knights 11 3 1 7 7 35½12 Guildford 2 11 1 2 8 4 33Results Nigel Johnson |

**Thoughts of a Grader** (instalment 197.b)

Postman’s been. Oh, here’s my February Supplementary List. Well, the page headings say February, the Introduction says March, and it’s the 9th April.Hate supplementary lists. Hang on, though. “This Supplementary Grading List has been issued to assist congress organisers and graders.” Gosh. Must be something new about it. But now I think of it, didn’t it say the same thing last time?

 Two parts. Part One shouldn’t be any problem, it’s just corrections to the July list and I’ve already got those on my hard disk in the master list. Expect most of them are in the August Supplement as well. Let’s have a look at Part Two. Hmm, only a couple of pages. New and Reactivated Players, wonder what that means. I see, it’s people who weren’t in the July published list. Some are new, and some are in my master list but they’ve got different grades now because recent results have been included. I can tell the difference because the old ones have an “old grade” in brackets and the new ones haven’t. Seems anomalous, to include recent games for someone who only had nine in July so didn’t get published, while the feller with ten has to wait till the new main list comes out. Some grades are more up to date than others now. Never mind, it’ll be all right when we’re millenniummed.

 Part One *does* look big. The August Supplement was never this size. Shit. I bet there’s corrections I haven’t got in my master list. Hi, Chris? Richard. Are there new corrections in Part One? Bother. How do I pick them out? ... You cannot be serious. So *every* time I look someone up, I have to check the February Supplement in case he’s in it?

He was serious. He got me an electronic Supplementary List in the end, and my beast checked for new corrections in Part One. There were five. In a list of 892 names. But quite a few of the others, while in the master list, were not in the August Supplement. Part Two contains 157 (updated) grades for people already in the master list, but not active

enough for publication in July. Four of them have come out with the same grade as before. Mixed in with them are 60 entirely new players, mostly foreign, five of whom sport “old grades” which seem to be fictitious.

241:12

**SCCU COUNTY MATCHES 1998-9: OPEN FIXTURES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Oct 10 BrH BuK ESy 17 24 *(4NCL)*  31 HC KBr SyBu SxENov 7 CO 14 BrSy BuSx CK OH 21 *(4NCL)* 28 EBu KO SyC SxBrDec 5  12  | Jan 16 BrE CSx HK OSy  23 *(4NCL)* 30 BuBr EC SyH SxOFeb 6  13 CBu HSx KSy OE 20  27 CBr BuO EH SxK Mar 6 *(SCCU U18 qualifier)* 13 HBu KE OBr SySx 20 | These fixtures are identical to last year’s except that venues have been reversed. Not sure whether the counties have been asked about dates to avoid. If you have problems with any of them, make noises QUICK. Don’t re-arrange anything for the 7th March, that’s the date of the SCCU U18 team qualifier. And do tell the Controller and Bulletin about re-arranged dates.4NCL dates include the Sunday as well.Other SCCU divisions: entry deadline 15 August. |

**CONGRESS DIARY**

June 6-7 READING. Open; U171/131. CA Fieldsend, 12 Rokeby Close, Bracknell, Berks RG12 2NA 01344 869076

 7 RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY. Open; U160/120/80. Stephen Mooring, 65 Lincoln Avenue, Twickenham TW2 6NH 0181 893 8003

 20 GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

Jul 4 KENT JUNIOR GRAND PRIX Final Event at Maidstone. MPJ Whitwood, 8 Iden Crescent, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0NU 01580 892005 (home); 01622 726472 (school)

 11-12 9th ISH (well, don’t they know?) WEEKEND CONGRESS London W1. Open; U160/130/80. J Weightman, ISH Chess, 225a Finchley Rd, London NW3 6LP 0171 435 7205

 18 GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

 26-8 BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP CONGRESS at Torquay. One- and two-week events plus Weekenders. Congress Secretary, BCF, 9a Grand Parade, St Leonards, E Sussex TN38 0DD 01424 442500

**Quotes**

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| **1898** | **THE CENTENARY OF THE ESSEX (COUNTY) CHESS ASSOCIATION** | **1998** |

From the April Council meeting:

“From one Yorkshireman to another…” - “I’m a Lancastrian.”

“I’m not getting any older.” - P\*\*l B\*sw\*ll

And from our postbag:

“The organisers reserve the right to reduce the prize fund if insufficient entries are received. However prizes *will not be less* than 75% of those stated.” - Reading Congress leaflet. At least they warned you, even if it was on a different page. Oh, here’s another one:

“All prize money will be changed if entries are insufficient.” - ISH

**People**

Philip Borman 201 (Herts). We said last time that we couldn’t identify him. The only Borman in the list is PJ Borman of Guernsey and Manchester University, graded 151. Turns out it *is* him; apparently Herts quoted a converted Elo or something. Don’t know how he came by the 151; his Herts results make him better than that.

 Steve Sorenson, also 201 and also Herts, was Steve Swanson. *Think* the rule was, Swanson when typed and Sorenson when handwritten.

**Kent representative** on the Management Board

When we said Nick Mackett’s new phone number didn’t ring a bell, we were wrong. It rang a bell, but in the wrong house. Correct number is 01622 762079.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**: *Checkpoint* (GMCCA) for Spring; *Chessex* for April/May; ChessIns for April; Surrey Girls Newsletter for May.

 Issue 242 July 1998

**EDITORIAL**

Someone reminded me, a while back, that this Issue would mark the end of my 20th year as Editor. I wish he hadn’t. Well, to be fair, I think I’d have remembered. Is 20 years too long? Probably. An extended ego-trip is no substitute for fresh blood and new ideas. There *is* welcome fresh blood on the Executive, and we need more.

I congratulate Essex on winning the National U175 and U100 Championships. Also the players of the Kent First Team on retaining the Open Championship, and thank you to their opponents’ match captain for telling me. Near misses for Herts, and the Oxon players, who lost their (Minor Counties and U125) Finals. Not to mention Kent who went out in the U150 semi-final on board count, to a side that went on to lose the Final in the same way.

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| **ORDERS FOR NEXT YEAR**All Bulletin subscriptions expire with this issue, unless you’re the one who’s just renewed in advance. There’s a renewal form in the envelope somewhere. Return it straight away if you want to renew. You know you’ll forget otherwise. County Secretaries get a free copy automatically courtesy of the SCCU, so long as I know who they are. Other county officers receiving free copies, match captains for example, do so because their counties have subscribed on their behalf. I don’t automatically know who match captains are and I don’t send them free copies anyway. Prod your county treasurer or secretary if you think it prudent. All members of the SCCU Executive get a free copy if they choose not to pay. Some other people get free copies for odd reasons, and they need not renew unless I forget.There is also an order form for Grading Lists. It goes to a different address. Don’t try to combine the two in one order. (We’re only human. At best you’ll get what you ordered, at worst we’ll shred half of it.) County Secretaries are being sent lots of GL order forms, with a request to distribute them to clubs when convenient.The Bulletin form says Don’t Staple your Cheque to Anything. The one subscriber who did, last year, got a September Bulletin with staples in funny places and I hope it took *him* ages to remove them. |

**SCCU ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Saturday 27th June 1998 at the Fountains Abbey, Paddington

20 attended, and every County was represented except Berks and Sussex (both of whom sent apologies). In more or less chronological order:

**(1) Grading**. The Grading Secretary mentioned the efficiency (by and large!) of SCCU graders. He kept his SCCU hat on, so no revelations about the new BCF system. However, he paid special tribute to his unofficial Assistant Grading Officer (Mrs Howell) whose work had been extensive on both fronts.

**(2) County match fixtures**. No one objected to just reversing last year’s fixtures (which had always been intended, following the previous AGM). But one county said it would prefer not to meet all its strong opponents in one run, and it was agreed to review the fixtures for next time. Some thought dates should be published earlier.

**(3) Essex Centenary match**. The Centenary Match (Sunday 11 Oct 1998 at Hornchurch) was envisaged as a two-round 50-board-ish friendly-ish match with grading bounds not yet determined. The Executive would seek volunteers to get an SCCU team together.

**(4) Money**. The audited Accounts for 1997-8, showing a surplus of £534, were adopted. In the 1998-9 Budget it was agreed to add £100 to the Junior provision and provide £100 for trophy valuation. (Executive to handle that as it thought fit. More trouble than they’re worth, these trophies.) Also £75 for an SCCU website.

**(5) SCCU website**. There are maybe a hundred chess websites in the country, and there was some feeling that it was time we had ours. It could include names and addresses, up-to-date match results, and anything else that was suitable from Bulletins in preparation. It might cost £75 a year if we went via the BCF, or approaching £200 if we wanted to be independent. It was agreed to budget for £75. Nobody actually undertook to do anything about it (you need to catch your Webmaster). Your Editor supports this proposal strongly and has no idea what expertise Webmasters need.

**(6) Trophies**. The Ebony (U125) and Harry Woolverton (U100) were not engraved yet. The Ebony *was* suitably presented, to Oxon, then taken back again. The Harry Woolverton, due for presentation to Surrey, was not at the meeting but it was in Surrey anyway. The Fleming Board and Anness Cup, two old junior trophies of uncertain history, were present. It was agreed that old trophies should always be re-cycled, given a sensible match between old and new functions. What we seemed to lack was a couple of trophies for U18 Girls teams.

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**(7) Elections of Officers**. Chris Fewtrell was elected Deputy President, and David Smith (Essex U150 match captain, or he was last year) took over as County Match Controller.

**(8) SCCU General Rules**. The Rules had been re-drafted to accommodate the election to membership of organisations other than Counties. Proposed increases in quorums were rejected, but otherwise the draft was quickly accepted by many votes to none. This satisfied the two-thirds requirement.
 Someone had reservations about the possibility of proxy votes. The existing rules allowed them, and no notice had been given of proposals to abolish them, so discussion was limited. (It seemed to be the case that this meeting was the first at which proxies had actually been used.)

**(9) Applications for SCCU Membership**. In anticipation of the above, three applications had been received. All were approved overwhelmingly. The new members are the Hastings International Congress; the Southend Congress; and the Maidstone Congress.

**(10) SCCU Junior Individual Championships**. There are none, and have been none for a decade. Should we reinstate them? It would have to be in association with existing congresses. At U18 level, it would be reasonable to go with the congress awarding the SCCU Championship title. At lower age levels we might look to (say) the London Junior Championships, if they would have us.
 The principle of reinstating the championships, on some such lines, was approved nem con. We seemed to have no Junior Individual trophies, but books or money (supplemented with certificates) would do very well. It was suggested that we might use some or all of the £150 currently given to the BCF Junior Squad and EPSCA. However, Council agreed an additional junior allowance of £100 in the 1998-9 budget. We’ve already said that, but now you know why. The Executive would take things forward as it thought appropriate.

**(11) SCCU Grading Lists**. A BCF preamble first. The BCF was to inaugurate a six-monthly cycle of lists. It was said that presentation would be much improved. The August 1998 list would have certain embellishments, and the February 1999 one would have the works: a CD full of goodies, Rapidplay as well as Standardplay grades, Elo ratings for such as had them, and (apparently) fake Elos for such as hadn’t. This last drew one or two disparaging remarks at the AGM. The August list would be at the old price, but the February one would cost maybe 10% more. Rapidplay grades would not be included in the August list, because the BCF still had a “May” Rapidplay list to sell. There would be no November Rapidplay list. Rapidplay would thereafter be in sync with the six-monthly cycle, and not published separately.
 How should this affect the old annual SCCU list? The consensus was that at SCCU level a mid-term list, unlikely to affect eligibility for leagues, would not sell well. It was therefore agreed to do only an Autumn list this year, and push hard for SCCU sales of mid-term BCF lists. There was no risk attached to selling BCF lists on sale-or-return. It was stated incidentally that, although leagues were entitled to base eligibility on Autumn grades alone, grading calculations would use whichever (BCF half-year) grade was current. Eligibility for County matches will certainly be based on Autumn grades; the rules say so.

The meeting took something over four hours, and wasn’t as tedious as AGMs sometimes are.

**SCCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive met Immediately after the AGM, as always, and as always it did routine things. Elections:

Representative to BCF Management Board: JA Philpott.

Representatives to BCF Council: JA Philpott, CE Majer, RJ Haddrell, C Lean.

Representative to London CA: DR Sedgwick.

Rules & Appeals Sub-Committee: JAP, CEM, RJH, JT Melsom, NC Mackett.

**Next meeting**: Friday 4th September 1998 (at the Durham Castle).

**BCF MANAGEMENT BOARD**

20th June 1998

(1) The meeting managed to cover an even smaller proportion of the agenda than usual. Still we have our priorities right and managed to spend time discussing drafting minutiae on the minutes of the previous meeting even though there is a clear policy only to consider amendments notified in advance of the meeting.

(2) Policy papers were presented for junior chess (held over from a previous meeting) and womens chess, but not for home chess (the director was absent), so the Counties Rapidplay is unlikely to obtain peripatetic status until next year.

(3) There was a discussion, not totally positive in nature, about the Hastings International Chess centre and the consultants’ report. Brian Driscoll was commissioned to prepare a paper for the September Council Meeting.

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(4) Stewart Reuben will miss the September Board and Council. Alan Martin will chair the Board meeting - Council can choose whoever it likes.

(5) The meeting endorsed the general principles of a preliminary report by myself on honoraria, and asked me to continue work on the subject.

(6) The three nominees for the Presidents Award were approved - I will not name them as I am not certain whether they have been approached, but one of them does come from the SCCU area.

(7) The question of whether the BCF should send teams to the Elista Olympiad in the light of the murder of Larissa Yudina was debated. A very full account of the debate appears in the July Chess Monthly, so I will simply indicate that the meeting did not vote to withdraw the teams.

 John Philpott

**CONGRESS RESULTS**

**18th RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY** 7th June 1998

**Open** (14 pl) 1 IM Jonathan Parker (London) 5/6; 2-4 IM Susan Lalic (Cheam), IM Peter Large (London), Gavin Wall (London) 4... Grading U200 1 Desmond Tan (RJCC/Mitcham) 4 (so 2-5= dammit; 2 Simon Buckley (Bath) 3 U180 1-2 Paul Dupré (Walton on Thames), Melanie Buckley (Bath) 2½

**Under 160** (20 pl) 1 Ross Rattray (RJCC/Cheam) 5/6; 2-3 Ben Chamberlain (RJCC/Surbiton), Adrian Matthews (Leighton Buzzard) 4½... Grading U140 1-2 Andrew Bigg (Oxted), Shane McCabe (London) 3

**Under 120** (26 pl) 1-3 Thomas Kember (London), Gary Lee (London), Thomas Nixon (RJCC/Kew) 5/6... Grading U100 1-2 Samuel Buckley (Bath), Robert Heaton (RJCC/New Malden) 4

**Under 80** (40 pl) 1 Peter Watts (London) 5½/6; 2-3 Peter Alexander (RJCC/Surbiton), Jamie Yardley (RJCC/Kingston) 5...

**2-Generation Family Prize**: Hamid and Karim Habibi (Maidstone) 7/12

**(Richmond) LATOKA GRAND PRIX**

The six Richmond Rapidplays over the season went towards the GP. Scores in the first three tournaments were multiplied by 3, in the fourth and fifth by 5, and in the last by 6 (why?). The GP was in eight (?graded) sections, details not explained but it’s clear that A was the strongest. We’ve looked the grades up, as a guide. Looked the Standardplay ones up by accident first, so you get those in brackets. See also page 9! **A** Peter Large 211 (212: London); **B** Desmond Tan 180 (188: RJCC/Mitcham); **C** Martin Taylor 166 (178: Rainham Kent); **D** David Faldon 142 (149: London; **E** Ben Chamberlain 124 (118: RJCC/Surrey); **F** Thomas Nixon 110 (108: RJCC/Kew); **G** Luke Pettit 91 (101: RJCC/ Hounslow); **H** Trevor Pettit 76 (63: RJCC/Hounslow)

In addition, three merit awards were made: Kate Feld (Cobham): top female; and Harvey Murray-Smith (Hinchley Wood) and Peter Alexander, second and third respectively in section H. Section H was very tight at the top.

 Results Richard James

**GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY** 20th June 1998

**Open** (22 pl) 1 Jim Plaskett (Barbican) 5½/6; 2-4 Jonathan Parker (London), Abimbola Adelaja (Coulsdon),

Colin Crouch (Harrow) 4½...

**Major U160** (22 pl) 1-2 Branko Pribanich (Northants), E Michael White (Downend) 5/6; 3 Peter Turner (NCI Cambs) 4½...

**Minor U130** (31 pl) 1-3 Ian Brooke (Oxford City), Tyrone Woo (Barbican), David Bevan (Battersea) 5/6...

**Amateur U100** (27 pl) 1 Ray Gosden (Whitstable) 5½/6; 2 Geoff Dennis (London SW2) 5; 3 Steve Hart 4½...

Results Adam Raoof

**1ST PICCOLA ITALIA RAPIDPLAY** 27th June 1998

The Piccola Italia is a popular restaurant in Golders Green, co-owned by Salvatore Pepe of Barnet Chess Club.

1 Miroslav Houska 207 (Slough) 6/7; 2-3 Paul Georghiou 209 (Barnet), Abimbola Adelaja 202 (Coulsdon) 5½; 4 Costas Karayiannis 192 (Chingford) 5; 5-8 John Naylor 201 (Coulsdon), Tryfon Gavriel 199 (Barnet), Daniel Lam198 (London Univ), Andy Horton-Kitchlew 171 (Battersea) 4½... 26 played. Results Adam Raoof

**9th ISH CONGRESS** 11-12 July 1998

**Open** (31 pl) 1 James Plaskett GM 230 4½/5; 2-4 Mark Ferguson IM 226 (Midland Monarchs), David Gunter 190 (ISH), Daniel Lam 175 (London University) 4... Grading U175 Heather Richards 159 (Whitstable) 3½

**Major U160** (41 pl) 1-2 Stephen Piper 157 (Newham), William Hughes 156 (Aylesbury) 4½/5; 3-5 Ioseph Okosieme 157 (ISH), JC Hannot 155 (Kings Head), Karl Forman 154 (Coventry) 4... Grading U145 Timothy Woodward 116 (RJCC) 3

**Minor U130** (51 pl) 1-2 Colin Derbyshire 116 (Met Police), AG Bynnersley 111 (W London) 4½; 3-4 Donny Muter 115 (RJCC), Andrew Hughes 127 (Aylesbury) 4... Grading U100 Victorio Benzoni 96 (E London) 3½

**Amateur U80** (22 pl) 1 Michael Snowden 72 (Dulwich) 5/5; 2 Jamie Hillman 44 (Barnet) 4; 3-5 Julian Smith 75 (Hackney), Malcolm Jamieson 70 (Eastbourne), Caroline Robson 68 (Barnet) 3½ Results Adam Raoof

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**GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY** 18th July 1998

**OPEN (**15 pl) 1 Jim Plaskett (Barbican) 5½/6; 2 Paul Georghiou (Barnet) 5; 3-4 Scott Wastney (New Zealand),

Laurence Webb (Hampstead) 4...

**MAJOR U160 (**15 pl) 1 Dave Faldon (Hendon) 5/6; 2-3 David Cutmore (Wood Green), Nick de Peyer (Hampstead) 4½; 4 Alfredo Luaces (Kings Head) 4...

**MINOR U130 (**20 pl) 1-4 Joel Bird, Paul Kennelly (Hammersmith), CJ de Mooi, Salvatore Pepe 4½...

**AMATEUR U100 (**17 pl) 1-2 Stephen Guy (Ramsgate), Wilbur Francis (Metropolitan) 5/6; 3 David Everitt (Haywards Heath) 4½; 4-5 Victor Litvin (London), Edmund Birkhamshaw (Hayes) 4... Results Adam Raoof

Tom Quilter - Paul Seet: Golders Green Rapidplay 20.6.98, Round 6 OPEN

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Bc4 Nc6 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.h4 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.Bh6 Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.h5 Nxh5 16.g4 Nf6 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.Qh6+ Kf6 19.e5+ Kxe5 20.0-0-0 f5 21.Rhe1+ Kf6 22.g5+ Kf7 23.Qxh7+ Ke8 24.Qxg6+ Rf7 25.Rh1 1-0

Potopaev - Ferguson: ISH 7/98 Rd 4, 1998

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 Bf5 4.Bg2 e6 5.0-0 h6 6.c4 c6 7.b3 a5 8.Bb2 Be7 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.Ne5 a4 11.Re1 Bh7 12.bxa4 Qa5 13.c5 Nbd7 14.Nxd7 Nxd7 15.e3 Bf6 16.Rc1 Qxa4 17.Qxa4 Rxa4 18.a3 Rb8 19.Rc3 Bd8 20.Nb3 b5 21.cxb6 Rxb6 22.Bc1 Be7 23.Nc5 Nxc5 24.dxc5 Rb7 25.Re2 Bf6 0-1

**JUNIOR NEWS**

Some of this is a catching-up exercise, for things that ought to have been in the last issue. We don’t always get results very promptly (or at all, sometimes). Some of it is also catching-up on the file that got lost in the power cut. Well, we say file. Presumably we hadn’t saved it. Our old notebook computer, obsolete but dragged out of retirement every so often when we want to be portable, would just have switched over to battery and we wouldn’t have lost a thing. Get on with it, Richard.

**ROTARY MEGAFINALS** at the start of May involved 3449 players in 19 Areas. Here they are in order of size, for interest. 1 Surrey 505 players; 2 Middx 353; 3 Wessex 194; 4 Kent 193; 5 Anglia 186; 6 Mercia 176; 7 Essex 175; 8 Trent 172; 9 Southern 170; 10 Central 163; 11 Yorks 156; 12 Lancaster 150; 13 West Country 149; 14-15 Chilterns, Scotland 147; 16 Mersey 137; 17 Northumbria 124; 18 Wales 119; 19 N Ireland 33. Gigafinal qualifiers come from all counties except Dorset and Derbyshire. Whether they’re rotten chess players in Dorset and Derbyshire, or just didn’t enter, we don’t know. Girls were very heavily outnumbered, except in Surrey and Middx (which also had much the largest Megafinals). 77% of players were from Primary Schools, and next year’s tournament will attempt to target the Secondaries.

 Gigafinals are 12th July in Nottingham; Terafinal 29th August in London.

**LONDON v REST OF ENGLAND: U11 GIRLS** 4th May 1998

The Rest of England won 26-6 (and the Reserves match 7-1).

**LLOYDS BANK NATIONAL GIRLS SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS** at Sheen Mount School, 10th May 1998

**Under 13** (3 teams) 1 Croydon Girls 6½/8; 2 Lady Eleanor Holles 4...

**Under 11** (18 teams) 1 Croydon Girls 11/12; 2-3 Bromley High, North Bridge House 9; 4 Danes Hill 8½...

**Under 11 Reserves** (22 teams. One was really a First Team, but that still seems to mean that some schools had more than one set of reserves!) 1 North Bridge House II 10½/12; 2 Sheen Mount II 9½; 3-5 St Marys I, Croydon Girls III (ah!), Wimbledon High III 9...

About 170 played, which meant some boards were in the open air (fine weather, fortunately). The Bulletin has a distinct impression that most schools, perhaps nearly all of them, were from a Surrey/Middx-ish sort of area. Sheen Mount is, isn’t it? This would tend to confirm a comment made above. Results Neil Clifton

**GIRLS U18 TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS: NATIONAL FINALS**, Solihull 23rd May 1998

**Open** 1 Surrey 5/6; 2 Notts 3; 3 Wilts 1

**Second Teams** also went to Surrey because there were no other entries.

**Minor Counties** 1 Surrey 2nd team (hors concours) 5½/6; 2 (and Champions) Middx 4 Results Neil Clifton

**MORE GIRLS NEWS**

**freeman trophy** at Coulsdon, 20th June 1998

West Surrey Girls 26 4 East Surrey Girls (double round, 13-2 both times). Why? Best clubs? Best coaches? Best drinking water? “Some of the best East players unavailable” has been quoted but doesn’t seem to be a real answer. Having 30 girls willing and able to take part was quite a feather in Surrey’s cap.

**sussex v surrey U11 friendly** at Cuckfield 27th June 1998 was won 15-9 by Surrey. 12 boards, 2 rounds. The

242:5

Sussex team is new.

**english counties girls chess federation** is being set up, if it hasn’t just been. U14 Zonal qualifiers are envisaged. We hear that (prospective) members are Essex, Kent, Middx, Surrey, Sussex.. and Yorks and Wilts.

**“TIMES” FINALS** at the Tower Hotel, London, 2-3 July 1998

**Semi-finals** Manchester Grammar 4 2 St Pauls London; Torquay Boys GS 5 1 Queen Elizabeths Wakefield

**Third Place Play-off** St Pauls 6 0 QE Wakefield

**Final** Manchester Grammar 4½ 1½ Torquay GS

**KENT** Schools League 1997-8

**Primary** Champions are Amherst CP Sevenoaks, breaking a three-year run by Barming Maidstone. Barming were runners-up. Unusually (see comments above...) the winning team had three girls in it, out of five. Including the top two boards. We think they were the *only* girls, in a 74-player Final Congress. The Primary section (49 teams this year, if you count the ones who didn’t play any matches) seems to be coming out of the trough of the last ten or twelve years. Secondary ones haven’t yet. Whether it will work through remains to be seen; activity depends at least as much on staff as on pupils. Results Us

And out of date, but no one sent it at the time:

**EPSCA U11 FINALS** at Corby, 18th May 1998

1 Wey Valley 31/36; 2 Devon 27½; 3 Kent 24½; 4 Liverpool 23½; 5 Notts 22½; 6 Wilts 19½; 7 Essex 19; 8 Somerset 18½; 9 NW London 17½; 10 Barnet 17½; 11 Manchester 16½; 12 Hants 15½; 13 Northants 13½; 14 Lincs 13½; 15 Suffolk 12; 16 S London 7½; 17 Herts 7½ Results Peter Walker

**LONDON LEAGUE 1997-8**

**Division 1** GP MP **Division 2** GP MP **Division 3** GP MP

 1 Hackney I 84 9½ Richmond I 66½ 8½  Intl Students I 54 7½ 

 2 Charlton 82½ 7 Wood Green II 56½ 7 Kings Head II 63½6½ 

 3 Barbican I 73 6½ Athenaeum I 53½ 7  Newham 59 6 

 4 Streatham I 60½ 6½ Mitcham 58½ 6½  Streatham II 54½ 6

 5 Wood Green I 73 6 Wimbledon I 49 4½ Richmond II 47 5½

 6 Ilford I 67 6 Hackney II 46½ 4  Hammersmith 52 5

 7 Kings Head I 58½ 4½ Barbican II 49 3 Cavendish II 47 4½

 8 Beckenham & Bromley 53 4½ Wanstead I 44 3 Lewisham II 45½ 3½

 9 Cavendish I 60½ 4 Gravesend 41½ 3 Wimbledon II 45 3

10 Lewisham I 56 3 Metropolitan I 41½ 2½ Barbican III 40½ ½ 

11 Mushrooms 52½ 3 Woodbridge 39½ 2½ Stock Exchange 38½ ½ 

12 Drunken Knights 56½ 1½ 

**Division 4**  **Division 5** **Division 6**

 1 Ilford II 52 8  Wimbledon III 58½ 8  Ilford III 64 9½ 

 2 Morley College I 56½ 6  Beck & Brmley II 65½ 7½  Capablanca 48½ 7½ 

 3 Metropolitan II 53½ 5½  West London 51½ 6½  Intl Students II 58½ 7 

 4 Battersea I 49 5 Waltham Forest 46 4  Kings Head IV 51½ 4½ 

 5 Ateneo Monarchs 43½ 4½ Barbican IV 48½ 3 GLCC II 27½ 1 

 6 Wanstead II 41½ 3 London Deaf 43 2½ DHSS II 32½ ½

 7 Athenaeum II 40½ 3 Morley College II 34 2 Barbican V 23½ -1

 8 Willesden 38½ 2½ GLCC I 34 1

 9 DHSS I 36½ 1½  Metropolitan III 32 ½

10 Kings Head III 36½ 1½  Battersea II 29 ½

No relegations in Division 5. (Isn’t it going to be a bit big next year?) The odd-looking relegations in Division 2 were “by Committee decision”, don’t know what criteria they used. A note by Charlton in Division I says “withdrawn”. They completed their fixtures; perhaps their withdrawal is for next season. Results Bob Turnham.

**KENT** Leagues 1997-8: Finals Day 31.5.98

**County Cup** Maidstone 3½ 2½ Charlton; **Lewis Cup** Rainham II \*3 3 Dartford & Swanley II; **Stevenson Cup** Chislehurst II 4 2 Thanet II; **En Passant Cup** Hayes III 3½ 2½ Medway I; **Harvey Cup** Charlton V 5½ ½ Danson II; **Tom Fuller Cup** Sidcup V \*2 2 Charlton VI. **Individual**: Open Ian Watson, again; Major Malcolm Mourant; Intermediate Steve Chick; Minor Alan Fraser.

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**NATIONAL CLUB**

**UNDER 175**

**Semi-finals** Morecambe 1½ 3½ Guildford; Hastings 4½ ½ Southbourne

**Plate semi-finals** Bradford 1½ 3½ Huddersfield; Milton Keynes 3 2 Cosham

**UNDER 150**

**Semi-finals** Maidstone 3 2 Bourne End; Rose Forgrove 3 2 Thornbury

**Plate semi-finals** Hastings & St Leonards 2½ 2½ \*Cardiff; Yorkshire Copperworks 1½ 3½ Kings Head

**UNDER 125**

**Semi-finals** Alwoodley 3 2 Rushall; Cowley 3½ 2½ Tunbridge Wells

**Plate semi-finals** Great Lever 2½ 2½ \*Ashfield; Reading\* 2½ 2½ Waltham Forest

**UNDER 100**

Full results, since we haven’t given any yet and there were only ten entries.

**Rd 1** Grays 1 4 Reading; Maidstone 4 1 Eastbourne; Coulsdon & Purley 2 3 Basingstoke; Finchley w/o scr Syston, who decided to play in the Plate; Grappenhall bye; and Rose Forgrove withdrew.

**Rd 2** Grappenhall 3½ 1½ Finchley

**Semi-finals** Grappenhall 2½ 2½ \*Basingstoke; Reading 4½ ½ Maidstone

Plate

**Rd 1** (or semi-finals) Eastbourne 2 3 Coulsdon & Purley; Syston w/o scr Grays. (Must be some records here. It can’t be often a team gets all the way to a national final by means of two match defaults, one of which is its own. At any rate they *must* have beaten the record for Least Overall Travelling Distance. Controller slipped up there.)

**HANDICAP RAPIDPLAY**

**Semi-finals** Cowley (183) 4½ 3½ Keynsham (183); Guildford A (207) 6½ 1½ Slough (163). Slough were 235 when they beat Maidstone (231) in the quarter-final.

**Plate Semi-finals** Abercynon (163) 5½ 2½ Southampton Univ (150); Imperial College (186) 4½ 3½ Mushrooms (204)

**AND THE FINALS** at Ratcliffe College 5th July 1998. We’ve not seen these on the BCF website. Or the Counties Finals, come to that. Why? Huge SCCU representation, so we’ll give results in full.

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| **Open** **Maidstone Wood Green** 1 AS Ivanov 228 ½ ½ John Emms 243 2 IR Watson 213 0 1 Jonathan Levitt 235 3 NF Dickenson 210 1 0 Paul Littlewood 211 4 CR Chandler 202 ½ ½ Andrew Law 206 5 CM Cooley 205 0 1 Jim Poulton 219 6 CI Howell 186 1 0 Peter Sowray 213 **3 3**Wood Green won on board count | **Open Plate****Charlton Bedford**PJ Morris 223 ½ ½ AJ Ledger 223AJ Stebbings 203 ½ ½ DJ Ledger 203AE Hanreck 201 0 1 SC Ledger 196JD Wager 193 0 1 I Bacon 152NP Donovan 181 1 0 G Valerio 157RC Hyde 165 0 1 C Bullock 143 **2 4** |
| **Major** **Hastings Guildford** 1 RV Elliston ½ ½ JM Shepley 2 S Cunliffe ½ ½ PM Stimpson 3 A Lewis 0 1 M Smart 4 S Blewitt 0 1 MJ Morgan 5 D Harvey 0 1 DKA Hughes **1 4** | **Major Plate****Huddersfield Milton Keynes**D Firth ½ 1 ½ 0 P KendallT Pogson ½ 0 ½ 1 V RumseyCP Booth ½ ½ ½ ½ R MahoneyA Drabble ½ 1 ½ 0 A ElwinR Boylan ½ ½ ½ ½ P Taylor **2½ 3 2½ 2**You’ve guessed. They needed a replay. Shouldn’t think there’s a rule saying the teams have to be identical in a replay, but they were anyway. How about colours reversed?! Don’t know whether they were in fact; no colours supplied. |
| **Intermediate** **Maidstone Rose Forgrove** 1 RE Lane 140 1 0 CW Davies 133 2 AM Lawrence 139 0 1 G Smith 130 3 PM Titmas 139 ½ ½ R Letton 133 4 SC Mills 130 ½ ½ S Aleksandrowicz 135 5 S Thanesan 122 ½ ½ T Wheldon **2½ 2½**Maidstone won on board count | **Intermediate Plate****Kings Head Cardiff**G Sweetland 149 1 0 C FoxJ Nyman 146 1 0 J BourkeC Fewtrell 146 1 0 T TarlingG Brown 143 ½ ½ Bill HarleN Tomkin 139 ½ ½ P Keevil **4 1** |

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| **Minor** **Alwoodley Cowley** 1 H Thornton 120 ½ ½ W Tutty 2 M Oldham 119 ½ ½ A Collins 3 M Dow 121 1 0 J Buchanan 4 J Frankland 107 1 0 C David 5 S Johnson 105 1 0 G Morris **4 1** | **Minor Plate****Reading Ashfield**M Silman 121 0 1 RP TaylorG Caskie 115 ½ ½ RM SayerCR Berry 113 1 0 D WilsonMG Tarrant 110 ½ ½ M JacksonS Collier 108 ½ ½ PK Wilkinson **2½ 2½**Reading won on board count |
| **Under 100** **Reading Basingstoke** 1 A Bowhill 93 0 1 T Talbot 76 2 B Cleves 90 ½ ½ M Bowater 86 3 M Dent 88 0 1 J Talbot 94 4 S Rush 81 1 0 M Harbourne 89 5 I Sayer 81 1 0 A Talbot 79 **2½ 2½**Basingstoke won on board count | **Coulsdon Syston**J Constable 88 ½ ½ C Shortland 94A Kelly 85 0 1 G Jarvis 76D Morgan 82 ½ ½ P Pearson 96S Freeman 75 0 1 J Jarvis 66E Freeman 14 ½ ½ N Rathod - **1½ 3½** |

**Handicap Rapidplay**

Cowley beat Guildford on handicap. Imperial College won the Plate when Abercynon’s handicap (food poisoning) occasioned their withdrawal.

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| **COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES: SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS****OPEN** |
| Semi-finals **Leics** 13.6.98 **Kent**\* 1 M Hebden 247 (W) ½ ½ Neil McDonald 237 2 G Lawton 225 0 1 Danny Gormally 225 3 G Lee 214 0 1 Ian Watson 213 4 A Hadzimonolis 197 1 0 James Vigus 210 5 V Clemic 1 193 0 1 Cliff Chandler 202 6 A Morley 181 ½ ½ Andrew Mack 202 7 A Byron 183 0 1 Alan Hanreck 201 8 S Allinson 193 1 0 Lyndon Gurr 201 9 PR Davies 178 ½ ½ John Sugden 19610 S Calderwood 181 ½ ½ David Farndon 19411 PJ Horspool 158 1 0 John Wager 19312 L Robinson 179 ½ ½ Peter P Taylor 19113 R Burgess 178 ½ ½ Alexis Harakis 18814 O Hardy 170 ½ ½ Gordon Botley 19115 D Bray 179 0 1 Nigel Donovan 18116 P Gibbs 174 ½ ½ Chris Rice 171(Stanion 2) **7 9**1 Bd 5: Can’t identify. 2 Can’t identify. Could be St Anion, but we can’t find that either. Definitely not St Onion. | **Sussex**\* 13.6.98 **Gtr Manchester**DH Cummings 208 1 0 AA Smith 208 (B)FJ Kwiatkowski 204 ½ ½ M Firth 204DB Graham 204 1 0 C Beckett 197LE Rutherford 198 ½ ½ RA Beach 190GH James 197 ½ ½ DI Hulmes 187BJ Denman - 0 1 JL Powell 181B Cafferty 192 1 0 P Adams 187M Broom 193 ½ ½ JP McKenna 185SJ Newman 187 ½ ½ PG Brown 185PG Farr 179 0 1 AJ Walton 168MR Stott 177 0 1 GP Burton 186MO Costley 176 0 1 H Kampmann 183RJ Almond 175 1 0 A Beveridge 185MJ Reddie 168 0 1 H Lamb 184AO Pickersgill 169 ½ ½ A Longson 164IG Kelly 167 1 0 P Shand 151(Syston) **8 8**Sussex won on board count. |
| Final **Sussex**\*14.7.98 **Kent** 1 DH Cummings 208 ½ ½ IR Watson 213 (W) 2 FJ Kwiatkowski 204 0 1 NF Dickenson 210 3 DB Graham 204 ½ ½ CR Chandler 202 4 GH James 197 0 1 AE Hanreck 201 5 BJ Denman - 1 0 J Naylor 201 6 B Cafferty 192 ½ ½ LR Gurr 201 7 M Broom 193 ½ ½ JN Sugden 196 8 MD Nicholas 192 0 1 D Farndon 194 9 SJ Newman 187 0 1 JD Wager 19310 PG Farr 179 0 1 PP Taylor 19111 MR Stott 177 0 1 NSW Alfred 19012 MO Costley 176 1 0 PJ O’Donovan 19013 RJ Almond 175 ½ ½ CI Howell 18614 IG Kelly 167 0 1 JE Scholes 18415 AO Pickersgill 169 ½ ½ RMR O’Kelly 18316 PA Batchelor 168 0 1 NP Donovan 181(Ratcliffe College) **5 11** | **Correction from last issue**U175 quarter-final: Devon - Surrey 16.5.98. Surrey bd 12 was PR Archer 151. We had someone else down as playing 11 and 12 simultaneously. Good thing it was wrong, because the BCF have just made it against the rules. You can now play in two matches at once, but not two boards in the same match. The SCCU, by precedent at least, already don’t let you play two boards in the same match. We *think* there’s an older precedent banning the other thing as well. In case anyone’s wondering, what the rule has in mind is people finishing their game quickly and then playing another one to avoid a default elsewhere. Don’t know the BCF’s position on players *literally* playing two games at once in adjacent matches. |
| 242:8**MINOR COUNTIES** |
| Semi-final**Worcestershire** 13.6.98 **Herts**\* 1 GM Boyce 189 (B) 0 1 Simon JB Knott 226 2 M Burrows 189 ½ ½ Steve Swanson 201 3 P Kitson 178 1 0 Phil G Maguire 198 4 R Thomas 176 ½ ½ Paul V Byway 196 5 J Edge 175 ½ ½ Andrew Gilfillan 187 6 M Bissell 167 ½ ½ Kevin R Clark 188 7 D Joshi 163 0 1 Howard L Tebbs 182 8 I Howarth 161 1 0 JN Fraser-Mitchell 179 9 A Taylor 157 1 0 Chris E Majer 18010 G Herbert 157 0 1 John R Denton 17711 M Bethel 153 ½ ½ Steve J Tovey 16812 J Foxall 153 0 1 Philip J Gregory 16913 E Horwill 147 ½ ½ D Ross Brennan 17514 J Gittus 145 0 1 Barry Morris 1 16115 J Peters 143 0 1 David E Bower 15916 J Wilson 141 0 1 Steven Weston 150(Long Hanborough) **6 10**1 Bd 14: our invitation to Marry Morris, made two issues back, was made without his consent. He’s spoken for. | Final**Suffolk** 4.7.98 **Herts**\*Nick Pert 222 (B) ½ ½ Simon JB Knott 226Richard Pert 221 1 0 Steve Swanson 201Karl Bowden 223 1 0 Philip Borman “201”Mike Cook 191 ½ ½ Phil G Maguire 198Ian Wallis 188 0 1 Paul V Byway 196Shaun Munson 183 1 0 Andrew Gilfillan 187Edmund Player 181 1 0 Kevin R Clark 188Steve Gregory 180 1 0 Howard L Tebbs 182Paul Botham 176 ½ ½ JN Fraser-Mitchell 179David Spence 175 1 0 John R Denton 177Alex Charity 165 1 0 Chris E Majer 180John Feavyour 164 0 1 Steve J Tovey 168Stephen Ruthen 164 0 1 Philip J Gregory 169Mike Taylor 163 ½ ½ D Ross Brennan 175Tim Lunn 161 ½ ½ Barry Morris 161Tony Rubin 154 1 0 David E Bower 159(Ratcliffe College) **10½ 5½**For what it’s worth, both sides were somewhat over the 180 limit they’re introducing next season. Last year’s finalists were way over it. |
| **UNDER 175** |
| Semi-final **Essex**\* 13.6.98 **Devon** 1 Andrew R Brett 173 1 0 Peter CR Lane 170 (W) 2 Trevor D Coote 173 1 0 Andrew M Dunn 167 3 George McNally 172 0 1 Alan W Brusey 166 4 William L Saunders 171 1 0 Dave Regis 164 5 Peter C Doye 170 0 1 Andrew Pickering 163 6 Larry Marden 169 1 0 Chris J Bellers 161 7 David J Millward 168 0 1 Peter E Halmkin 159 8 Ivor BN Smith 161 1 0 Nick A Frost 156 9 Ken W Clow 173 ½ ½ Mark Blackmore 15310 Colin R Ramage 167 0 1 Daniel Hill 15311 Ian D Hunnable 166 1 0 Ewan TA Walton 15212 Les J Crane 164 0 1 John G Gorodi 15013 Roberto E Waldteufel 163 ½ ½ Mark V Abbott 14914 Neville H Twitchell 160 1 0 Bill Ingham 14415 Andy D Hartland 160 1 0 Steve Homer 14416 Dave Pearse 158 ½ ½ Ivor S Annetts 142(Wootton Bassett) **9½ 6½** | Final**Essex**\* 4.7.98 **Yorks**Andrew R Brett 173 ½ ½ D Firth 174 (W)Trevor D Coote 173 ½ ½ AJ Slinger 168Tim Hebbes 174 1 0 G Frost 172Larry Marden 169 ½ ½ CC Williams 167Roy Heppinstall 170 0 1 M Allison 167WL Saunders 171 1 0 M Hankinson 163Peter C Doye 170 1 0 T Braithwaite 171Martin McCall 171 ½ ½ SJ Mann 156Ivan J Myall 169 0 1 B Hare 162Ivor BN Smith 161 1 0 J Hamm 171David J Millward 168 ½ ½ D Studdard 164Ken W Clow 173 ½ ½ AJ Deighton 158Ian D Hunnable 166 ½ ½ MJ Clarke 157Colin R Ramage 167 1 0 CS Dossett 154RE Waldteufel 163 ½ ½ Peter Shaw 151NH Twitchell 160 1 0 P Peck 135(Ratcliffe College) **10 6** |
| **UNDER 150** |
| Semi-finals **Kent**\* 13.6.98 **Cambs** 1 C Charles 149 (W) 1 0 P Ribbands 149 2 D Helsby 149 0 1 N Greenwood 147 3 G Steele 149 ½ ½ PA Martin 145 4 A Heard 148 0 1 J Daugman 145 5 M Wiltshire 148 ½ ½ L Barham 144 6 M Finch 146 0 1 M Misson 143 7 M Jordan 146 1 0 M Wells 143 8 K Kingston 146 ½ ½ M Connolly 143 9 A Mata 146 1 0 P Barkas 14210 C Davis 145 1 0 1 S Manteghi 14211 D Davis 145 1 0 1 R Donaghay 14112 P Titmas 139 1 0 M Szymanski 13813 I Hames 140 0 1 S Pride 13814 S Casement 137 ½ ½ H Tittel 13415 S Chick 128 1 0 R Newman 13116 P Childs 128 1 0 S Hart 125(Charlton House) **8 8**Cambs won on board count.1 Bds 10, 11: no error. They’re both real. | **Warwicks** 13.6.98 **Essex**\*Robert Reynolds 148 ½ ½ John WhiteMike Fox 149 ½ ½ Steve Williams 147Ian Fisher 149 0 1 Tom Winter 147Tony Hickey 148 1 0 Keith JonesJoe Soesan 148 ½ ½ Mark Murrell 146Mark Drugan 144 0 1 Tony Drake 145Chris Charman 147 ½ ½ Jason Roberts 145Ameet Ghasi 128 1 0 Alan Parsons 139Derek Reeves 131 ½ ½ Phil Zammit 138Will Harwood 136 0 1 David Bird 133Warren Archibald 137 0 1 Ian McLachlan 132Paul Hufton 139 0 1 Barry Sheppard 130Terry Walker 134 1 0 David Payne 132Marek Sosynski 135 1 0 Iain Gunn 116Glenn Windows 133 1 0 Bill Paterson 125Arthur Kent 134 1 0 Terry Cole 123(Bedford) **8½ 7½**U150 Final: Cambs 8 8 \*Warwicks |

242:9

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| **UNDER 125** |
| Semi-final: Oxon wonFinal: Lancs 9 7 OxonNeither of these results received in detail, or from Oxon at all. |  |
| **UNDER 100** |
| Semi-final **Essex** 20.6.98 **Surrey**\* 1 N Nice 99 (B) 1 0 Alec Palmer 99 2 P Daley 98 1 0 John Darling 98 3 J Sneesby 98 1 0 Ben Morgan 90j 4 J Winkworth 98 1 0 Bartek Jablonski 91j 5 K Bates 97 0 1 Oliver Wilson 99j 6 G Walker 96 1 0 Laila Tillett 98 7 M Bridger 95 1 0 Harvey Murray-Smith 96 8 R Prickett 95 1 0 Lana Boztas 93 9 S Trent 93 1 0 Chris Chapman -10 M Cain 90 0 1 Robert Hamilton -11 H Walker 77 0 1 Richard Davey 9612 E Morris 77 0 1 David Wallis 91(Basildon) **8 4** | Final**Essex**\* 4.2.78 **Merseyside**Nigel Nice 99 (W) 0 1 Ben Shorter 76C John Benton 99 ½ ½ Martin O’Neil 86Philip Daley 98 ½ ½ Dave Hurley 94John Sneesby 98 1 0 Kevin Matchett 89Julian Winkworth 98 1 0 Graham Moore 79Katherine Bates 97 ½ ½ Bobby Holmes 88Graham Walker 96 1 0 Ron Ellis 79Michael Bridger 95 1 0 Mike Johnson 58Ron Prickett 95 1 0 John Bendon 59Stewart Trent 93 1 0 Tom Loughlin 76Mark S Jones 92 1 0 Bart McHughMatthew Cain 90 1 0 Ted Mepham 49(Ratcliffe College) **9½ 2½** |

And a reminder (incorporating a couple of corrections):

**SCCU COUNTY MATCHES 1998-9: OPEN FIXTURES**

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| Oct 10 BrH BuK ESy 17 24 *(4NCL)*  31 HC KBr SyBu SxENov 7 CO 14 BrSy BuSx CK OH 21 *(4NCL)* 28 EBu KO SyC SxBrDec 5  12  | Jan 16 BrE CSx HK OSy  23 *(4NCL)* 30 BuBr EC SyH SxOFeb 6  13 CBu HSx KSy OE 20  27 BrC BuO EH SxK Mar 6 *(SCCU U18 qualifier)* 13 HBu KE OBr SySx 20 | These fixtures are identical to last year’s except that venues have been reversed. Dates should be firm by now. Counties have had plenty of time to make noises about them and we’ve not heard that anyone has. But don’t re-arrange anything for the 6th March, that’s the date of the SCCU U18 team qualifier. And do tell the Controller and Bulletin about re-arranged dates.4NCL dates include the Sunday as well.Other SCCU divisions: entry deadline 15 August. |

**BCF GRADING LIST** will be a little late this year. It was to have been out for the start of the British, but we understand they didn’t make it. More like half way through the British, the prediction is, and we’ve heard more pessimistic estimates. Not an auspicious start for the new system. There are some omissions, as usual, though none in the SCCU that we know of. Problem is, a grader may submit all his results at the end of the year, and only then do you discover that chunks from last autumn are missing. We’re in transition, but even when the system’s fully on stream it’s hard to see what you do about the organiser who stalls you. At least this year the BCF seem to *know* what isn’t in.

To change the subject completely, we looked some grades up the other day - 1997 ones - and found we’d got the wrong sort. Standardplay when it should have been Rapid. So we looked the right sort up as well, and it set us wondering. We talked to the Beast in the end, and it looked some more up. It checked everyone who appears in both the 1997 (standardplay) master list and the November 1997 Rapidplay list. It found 3718 of them. And it said, mean Standardplay grade (for those players) 83. Mean Rapidplay, 96. Players “better” at Rapidplay, 53½%. Better at Standardplay, 44½%. And 2% were ambidextrous.

 Take these figures salted. The Standard grades included the two-game merchants, and the Rapid ones didn’t. (Well, who plays two Rapid games?) But what really struck us was how low the grades were. The Bulletin thinks of your “average” (standardplay) player as being 120-ish, used to be more. Depends what you mean by average, and whether you include the two-game merchants. For people with 10+ games in the latest season, 1997 mean is around 118. But things are happening in Rapidplay. The highest (November) Rapidplay grade is an oddball 281, followed by a few in the 250s, but the lowest is 3 (five of them) and there’s a hell of a lot of “weak” players there who just wouldn’t have been on the circuit ten years ago. The organisers know this. How many U80 events did they run ten years ago? The Bulletin does not know how many of the low-graded people are juniors, but quite a lot it imagines, and it welcomes them whoever they are. SP events, for whatever reason, have suffered a downturn of 10%+ this year in terms of games graded; and to the best of our knowledge RP ones haven’t. RP could be the future of English chess.

 Lowest grade in the 1997 (standard) list is 1, based on lots of games, and it belongs to someone called J Hodgson.

242:10

 You didn’t think we’d leave it at that, did you? Our own RP grading this year - Kent juniors - came up with a few people who’d have been below zero if the system had allowed it. (It doesn’t.) The zero needs to come down a bit. Say, add 100 to everyone’s grade. Your Editor would quite like to be 252. No, we’re serious. We’ve an impression that some people would think it mathematically wrong, but they’re, well, wrong. When they invented the system, don’t know how many years ago, the zero was probably in a sensible place. It isn’t, any more.

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**On the Internet**

There was comment at the SCCU AGM (see page 1) to the effect that the Union ought to have a website. We’ve been browsing, in a desultory sort of way, to see what’s around. The BCF’s long-promised website is now a reality. There isn’t all that much in it, but you can see it’s a building site. It’s growing. At the time of writing, lots of things aren’t in it that ought to be. Three-week-old Counties Finals results, for example. Suppose they can’t include what no one sends. In the fulness of time they will, OF COURSE, put the list of names and addresses in, and update it when it changes. June Yearbook deadline, indeed. But they will have to train the counties, and the counties will have to train the clubs, to *tell* them when changes happen. Your Editor knows what club secretaries are, he is one. The BCF are at **www.bcf.org.uk**. Or **www.bcf.ndirect.co.uk**, seems to have changed. Hate those dots, you can’t tell them from full stops. The one on the end is a full stop, and it goes with the sentence. Don’t *think* addresses can end with dots.

 The only SCCU county site we know of, but we’re pig ignorant, is Essex Juniors at **www.chess.ndirect.co.uk**. It’s worth a visit. And we’ve just found the Surrey Girls site with the daunting temporary name of **http//vzone. virgin.net/qw.erty/sgc\_home.htm**. That’s another thing with website names, they spill over onto the next line and you can’t put a hyphen in. Spell check goes berserk, as well. You get into that one quickly once you’ve typed it.

 The 4NCL website (**www.cableinet.co.uk/users/jsaunders/nclindex.htm**) hasn’t exactly been of use to us, because we’ve had the results by email from Adam Raoof: **adam@circuit.demon.co.uk**. The 4NCL links keep us waiting so long for (unwanted) pictures, in the interesting bits, that we’ve never had the patience to wait for them. Adam will also provide by email, for anyone who wants it, reams of info on forthcoming high-level events and results of recent ones. He’ll swamp you. email’s quick, and I refuse to give it a capital E even if it is the first word in the sentence. For wasted time by contrast, there’s a Chess Monthly website (address withheld) which takes 15 minutes to load bits of pictures, then tells you nothing and invites you to subscribe.

 The Bulletin hasn’t got a website, but by email it’s **rjh@thefree.net**. Mail is checked daily. Our website will be the SCCU one, when it has a webmaster. Bit Dungeony that, but it’s a nice word.

**CONGRESS DIARY**

Aug 15 GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

 21-23 THANET at Broadstairs. Open; U165,130,100. AD Hargreaves, 1 Medina Avenue, Whitstable, Kent CT5 4EN

 29-31 BERKS & BUCKS at Twyford. 170+; U170; plus graded sections. NW Dennis, Boundary House, 230 Greys Rd, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1QY: tel/fax 01491 576052

Sep 6-12 PAIGNTON Open; U170,125 7 rds; U150 5 rds; Graded sections 7rds APA or nearly. EA Crickmore, 5 Hereford Close, Exmouth, Devon EX8 5QT

 19 GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

Oct 16-18 MAIDSTONE BCQ. Open; U160,130,105; Rapidplay Sunday. NC Mackett, Claire House, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0UE. Enquiries to Lyndon Gurr, 13 Neath Court, Northumberland Rd, Maidstone ME15 7JS: home 01622 758448; work 01622 696543. Work number recommended; he’s never at home and he doesn’t answer messages. (That’s not in the leaflet.)

 17 GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

**Quotes**

“Frankly I don’t think the Board will contribute anything useful.” - From an Officer’s paper, circulated with the agenda of the BCF Management Board meeting 20.6.98.

“78% of [the juniors] were boys. Only 22% were girls.” And from the ridiculous...

“I felt bored and depressed, and, not knowing what to do, I started reading Gauss’s two memoirs on biquadratic residues, which I had never read before.” - André Weil. Not chess, but we couldn’t resist it.

**Surrey County Secretary** is now Scott G Freeman: contact at Coulsdon Chess Fellowship, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Rd, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA 0181 645 0302. He is also Secretary of the Coulsdon & Purley Club.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**: Surrey Girls Newsletter for July

 Issue 243 September 1998

Very brief issue this time. Let’s kick off with the Meetings.

**SCCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive met on Friday 4th September 1998 at the Durham Castle, London W2. 16 attended.

**(1) European Team Championships 1999**. The President said he would be keen to run an “SCCU Executive” team in a sideshow event. Some people expressed interest. Teams of four, we think it is, plus one (presumably optional) reserve.

**(2) Grading**. The Grading Secretary said the data for the SCCU (and SCCU County) lists was complete. The SCCU list was not yet with the printer (but with any luck you’ll have yours by now). The lucky ones were people who’d asked for electronic lists: he expected to be posting to them very soon. There would, once again, be some differences between the BCF and SCCU lists. This was due partly to corrections, but mainly to the inclusion of late results from Lancs and Cleveland. Probably fewer than 50 SCCU people would be affected. The SCCU list, if you hadn’t worked it out, is the accurate one. That’s the advantage of coming out later.
 There was philosophical discussion, but no vote or agreement, on whether corrected grades should count for eligibility in county matches. Legally, at the moment, what counts is your highest grade published “for the start of the relevant season”. Whatever that means. As an aside, Kent have just entered an U100 team. They were able to do so because their secretary’s grade has come down to 99 and he volunteered as match captain. If he goes up to 100 as the result of a correction, do you tell him he can’t play? Risk is, the team goes with him. That’s an extreme case, but extreme cases are a good test of rules. Later: he didn’t, but that’s as it happens.

**(3) SCCU County matches**. The County Match Controller had been pleased with the counties’ prompt entries, and the fixture list had been out on the 28th August. There were 31 teams altogether, two more than last year. We had 3 qualifiers in the Open and U125, but in the U125 it depended on no one defaulting any matches.

**(4) Juniors**. For the new U14 +U90 competition, entries had been received from Berks, Bucks and Oxon. Herts and Essex were still looking for organisers, and Kent had said no. Not sure about the other counties.

 The U18 Jamborees 1999 would be at RGS Guildford on the 6th March.

 SCCU U18 and U14 titles 1998-9 would be awarded at the Surrey Congress 1999; the U18 no doubt in the Open and the U14 to be decided. The U11 would be at the London Junior Championships 1998. No firm plans beyond this season, but we might go to U10 or lower.

 Trouble in Middx. This one runs and runs. Middx, noting from the last Bulletin that they had joined the English Counties Girls Chess Federation, wondered why they didn’t know about it. Turned out that the ECGCF had approached BH Birchall, rather than the organisation we call Middx. BH Birchall is not an accredited Middx officer. Having accepted a “Middx” entry from BHB, the ECGCF would not entertain one from Middx. The ECGCF is an independent body and it was not clear that the Union could do anything about this. Someone suggested withholding publicity/results in the Bulletin, and the Editor said no way. A complicating factor is that the ECGCF is being administered, for the time being, by the Surrey Girls Chess League which appears to be affiliated to an SCCU member county. We say “appears” because at the meeting no one was very sure of the SGCL’s status within the county. It was resolved to write to the Surrey President asking what his county’s position was.

**(5) BCF Matters**. The Executive discussed some things that were coming up at the September Council meeting, but the interesting bits are in the next Report down.

**(6) Essex Centenary Match**. Progress is being made, and lots of people should be getting invitations to play. **(7) SCCU Website**. Progress here as well. The Union actually hopes to have a website fairly soon. It even has some ideas about what’s going to go in it, but suggestions will be welcome. **(8) Herts Open team**. Herts have abolished the rule which gave their County Champion the right to play on top board! Editor’s note: the rule did not conflict with SCCU rules, but potentially it placed severe restrictions on Herts team selection. Perhaps that’s why they abolished it.

**BCF COUNCIL MEETING**

Council met in Bristol on Saturday 26th September 1998. Management Board met in the morning as well, but we have no report of that (as if you wanted one). Council meeting, though firmly chaired for once, was inordinately long. From 1.30 nominal to 6.38 actual and still, inevitably, it didn’t get through the business. Voices were only raised once, to speak of. Now, what did it do? Very selectively, and reflecting your Editor’s views on what’s interesting, and in no particular order:

**(1) Elections**. In a contested election for Chairman the meeting preferred the incumbent, Stewart Reuben, to Bruce Holland. Voting was 124 to 86 with a few abstentions (and one vote, of probably humorous intent, in favour of someone who was not a candidate). Council created a new post of Marketing Director and elected Mario Houska to it.

**(2) Hastings International Chess Centre**. Council endorsed the Federation’s plans and gave the go-ahead for various necessary actions; bearing in mind, of course, that the whole thing is contingent on Lottery money and that

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in its absence we are committed to nothing and have lost nothing. The BCF would have to raise about £300,000 (or it may be £400,000, the figure’s in the papers somewhere). An MCCU delegate observed, with some reason we think, that the plan seemed to have been snowballing for a long time now without ever coming before Council. It really was for Council, and not the Management Board or a few individuals, to say whether we *wanted* an International Centre. And, if so, where we wanted it. Some were sceptical of the Centre’s value. We wouldn’t say there was a consensus, but a clear majority was impressed by the commitment of the Hastings Council (who had already bought the premises) and the work that had gone into negotiations over the last couple of years. No similar opportunity elsewhere was remotely visible, or ever had been. Many were genuinely excited by the prospects on offer. And Council endorsed it. The Lottery decision will not be known for some months, but informed quarters said that the things we proposed were bang in line with Heritage requirements. There was no guarantee that the BCF would be able to raise its £300,000 or £400,000 anyway, and if it didn’t nothing would happen. It would mean sponsorship. There was quiet, but unspecific, optimism about sponsorship.

 This is not the place to detail the BCF’s vision for the Centre. (Did you notice we’d slipped a buzz-word in?) Your Editor has long felt that the Federation has done itself less than justice in getting the message across. It’s got a magazine and a website.

**(3) Objects of the BCF**. Well, your Editor likes rules. These got crowded out last time. This time the reason they got postponed was that the agenda included an Amendment to the proposed Objects, but unfortunately not the proposed Objects themselves. So the postal voters were disenfranchised. Look forward to it next time.

**(4) Grading (and Game Fee)**. The Director proposed a number of things, mostly more or less related to the new system currently being introduced. In some cases he had no special preference but wanted to know the views of Council; and in all cases (we think) the final decision is for later. Costings as regards Game Fee had not been done. (a) Rapidplay Game Fee to go up from 50% of Standard to 75%. No. (b) Grades in the half-year list to be fully re-calculated, rather than just reprinted from August with corrections incorporated. Yes. There were some who thought one grade a year was enough, and some were worried because the problem of which-grade-to-use-for-borderline-date-congresses would happen twice a year instead of once. (c) DMs to be exempt from Game Fee in all events rather than just congresses. No. It was not clear how DMs would benefit in leagues, where payment was not by individuals anyway. (d) Juniors to be exempt from Game Fee in all events, rather than just all-junior events. No. In both (c) and (d) there was some feeling that the proposals, administratively convenient in the new system, would have the tail wag the dog. (e) Game Fee to be introduced for internal club games, initially at one-third of standard rate. Yes. That surprised even the Director. A similar proposal was rejected by Council about a year ago. Your Editor is betting it will be re-rejected before any of this becomes law. (f) Internal club games to have one-third the weighting of other games in calculating your grade, irrespective of decisions about Game Fee. Council: on your bike.

**(5) Juniors**. Fair bit of sniping here (following a rather lively public meeting during the British, we believe). There was some concern about a £2000 debt which we had run up with the BCF Junior Squad. Speaking of the Junior Squad, people queried the division of responsibilities between it and the BCF when it came to selection. Those who did not already know may have been interested to learn that the BCF Junior Squad is really the “BCF” Junior Squad. It is autonomous and makes its own selections for the events it enters. However, it has by long-standing arrangement had the BCF’s permission to use the BCF name in its title. Some thought this misleading to say the least. The Management Board has been aware of the problem, but we think no one said what it’s doing about it.

 BCF selection came under fire. Somebody wanted to raise the question of a Sussex junior, well under 10, who might very plausibly have been entered for the World U10, but had not been. The question was ruled off limits. The player was not named, for reasons of confidentiality, but someone associated with the Junior Squad has been less inhibited in the national press. One worrying thing is that two people at the top table said they had heard independently, from members of the BCF selection committee, that the committee had never been asked to consider the U10 selections. The Junior Director said they had. Your Editor has no idea who’s right, and the best he can hope is that it’s a misunderstanding.

**(6) NCCU Centenary** 1999. The papers of the meeting contained a proposal to give a sum of money to the NCCU for their centenary. The NCCU said this was the first they had heard of it, they hadn’t requested it, and they were not aware that other Unions had been so subsidised. The proposal was dropped.

**(7) Reports**. We said this account would reflect what your Editor finds interesting. Council discussed and accepted all sorts of reports, on matters often financial, and while not sufficiently interested to cover them we do not for a moment deny their importance. Interested readers are referred elsewhere.

**(8) Council venues 1999**. April: London. September: Birmingham. A suggestion to start these meetings earlier, in an attempt to get through the business, was not taken up.

**ROUND AND ABOUT**

**ESSEX** Champion is Graham Reid (Billericay). They have a proper two-day tournament for it, and this year’s was 18-19 July at Writtle. Not a very representative entry, but that happens in county championships. 2nd= were Russell White and Tom Winter, and Tom Winter (147) took the Minor Championship.

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**KENT** Summer Quickplay (with grading handicap) has gone to Maidstone who gleefully beat Hastings (at last) in the semi-final. They went on to beat Lewisham on board count in the Final at the end of August. Teams of 4, but Scheveningen so 16 boards overall, and board count means a close match. Final often seems to go to board count.

**SUSSEX** results 1997-8:

**McArthur Cup**: 9 clubs competed altogether. Northern The Holt; Western Worthing; Central/Eastern Hastings who, once again, had no opponents. Brighton went straight to the semi-finals. They beat Worthing in one of them, and Hastings beat The Holt in the other. Final: Hastings 3 3 \*Brighton. (Ed: - if the Champions get free passage to the semi-finals, as seems to be the case, and Hastings get there by default anyway, how do you get four teams into the semi-finals when Hastings *are* the Champions? Perhaps it’s not allowed.) **Mid-Sussex League** appears in *Sussex Chess* under “News from the Leagues”, suggesting that it’s not actually run by the SCCA. That was already our impression. Whatever its status, its size always makes it look like the “real” Sussex Championship. It has a scoring system which we worked out a few years ago but had forgotten. Think it’s Games at 1 for a win and ½ for a draw, *plus* Matches at 2 for a win and 1 for a draw. Don’t know how they split ties. Div 1 (11 teams) 1 Lewes 52½; 2 Brighton 51½; 3 Hastings 51½... Div 2 (11 teams) 1 Eastbourne II 52½; 2 Worthing 42; 3 Brighton II 41½... Div 3 (9 teams) 1 Crawley II 35½; 2 Horsham II 35; 3 Woodpushers (formerly Brighton & Hove 6th Form College) 32... Div 4 (10 teams) 1 Crawley III 46; 2 Hassocks II 41; 3 Brighton IV 38½... **South-West Sussex League** (5 teams) 1 Bognor & Arun 11/16; 2 Emsworth 9... **Sussex Jamboree** (13 teams) 1-2 Aldrington House, Brighton I. **Individual**: County Champion LE Rutherford; Veterans RH Williams; West Sussex Queen PS Smith; East Sussex Queen JA Dodgson. **Juniors** (sorry if you’ve had any of this before): Championships 2-3 May 1998 U18 (6 pl) 1-2 John Bryant, Edward Lamb; U14 (20 pl) 1 Sang Nguyen; Ann Gammans Cup Grace Yip; Best U11 Danny Glebocki. And U11 22nd November 1997 (88 pl) 1 Matthew Moore; 2-3 Wayne Chim, Zak Nathan... And teams: U11 (42 teams) Seaford A; U9 (14 teams) Sedlescombe; U7 (3 teams) Dorset House, Bury; U11 Girls (9 teams) St Thomas Groombridge. No report of competitions for school teams at secondary level, unless we’ve missed it.

Idiosyncratic enough for you, Paul? Results *Sussex Chess*

**LONDON LEAGUE**

You may remember we remarked on the odd-looking relegations in Division 2 last time. It turns out that a couple of teams tried to disguise some double-defaults by putting fictitious results in. Draws, presumably. They did this because defaults can incur penalties. So the committee relegated them. We’re speculating about how they found out.

 Charlton aren’t exactly withdrawing from the League, they’re being absorbed by Beckenham. Charlton fans needn’t worry, the club is alive and kicking and has lots of teams in the Kent leagues.

 The London League is losing its Bishopgate venue at the end of the year.

Oh, and **Corrections. National Club** 1997-8. We reported that, in the Handicap Rapidplay Final, Cowley had beaten Guildford on handicap. In fact Cowley were the higher-graded team, they needed to win 4½-3½ or better, and 4½-3½ is what they got. In the Minor Plate Final, Reading *lost* on board count. The footnote was wrong, not the results.

**CONGRESS RESULTS**

**GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY** 15th August 1998

**Open** (13 pl) 1 GM Jim Plaskett (Barbican) 6/6; 2 IM Michael Basman (Chessington) 5; 3-4 Chris White (Cavendish), Abimbola Adelaja (Hampstead) 4...

**Major** U160 (20 pl) 1 Alfredo Luaces (King's Head) 5/6; 2-3 Dave Faldon (Hendon), E Michael White (Downend and Fishpond) 4½; 4-5 Paul Kelly (ISH), Donny Muter (Richmond), Nick de Peyer (Hampstead) 4...

**Minor** U130 (35 pl) 1 Alan Hughes (Kentish Town) 5½/6; 2 Ivo Tzenov (Imperial College) 5; 3-4 Walter Thorpe (London), Michael Connock (St Albans) 4½...

**Amateur** U100 (28 pl) 1-2 Stephen Guy (Ramsgate), David Everitt (Haywards Heath) 5/6; 3-4

Joseph Al-Malah (Danson), Clive Blackburn (Northampton) 4½... Results Adam Raoof

**3rd HAMPSTEAD CHESS FESTIVAL** 10-23 August 1998 at University College School, Hampstead

Sponsored by the British Chess Federation and the Friends of Chess.

**GM Group** (16 pl) 1 J Plaskett ENG 2455 11/15; 2-3 B Kreiman USA 2455, K Sashikiran IND 2470 10½; 4 T Hillarp-Persson SWE 2410 9½; 5 L Kaufman USA 2400 9; 6-7 D Gormally ENG 2400, P Szekely HUN 2465 8; 8 M Houska ENG 2375 7½; 9-11 A Dunnington ENG 2365, E Dearing SCO 2295, R Burnett USA 2395 7; 12 N McDonald ENG 2490 6½; 13 D Ippolito USA 2430 6; 14 J Aagaard DEN 2420 5½; 15 D Kopec USA 2400 5; 16 R Kaufman USA 2230 2.

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**IM Tournament** (12 pl) 1 Simon Knott ENG 2340 8½/11; 2 Karl Mah ENG 2330 8; 3 Simon Williams ENG 2335; 4-5 Thomas Bree GER 2175, Richard Palliser ENG 2175 6; 6-7 Claude Adrian FRA 2310, John Naylor ENG 2240 5½; 8 Robert G Wade ENG 2200 5; 9 Andrew Whiteley ENG 2240 4½; 10 Endre Vegh HUN 2340 4; 11 Arpi Shah IND 2030 3½; 12 Paul Georghiou ENG 2230 3

**Open** (21 pl) 1 Ilya Shevelev ENG - 6½/9; 2-3 Shanker Menon ENG 2170, Stanislav Larski RUS 2190 6; 4-8 Ihab Salem PLE 2185, Peter P Taylor ENG 2150, Craig Hanley ENG 2010, John H Hodgson ENG 2245, Ninad Ravi Konaknanchi IND 2080 5½...

Results Adam Raoof. Six players achieved FIDE part ratings. Five free places in the chess section of the Mind Sports Olympiad, courtesy of David Levy, awarded to Danny Gormally, Boris Kreiman, Karl Mah, Ilya Shevelev and Thomas Quilter. Pairings for the Open, and admin, were done with the help of Swiss Perfect 97, written by Robert Rozyki. All games available from WWW - http://www.cableinet.co.uk/users/jsaunders/nclindex.htm

**29th THANET** at somewhere in Thanet, 21-23 August 1998. Thanet’s in Kent.

**Open** (20 entries) 1 ST Ansell (Bristol) 4½/5; 2 PV Griffiths (Invicta Knights) 4; 3-4 CM Cooley (Maidstone), CE Tippleston (Northampton) 3½... Grading U185 DS Tucker (Dartford)

**“Major” Under Something or Other** (29 ent) OK it was U165, but handout *doesn’t say*. 1 AJ Bigg (Hayes Kent: age 15) 4½/5; 2-4 A Horton-Kitchlew (Int Students House), RJ Everson (Dartford), JV Kaye (Finchley) 4... Grading U145 M Owen (Folkestone); Best Thanet BJ Westover (Ramsgate)

**Under 130** (38 ent) 1 IK Cross (Hampton) 4½/5; 2-4 S Schreiber (Margate), Lucy Broomfield (South Norwood), RG Page (Broadstairs) 4... Grading U115 H Hosking (Broadstairs); Best Thanet P Havens (Broadstairs)

**Under 100** (30 ent) 1-4 L Garfield (Birchington), N Lang (Hayes Kent), R House (Medway), G Clewley (Margate) 4/5... Best Thanet MP Smalling (Ramsgate)

**Special Prizes**: Junior J Wassermann-Fry (Whitstable); Senior (Over 60) RC Shilling (Ashford it says here but he’s the Charlton secretary)

**Score of 54% or better by a female player**: suppressed Results Tony Hargreaves

**BERKS & BUCKS** at Twyford, 29-31 August 1998

**Championship** (grades 170+: 14 pl) 1 SK Williams (Farnham) 4/5; 2-4 JP Conlon (Reading), JH Hodgson (Woodford Green), SG Peters (Aylesbury) 3½...

**Challengers** (152-167: 14 pl) 1-2 M Mashayeleh (Maidenhead), KS Ellis (Wheathampton Herts) 4/5; 3 Philip Thomas (Leighton Buzzard) 3½...

**Reserves A** (140-151: 16 pl) 1 Koichi B Nicholas (Stoke Poges) 4½/5; 2 JE Hickman (Bracknell) 4...

**Reserves B** (124-140: 16 pl) 1-4 RA Brown (Earley), JB Hawson (Worcester Park), SC Pride (Cambridge), IG Matthew (Southsea) 3½/5...

**Reserves C** (111-124: 14 pl) 1 SG Williams (Aldershot) 4½/5; 2-3 JHM Smith (Congleton), A Duncan (London) 3½...

**Reserves D** (93-109: 16 pl) 1 MK Dent (Reading) 4½/5; 2-3 SM Thacker (Peterborough), AP Challinger (Wendover) 4...

**Reserves E** (84-93: 16 pl) 1 TK Matilal (Oxford) 5/5; 2-3 DAS Buckland (Oxford), C Kay (Guildford) 3½...

**Reserves F** (84 and below: 13 pl) 1-2 D Hitchens (Oxford), MR Marquis (Reading) 4/5... Results Nigel Dennis

**HENDON 10-MINUTE BLITZ** 3rd September 1998 attracted 40 players.

1 Danny Gormally (Hackney) 6/6; 2-4 Nathan White (Finchley), Tryfon Gavriel, Paul Georghiou (both Barnet) 5; 5-12 Aaron Summerscale (Slough), Oliver Williams (London), Paul J Kelly (Chess & Bridge), Ilya Shevelev (Wood Green), Mike Tasker (Hackney), Alecos Ethelontis (Muswell Hill), Roy Sagall (Hampstead), Nicholas Tarlton 4...

These tournaments take place on the first Thursday of each month at Hendon Chess Club. Results Adam Raoof

**19th RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY** 13th September 1998

**Open** (21 pl) 1 Gavin Wall (London) 5/6; 2-4 Graeme Buckley (Wolverhampton), Peter Large (London), Simon Williams (Farnham) 4½... Grading U200 Peter Varley (Addlestone) 3½; U180 Simon Buckley (Bath) 4

**Under 160** (21 pl) 1-5 David Edwards (RJCC/Worcester Park), Sam Essen (Oxshott), Matthew George (High Wycombe), Ross Rattray (RJCC/Cheam), Ilya Shevelev (London) 4½/6... Grading U140 Ben Chamberlain (Surbiton/RJCC) 3½

**Under 120** (43 pl) 1 David Howell (Seaford) 5½/6; 2-3 Naveen Mittell (RJCC/Isleworth), Peter Szabo (Ilford) 5... Grading U100 Alex Kelly (Caterham), Robert Skinner (Twickenham) 4

**Under 80** (24 pl) 1 Paul Kendal (London) 5½/6; 2-3 Azizur Rahman (London), Terry Williams (Dagenham) 5...

2-generation family prize: Miroslav and Ivana Houska (Maidenhead)8/12. Results Richard James

**2nd POWDERMILL RAPIDPLAY** at Bumbles Green, 13th September 1998

**Premier U**183 1 Lorin D'Costa (Royston: 145) 5/5; 2 Thirumurugan Thiruchelvam (Richmond Juniors: 157) 4;

3-4 Caius Turner (Powdermill: 126), Lawrence Trent (Ilford Juniors: 131) 3...

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**U143** 1 Peter Turner (Royston:131) 6/6; 2 Howard Berlin (Ilford: 96) 4½; 3 Stewart Trent (IIford: 90) 4; 4 Byron Alexandrou (Powdermill: 113) 3... Grading U123 Andrew Alexandrou (Powdermill: 82: age 8) 2½; U103 Jamie Berlin (Ilford: 98) 2½ Results Gary Kenworthy

**GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY** 19th September 1998

**Open** (13 pl) 1 GM Aaron Summerscale (Slough) 5½/6; 2 Paul Georghiou (Barnet) 4½; 3 Tryfon Gavriel (Barnet) 4...

**Major U160** (25 pl) 1 Ilya Shevelev (Wood Green) 5½/6; 2-4 Dave Faldon (Hendon), David Cutmore (Wood Green), Donny Muter (Richmond) 4½...

**Minor U130** (26 pl) 1-2 CJ de Mooi (London), Walter Thorpe (London) 5/6; 3 Lucy Smith (Oxford City) 4½; 4‑5 Paul Kennelly (Hammersmith), E Barry Sandercock (Bucks) 4...

**Amateur U100** (22 pl) 1 John Bussman (Wood Green) 5/6; 2-4 Clive Blackburn (Northampton), Nick Burrows (Bolton), Thomas Dineen (Hendon) 4½... Results Adam Raoof

**JUNIOR NEWS**

**Correction**: 242:5. The EPSCA U11 Finals were Girls Finals. We knew that, but forgot to say. What we didn’t know was that they were the 1997 Finals, sent in error. 1998 version, if we’ve got it right now, goes 1 Wey Valley 30/36; 2 Essex 26; 3 Kent 25½... 18 teams.

 Don’t seem to have published the “Boys” Finals at all, but they were played 9.5.98 at Basildon and they went 1 Kent 48/60; 2 Richmond 46½; 3 Essex 44... 16 teams. And the U9 “Boys”, while we’re about it, was 25.4.98 at Basingstoke: 1 Richmond 31½/36; 2 Somerset 26½; 3 Hants 24½... 16 teams.

**EPSCA SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Finals were end of June in London. U11 winners Northbridge House (Camden); 2 Aldro (Surrey); 3 Temple Sutton (Southend); 4 Garden Suburb (Hampstead). U9 winners Colet Court (London). Results Peter Walker

**MIDDLESEX GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIPS** 28th June 1998 had 80+ competitors.

**Under 18** 1 Iva Anguelov 6/something (Champion for the 3rd time in a row); 2 Disa Leadon 5; 3 Hannah Storer 4; 4 Leigh Johnson 3... U14 title Naomi Attar 4 (so =3rd?); U12 Shefali Maher

**Under 11** 1 Rachel Lambert 4; 2=4 Anneka Treon, Janany Arunchalam, Stephanie Silverston 3...

**Under 10** 1 Danielle Gross 6; 2 Mala Kapacee 5; 3-5 Helen Scarlett, Thulasi Navveenan, Sarah Verrall 4...

**Under 9** 1 Georgina Draper 6; 2 Sussanah Pritchard 5; 3-4 Meera Desai, Meera Shah 4...

**Under 8** 1 Stephanie Barraclough 6; 2-7 Daijal Taank, Jade Ferrari, Adina Gamse, Louise Northrop, Mia Day, Abigail Manson 4...

**Under 7** 1 Abigail Cohen 6; 2 Anna Reid 4½; 3-4 Lilian Knight, Mona Naqvi 4... Results Zoë Ryle

**ROTARY TERAFINAL** at the Mind Sports Olympiad: Hammersmith 29th August 1998

**Terafinal**: 1 Adam Hunt; 2 Richard Jones; 3 Chris Dorrington; 4 Iva Anguelov...

**Challengers**: 1 Matthew Broomfield; 2 Peter Levermore; 3 Ezra Lutton; 4 Lucy Broomfield...

The Bulletin doesn’t understand the result table in the press release, but the Terafinal was a 16-player KO, and as you got knocked out you were transferred to the (originally) 14-player Challengers event. Table gives “New Grades 1998”. These can’t be BCF; there *are* no BCF New Grades 1998. Not Rapidplay, that is. Press release doesn’t explain. Perhaps they’re grading performance for the event, or perhaps they’re unofficial updated estimates.

 Batsford Chess Scholarships totalling £1100 have been awarded to the best players from 11 different areas. Batsfords also awarded £1000 worth of books at the Megafinals.

**RUSSELL TROPHY JAMBOREE** at RGS Guildford, 11th September 1998

1 St Pauls 8/8; 2 Tiffin 7; 3 KCS 5; 4-5 Hampton, RGS 4; 6 Westminster 3; 7 Croydon H 2½; 8 Whitgift 1½; 9 Kingston 1. Teams of 8. Hope you can solve the abbreviations; the Bulletin *thinks* it can. Results AJW Thorn

**FIVE COUNTIES U13 GIRLS JAMBOREE** 19th September 1998

turned into Four Counties because Essex had something else on. 1 Surrey 18/24; 2 Middx 13; 3 Kent 12; 4 Sussex 4. So either our information is wrong or there was a double default. Don’t know whether the event had anything to do with the English Counties Girls Chess Federation, and not sure it matters. (ECGCF now has 11 members: Essex, Berks, Kent, Middx, Oxon, Surrey and Sussex; and, outside the SCCU, Hants, Somerset, Wilts and Yorks.)

Results Chris Higgins

“A problem arose at the British Chess Championships when an U10 appeared to be offered a bribe. A coach was also alleged to be passing tips to a player via the junior’s mother. The BCF are dealing with it.” - From some county minutes. Hadn’t heard about that.

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**SCCU COUNTY MATCHES 1998-9**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Teams entered: Br Bu C E H K M O Sy SxOpen \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*U175 \* \* \* \*U150 \* \* \* \* \* \*U125 \* \* \* \* \* \* \*U100 \* \* \* \* \*  | All matches are over 16 boards except in theUnder 100 (12 boards).In the fixture list below, the home side is named first. Dates are final unless otherwise agreed by match captains.Matches asterisked areon dates already changed by agreement. Will match captains please remember to tell the Controller, and also the Bulletin, if they agree changes. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Open** | **Under 175** | **Under 150** | **Under 125** | **Under 100** |
| Oct 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  10 | BrH BuK ESy |  |  |  |  |
|  17 |  | SxM SyE |  |  | ME KH |
|  24 | *(4NCL)* | \*SyE |  | HSx KSy |  |
|  31 | HC KBr SyBu SxE |  | SxE HSy KM |  |  |
| Nov 7 | CO | MSy ESx |  | OK SyH SxE |  |
|  14 | BrSy BuSx CK OH |  |  | MO | EK SyM |
|  21 | *(4NCL)* |  |  | \*SxK |  |
|  28 | EBu KO SyC SxBr |  | SxM EH KSy |  | KSy HE |
| Dec 5 |  | SySx EM |  | SyM EH SxK |  |
|  12 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan 9 |  | MSx ESy |  | ESy KM |  |
|  16 | BrE CSx HK OSy |  |  | HO |  |
|  23 | *(4NCL)* | SyM SxE |  | MH SySx |  |
|  30 | BuBr EC SyH SxO |  |  | OE | SyH MK |
| Feb 6 |  |  |  | \*EH |  |
|  13 | CBu HSx KSy OE |  | HSx EK SyM | \*MSx |  |
|  20 |  | SxSy ME |  | KE MSx |  |
|  27 | BrC BuO EH SxK |  | SxK SyE MH | OSy |  |
| Mar 6 | *(SCCU U18 qualifier)* |  |  |  |  |
|  13 | HBu KE OBr SySx |  | SySx ME KH | SxO | HM ESy |
|  20 |  |  |  | EM HK |  |

Addresses:

**County Match Controller** David Smith, 21 Chigwell Rd, London E18 1LR 0181 530 2118 or (with answering machine) 0171 486 0632 (fax 0171 935 2587)

**Bulletin Editor** RJ Haddrell, 48 Southview Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9BX: tel/fax 01892 532361: email rjh@thefree.net

**Grading Secretary** CI Howell, 28 Fowler Close, Maidenbower, Crawley, W Sussex RH10 7UN 01293 885176: fax 01293 887399: email chowell@bcf.org.uk

**Match captains**:

Berks O NW Dennis, Boundary House, 230 Greys Rd, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1QY 01491 576052

Bucks O SL Turvey, 29 Gordon Way, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4QX 01494 874462 *(work 01276 808930)*

Cambs O Sam Essen, Knapps, Oakshade Rd, Oxshott, Surrey 01372 842629; in term time 01223 509787 (personal number, so usable). email smee2@hermes.cam.ac.uk

Essex O c/o Roy Watts, 35 Parklands Avenue, Upminster, Essex RM14 2EX 01708 221717

 175 JA Philpott, 50 Cranston Gardens, Chingford, London E4 9BQ 0181 527 4063 (work 0171 931 1282: fax 0171 931 1448: email jphilpott@cc.ernsty.co.uk)

 150 P Walker, 62 East Street, Prittlewell, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 6LH 01702 309693: email peterwalker@ndirect.co.uk

 125 RP Joyce, 215 Waterhouse Moor, Harlow, Essex CM18 6BW 01279 434028

 100 Tony O’Toole, 98 Manners Way, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 6PZ 01702 302393

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Herts O Kevin R Clark, 42 Honey Way, Royston, Herts SG8 7ES 01763 231296

 150 Mohamed Wali, 56 Rowans, Welwyn Garden City, Herts 01707 331833 *(work 01707 326318 ext 4280)*

 125 Quazi Latif, 13 Daltry Rd, Stevenage, Herts 01438 352405

 100 Gary Kenworthy, 53 Abbotts Drive, Upshire, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 3HH 01992 715589

Kent O G Botley, 26 Crescent Rd, Bromley, Kent BR1 3PW 0181 464 1357

 150 Steve Chick, 7 Sequoia Gardens, Orpington, Kent BR6 0TZ 01689 877358

 125 Ivor C Smith, 6 Little Paddocks, Molehill Rd, Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3PR 01227 794790

 100 Dave Shipp, 40 Ellis Rd, Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2AX 01227 261644

Middx 175 WB Haase, 28 New End, Hampstead, London NW3 1JA 0171 435 3189

 150 C Fewtrell, 77 Byron Way, Northolt, Middx UB5 6AZ 0181 723 8028

 125 J Marchant, 205 Woodrow Avenue, Hayes, Middx UB4 8QR 0181 561 8187

 100 Graham Snow, 3 Ravensworth Court, 570 Fulham Road, London SW6 5NN 0171 736 5693

Oxon O TR Dickinson, 3 Ivatt Walk, Manor Fields, Banbury, Oxon OX16 7WE 01295 255084

 125 Malcolm Brindley, 16 Denton Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX1 5RS 01235 532164

Surrey O Rawle Allicock, 24 Century House, 245 Streatham High Road, London SW16 2ER 0181 677 2063

 175 FC Manning, 44 Willow Rd, Wallington, Surrey SM6 0PF 0181 647 0063

 150 N Clifton, 114 Windermere Rd, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2JB 0181 660 8564: email sgcl@clara.net

 125 David J Howes, 12 Raglan Court, Croydon, Surrey CR2 6NT 0181 681 6270

 100 Richard G Davey, 1 Greville Park Avenue, Ashtead, Surrey KT21 2QS 01372 813576

Sussex O P Watson, Flat 7, Regency Court, Withdean Rise, London Rd, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 6YG 01273 505480

 175 RD Hirsch, 5 Orde Close, Pound Hill, Crawley, W Sussex RH10 3NG 01293 883244

 150 P Watson as above

 125 M Plumb, Dovedale, West Drive, Angmering, West Sussex BN16 4NL 01903 775069

**NOTES TO MATCH CAPTAINS**

Remember that the home captain should contact the away captain to confirm arrangements at least one month in advance (or two weeks, for matches played before 13th October).

**Match results**: Result sheets must be sent to DS within one week of the match, and should also be sent promptly to the Bulletin for publication.

**Ungraded players**:In the grading-limited divisions, ungraded players may play only if cleared with DS in advance.

**Bulletin.** Your Editor would add: Please do send all your result sheets to the Bulletin, even if you’re sure your opponents will. I need both copies as a check. Try to be prompt. And *please* be legible, and give full initials (and grades) for all players. Accuracy is important because the grader works directly from the Bulletin. If a player has just moved into your county, or hasn’t played county chess before, add a note first time round saying where he’s from. BCF reference number is helpful too, and if he hasn’t got one say so. No need for reference numbers generally, unless you think confusion’s possible.

Richmond Rapid 13.9.98: Best Game

Ashish Mittel - Raith Al-Samarrai

Notes anonymous

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.Be3 e6 7.Qd2 Nge7 8.Bh6 0-0 9.Bxg7 Kxg7 10.f4 a6 11.Nf3 b5 12.g4 Qc7 13.h4 f5 14.h5 fxg4 15.hxg6 gxf3 16.f5

 *(diagram)*

16...Kf6 (...hxg6 was the last chance. [Ed: Fritz, after four hours contemplation, thought this was winning for Black.])

17.e5+ Nxe5

 *If* 17...Kxe5 18.Qe3+ Kf6 19.Ne4+ Ke5 20.Ng3+ Kf6 21.Nh5+ Kxf5 22.Qf4+ Kxg6 23.Qxf8

 *or* 17...Kxf5 18.Qh6 Kxe5 19.Qg7+ Rf6 20.Rh5+ Nf5 21.Kf2

18.Ne4+ Kg7 19.Qh6+ 1-0

Black to play

Golders Green 19.9.98: Desmond Tan - Aaron Summerscale

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 dxe5 5.Nxe5 g6 6.Be2 Bg7 7.c4 Nb6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.0-0 N6d7 10.Nf3 Nc6 11.Be3 e5 12.d5 Ne7 13.b4 h6 14.c5 Nf5 15.Bd2 e4 16.Ne1 Nf6 17.Bc4 Re8 18.Nc2 b6 19.Ne3 Nxe3 20.Bxe3 Ng4 21.Bd4 Qh4 22.h3 Ne5 23.Bb5 Nf3+ 24.gxf3 Bxh3 25.Be3 Bxc3 26.Bxe8 Rxe8 27.Re1 Bxa1 28.Qxa1 exf3 0-1

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**CONGRESS DIARY**

Oct 11 ASHFORD (Kent) JUNIOR U18,14,12,10. MPJ Whitwood, 8 Iden Crescent, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 0NU 01580 892005

 18 BUCKS JUNIOR at High Wycombe. Under 12,10,8 (LJQ). David Balderson, 116 Woodside Rd, Amersham, Bucks HP6 6NL 01494 722069

 16-18 MAIDSTONE BCQ. Open; U160,130,105; Rapidplay Sunday. NC Mackett, Claire House, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0UE. Enquiries to Lyndon Gurr, 13 Neath Court, Northumberland Rd, Maidstone ME15 7JS: home 01622 758448; work 01622 696543. Bulletin’s advice: work number recommended. He’s never at home and he doesn’t answer messages.

 17 GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

 24-25 1ST RICHMOND WEEKEND CONGRESS. Richard James 0181 898 1190 (H) or 0181 891 7547 (W).

 26-1 2nd HAMPSTEAD OPEN 9rd FIDE rated. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

Nov 7-8 RGS GUILDFORD. Two-day U18: Open, U105. One-day U14,12. Nicholas Coates, Royal Grammar School, Guildford GU1 3BB

 14 GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

 14-15 BERKSHIRE SCHOOLS at Wokingham. Under 18,13,12,11,10,9,8. JP Sutherland, 47 Hatherley Rd, Reading, Berks RG1 5QU. Enquiries John Hann 01344 486644

 21 MUSWELL HILL RAPIDPLAY U200; U130. Michael Davies, 325 Green Lanes, Palmers Green, London N13 4YB 0181 882 9491

Dec 5 PICCOLA ITALIA NW11 Time Handicap Rapidplay, U220 and U150 plus grading prizes. (Don’t the handicaps nullify grading differences, then? Must admit handicaps usually don’t seem to.) Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

 5 WHITSTABLE RAPID. Susan Richards, 12 Somerset Close, Whitstable, Kent CT5 4RA 01227 265457

 5-6 HERTS at Hitchin. Open; U170,145,120. Plus Junior U18,12,10,8 (last three LJCC qualifiers). John Denton, 43 Wordsworth Close, Royston, Herts SG8 5TG 01763 247758

 12 GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ

Did you know there’s a new **Agency Chess Club**? The club, based at the Agency Club in St Martins Lane, London, was founded “to provide a pleasant venue for people who work in media, advertising and public relations to play chess”. For details contact contact Martin Loat on 0171 636 6300 (W) or 0171 289 5671 (H): email martin@propcoms.com. They played their first match on Monday 21st September 1998, beating Kings Head 2½-1½. Not a full-strength Kings Head side, we hasten to add.

**National Club 1998-9**

Closing date for entries is 12th October 1998. Entry forms from BCF office.

**Quotes**

(On a proposal to charge Game Fee for internal club games at one-third of standard rate, and give them one-third the weighting in your grade) “You don’t need to worry about this, because the system will take care of it automatically.”

“BCF gradings mean little in speed chess.” - *Chessex*

“We approve this award despite the fact that the nomination came from Essex.” - BCF Council meeting

“That’s the way it goes in meetings, isn’t it?” - “Not the ones I run, Mr Chairman.” - ibid

“This year, some [grading] anomalies were picked up so quickly that it was possible to include them in an errata sheet at the back of the list itself. This included the relatively new West Country player who had his published grade of 528 reduced to 53.” - paper, ibid

“We leave it to the goof management of those concerned to ensure that posts are widely advertised.” - another paper, ibid

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**: *Chessex* for August/September; Surrey Girls Newsletter for July; *Sussex Chess* 1998