



BULLETIN

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SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION

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Facts we try to get right. Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are the Editor's.

EDITORIAL

I meant to say on your subscription form, but forgot, that my circulation list is held on magnetic disc in a word processor file. If you object to my holding your name and address in this way, please say.

This issue is even more meetingful than the last, and contains far fewer chess results. I was tempted to say something flippant about the silly season, but the meetings weren't silly.

SCCU MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Management Board met on Friday 11th September. (Its first two items were things that might normally have been dealt with over the phone, but the third seemed too meaty for that.)

(1) SCCU Individual Championship. An offer had been received from Berks to host this as part of the Bracknell Congress on the 25th and 26th June 1988. There were two problems: firstly, the event was rather late in the year for a British Championship qualifier, and secondly the time-scale and rate of play were not as leisurely as might be wished. On the whole, the second of these problems was thought to be fatal. It was agreed, though, that there would be merit in moving the Championship around. Southend and Upminster were mentioned. Feelers are going out. A decision will be required soon, as the Sutton entry forms get printed in November.

There will be two British Championship places to be won at SCCU congresses, and it was felt that they should, if possible, be allocated to two different congresses. The Union will contact SW Reuben to see what his ideas are. (Liaison has not always been too thorough in the past, probably through the Union's fault.)

Berks had also offered to host an SCCU Individual Quick-play Championship in May 1988. This seemed interesting, and investigations are under way.

(2) SCCU Junior Individual Championships. Berks and others have been unhappy, for some time, about the disadvantages suffered by non-London players in the Lloyds Bank event. The Executive decided last year to offer free places to Bucks, Berks, Herts, Oxon and Sussex. In the event Oxon took two and Berks one; Bucks and Herts did not claim any, Sussex had no entries, and there was still widespread dissatisfaction.

What could be done? The Union's contribution to the event was £140 last year, including £40 for free entries, and there was no more money available short of surcharging the Londoners (unacceptable, even if possible) or increasing the levy (idea not pursued). One suggestion was to scrap the SCCU Junior titles, discontinue our direct contribution to the funds of the event (currently £100, a very small proportion of the total), and apply the whole £140 to free entries and/or travel grants for outlying players. The Board was not unanimous in its rejection of the idea.

One point which seemed to have been overlooked was that the Lloyds Bank organisers would always, if asked, find London families to accommodate players with travel difficulties. (They always do. Forty takers plus is a typical figure.) It was agreed to carry on as we are for the moment, but to emphasise that this facility is available to SCCU players as well as the ones from Berwick on Tweed.

The Executive Committee, meeting a week later, proved that it still has teeth by modifying this decision.

(Editor's questions: should the favoured counties, as a matter of general policy, subsidise the others? What if we were to shove another £1 on the levy and devote all the additional income to the minnows? Which are the favoured counties? Is Outer Essex a minnow?)

(3) Long-term future of the Union. Or Unions. Your Editor's notes, taken at the time, amounted to 17 lines after the first two items. An hour and a half later they amounted to 17 lines plus a heading, neatly underlined, saying "Future of SCCU". It was that sort of subject. Every time you nailed it down, it moved. There seemed no real consensus on what we should be talking about, or whether we should be talking about it anyway (look at the new Constitution, rule 10a). This is an honest attempt at an impression of the debate, but it is not guaranteed free from personal bias or good wholesome error.

The Problems. The main problems seemed to be:

- (1) We don't do very much, and most of it would happen anyway if we weren't there.
- (2) We spend a lot of money doing it, and our financial base is insecure.
- (3) Members are dissatisfied with the service we do provide.
- (4) The existence of an extra tier of communication (the Unions) between the clubs and the BCF contributes to the apparent remoteness of the Federation.

To expand:

(1) What we do:

- a) run adult inter-county matches.
- b) run junior matches and jamborees, with some involvement in training events. Our junior championship is only a subdivision of a national event.
- c) run adult individual championship. Also a subdivision of another event.
- d) co-ordinate local grading activities, and publish Union grading list. In the first of those capacities we are only agents for the BCF. In the second, our list is only an extract from the BCF national one which will probably supplant us anyway now it has relaxed its rules for inclusion.
- e) publish a bulletin.
- f) represent the counties on the BCF Management Board.

What others do is huge and includes county and regional leagues (some very large) and congresses. Some organisations have broken away and do their own thing. c) and d) are pretty marginal, leaving us with only four main activities to justify our existence (and only two of those actually involve organising chess!). There seems to be a real distinction between us and the other Unions; the WECU at any rate is responsible for a far greater percentage of events played in its area. (Not that this has to be our fault. Or anyone's. And is it a fault?)

(2) Cost. It is estimated, but your Editor cannot vouch for the figures, that we spend 90% of our levy income on maintaining the existence of the Union and rely on grading (and Bulletin) income to provide services. Grading income is currently large but unreliable, and Bulletin income is negligible. "Maintaining the existence of the Union" means, mainly, servicing meetings. Last year we had four Executive meetings, one Council meeting and some Rules-and-Appeals-Committee meetings. Duplicating is cheap. Most officers do not claim travel expenses, some do. Room hire is probably the major cost. This year we are hoping to cut Executive meetings by 50% but have already incurred room hire for one MB meeting.

(3) Members' dissatisfaction. Mostly from the outlying counties. There are two possible reasons. Either we just aren't doing things right, or it's impossible to do things right with the present Union (or permanent geographical?) setup. Should Bucks or Oxon (for example) be trying to compete with the metropolitan counties? Would their first teams be more at home in another league, perhaps involving teams from another Union? Or would a system of promotion and relegation within the SCCU (see page 9) solve most of the problem? Would a different financial setup help solve the junior problem?

(4) The extra tier. Your Editor is sceptical: national bodies are remote. He knows there can be two opinions about this.

The solutions. A bit early for this, but anyway. At least one member thought the solution was to address ourselves to the practical problems and spend less time (and money) talking about it. The problems were in reality quite few and soluble, lots of chess got played without our help and why not, and the Union system, though unwieldy, provided an essential network through which the counties could talk to one another and to the BCF. At least one other, taking a longer view perhaps, thought the Unions had had their day and it was time to start afresh. It is recognised, of course, that a unilateral declaration of suicide on the part of the SCCU would be met with shrugged shoulders elsewhere. It also seems obvious that regional bodies of some kind must exist, if only to organise county matches.

The Board intends to meet again in December to continue its deliberations. In the meantime we must cultivate our garden.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive met on Friday 18th September 1987 at the Friends House NW1. 12 attended, including four county delegates (Bucks, Herts, Middx and Oxon) and the whole of the Management Board. The Kent delegate was involved in a car accident on the way. Three counties had no presence of any sort. Apart from a report of the MB meeting of the previous week, or at least the more tangible parts of it, the main business was:

(1) Money. The Union's financial position, with reference to grading, had clarified somewhat since the MB meeting: projected income looked much healthier than the original budget figure. This allowed:

(2) Juniors. An additional £40 was set aside for subsidising Lloyds Bank entrants. The Executive discussed - of course! - the general problem of outlying regions but reached - of course! - no firm conclusions.

(3) Grading. Martin Cath reported that orders for BCF lists were much heavier than expected, and orders for SCCU ones not very much down. Our cut on BCF sales, originally estimated at £30-odd, should now be in three figures. Advertising revenue from the SCCU list was rather disappointing.

A notable omission from the lists this year would be the Middlesex League. For reasons unknown, the League had submitted no data.

There was a problem at the BCF end. The lists should have appeared in early September, but unexpected difficulties with the computer had caused a serious delay and Mr Cath thought the most optimistic estimate now had to be mid-October. The New-player list, which goes to all graders as a necessary preliminary, had only just appeared and graders have to respond to this before anything more can be done. (SCCU responses are already coming in thick and fast, but we don't know about the other Unions.) The loss of sales at early-season congresses would cost us (and the BCF) money. The SCCU list will contain an advertisement for one of them, which will probably now take place before the list appears. This advertisement naturally cannot be charged for. The various National Club events will suffer as clubs cannot tell who is going to be eligible; some have already decided not to enter.

Mr Cath was at pains to emphasise that the delay is in no way attributable to the Unions. If you're interested in the computer problem, it appears - but we have no real details - that they had difficulty feeding in this year's new-player data on top of last year's. The BCF has set up a sub-committee to examine computer requirements in the St Leonards office.

A further problem - which did not come out at the Executive meeting, but this seems the obvious place to say it - concerns the NCCU. They intend to publish their own independent grading list alongside the BCF one, and the data they supplied to the BCF this summer were incomplete. It is therefore likely that some NCCU players will have two different grades.

On another topic, and reverting to the Executive meeting, serious disquiet was expressed about the "up-to-date" grades used for pairing (and grading?) purposes at some junior events including the recent British Championships. There are at least two sorts of (unofficial) up-to-date grade: Tony Gaffney publishes a regularly-updated list based on selected events, and Leonard Barden produces (but does not publish) a list based purely on selected junior events. To complicate things, individual organisers will sometimes make estimates of their own. It seems unlikely that the Gaffney figures are the villains of the junior piece. Anyway, there were some complaints about the figures used for pairings at the British, and it was not too clear where they came from. So long as these unofficial grades are used only for pairing purposes, you could argue that not much harm is done. It seems, though, that some graders of important events are actually using them in grading calculations. We don't know who will be grading the British (junior) Championships, or what his plans are. The Oxon junior grader, who attended the Executive meeting as an observer, was invited to speak on this. He thought it unfair that certain prominent juniors should be credited with grades far above their (admittedly silly) official ones, while others, less well known but maybe just as undergraded, were not. The problem is aggravated by the fact that "up-to-date" grades operate on a compound-interest basis: do well in a tournament one month and you will find that next month your grade has already gone up. With official BCF grades you're stuck with your silly figure for a welvemoth (and even then your new one's out of date when it appears). When the discrepancy reaches 40 points, up-to-date grades will start to benefit their owners as well as their owners' opponents.

Your Editor has a lot of sympathy with attempts to introduce more sensitive systems. Especially for juniors. Trouble is, to be fair you've got to apply them to everyone. (Maybe this isn't the time to be thinking of overhauling the BCF grading system, but it is geared to league results coming in annually and really doesn't fit the modern congress scene.)

(4) BCF Yearbook. The Yearbook is expected to be out more or less on time (probably early October). It is with the printers now (19.9.87). The Federation, in order to cut costs by extending its print run, has offered substantial reductions to counties and Unions for bulk orders. The SCCU has availed itself of this offer and will have a number of copies for sale @ £2 (a big saving on the cover price of £4.50). Contact the Secretary if interested. Supply will be limited.

(5) County Team events. The BCF had asked us to sound out interest in an Under 140 or Under 130 competition. Only two SCCU counties (Sussex and Surrey) had expressed interest. Responses on a national team quick-play event were still coming in.

BCF MATTERS

Graham Lee has resigned as BCF General Secretary, after only three months or so in the job. We understand that he was unhappy about the pace of change in the Federation and his role in it, though that is certainly an over-simplification. The parting was

amicable. Mr Lee has had fruitful discussions with the Federation since, and hopes to remain involved in the development of English chess. The Federation does not intend to make another appointment immediately.

The BCF is launching a new competition: the UK Amateur Knockout Championship. This is for players graded below 150 (Ed: I'm an amateur dammit, and I don't qualify) and offers a top prize of £1000. Eight regional winners will get £125 each.

Last year's U18 Quick-play (30/30) Championship (and we never did hear who won it) will be repeated this year. There will be eight regional qualifiers, and the final KO stage goes out on CEEFAX. Entry will be high-powered. Entry fee £1 payable to BCF. Entries, before 31st October 1987, to P Purland, 63 Croxteth Rd, Liverpool 8 (tel. 051 733 4854).

BCF Yearbook Editor Brian Concannon has moved. His new address is 14 Painters Close, Bloxham, Banbury OX15 4QY (0295 721348). If the SCCU has run out of copies you can get the Yearbook either from him or from John Poole, BCF Director of Home Chess (address inside front cover, under Bucks).

LETTERS

Dear Richard,

You ask "What is the SCCU for?" According to its constitution the Union has the following objects.

- (a) to encourage the study and playing of chess in all its member organisations.
- (b) to conduct a county championship competition for all its member counties and to arrange and support such other competitions and activities as may seem desirable.

It is difficult to see how the Union fulfils (a) - the counties do this themselves. As regards (b), certainly county championship competitions are run but these are really qualifying events for the national championships: it is not necessary to have a Union to perform this function. Regrettably, for junior championships, these are incorporated into congresses organised by other bodies. It has not been possible for the SCCU to run its own British Championship qualifying event or to give effective support to the many congresses which take place within its geographical area. Junior training and county matches are fragmented and do not cater adequately for all the member counties. Grading is done by local grading officers. The one positive function is the regular publication of the news bulletin.

When the SCCU was founded in 1892 such a body was very necessary and over the years it has fulfilled an important role: indeed it was the Unions and London League which were responsible for the creation of the British Chess Federation in 1904. Today, however, we should question whether the Unions are necessary, or even desirable - an asset or a liability? Do they serve a useful purpose or would we do better without such a level of administration? Is the very existence of the SCCU a necessary cost in money, time and human effort?

For nearly 20 years I have challenged the usefulness of the Unions and today I am more convinced than ever that with the continued and rapid growth of chess in this country, the Union structure is a handicap to effective administration and communication. One hears all too often that the BCF is remote from and out of touch with the opinions of the grass-roots. This attitude is brought about by the excessively long lines of communication which exist between the club players and the national body. It is logical for a club to belong to a league or district association - not necessarily a county - but these bodies should be affiliated directly to the Federation. This would lead to a dramatic improvement in understanding and communication both ways.

Has the time come at last when the whole question can be considered coolly and sensibly?

Yours sincerely,
John Poole Hazlemere

Dear Editor,

Reference letters from Paul Buswell (175:1 and 176:4) - SCCU Junior Championships. I regret that these letters were not referred to me - as overworked SCCU Junior Organiser (not only for the period since November 1985, but for about two-thirds of

the last 27 years) and also as the organiser of the Lloyds Bank BCF Junior Squad/SCCU Junior Championships since its amalgamated inception 13 years ago.

(1) To produce a really strong junior event worthy of the SCCU, it must be held in school holidays AND at a date when NO Southern senior congress of national import conflicts.

(2) There must be substantial cash prizes - and other delectable carrots do not come amiss!

(3) To say that the Lloyds Bank Junior is not controlled by the SCCU is only academically true. Its technical controllers have also largely been SCCU stalwarts - e.g. your President, and several long-standing SCCU county junior organisers well known to Mr Buswell.

(4) As for location - I think you have answered the "anti-London" faction quite succinctly (175:1). I fail to see how anyone can argue that benefit for the few in one year out of nine (with that few suffering even more in other years) has any weight against VERY much more difficulty for all the rest EVERY year. Lloyds Bank could never subscribe to that illogicality - and the Metropolitan counties have already demonstrated what they thought of the experiment with the U18 Jamboree, and the Sussex junior organiser at the time also had a very strong contrary opinion.

(5) Any move out of London, if to any near comparable communications centre, would of course remove the SCCU partnership.

Almost every one of the 40 or more younger players in the Major Open, and this year's British Championship, have played in Lloyds Bank top junior events in the last three years, and the British U18 or U16 are seldom as strong as these Lloyds Bank events. To attract these, Lloyds Bank must choose a venue readily accessible from all parts of the UK, and also with a large body of players whose parents will welcome and accommodate the visiting juniors. In the SCCU, that means London!

Peter E Morrish
SCCU Junior Organiser

Dear Richard,

Although it is nice to see Surrey win a dispute against Kent for a change, I found the scoring of the disputed games rather strange. $\frac{1}{2}$ -0 is not absurd, it's insane! I am reminded of an adjudication dispute in a postal event. Player A claimed 2 wins, player B resigned both games. Both "claims" arrived late, so (sic! - Ed) the games were scored $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$.

Best wishes
Kevin Thurlow Redhill

Ed: Stop trying to stir things. I'm not sure who Kent were in dispute with, but it wasn't Surrey!

Dear Mr Haddrell,

I enclose, rather belatedly, my SCCU Bulletin renewal subscription for the new season. You were right, people do forget if they don't do it right away!...

In case you have not worked it out yet, the default penalty operating in the Middlesex League is half a match point deducted for every four defaults. Incidentally, though Kings Head I were relegated while their 2nd team stayed up, the Club intend to renumber their teams so that Kings Head I will play in Division 1. If they win the League will it be a record?

Best wishes for the new season.

Roy Brown Hackney

PS Has news flash ground to a halt again or have I forgotten to renew that subscription also?

Ed: Dammit, I thought I'd tried the obvious answers for default penalties and they didn't work. Must be my arithmetic. News flash has not appeared since early August, and the BCF are concerned about it. Fortnightly publication is still the aim.

ROUND THE COUNTIES

SUSSEX results for last season, gleaned from "Sussex Chess":

County Champion is APH Kinsman who beat BJ Denman 2-1 in the final. (Losing semi-finalists FJ Kwiatkowski, SJ Newman.) Veterans Championship was convincingly retained by RD Hollands with 6/6. East Sussex Queen went to SP Barnes, W Sussex Q to WH Partridge.

Sussex Individual Lightning Championship (don't know when; wish people would give dates if only so we can check we haven't published it before): 1 G Kenworthy 6½/7; 2-3 MC Rich, L Rutherford 5½... Reserves: 1 JIP Simpole 5/5; 2 APH Kinsman 3...; 1st Class: 1 DB Scott 3½/5; 2-4 JP Gorgol, FJ Musson, A Cooper 3... Consolation: 1 DC Leach 3½/5; 2-4 J Lee, TJ Pointer (sic; well we think it's Poynter even if the Supplementary List doesn't), S Wade 3...

Annual Jamboree 11.7.87 (ah, thanks) attracted 14 teams including McArthur Cup finalists Brighton and Worthing at full strength. 1 Worthing 5½/6; 2-4 Crawley, Haywards Heath, Worthing 4½...

***** had to withdraw from the (National Club) Open section after the discovery that half the team were ineligible due to the new rules. (Ed: - the rules do go out with the entry form...)

Sussex Chess has not answered our query (last issue) about the correct name of the McArthur Cup. It does print the name, however. Two different ways.

12th Annual Ralph Barnet Trophy 15.8.87

We are not sure what teams traditionally play in this jamboree. The Middx League used to, apparently, but no one had bothered to get a team together in recent years; so Hackney as League Champions offered to represent them. The other teams this year were the Civil Service League and the YMCA Metropolitan League. The YMCA League won with 12½/20 from Hackney 9 and the Civil Service 8½. Thanks to Roy Brown and an anonymous correspondent who sent this information separately.

Hackney CC Championship (6 rd QP Swiss) took place at the Rosemary Branch Pub on Saturday 25 June 1987. 36 entered, including 7 guests. 1 RF Willmoth 5½/6; 2-3 NE Foster (Hampstead), G Anthony 5... Grading U160 B Lyons, G Gibson 4; U130 D Griggs, P Charles, P Catt, M Brannigan, C Torrero (Ks Head) 3. "Thanks to Tony Gaffney for the loan of equipment and for not winning any prize money." (Ed: It takes us 11 months to play the Tunbridge Wells Championship and even then there are unplayed games...)

CONGRESS RESULTS15th CHARLTON CONGRESS 17-19 July 1987

Open (107 entries) 1 G Crawley (Richmond) 5½/6; 2-6 AD Martin (Wood Green), M Adams (Truro), P Large (Mitcham), AP Lewis (Muswell Hill), J Ady (YMCA) 5... Grading 180-190 SW Giddins (Gravesend), AJ Ledger (Bedford) 4; 170-179 JA Leake 3½; U170 J Attwood 4. Junior U18 DA Sands 3½. Highest Charlton members M Ali, M Ruston, E Whipp 4.

"Major" (142 entries) 1 S Ledger 5½/6; 2-7 A Anderson, P Barnard, M Croft, D Gleave, S Retaillick, P Stokes 5... Grading 140-150 J Springall, C Wallace; 130-139 GH Brown, G Josephs, T Nabarro 4; U130 P Lim 4½. Junior U18 BM Hong, T Ulicsak 4. Highest Charlton R Hyde, J Harter, J Robinson 4

"Minor" (105 entries) 1-3 TC Gavriel (Barnet), DW Coope (Kingston), R Smith (E12) 5½/6; 4-6 R Winter (St Albans), A Sarkar, T Lee (Sidcup) 5... Grading 100-115 PC Elliott (Chelmsford) 4½; U100 C Lusher 4½. Junior U14 E Jones, M Osborne 3; U12 M Gladstone, P Griffiths 3½; U10 M Houska 4½(!). Highest Charlton A Cox, T Jefferies 5

Results GE Fifield

18th THANET CONGRESS at Broadstairs 4-6 Sep 1987

Open (28 pl) 1-5 SD Brown (Hayes Kent), B Eley (Rotherham), S Giddins (Chatham), AE Hanreck (Charlton), AP Smith (Lewisham) 4/5...

"Major" (31 pl) 1 BMH Hong (Beckenham) 4½/5; 2-3 S Harwood (Southend), AD Wallace (Rochester) 4; 4-8 R Ayers (SE London), MR Baker (Portsmouth), RF Pooley (Herne Bay), A Ropek (SE13), BJ Westover (Thanet Prize) 3½...

"Minor" (36 pl) 1 RA Shipp (Whitstable) 5/5; 2 K Nevols (Portsmouth) 4½; 3-4 JM Baldwin (Rainham), S Rowles (N15) 4...

Results MR Croft

CHESS FOR PEACE NW1 1-11 Sep 1987 was jointly won by Julian Hodgson, Gavin Crawley and the Indian Barua. The tournament ran into trouble when the expected huge sponsorship disappeared (too late in the day for alternative sponsorship to be feasible). The prize fund was eventually £8000, and a number of players withdrew their acceptances. Why the sponsorship fell through we can't say.

KLEINWORT GRIEVESON BCF CONGRESS at Swansea 3-15 August 1987

We don't usually publish these results, but make an exception this year because we have not seen them elsewhere. (Not that we subscribe to every magazine in the country.) We are indebted to George Smith, the Congress Secretary and International Grader, who has sent not only a summary of all the results but also complete tournament tables for the main events, together with Elo rating output. We assume that having typed the game results into his computer he will also be doing the BCF grading when figures are available.

British Championship (59 pl) 1 ND Short (Tydesley) 9½/11; 2-3 S Conquest (Bristol), I Ivanov (Canada) 8; 4-5 DJ King (Bromley), JH Plaskett (Bedford) 7½; 6-11 M Adams (Truro), JG Gallagher (London), J Mestel (Cambridge), C Pritchett (London), J Speelman (Hampstead), P Wells (Portsmouth) 7; 12-17 R Bellin (Gt Yarmouth), JH Hodgson (London), AD Martin (Hounslow), M Pein (London), I Rogers (Australia), IL Thomas (Watford) 6½; 18-25 D Agnos, G Crawley, D Hergott (Canada), J Howell, G Lane, G Lawton, P Motwani, D Osborne 6; 26-36 G Botterill, G Copeland, J Emms, P Gayson, APH Kinsman, J Levitt, N McDonald, C McNabb, PJ Rossiter, M Sampson, CG Ward 5½; 37-41 D Coleman, A Dunnington, P Gemmell, A Muir, Timothy Upton 5; 42-47 C Dunworth, MT Hennigan, D Holmes, R Holmes, RF Willmoth, D Wise 4½... Under 21 title C Conquest; Under 18 title M Adams; Best Game J Plaskett

British Ladies Championship (14 pl) 1 C Forbes (London) 9½/11; 2 A Coull (St Andrews) 8; 3 R Giulian (Renfrew) 8; 4-7 R Bruce (Plymouth), S Christopher (Scunthorpe), A Condie (Glasgow), H Milligan (St Andrews) 6½; 8-9 K Agrawal (India), C Rogers (Australia) 5; 10-11 S Chakraborty (India), R Jackson 4½; 12 A Spiller 3½; 13 N Jones 3; 14 A Karel 0

Major Open (79 pl) 1 A Dyson (NW1) 9/11; 2 PJ Morris (Gravesend) 8½; 3 D Walker (Sunderland) 8; 4-8 M Denison (Wakefield), P Hempson (Sheffield), O Jackson (Prestbury), SD Singh (Colchester), G Wall (SW18) 7½; 9-12 G Burgess, A Di Bucchianico (NL), B Jones, R Thomas 7... First 3 plus Singh (highest U21) qualify for 1988 British. The "bottom marker" withdrew with 1/1, then went and played in the British Championship where he received a whole point bye in round 1. Looked a bit odd, till we thought about it. (This is not a test for the reader. We've withheld information.)

Veterans (6 pl) 1 P Hoad (SE12) 8/10; 2 R Bruce (Plymouth) 7...

British Under 18 (35 pl) 1 R Tozer (Peterborough) 8/11; 2-4 L Cooper (Baswich), A Hammond (Huntingdon), K McCann (Belfast) 7½... Girls U18 (incorporated) 1-2 J Harwar (Cheltenham), N Regan (Gerrards Cross) 6. There were 3 girls.

British U16 (31 pl) 1-2 M Piper (Penzance), A Webster (Sutton) 6/7; 3 TA Ulicsak (Beckenham) 5½... Girls 1 C Haslinger ("Hayes") 3. There were 2 girls.

British U15 (33 pl) 1-3 A Gillies (Coatbridge), L Jones (Stockport), M Piper (Penzance: no mistake) 5½/7... Girls 1 C Haslinger (Hayes, ditto) 3½... There were 4 girls.

British U14 (33 pl) 1 L Jones (Stockport) 6/7; 2 O Worsfold (Basingstoke) 5; 3-10 M Morris (NW7), D Oates (Worthing), N Bathie (Dundee), P Brown (Oldham), J Parker (Radcliffe on Trent), R Triggs (Peterborough), N Jakubovicz (Oxford), A Jamal (E14) 4½... Girls (5 pl) 1 J Eastwood (Street) 3

British U13 (41 pl) 1 J Poulton (Fareham) 6/7; 2 J Merriman (Liverpool!) 5½;

3 S Hampton (Send. Southend????) 5... Girls (7 pl) 1 J Eastwood (Street) 4

British U12 (41 pl) 1 Selim (E14) 6½/7; 2 M Turner (Scunthorpe) 5½; 3-6 D Essex (Louth), S Florence (West Monkseaton), Hung Sin (London), D Woods (Beaconsfield) 5... Girls (3 pl) J Smith (Grantham) 4½

British U11 (51 pl) 1 D Rosenberg (Barnet Ns) 6½/7; 2-4 P Janew (Coventry), C Francis (Walton), J Parker (Radcliffe), M Turner (Scunthorpe) 5½... Girls (4 pl) J Saunders (Crowthorne) 4; Under 10 P Janew; Under 9 L Russell (Newcastle upon Tyne) 4½

British U9 (53 pl) 1-3 A Calderwood (Elliston), B MacFarlane (Glasgow), A Miah (London) 6/7... Girls (4 pl) A Nathoo (Twickenham) 4; Under 8 P Finglass (Solihull) 5

APA Blackburne (12 pl) 1 D Ledger (Bedford) 8½/11; 2 D Andrew (Doncaster) 8...

APA Staunton (12 pl) 1 G Wilkinson (Bristol) ?/11; 2-4 P Dansey (St Neots), J Mcavoy (sic: RAF Coltishall), M Shaw (Harrow) 8...

APA Soanes (12 pl) 1 G Boswell (Liverpool) ?/11; 2-3 R Burroughs (Hutton), J Hennigan (Muswell Hill) 8½...

5 Day Tournaments: AM wkl (30 pl) 1 T Mordue (Clevedon) 4½/5; 2-3 S Clarke (Oldham), R Dicks (Mansfield) 4... PM wkl (16 pl) 1-2 T Grove (Dudley), R Burgess (Nottingham)

4/5... 2 rd wk1 (20 pl) 1 S Hawes (Horsham) 8/9; 2 J Nellist (N10) 7½; 3 C Costello (E11) 6½... AM wk2 (33 pl) 1 J Fowler (Basingstoke) 4½/5; 2-5 J Cavendish (London), C Sherwood (London), J Holland (Hertford), D Pruden (Carlisle) 4... PM wk2 (26 pl) 1 C Majer (Knebworth) ?/5; 2-3 C Costello, C Wheatley (Carmarthen) 4... 2 rd wk2 (14 pl) 1-2 R Newton (Lancaster), J Sugden (London) 7½/9; 3 J Sullivan (Abergavenny) 7...

Quick-play (48 pl) 1 Michael Adams 6/7; 2-5 A Ledger (Bedford), G Burgess (Bristol), J Cavendish (London), B Jacobs (Maidenhead) 5½... Grading U160 J Parker (Radcliffe on Trent) 4

Weekend U160 (40 pl) 1 S Ledger (Bedford) 5½/6; 2 J Hastings (Oxford) 5; 3-5 D Ledger (Bedford), R Brown (Rayleigh), R Newton (Lancaster) 4½... Grading M Bowhay (Basingstoke), D Lewis (Cardiff), T Gavriel (Barnet), K Noyce (Eastleigh) 4

Weekend U125 (22 pl) 1-2 M Brown (Bs Stortford), S MacFarland (Kettering) 5/6; 3-4 R Burroughs (Hutton), S Rowles (London) 4½...

Best games: by an U16 Sumeet Singh, M Adams; by others O Jackson. Best Swindle A Condie; honourable mention (!) N Lusher U9.

LLOYDS BANK BRITISH CHESS PROBLEM SOLVING CHAMPIONSHIP 1987-8

The first stage, published worldwide, produced 2266 entries from 72 different publications including this one. 1548, or 68%, were correct. The key was Nxf3 (and we remember thinking at the time that the composer must have been irritated not to have a better one available). All entrants with this answer have gone on to the harder postal phase, and the finals are in London and January. Top prize is £100, with £50 for the best overseas entrant. Entries through the Bulletin were 100% correct, but we're not making too much of this since there were only two of them.

Here's a list of the foreign publications whose readers entered. You're doing better than your Editor if you can identify all the countries. Auckland Star; AZ Mainz; Baltimore Sun; Bergstasse Echo; Cork Evening Echo; Cork Examiner (funny hobbies people have); Darmstadter Echo; Deutsche Schachblatter; Europa Rochade; Heimatzeitung; Irish Times; L'Espresso (obviously a coffee-house journal); L'Europeo; Le Courier des Echecs; Le Soir; Midtjyllands Avis; Nederlands Dagblad; New Zealand Herald; Odenwalder Heimatzeitung; Resident Abroad; Stuttgarter Zeitung; Telegraph-India; Washington Times; West Australian. We're not sure about the Independant (sic).

JUNIOR NEWS

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMIONSHIPS in Puerto Rico 6-22 July 1987

Under 18 (16 played and that must have been a pig of an 11 round Swiss to pair) 1 G Hernandez (Dominican Republic) 10/11; 2 (tie-break) Demetrios Agnos (England) 9½; 3 I Manor (Israel) 9½... (The rest were far behind.)

Under 14 (37 pl) 1 M Markovic (Yugoslavia) 9½/10; 2 Matthew Sadler (England) 8½; 3 R Eliet (France) 7... World U14 Girls Champion (on tie-break) Cathy Haslinger (England) =6th on 6 pts.

Under 12 1 (23 pl) H Steingrimsson (Iceland) 9½/10; 2 E Liss (Israel) 8; 3 Dharshan Kumaran (England) 7; 4 G Schwartzann (Rumania) 6½...

We have no detailed information on the U18 and U12, but Matthew Sadler's mother was in Puerto Rico and has provided some details of the U14:

Our new Girls Champion was tied with four other players, including one girl (Jessica Ambats from the US) whom she had drawn with and who came next after her on SOS. There were eight other girls, none of whom scored more than 5 points. Four of Cathy's opponents were girls (+2 =2), which most likely means the pairings were loaded that way. Matthew Sadler came much closer to the U14 title than you would think from the scores. His rival Markovic had gone half a point ahead in round 3, when Matthew drew with Eliet. The two leaders then won all their games, apart from a draw with each other, up to and including the penultimate round. The last round produced high drama. With Markovic in a losing position a piece down, Matthew was winning his game. Markovic won on time three moves from getting mated. With second place assured Matthew then "gave away a draw", whether on purpose we're not sure. Even this would have been enough (on SOS) had Markovic done the sporting thing and got mated.

We only have complete results for the U14, in which the entry was largely from the new world (two US), with a sprinkling of Europeans and two Arabs (and an Australian, if "Aus" means that). We couldn't fathom VGB, but its representative had an English name and came bottom. No USSR entry.

SUSSEX Schools Competitions 1986-7:

"This year saw the confirmation of Oathall School, Haywards Heath, as the currently strongest school side in Sussex. Against strong opposition, their teams won all three Sussex Cups - Wilson (U18), Sadd (U16) and Butler (U14)." The Primary competition (presumably not for a Cup; it's described as a "trophy") attracted 58 entrants, the largest number since the 1970s. Sixteen local APAs followed by area eliminators produced 4 finalists (Birchwood Grove; Lindfield; St Margarets Ditchling; Sir Henry Fermor Crowborough). The Final was a one-day APA. We think St Margarets won, but have had to work it out for ourselves because Sussex Chess only gives the individual match results, in paragraph form. No apologies if we've worked it out wrong.

LONDON PRIMARY SCHOOLS CA has two championships now: the old Elephant Trophy with zonal leagues plus finals, and a new all-London Primary League for the higher-powered. Both are over 12 boards. Adamsrill (Sydenham) hold both titles.

ENGLISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS CA U11 Champion school is Garden Suburb (Barnet); U9 Virginia (Tower Hamlets).

A list of junior dates for 1987-8 appears on page 11.

HOW TO RUN THE COUNTY MATCHES!

"Sussex Chess" for the season 1986-7 has this brief comment on an item from the SCCU Council Meeting: "The Southern Counties AGM, attended by Messrs Kenworthy, Selby and Watson for Sussex, did not approve proposals to re-structure the county competitions. There will therefore be no Sussex 3rd team next season." - A bit bald, I thought. You'd think the SCCU was trying to sabotage its own competitions (or maybe just the Sussex teams)! Of course it isn't, and one of the Sussex trio named above actually spoke against the re-structuring proposals. But certainly the current arrangements are unsatisfactory. Someone has to come up with a better plan before next year's AGM, and I hope you'll bear with me if I try to start the ball rolling. I know the rules-and-appeals sub-committee has plans to work on it, and at least one of them is believed to share my views, in outline. Match captains' comments will be very welcome, especially if printable.

The first thing is to accept the need for promotion and relegation. If Middx II and Kent II belong above Oxon I, they should go there. This is the only way to ensure divisions of reasonable size and homogeneous strength. (It has been suggested that the BCF constitution may give all first teams the right to play in division 1. This would nip my infant Hercules in the bud before it has taken wing, but I think it is a misreading of the rules.)

We would have to abolish grading limits, of course. One-up-one-down seems the obvious formula; and to start it off you could use the final positions from the 1987-8 league tables. (I'm sure someone would object, but you've got to start somewhere and leaving it until the year after would be ridiculous.)

How many divisions? Three, I suppose. In the good old days, when weekend congresses were fewer and match captains' jobs easier, the SCCU ran four divisions going down to U160 (which was the proposed new limit for division three). That collapsed because there weren't enough teams around to support four divisions, and it doesn't seem likely that re-introducing the fourth division (or the U160 limit!) would bring the missing teams back. There are 18 teams in the new season's competitions. Three divisions, of six teams each, makes perfectly good sense. Sure, there are problems. Two, that I can think of, but they're not insurmountable:

(1) With the first and second and third teams all mixed up, as they soon would be, how do you solve the problem of nominations for the BCF stages? But this problem already exists! (Not that we've ever done much about it.) The solution would be easy enough. In fact there are two solutions. One is to just ignore the problem. If there are second teams in the first division then they have got there by right and are "by definition" stronger than the ones in division two. Trouble is, you can't really nominate a team just because it happens to be the only second team in division 1. The other solution is play-offs. With six teams in each division, and so five matches each in the leagues proper, there would be plenty of time for this. But one observation, and it's not central to my suggestions: a team playing below its "proper" division (e.g. a second team in division 3) should not be eligible for nomination; and a team playing above its proper division should be eligible for nomination either in the competition it "ought to" be in, or the one it is in (so a third team in the second division could be nominated for either the second or the third teams championship).

(2) How do you cope with new teams, and teams dropping out? Teams dropping out is easy; you adjust the number of relegations. New teams is harder. If a new team is obviously of division-two strength I think you should put them there; and the fairest thing, where possible, is to adjust relegations again so that the extra numbers tend to float upwards. But of course you would also stipulate a maximum number of teams for all divisions except the last, and when the last division got too big you would split it and have a new one. (This is an over-simplification. Drafting the rules would be fun.)

I know this wouldn't solve Sussex's problem. If their hypothetical third team is too weak to hold its own in the existing third division, there's not much to say except "have a go anyway". Or "persuade the other counties to enter more teams if you can."

I haven't much idea how the other Unions do things. But the MCCU, on the evidence of my 1986-7 Yearbook, has 10 competing counties and runs separate first and second team competitions, splitting both into two zones with a play-off. All 10 counties field first and second teams. There is also a third teams competition with 7 teams. Which makes 27 teams against our 18; and they do play 20 boards.

RJH

The SCCU's first representative match in a long while:

<u>Civil Service</u>	25.7.87	<u>SCCU</u>	<u>Adjudication result</u>
1 AC Ashby (W)	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ AJ Stebbings (K)	(or it may have been agreed)
2 D Cordner	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ AP Lewis (E)	from the Minor Counties Final:
3 J Toon	0	1 J Cavendish (M)	Sussex $12\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ Berks:
4 MJ Rose	0	1 RM Webb (Br)	18 New 1 Watkins
5 WEC Richards	0	1 K Barnes (M)	
6 PM Shaw	0	1 MS Twyble (E)	
7 B O'Gorman	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ NR Oliver (K)	
8 P Szabo	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ LH Dawkins (M)	
9 RJ Shepherd	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ RCA Lee-Pentecost (K)	
10 E Hazel	0	1 M Adkins (K)	
11 NK Osborne	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ GH Monk (K)	
12 P Bond	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ NM Anderson (K)	
	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	

SCCU COUNTY MATCHES 1987-8

We give the fixture list again, for the benefit of new readers (yes, there are some!) and old ones who didn't think to keep it. We have not heard of any amendments since last time.

	<u>Championship</u>	<u>Montague-Jones</u> (Sy1, K2, M2)	<u>Amboyna/Ebony</u> (K3, K4, M3, M4, Sy2, Sx2)
Sep 26	OM KH SxE		
Oct 3	BrC		
10			K4Sy SxK3 M4M3
17	EBr CK HO MBu		
24		MK	
31			M4K4 M3Sx K3Sy
Nov 7	BuH OC KE BrSx		
14		SyM	
21	SxK EO CBu HM		
28			K4K3 SyM3 SxM4
Dec 5	MC	KSy	
12	BuE OSx KBr		
Jan 9	BrO SxBu EM		
16	CH		
23		KM	
30	HE MSx BuBr OK		
Feb 6			SxK4 M4Sy M3K3
13		MSy	
20	KBu BrM SxH EC		
27			K4M3 K3M4 SySx
Mar 5		SyK	
12	CSx HBr MK BuO		

The first named team is at home. Match captains: Please tell the Bulletin if you change any of these dates. (And, of course, the Controller.)

Junior dates 1987-8

This list has been compiled by Peter Morrish, but includes a few extra dates we happened to know about. It does not claim to be complete.

T Training
 * Batsford/TCS LJCC Preliminaries U12 and below) details PE Morrish
 ** ditto, plus older sections)
 ? subject to confirmation

	Junior events	Adult events of junior interest
Sep	26-27 Girls Central T	
Oct	3 Herts/EACU T	
	3 Ashford (Kent) U11/9	
	10 Nat U16 Jamboree (Hazlemere: 1 rd)	
	10 *Battersea	
	17 Ashford (Kent) U18/14/12	
	24-25 **Hitchin	Hitchin Congress
	26-27 *Wandsworth	
	30- 1	North London Autumn
Nov	6- 8 **Guildford	
	6- 8 **Southampton	
	7 *SE London	
	7- 8 **Pinner	
	14 Met EK, MS	
	14-15 *Richmond	
	28 Nat U14 Jamboree (Soton)	
	28 **Lewisham (Adamsrill)	
	28-29 **Muswell Hill	
Dec	5 Met EM, KS	
	5 *Hendon	
	5 Berks T	
	12 ?Maidstone U11/9	
	12-13 **Southgate	
	18-20	Islington
	19-20 ?*Central (U12/11)	
	19? LJCC Finals U8	
	19-20? LJCC Finals U10	
	29-31? LJCC Finals U21/18/16/14/12	
Jan	16	Kings Head QP
	23 SCCU U14 Jamboree	
	30-31 Central London T	
Feb	6 Met ES, KM	
	12-14 Surrey Junior Congress	
	13 LPSCA U9	
	20 Kent Primary Championships	
	26-28 ARC Young Masters (Uppingham)	
	27-28 Tunbridge Wells	
Mar	5 SCCU U18 Jamborees	
	12 Nat U16 Jamboree Scunthorpe (3 rds)	
	19 EPSCA U9 team champ (zones)	
	26 Nat U18 Jamboree Finals	
Apr	1 Folkestone U13/11/9	
	1- 4	Easter Congresses
	8-10 Lloyds Bank U21/18/16/14	
	9-10 Lloyds Bank U12/11, G U18/14/12	
	23 EPSCA U11 team champ (zones)	
	30 EPSCA U9 Final	
May	7 EPSCA International U11 trial	
	14 Lloyds Bank Girls School Teams	
	21 EPSCA U11 Team Finals	
	28-29 Lloyds Bank U10/9/8/7	
Jun	11 EPSCA: London v Rest	
	11-12	Kings Head Congress
	18 EPSCA Girls U11 Finals	
Jul	7- 8 Times Nat Schools Finals	
	9-10 ?BCF Squad Blitz U21	
	16	Charlton Congress

177:12

Matthew Sadler's best game from the Puerto Rico World U14 Championship. His US opponent was seconded by GM Pal Benko.

White KK Karanga (!!), Black MD Sadler

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 d3 d6 6 Nge2 e6 7 Be3 Nd4 8 0-0 Ne7 9 Bg5 h6
10 Be3 0-0 11 Qd2 Kh7 12 Nd1 Rb8 13 c3 Nxe2+ 14 Qxe2 Nc6 15 f4 f5 16 g4 Bd7 17 Nf2 Qh4
18 Bf3 e5 19 gxf5 gxf5 20 Qd2 exf4 21 Bxf4 Be5 22 Bxe5 Nxe5 23 Qe2 f4 24 d4 Nxf3+
25 Qxf3 Rg8+ 26 Kh1 Rg3 27 Qe2 f3 28 Qe3 Rg2 29 h3 Qg3 0-1

CONGRESS DIARY

(sparse)

- Sep 27 10th OPEN FOLKESTONE TIME HANDICAP 6 rd Swiss. First prize £50 min, entry £3.50. T Reene, 22 Ainsdale Close, Folkestone (0303) 77147
- Oct 4 14th WARLEY QUINBORNE QP Under 135. First prize £60; entry £5.50.
Mrs M Clark, 10 Woodbridge Rd, Halesowen, W Midlands B63 3SA
- 24-25 37th HERTFORDSHIRE CONGRESS at Hitchin. Open; U151; U126; Junior U14
Sun, U11 Sat. 1st Prizes £200/150/120/16/14; entry £10/9/8/2/1.50.
Herts CA, 9 Lancaster Avenue, Hitchin SG5 1PA: Hitchin 54171
- Nov 29 PIN GREEN QP 40/40. Open; U160; U125. First prizes £50, entry £6.
D Stapleton, 2a Icknield Way, Baldock, Herts SG7 5DE 0462 894456

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