



# BULLETIN

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**SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION**

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**SCCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee consists of the Officers, plus the following County Delegates (or their deputies).

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

Your subscription expires with this issue, unless you're one of the odd few who've paid for next season in advance. There's a renewal form in the envelope somewhere; fill it in and return it now if you want to renew. You'll forget if you put it off. If you *don't* consent to your name and address being stored in a retrieval system for distribution purposes, cross that bit out. You'll probably only get your Bulletin a week or two late. County secretaries get a free copy automatically (no need to renew), but other county officers don't. If you're a match captain or something and you've been getting a "free" Bulletin it's because your county has subscribed on your behalf. Prod your county secretary and/or treasurer for a renewal, if you think it expedient. County secretaries are being sent lots of order forms with a request to distribute them when convenient.

There is also an order form for grading lists (to be published in August). Please note that Bulletin and grading list orders go to different addresses and need separate cheques. Don't try to combine the two in one order; at best it means extra work for officers and at worst it could mean part of your order getting overlooked.

On the subject of grading, I am pleased to note that Lorraine Harding, BCF Grading Administrator, is back in harness (on a part-time basis I think, as I type this) after her spell in hospital. I hear she wasn't due back for a while but they couldn't keep her away. Thanks are due to her, and to Roger Edwards who put in I don't know how many weekend hours in St Leonards so the list could appear on time. Corners have been cut, but last I heard it was safely with the printers. There's the usual crop of missing results, including two from the SCCU. One omission at least, I won't say from what Union, is rather embarrassing. Missing results are usually down to individual graders or organisers not doing their thing, and in some cases a monitoring process would pick up the problem before it's too late. I'm sure the BCF and/or Unions will have this in mind.

I've just corrected a mistake of mine which would have reduced the player's grade by at least 10 points or so, more likely 20 or 30. Wonder how many similar mistakes have gone uncorrected? None of mine, I think. I checked a bit carefully, having found one mistake! But it's easy to do. Just input 6 games and 125 points for him instead of 6 games and 1258 points. This wouldn't happen with a proper computerised system. I use a more-or-less proper one most of the time, but it just so happened I wasn't doing for this event. I don't know how much grading is properly computerised. The BCF's own programs are anything but proper and would not have prevented my mistake. They're working on this, or thinking about it anyway, and a four-figure budget's agreed, and with any luck some self-respecting BCF software will emerge in a year or two. A laser printer as well, let's hope (and see postscript on page 10). But it won't come right till every grader has the hardware and is willing to use it.

### SCCU ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Council met on Saturday 24th June 1995 at the Fountains Abbey, formerly Tavistocks, near Paddington station. 23 attended but your Editor didn't, and this account derives mainly from the draft official minutes. It's far from exhaustive.

**(1) BCF Management Board.** Restructuring the Management Board is one of those things, like Where are the Missing Trophies and what's this one for?, that will always be with us. At the moment one of the possibilities is that the Unions may lose their representation. The other Unions don't seem too bothered, but Council (the SCCU one, that is) asked their reps to do their best to stay put.

**(2) Juniors.** The Junior Organiser's very full written report provoked much discussion and, it appears, a fair bit of sniping. In one county at least there is an obvious feeling that Bruce Birchall, the Junior Organiser, has too much freedom in deciding what events to run, and too much money to run them with (1994-5 budget £500, though he'd only spent £306). Similar points had been made at the Executive meeting 12th May (Bulletin 223:7) and the Executive had come down pretty well on Bruce's side. Council seemed, on the whole, to agree with the Executive and it approved a junior budget of £450 for 1995-6. A feature of BHB's stewardship has been new and experimental events, with a strong bias towards Girls competitions. His "new developments kitty" puts money into such events in the hope that they will take off under their own steam.

The snipers will not have been mollified by BHB's suggestion that, in view of his energy-sapping commitments to junior chess, he ought to be paid. Council seems to have felt that in a general sort of way Officers should not be paid; a more appropriate solution might be to share the work out by finding helpers from outside the Executive. Regular and formalised meetings of county junior organisers could be a good source of helpers, as well as advising the Junior Organiser on the need for events and the appropriateness of expenditure.

BHB wanted to set up a charity to help raise junior funds. The trustees would be a parent, a teacher, "a professional", and the Junior Organiser, and they would meet quarterly and employ one or two paid workers. Against this it was urged that a Union charity would be effectively outside the control of Council; a better way might be to set up an independent charity to which the Union could always contribute if it wished. There was, moreover, a BCF charity already in existence with similar aims; did we really need another? Council decided, with only one dissenting vote, that it did not wish to set up a Union charity.

**(3) Money.** You've already had a bit of this in the last paragraph but two. But Council adopted Tony Suttill's audited accounts, showing a modest surplus of £21. For 1995-6 it agreed county fees of £30 per county plus £12 per team (previous year's figures £25 and £10). Note: the BCF has just increased its own entry fee from £10 to £15 per team; this fee is levied on entry to the Union stage.

**(4) Election of Officers.** No contested elections or anything, but we have a new Secretary in Lee Davis of Berkshire. The Bulletin has to admit it had never heard of him (which probably says more about the Bulletin than it does about Lee Davis). He will also do the minutes. We understand there had previously been another volunteer for the secretary's job but he withdrew his name because he wouldn't work on the same committee as \*\*\*\*\*, and we probably weren't supposed to say that.

David Sedgwick, standing down as President after the traditional two-year stint, took over as County Match Controller and Fred Manning sidestepped into the Fixture Secretary's job vacated by Dave Metcalfe. Chris Howell duly moved into the President's chair, John Philpott is the new Deputy President, and the Bulletin feels a hidden Editorial coming on. It dislikes the SCCU's approach to senior office. Don't get this wrong. It's years since the Union had a President the Bulletin disapproved of and it thinks John Philpott an excellent choice. (What? Oh, for 1997, dammit.) But the two-year tenure is a nonsense. Good Presidents aren't so thick on the ground you can afford to throw one away just because he's been two years in the job. Do the other Unions do this? Nearly four years ago, when we temporarily had no Deputy President, the Executive appointed one that nobody present knew anything about. Someone had just heard he was "a good man", or something. We did this on someone's proposal and the spur of the moment in the knowledge that, barring unpleasantness, we were effectively appointing the next President. His name was David Sedgwick. It worked out fine, but what a way to run a Union.

**(5) Rule changes.**

- (a) Principal Officers Sub-committee. This was to have been the new streamlined SCCU Management Board, but no one seemed to want it. The Management Board is abolished, and the President, in consultation with such officers as he thinks necessary, is empowered to take urgent decisions on the Union's behalf.
  - (b) Quorum. It was agreed, with only one vote against, that proxy votes don't count towards quorums.
  - (c) Various minor tidying-up changes were made to the Constitution.
  - (d) Eligibility of ungraded players in grading-limited events. The new rule (approved by 16 votes to 2) is that players without a current grade can play if the match captain obtains prior clearance from the County Match Controller. He must submit evidence, where available, from the local grader or master list and the Controller will refuse clearance if not entirely satisfied.
  - (e) Time limits in county matches. The Executive proposed a range of choices, but it became apparent that the meeting preferred simply to give match captains a free hand (subject to grading eligibility and the retention of a QPF). This was agreed. John Philpott rightly objected to the fact that the proposal was made without a detailed draft, and the Rules & Appeals sub-committee will do the necessary.
  - (f) Submission of match results. Results are to be posted within 7 days.
  - (g) Refreshments. Counties must now, when advising match details, say whether refreshments are available.
  - (h) 16 and 18 board matches. A county may now opt to play all its matches over 16 boards in the Open, provided it gives notice before the 1st September. Counties may still play an individual match over 16 boards by agreement, and 18 boards is now allowed as well. When a match is played over 16 or 18 boards, each side is credited with an extra half-point per unplayed game.
  - (i) Ineligibility claims. Claims may be made by any match captain in the competition or by any officer of the Union, within 14 days or by the 31st December, whichever is later. The Bulletin doesn't know why the 31st December comes into it.
- (6) Lighting.** Someone said the Fountains Abbey lighting was inadequate. Think we've said this ourselves. The meeting closed at 7.07 p.m. Glad we weren't there!

### SCCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive met, as always, immediately after the Council meeting. It did routine things, mostly.

- (1) **BCF Management Board reps.** Chris Howell, Tony Suttill.
- (2) **BCF Council reps.** Chris Howell, John Philpott, Lee Davis, Tony Suttill.
- (3) **BCF Game Fee Committee rep.** John Philpott.
- (4) **London Chess Association rep.** John Philpott. The Bulletin was a bit vague about this and still is, but the LCA is an association of London organisers which, among other things doubtless, produces and co-ordinates a calendar of London congresses. Its 1995-6 calendar inscrutably lists the North Essex and Maidstone organisers but no others from outside London.
- (5) **Signatories.** The Deputy President is now a signatory in addition to the President, Secretary and Treasurer. Two signatures are required for cheques over £100.
- (6) **Womens event.** The BCF Budget for 1995-6 includes £2000 for a regional womens event. As BCF funding was allocated to the Menchik event in 1994, the £2000 ought to go to another Union. No other Union has applied for it yet, and if none did we could do so; David Sedgwick suggested an 18-player Scheveningen in Croydon. 1997 would be nicer, though, to mark the centenary of the first ever womens tournament.
- (7) **Letterhead.** John Philpott agreed to send out new letterhead for officers to replace the old stuff overtaken by British Telecom's printer-and-signwriter-friendly exercise. (No thanks if you haven't already, John. Doing my own is easier.)
- (8) **Next meeting.** Friday 8th September 1995 at the Durham Castle.

**BCF ODDMENTS**

**Officers sought:** Director of Management Services; Chief Controller, National Club; officers for adult education, chess in prisons, chess for the disabled.

**Badger Computers:** the liquidation of the sponsors led to some cost-cutting (like the cancellation of the reception at the National Club Finals) but commitments were met; additional cost to the Federation was around £1500.

**Head Lease** at St Leonards, in case you understand such things: asking price is £20,000+ and a report has made no clear recommendation.

**British Championships** 1998 will be in Durham (1996 Nottingham, 1997 Hove).

**Club of the Year** is Hull.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Richard,

rec 5.7.95

I feel I must write and clarify some issues with regard to Alan Cox's letter that you printed in the SCCU May 95 Bulletin. His comments suggest that Crowthorne were dishonourable. I am angered by this and seek to rebut his suggestions. In particular I am unhappy that Mr Cox should suggest that the lesson for club captains is to keep old grading lists as they may have to play a club such as Crowthorne. In this case a simple question to the player before picking him would have avoided this dispute altogether.

In the National Club U150 match between Reading and Crowthorne, Reading played an ungraded player on board 2. During the course of the match and again afterward that player was asked by three different Crowthorne players if he had previously held a grade. He replied that he had and that it had been 198 or thereabout, albeit 12 years previously. After much debate among our players following the match, we decided that this was pushing things a little too far. Reading had not discussed the matter with us prior to the game so we objected.

It has been suggested that I should have conferred with Reading before objecting. Maybe, but I had only three days to get the objection to the controller in writing. If I, or the Crowthorne club, are guilty of anything my opinion is that this is the only thing.

As you wrote, Peter Gibbs acted absolutely correctly in awarding the result to Crowthorne. He had no choice, rules are rules. The only discretion was with Crowthorne.

By the time I met Mick Tarrant (Reading Captain) correspondence was going on between the two clubs and the controller. We had now discovered that the player concerned was graded considerably lower, at 163 twelve years earlier. I said to Mick, if Reading were to concede that they had erred, and that Crowthorne had not acted dishonourably, I would withdraw the claim. He thus agreed, and I have no hesitation to state that Mick's behaviour was that of the gentleman he is.

Unfortunately it did not end there. It was Ted Mathewson, Reading's Secretary, who was handling the dispute. Instead of taking a contrite approach, he had decided that tactically his best chance was to counter claim and suggest that Crowthorne had been improper and unsporting to complain. Unfortunately it was these letters that caused my team to decide not to retract the claim. It was felt unfair to deride the innocent victims for asking that the rules be upheld. It was further felt that Reading's counter claim, that we had played out of order, was insulting. We accepted the official ruling.

Subsequently I talked to Ted and we agreed it was unfortunate that things had gone the way they had, and I understood there would be no further hard feelings. I accepted his explanations and he mine. It is unfortunate that Alan Cox went to press without possessing all the facts. I am sure, as a reasonable man, he will now be happy with the way things went.

Yours sincerely,

MARK SAUNDERS (Crowthorne Captain)

cc Mick Tarrant, Ted Mathewson, Alan Cox

Ed: - You're the controller and Crowthorne want to withdraw their claim. What do you do?

Dear Richard,

12.7.95

I do not wish to prolong the agony of the Reading v Crowthorne result but, having seen Mark Saunders's letter, I must confirm that I wrote my letter of 31 March to the Bulletin entirely on my own initiative and not on behalf of my club, Reading...

The prescriptive nature of the rule on eligibility contrasts with the rule on order of playing strength which makes no reference to grades and apparently allows match captains to take recent form into account. I sense that there is a *non sequitur* somewhere in this.

The problem with prescriptive rules is that sooner or later a case will arise which does not fit. There should be a provision for discretion in interpreting the intention of such rules in extreme cases. I offer this suggestion to the BCF. In so doing I realise from other letters in the May Bulletin that many will disagree with me. Indeed it does



appear from the correspondence columns of the Bulletin these days that, to adapt the words of the late Bill Shankly, chess is not a matter of life and death, but much more serious than that.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN (COX) Reading

Ed: - For what it's worth I agree the rule didn't fit, but it was the rule and I can't work up much sympathy for a club that broke it without even noticing. With which Last Word I declare this correspondence closed.

Dear Richard,

18.6.95

Just surfing through SCCU Bulletin 223:

**QPF.** Offhand I can not think of any other sport - apart from those with explicit subjectivity such as diving, ice skating, dancing - where there is room for doubt as to a decision within the rules when the facts are absolutely indisputable. One of the reasons I gave up arbiting is because I found it absurd and discouraging to be put into a position where my own playing strength, and not my knowledge of the rules, might decide the result of a game. Heck, I couldn't evaluate the likely outcome of a game with players graded 50 points below me; and when I sit down to play, after the first three or four moves I make it up all over again. I'm not going to put that lack of ability into a QPF arbiting situation, and no arbiter should be put in that wide a discretionary situation.

**222:3, Dupre letter.** I do sympathise with Mr Dupre's point, but shouldn't it apply even more to the U100/U125 events? An ungraded player is statistically less unlikely to be over 100 or 125 playing strength than they are to be over 150 or 175. [Errm... - Ed]

**223:4, Millin letter.** Votes at Council - representing view. Lester should remember that quite a number of votes at Council are cast by ex officio, not representative, members. There is also the point about the recent extension of the franchise to congresses - who does an independent congress represent? If a chess entrepreneur runs a congress for their own profit, they will pay BCF Game Fee and get votes at BCF Council - but they represent no one except themselves. Hastings Congress has more votes than some very small counties: but Hastings players have no control over the actions of the Hastings Committee, whose constitution has no provision for player representation: so we can outvote a democratically controlled county.

**223:13, Dorset v Surrey.** All praise to the Dorset captain for clear and explicit direction: but how sad it is that everyone had to go by car and couldn't/wouldn't use public transport.

A propos the above, should there be provision for county match venues to be accessible by public transport? Say at least once an hour to a point within half a mile? And to have ramp access for the disabled too?

PAUL BUSWELL St Leonards

Dear Richard,

20.7.95

...Since I was one of the tellers at the BCF Council Meeting, I do know the identity of the individual who voted for a 55p Game Fee per player per game. However if I were to tell, I would never be allowed to tell again, if you see what I mean. Lester may be pleased to learn that the individual concerned did not come from the SCCU area.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN PHILPOTT Chingford

A congress organiser writes:

"I had one unsavoury incident in that a competitor entered late and paid by cheque (claiming his BCF Member's discount) but his cheque was returned by his bank for lack of funds 4 days later. The same player accepted a cheque for a grading prize and cashed it before I could stop it. He also has failed to respond to requests for further payment of due fees. I found out subsequently that the same person presented a credit card which was later dishonoured for goods at the bookstall and that he also owes BCF fees from a previous event where his credit card was dishonoured. I suggested to BCF that they might advise other congress organisers who are registered with them for Game Fee to be wary of this person but the Chairman of the Finance Committee declined to take any action for reasons that escape me..."

The organiser goes on to give a pretty broad hint at the player's identity. He won't have meant us to publish the hint and we wouldn't dare anyway. In the organiser's place we'd be strongly tempted to tell all the congress organisers in sight - the bits we could prove, that is - and tell the player we were doing so.

### ARBITERS COURSES: THE INSIDE STORY

(Well, a bit of it)

"Would you like to be official Observer at my Arbiters Course, Richard? I really need a BCF Arbitrer for the job but I can't find one so you'll have to do." "OK David, so long as I can write about it." So there I was at the Maidstone Leisure Centre one Wednesday evening, and here's what I wrote.

What is an Arbiters Course? I've not witnessed the full thing so I'm a bit vague, but normally there's three

sessions. The first is devoted to rules and Swiss pairings, the second is a practical where invited players behave badly on purpose, and the third is the BCF's Exam (rules, pairings, coping with problems). Or something along those lines. To become a BCF Arbiter you must not only pass the exam but also gain suitable experience, and then get recommended by two BCF Arbiters at least one of whom wears a big hat.

Anyway. What I went to was the practical, and my job was to note what happened and what the candidates did about it. This was necessary because the course tutor (oh, David Sedgwick, didn't I say?) was playing in the "tournament". Candidates are not assessed on the practical, it's only for practice, with a feedback session at the end. Which was just as well on this occasion, because it was the most over-arbitered tournament I've ever been at or heard of. Ten arbiters for eight players, I think it was, and that was after an arbiter dropped out. Problem was an arbiter-overflow from the Barbican course. But I have to say the players did their best to keep them occupied.

The tutor had primed his playing team with specific ways of being awkward. Like doing e.p. captures wrong, or not writing the moves down, or claiming spurious repetitions, or playing illegal moves in the last five minutes, or discussing their games, or failing to hand a result in. Or disputing the pairings, naturally. The very first problem scheduled was Entrant Failing to Turn Up. This one fell flat when the named player, who wasn't supposed to be at the club that night, was. Shortly afterwards the tutor found himself unexpectedly handicapped when his notes on the event, jotted down as things happened, were taken away from him on the ground that you're not allowed to make notes during a game, and even if they weren't about his game he was distracting his opponent anyway. Thereafter the team's inventiveness, or inborn knavery, ensured that the unplanned problems outnumbered the planned ones and the Observer never got the chance to spring his own really nasty one.

It went well for a round and a half (there were three rounds). Then to be honest the atmosphere got a bit light-hearted, or headed, and by the end Observer Spilling Crisps on Board hardly seemed out of keeping. The most improbable incident was solved by a remarkable piece of detective work on the arbiters' part. A player, finding his flag suddenly three minutes past the hour, loudly accused his opponent of fiddling the clock. Controllers' dilemma. Was the opponent guilty? Had the player done it himself because he was losing? Was it a Defective Clock? None of those things. The clock had been advanced by the player sitting to the claimant's left. How the arbiters found out, or what clues they had, I don't know; unless it was local knowledge (Matthew Noakes is known at the Maidstone club). We all had a laugh, but it wasn't the stuff of Arbiters Courses.

It was a useful event and I think the candidates would agree they learned from it. Only they *were* too many. David felt, as I did, that things went a little over the top towards the end. The event's twin, at the Barbican soon afterwards, reportedly had a lower arbiter-player ratio and a more sober set of problems to solve.

Moving off at a tangent: The other week, in an U11 event I was controlling, a player claimed a perfectly valid repetition but made his move first. Dammit, I thought, this is a county-level player and I'm going to apply the rules whether he knows them or not. No draw. Was I harsh? (A few moves later he claimed the same repetition again, the right way, and I was going to give him it until someone pointed out that a pawn had moved in the meantime.)

Some weeks earlier I arbitred a team match in which one side had a blind player. Feverishly scanning the rules on blind players I discovered that his (personal) board, while quite unexceptionable, didn't meet the regulations. The opponents said nothing and neither did I. Was I wrong? That one's almost too easy, but arbiters - Arbiters - don't always agree on the point at which they should step in uninvited.

QPF in a recent congress: Black's flag drops when he has K+RP v K+N. Arbiter says draw. Very soon afterwards, but not immediately, White points out the mating possibility (which, apparently, was plausible from that position). Arbiter: "Oh, I didn't know Knights could mate against Rooks pawns. White win." (So shoot the arbiter, but that isn't the question.) Next it turns out that White didn't know about the mate either, till someone told him after the (first) ruling. So he's received advice. Can he do that, bearing in mind that the game's over?

## CONGRESS RESULTS

**SOUTHEND** 14-17 April 1995, better late than never. 158 played, and "all prize money as advertised was paid out".

**Open** (74 pl) 1-2 Andrew Ledger (Bedford), Matthew Sadler (Maidstone) 6½/7; 3-4 Paul Cooksey (Newbury: takes BCQ place), Michael Twyble (Southend) 5½; 5 Brian Kemish (Basildon) 5... **GRADING** 171-185 RA Barton (Morecambe), J Bayford (Folkestone), R Gamble (Courtaulds), D Millward (Writtle), G Reid (Basildon), P Williamson (Rayleigh), L Wooldridge (Bourne End); 156-170 A King (Grays), J Potter (Ashford); 141-155 K Forman (Coventry Transport), S Harwood (Southend), R Newton (Rayleigh), D Read (Colchester); 126-140 S Lefevre (Cosham); U126 P Bloom (Hayes Kent), DC Gibbs (Ilford), M Lewsey (Colchester).

**Swiss A** (18 pl) 1 J Rogers (Brentwood) 5/5; 2 P Laundry (Basildon) 4; 3-5 A Corish (Upminster), J Dodgson (Hastings), J Holland (Dereham) 3½...

**Swiss B** (22 pl) 1-2 M Bradford (Grays), M Pool (Customs Southend) 4½/5; 3 A Batson (Wickford) 4...

**Swiss C** (22 pl) 1 K Foakes (Westcliff) 5/5; 2 H Tanton (Billericay) 4; 3-5 M Cain, AM Miles, B Smith (all Basildon) 3½...

**Swiss D** (22 pl) 1 B Archer (Benfleet) 4½/5; 2-4 A Brew (Basildon), S Grey (London), A Russell (Port Sunlight) 4  
Results GMA Smith

**WESTMINSTER 13th May 1995****Open** (16 pl) 1-2 Jerzy Dybowski, David Sands 5; 3 Mark Rubery 4...**Major** (31 pl) 1-2 Michael Kobylka, Shanker Menon 5, Besharet Khan 5...**Minor** (30 pl) 1-3 David Shalom, Carl Weeks, STK Wilkinson 5...

Results JM Sargent

**BARKING 27 - 29 May 1995** had only 153 players compared with the previous year's 178. The organisers aren't too complimentary about Chess & Bridge who ran a clashing event on the Saturday.**Open** 1 Mark Ferguson 5/6; 2-6 Lawrence Cooper, Gerry Hayes, Miroslav Houska, David Sands, David Wood 4½... JUNIOR Karl Mah**Major** 1-4 Carlos Nathan, Stephen Wedlock, Iozeph Okosieme, Eddie Dearing 5/6... JUNIOR Nathan Alfred**Minor** 1-2 Desmond Tan, Tobias Stock 5½/6; 3-6 Stephen Chick, John Gazzard, Barry Archer, Michael Allen 4½... JUNIOR Christopher Hobbs

Results JM Sargent

**KINGS HEAD LONDON OPEN 10-11 June 1995****Open** (59 pl) 1-2 S Conquest (Sea Mills), JDM Nunn (Duisberg) 4½/5; 3-7 DH Cummings (Slough), APH Kinsman (Wimbledon), M Rubery, G Wall (Richmond), SK Williams 4... GRADING 190-209 SK Williams; 170-189 N Donovan (Metropolitan) 3; U170 DG Flower (Barbican) 2½. JUNIOR SK Williams. BEST GAME JDM Nunn.**Major** (66 pl) 1-4 E Dearing (Writtle/Perth), S Law (Hemel Hempstead), MI Roberts (Dartford), D Spearman (South Norwood) 4½/5... GRADING 135-149 D Spearman; U135 G Sweetland (Kings Head) 3. JUNIOR D Dearing. (We assume this is the Dearing who came 1st=since his score is given as 4½ and his club as Writtle/Perth; however the initial has been typed as received.) BEST GAME NSW Alfred.**Minor** (76 pl) 1-2 G Bishop, AS James (Surbiton) 5/5; 3-12 B Bankavs (Bell Green), R Cutting (Streatham), JB Goldman (Westminster School), L Hylands (Colchester), J Joyce (Nat Correspondence), J Levy (Barnet), C Lipscombe, V Litvin, D Molineux (Kings Head), R Rattram (Richmond Juniors) 4... GRADING 95-109 J Joyce, V Litvin; U95 D Molineux. JUNIOR R Rattram. BEST GAME JP Goldman.**Computers:** No computers played.

Results WA Suttill

**WESTMINSTER 17th June 1995****Open** (15 pl) 1 Nigel Rose (Hackney) 5/6; 2 M Rubery (Hackney) 4½; 3 Justin Marley (Crystal Palace) 4...**Major** (21 pl) 1-2 DJR Barnes (Rainham), NSW Alfred (Beckenham & Bromley) 5½/6; 3 KD White (UCL) 5...**Minor** (32 pl) 1 Matthew King (Ashford) 6/6; 2-3 Howard Berlin (Ilford), W Francis (E2) 5... Results JM Sargent**AND ODD NEWS...****ESSEX Leagues 1994-5: Div 1** (12 teams) 1 Ilford I 20; 2 Writtle 20; 3 Southend I 16... **Div 2** (13 teams) 1 Edmonton I 21; 2 (after play-off) Billericay 21; 3 Southend II 19... **Div 3** (12 teams) 1 Newham 22; 2 Ilford V 16; 3 Wanstead & Woodford III 14... **Div 4** (14 teams) 1 Eastbrook IV 22...

Essex Team Blitz Championship (Writtle 9th July) was an APA for teams of four, with 8 minutes each per game. 1 Ilford 37; 2 (tie-break) Powdermill A 37; 3 Chelmsford A 36½... It was agreed to split the prize equally between the two leading teams. Till someone remembered the prize was an engraved clock. Results JA Philpott

**SOUTHEND & DISTRICT LEAGUE:** results from John Philpott**Div 1** (7 teams) 1 Rayleigh I 20/24; 2 Southend I 18... **Div 2** (7 teams) 1 Southend III 17/24; 2 Customs II 15...**Div 3** (6 teams) 1 Customs III 18/20; 2 Wickford III 14... **Perriman Cup** Customs I beat Rayleigh II 5 - 2½ in the Final. (You heard. The Rayleigh score included 1½ points handicap bonus.) **Senior Individual** (not sure what Senior means) M Blyth beat SL Wedlock in the Final; **Plate** AJ Parsons beat S Harwood. **Team Lightning** Southend II 2 1 Southend I (whoops). **Individual** Lightning 1 S Harwood 6/6; 2 AJ Parsons 5...**KENT individual titles 1994-5:** County Champion C Chandler; Major RJ Everson; Intermediate B Hunter; Minor TR Jefferies. And the Primary schools title, in a repeat of last year's results, went to Barming (Maidstone) with Amherst (Sevenoaks) as runners-up.**LONDON LEAGUE 1994-5:** results from Bob Turnham**Div 1** 1 Wood Green I 11/12; 2 Charlton 8; 3-4 Kings Head I, Cavendish I 6½; 5 Streatham I 6...**Div 2** 1 Hackney I 9/10; 2 Drunken Knights 8½; 3 Ilford I 6½; 4 Barbican II 6; 5 Wimbledon II 5½...**Div 3** 1 Gravesend 9½/10; 2 Woodbridge 7½; 3 Beckenham & Bromley 6½; 4-5 Hackney II, Wood Gn II 5½...**Div 4** 1 Lewisham II 6½/10; 2 Philippine I 6½; 3 Kings Head IV 6; 4-5 Morley College I, Richmond II 5½...**Div 5** 1 International Students 8/9; 2-4 Barbican III, Athenaeum II, DHSS I 5½; 5-6 Streatham III, Wanstead III 5...**Div 6** 1 Barbican IV 5½/8; 2 BBC 4½; 3 DHSS II 4; 4 Kings Head VI 3...

The Division 5 table includes a team called "Cancelled" which played no matches and didn't come bottom. Penalties (for defaults we assume) produced several negative totals, and the lowest score in the League was -1½



match points (Hampstead II in Division 3). Matches are over 10 boards, if you didn't know, and last we heard promotion and relegation was in operation.

#### INSURANCE CC 1994-5

**Leagues:** in a "disappointing" season marred by withdrawals Div 1 went to Lincoln National for the first time, and Div 2 to IOB. **Bowring King KO IOB; Durham Trophy KO Minet; Frost Wilmot Team Rapid Play Bain Hogg. Individual Championship D Malcolm** after a play-off against DR Sedgwick; **Major MR Wiltshire; Minor HR Kember.**

#### TIMES BRITISH SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP: results from Mitchell Taylor

The Big Do at the Charing Cross Hotel (end of June, dates not instantly to hand and we're feeling lazy):

**Semi-finals** Methodist College Belfast 5 1 Ipswich School; Maidstone GS \*3 3 Truro School. **Third Place Play-off** Truro School 4 2 Ipswich School. **Final** Methodist College 4½ 1½ Maidstone GS. This is the first time an Irish team has won the Championship. (MGS report that the odd queen or two left lying around in the Final didn't improve their chances.) **Plate** competition, for Zone runners-up, went to St Columbs College, Derry (isn't that in Ireland as well?), who beat Northgate High School, Ipswich, 5-1 in the Final. Pity about the Ipswich fairy tale.

#### EUROPEAN CLUB CUP

**Maidstone** are in Group 2 (E Bohemia 15-17 Sep) and play Lyon in round 1 "but there are no other frightening teams". **Slough** in Group 3 (Paris 22-24 Sep) play some totally unspellable Hungarians in round 1; **Guildford** in Group 7 (Göteborg) play Paisley in round 1.

#### SCCU U180 KO: Semi-final

Bucks	15.7.95	Sussex*
1 LM Wooldridge 176	0 1	RJ Almond 175 (B)
2 MS Vann 127 (r)	0 1	IG Kelly 168
3 EK Tweeddale 170	½ ½	CN Hann 168
4 A Robbings 166	1 0	A Hall 167
5 J Springall 157	½ ½	IP Judd 160
6 B Shipley 154	½ ½	P Watson 163
7 RDW Marsh 168 (r)	½ ½	LJ Cannon 154
8 J Broome -	0 1	PR Selby 148
9 A Kelly 138	½ ½	RD Hirsch 144
10 AJ Hawkins -	1 0	def
(Bourne End)	4½ 5½	

The Sussex defaulter was involved in a car accident en route.

Matches in this competition have a distressing tendency to arrive without any indication of what round it was. From the AGM draft minutes we know this one was a semi-final. From the same source we know the other finalists are/were Surrey. Since there were six entrants we deduce this to have been the fourth match; two of its predecessors appeared in the last issue. You can probably work out which one's missing and what round it was.

#### THE FLEMING TROPHY MATCH

Beds	9.7.95	Bucks*
S Ledger (B)	1 0	G Moore
M Ioannides	0 1	J Beedle
R Freeman	½ ½	RD de Coverly
T Hare	1 0	R O'Brien
R Mahoney	0 1	L Wooldridge
P Thomas	1 0	SL Scopes
K Williamson	0 1	RDW Marsh
def	0 1	C Floyd
A Matthews	0 1	A Robbings
K Liddle	½ ½	R Fox
A Macrae	0 1	A Cox
M Joseph	1 0	J Springall
K Hunter	0 1	M Vann
K Bush	½ ½	S James
K Mitchell	0 1	A Laurence
D Phillips	½ ½	A Jesse
(Milton Keynes)	6 10	

#### From the Kings Head London Open 1995: Best Games

Open: **White T Gavriel, Black J Nunn**

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 0-0 6 Be3 Nc6 7 Nge2 a6 8 Qd2 Rb8 9 0-0-0 b5 10 g4 bxc4 11 h4 Nb4 12 Ng3 (JDMN considers 12 Nf4 better) c5 13 dxc5 Nd7 14 Bxc4 Ne5 15 Bb3 Nxf3 16 Qg2 Qa5 17 Nge2 Be6 18 Nd4 Nxd4 19 Bxd4 Bxd4 20 Rxd4 Bxb3 21 axb3 Qa1+ 22 Nb1 Rfc8 23 Rhd1 Rxc5+ 24 Rc4 Rxc4+ 25 bxc4 Na2+ 0-1

Major: **White M Daniels 130, Black N Alfred 142**

1 e4 g6 2 Nf3 Bg7 3 d3 d6 4 g3 e5 5 Bg2 f5 6 exf5 gxf5 7 0-0 Nf6 8 Re1 0-0 9 c3 6 10 Qb3+ Kh8 11 Ng5 Qe7 12 Nd2 h6 13 Ngf3 Be6 14 Qc2 Nbd7 15 Nf1 Qf7 16 Nh4 d5 17 h3 e4 18 Be3 Ne5 19 dxe4 fxe4 20 g4 Nfxg4! 21 hxg4 Nxg4 22 f3 Nxe3 23 Rxe3 Qh5 24 fxe4 Qxh4 25 exd5 Bxd5 26 Rh3 Qf4 27 Bxd5 cxd5 28 Rd1 Rf5 29 Ne3 Rg5+ 30 Kh1 Rf8 31 Rf1 Qxf1+! 32 Nxf1 Rxf1+ 33 Kh2 Be5+ 34 Rg3 Bxg3+ 35 Kh3 Rh1+ 36 Kg2 Rh2+ 0-1

Minor: **White JB Goldman 111, Black A Feltham 92**

1 d4 f5 2 Nf6 Bd3 3 Bd3 g6 4 f4 Bg7 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Nbd2 d6 7 0-0 Nc6 8 c3 Qe8 9 Qe1 e5 10 fxe5 dxe5 11 Ng5 e4 12 Bc4+ Kh8 13 Qh4

Nd8 14 Ndex4! h5 15 Ng3 Ne6 16 e4 Nxg5 17 Bxg5 Nxe4 18 Rael Qc6 19 Nxh5! Qxc4 20 Nf6+ 1-0

#### SCCU COUNTY FIXTURES 1995-6

(OPEN DIVISION)

are as published last time except that Bucks will not compete.

Oct	7	KM	SyO	HC	ESx
	21	CSy	SxH	OK	MBr
Nov	4	KC	SySx	HE	BrO
	18	ESy	SxK	CBR	OM
Dec	2	MC	BrSx	KE	SyH
Jan	27	HK	EBr	SxM	CO
Feb	10	OSx	ME	BrH	KSy
	24	SyBr	HM	EO	SxC
Mar	9	CE	OH	MSy	BrK

We have heard of no changed dates.

## BCF STAGE COUNTY MATCHES

## OPEN SEMI-FINAL

Warwicks		3.6.95	Middx*	
1 K Arkell 236 (B)	½	½	Kenneth Shovel 230	
2 CW Baker 206	1	0	Robin J Pearce (r) 180	
3 J Nelson 205	0	1	Ben Martin 217	
4 CCW Shepherd 206	½	½	Mats Carlson 208	
5 RG Evans 201	0	1	Peter J Sowray 213	
6 RS McFarland 199	½	½	Simon D Brown 208	
7 A Hynes 202	1	0	Paul S Cawte 208	
8 PE Johnstone 201	½	½	Matthew Piper 203	
9 AD Lloyd 194	½	½	Mark Lyell 197	
10 D Mason 193	½	½	Tim Kett 197	
11 N Thomas 193	0	1	Colin Mackenzie 194	
12 KL Escott (r) 174	½	½	John M Quinn 190	
13 P Briggs 183	0	1	Nigel RE Alldritt 192	
14 A Fish 184	1	0	def	
15 RH Wildig 183	1	0	Chris Gant 189	
16 A Baruch 184	0	1	C Nigel J Rose 183	
(Nuneaton)	7½	8½		

We do know the result of the other semi-final, and even the Final come to that, but the post office has lost them or no one's sent them. Pity, really, considering both Finalists were SCCU nominees. A number of other match captains, in the grading-limited sections, also seem not to have sent their results. If they don't want them printed we're happy to save ourselves the typing.

It's been a lean year for SCCU teams. Only two titles, and one of those went to a county (all right then, Cambs won the Open) which some might not consider SCCU at all. All praise to the Kent U100 team which not only took the inaugural BCF title, but also sent the result.

## MINOR COUNTIES

## SEMI-FINALS

Suffolk		3.6.95	Surrey*		Herts		3.6.95	Beds	
1 K Bowden 225 (W)	½	½	APH Kinsman 229		S Knott 210 (B)		0	1	A Ledger 217
2 N Pert 197	0	1	C Dunworth 195		S Swanson 202		½	½	S Ledger 193
3 M Cook 193	1	0	def		A Simpson 199		0	1	P Hare 190
4 S Gregory 189	0	1	RA Allicock 195		S Roe 198		1	0	M Ioannides 183
5 S Orton 186	1	0	DB Rosen 183		B Sivmoe 174		1	0	G Smith 182
6 R Pert 181	½	½	JM Shepley 182		P Georghiou 173		½	½	R Freeman 178
7 I Wallis 180	1	0	BG Whyte 180		M Robertson 159		½	½	T Hare 177
8 S Munson 178	½	½	KP Mynett 176		C Majer 177		1	0	B Wiggington (so) 176
9 S Ruthen 176	0	1	K Richardson 175		S Law 153		0	1	P Kendall 168
10 J Feavyour 170	½	½	PJ Roche 171		J Fraser-Mitchell 179		1	0	A Elwin 168
11 A Charity 169	½	½	CR Clegg 166		S Tovey 174		½	½	R Mahoney 166
12 C Franklin 174	0	1	PJ Gibbons 165		J Denton 172		½	½	P Pritchard 160
13 Tony Rubin -	½	½	S Macdonald-Ross 164		D Fewell 170		0	1	B Valentine 158
14 M Taylor 163	½	½	JJ Skielnik 163		T Sinkinson 169		1	0	G Valerio 157
15 R Sanders 159	1	0	PD Dupre 156		J Cook 171		1	0	E Lake (Cake?) -
16 D Whitehead 156	1	0	RGR Harris 153		S Rawlings 167		½	½	K Williamson 156
(Wanstead)	8½	7½			(Stevenage)		9	7	

## FINAL

Herts*		1.7.95	Suffolk	
A Simpson 199	½	½	K Bowden 225	
S Knott 210	1	0	N Pert	
S Swanson 202	½	½	M Cook	
J Rudge 203	0	1	S Gregory	
P Byway 198	½	½	S Orton	
S Roe 198	0	1	R Pert	
B Savage 174	½	½	J Wallis	
A Gilfillan 176	½	½	S Munson	
M Robertson 159	0	1	S Ruthen 176	
C Majer 177	½	½	A Charity	
J Fraser-Mitchell 179	0	1	C Franklin 174	
J Denton 172	1	0	G Aggry (so)	
K Ellis 176	1	0	T Ruben	
S Law 153	0	1	M Taylor 171?	
J Cook 171	0	1	R Sanders 159	
T Ray 159	1	0	D Whitehead 156	
(Birmingham)	7	9		

## UNDER 175

## SEMI-FINALS:

Essex*		3.6.95	Greater Manchester		Notts		3.6.95	Kent*	
1 R Heppinstall 174 (W)	½	½	A Wilson 174	NA Lazonby 174 (W)	1	0	JR Bayford 174		
2 DJ Millward 172	½	½	M Abbott 161	P Fallon 171	1	0	PW Eldridge 174		
3 PC Doye 171	½	½	T Browin 167	KGE Morrison 170	1	0	CM Brown 171		
4 CR Ramage 171	1	0	E Goodall 168	A Chu 169	½	½	TH Owens 168		
5 ID Hunnabell 169	1	0	T Thompson 157	SJ Burke 168	½	½	MD Brougham 165		
6 SD Harvey 168	0	1	P Kobryn 155	CS Cantrill 164	½	½	LR Gurr 164		
7 IBN Smith 165	1	0	J Bentley 154	PJ Mercs 159	0	1	SJ Pink 163		
8 TD Whitton 168	½	½	J Burgess 153	D Amour 155	0	1	NC Mackett 163		
9 R Waldteufel 162	0	1	A Tyton 152	M Darlington 152	1	0	SJ Jacob 162		
10 M Weighell 162	½	½	M Searles 148	N Graham 152	½	½	PR Rutland 161		
11 A King 161	1	0	M Sanderson 146	Jul. Cast 151	0	1	RJ Everson 158		
12 NH Twitchell 160	0	1	B Wood 142	BM Hayward 149	0	1	AB Mata 157		
13 JA Philpott 157	1	0	M Stoker 140	AJ Wright 148	1	0	RE Lane 155		
14 SM Williams 152	1	0	A Beresford 136	JJ Wagenbach 147	½	½	DJR Barnes 148		
15 AD Hartland 149	1	0	J Clissold 132	HR Edwards -	1	0	AC Waters 151		
16 David Smith 152	1	0	I Thompson 127	V Naan 143	½	½	AJ Sherriff 153		
(Syston, Leics)	10½	5½		(Nuneaton)	9	7			

As in the Championship, we've not had a result sheet for the Final. Essex lost to Notts.

## UNDER 150

Sussex lost to Lancs in the semi-final; result sheet not received. Lancs lost 8½ 11½ to Warwicks in the Final.

## UNDER 125

## SEMI-FINAL:

Cheshire		3.6.95	Middx*	
1 M Roberts 124 (W)	1	0	Valerie Vangucht e124	
2 M Higgins 120	½	½	Mike Whitworth 124	
3 M Driscoll 113	½	½	Colum Duddy 124	
4 L Murphy 121	0	1	Greig Sweetland 124	
5 C Burlinson 119	½	½	John Smith 123	
6 P Bell 118	0	1	Ron Crooks 122	
7 T Harrison (106)	½	½	Stan Lazarz 122	
8 J Daly 117	0	1	Brian Smith 122	
9 I Johnson (120)	1	0	Alastair Johnstone 121	
10 J Chrystal (110)	1	0	Dennis Ramsey 121	
11 M Bramhall (120)	0	1	Gary O'Grady 121	
12 N Alms 108	0	1	Randy Plowright 121	
13 C Wilson 101	0	1	Gareth Smith e120	
14 R Glover 86	0	1	Nigel Bye e120	
15 E Davison 87	0	1	Richard Balatoni 117	
16 W Davison 88	½	½	Steve Myatt 114	
(Nuneaton)	5½	10½		

Some ambiguity about grades here. When Mr Myatt puts an "E" before a Middx grade, it clearly means "estimate"; these people don't appear even in the master list. However, to confuse the typist he gives opponents' grades (not Middx ones) with letters A-E before them, apparently to reflect what's in the grading list. Except for the ones in brackets, with no letter, which we assume are estimates. He wasn't answering the phone when we were in the mood to check, but a quick look in the master list suggests that this hypothesis is right. We've bracketed the ones he did.

Final: Not received. But Middx lost on board count to Suffolk after defaulting four boards. Highish boards, as you'll have guessed. And they got fined by the BCF for the defaults.

## UNDER 100 FINAL

Shropshire		1.7.95	Kent*	
1 D Hollands 99 (W)	1	0	Michael Jones 95	
2 E Ingelis 99	½	½	Stephen Chick 96	
3 N Sampson 99	1	0	Peter Titmas 95	
4 P Crean 93	1	0	Gary Titmas 86	
5 R Brown 93	0	1	David Ho 92	
6 I Davies 93	1	0	Alan Evans 98	
7 L Roberts 93	0	1	Douglas Smith 88	
8 A Scotford 92	0	1	Alex Blake 92	
9 R Metcalfe 92	1	0	Conrad Saunders e85*	
10 S Davies 89	0	1	Ty Jefferies 99	
11 C Bowlers e80	0	1	Christopher Eyre 64	
12 M McCrae 67	0	1	Neil Lang 90	
(Birmingham)	5½	6½		

\*Can't help suspecting this is Konrad Sanders 81

This match went right to the last game. With 20 onlookers the Kent bd 11, needing a win from an inferior position, set his short-of-time opponent enough problems and was actually winning by the time the flag fell.

## CONGRESS DIARY

- Jul 29-30 WESTMINSTER U201/171/131/101. Norman Went, 53 New Zealand Way, Rainham, Essex RM13 8JT 01708 551617
- 31-12 BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP CONGRESS at Swansea. Congress Secretary, BCF, 9a Grand Parade, St Leonards, E Sussex TN38 0DD 01424 442500
- Aug 3- 4 KENSINGTON Open; U165/35. D Agble, 15 Beit Hall, Prince Consort Rd SW7 2BB 0171 594 9456
- 12 WESTMINSTER. John Sargent, 903 Longbridge Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2BU 0181 595 5881
- 13 KENSINGTON. Dugald Agble, 15 Beit Hall, Prince Consort Rd SW7 2BB 0171 594 9456
- 14-19 SCCU INTERNATIONAL at Golders Green. DR Sedgwick, 23 Rierney Court, Canning Town, Croydon CR0 6QA 0181 656 7682
- 18-20 THANET at Broadstairs. U210/165/130/100. AD Hargreaves, 1 Medina Avenue, Whitstable, Kent CT5 4EN 01227 274885
- 19-29 HASTINGS CENTENARY. Open (rabbit-expensive) 20-27; U175 20-25; U175/135/100 25-27; plus special events. C Power, 418 Harold Rd, Hastings, E Sussex TN35 5HG 01424 431970
- 20 GOLDERS GREEN. Adam Raoof, PO Box 1962, London NW4 4NF 0181 202 0982
- 26-28 BERKS & BUCKS at Maidenhead. Open 175+; Challengers "usually 150-175"; Reserves (graded sections). NW Dennis, Boundary House, 230 Greys Rd, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1QY 01491 576052
- Sep 3 CHESS & BRIDGE. Neville Twitchell, Chess & Bridge, 369 Euston Rd NW1 0171 388 2404
- 9-10 KENSINGTON at Imperial College. Dugald Agble, 15 Beit Hall, Prince Consort Rd SW7 2BB 0171 594 9456
- 16 WESTMINSTER. John Sargent, 903 Longbridge Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2BU 0181 595 5881
- 17 RICHMOND (Surrey). Stephen Mooring, 30 The Terrace SW13 0NR 0181 876 2407
- 22-24 MAIDSTONE BCQ. Open; U160/130/105; Rapidplay Sunday. NC Mackett, 74 Peel St, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2SD; enquiries to Stephen Webb 01634 23332 (home), 0171 775 2500 (work).
- 23 GOLDERS GREEN. Adam Raoof, PO Box 1962, London NW4 4NF 0181 202 0982
- 24 CHESS & BRIDGE. Neville Twitchell, Chess & Bridge, 369 Euston Rd NW1 0171 388 2404
- 30- 1 MILL HILL Open; U160/120. Tony Corfe, 51 Borough Way, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3HA 01707 659080

**GRADING POSTSCRIPT:** a couple of oddments

Preliminary print-out of the new SCCU grading list, or it may have been the national one, has a diverting peculiarity. You know the way last year's grade always gets printed in brackets? Well, this year it's got a minus sign in front of it instead. The explanation's the best part - see if you can think of it. Remember it was a computer job. Accounting for idiot computers isn't always easy. Solution at foot of page.

The other oddment's more serious. The BCF have taken on board all those complaints about the print quality of the grading lists. Their solution, since they haven't got a laser printer yet, was to farm the job out commercially. At a cost of £1 a page. Two-hundred-ish pages, for the national list. For the money they could have picked up a laser printer. They could have used the Bulletin's laser printer, for that matter. If we'd charged them 5p a page we'd have made about 100% profit on the materials.

**Quotes**

"Monday 31 to Saturday 12 August 1995..." - Entry form of a prominent congress

"Prize fund for the Open was £!050"

"In actual fact we would have made a profit of £205.20 had we been in receipt of sponsorship!"

"\*\*\*\*\* resigned [as county SCCU rep] because SCCU meetings were so boring. \*\*\*\*\* took it on partly because they are held in a pub."

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** *Chess Circuit* 4:95; Insurance CC Annual Report for 1994-5.

**Solution to the minus-sign problem**

Don't know the details but they were using some kind of software that's in the habit of talking to spreadsheets. You know what it means when accountants put figures in brackets. So did the software.