

Chess

VISHY ANAND RETAINS WORLD TITLE

**Boris Gelfand takes Vishy Anand to
the wire in a tense rapid shoot-out**



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Nakamura wins third US Championship - Full Report Inside



Why Play the Sicilian Taimanov - John Emms on his pet line



Gamemanship - Fair Play or Foul?

Chess

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4NCL Final Weekend

Wood Green champions again, reports IM Simon Ansell at Hinckley Island

LEFT YOU last time with Wood Green clear favourites to take the 4NCL title.

Only Cheddleton were in striking distance, and the two teams met in round ten having both warmed up with convincing victories the day before.

After my last report, where I was forced to include numerous blunders, it was good to see the top players out in force. Wood Green were led by Mickey Adams and Luke McShane, with Jon Speelman and Pia Cramling on the bottom two boards – surely this weekend would produce some quality chess?

So it proved – Mickey was at his best all weekend, making it look ridiculously easy to score 3/3 against players of the quality of Simon Williams, Elisabeth Pähtz and Matthew Turner. The finish below is from the Cheddleton match:

Round 10 Wood Green - Cheddleton
M.Adams - E.Pähtz



Mickey has had this bind for 20 moves or so and has been biding his time until the time-control before making the decisive breakthrough. Black is completely passive, has no activity and no pawn breaks – not really what you want against Mickey! **41 g4** Finally opening lines. **41...hxg4** **41...xh8** **42 gxh5** **gxh5** might have resisted longer, but there was really no good choice – White will eventually penetrate down the g-file or pick up the weak h5 pawn. **42 xg4** **xh8** Otherwise White plays h5 very soon and the pressure on the f7 pawn will be too much. **43 f4!** The final piece joins the attack. **43...d7** What else?



Photo: John Saunders

In the final two rounds, Elisabeth Pähtz had to face Mickey Adams and Nigel Short.



44 xf7! The unfortunate position of the black queen allows an immediate breakthrough. **44...xf7** **44...d6** **45 d6+** **d7** **46 exf6** is terminal. **45 xf7** **xe5** **45...xf7** **46 xe6+** wins easily. **46 dxe5** **xf7** **47 dxd5** **1-0** Black is not material down, but her position is in ruins, so she resigned.

McShane also won on board two and Wood Green cleaned up on the bottom four boards, including the following fine victory by Nick Pert with Black over the normally super-solid Keith Arkell.

Round 10 Cheddleton - Wood Green
K.Arkell - N.Pert

Slav Defence

1 d3 **d5** **2 c4** **c6** **3 d4** **d6** **4 c3** **dx c4** **5 a4** **xf5** **6 h4** Keith's favourite move in this main line Slav position. **6...g4!** I've

played both **6...c8** and **6...e6** here, but I wasn't aware of Nick's move, which is slightly provocative, allowing White to expand on the kingside with tempo. A quick bit of research tells me it has been played by, amongst others, Gelfand, Grischuk and Akopian. This probably shows my current level of opening preparation. **7 h3** **h5** **8 g4** **g6** **9 xg6** **hxg6** **10 e3** **e6** **11 xc4** **b4**



The position now resembles a 'Slow' Slav (the line starting with **4 e3**) but here White has kingside weaknesses that Nick exploits to the maximum later in the game. **12 f1** Carlsen has played **12 f1** here and Sokolov **12 f3** – both moves that cover the kingside – but in general to me the whole variation looks healthy for Black. **12...bd7** **13 g2** **a5** **14 a2** **e7** **15 d2** **c7** **16 c3** **d8** **17 a5** **0-0** **18 g5** **h5** **19 h4** **e5** **20 d5**



Both sides have completed development normally and now Nick's break in the centre prompts a tactical skirmish. **20...b5!** **21 e2** **a1** **xb6** **xb6** is nice for Black – the c4 bishop and d5 pawn are simultaneously hit. **21...b4** **22 a2** **cx d5**

23 ♖xb4 ♖xb4 24 ♜xb4



24...♜d4! White pieces, in particular the b4 knight, are strangely coordinated and Nick opens lines towards the weak white king – the immediate threat is 25...♞b7+, picking up the knight. 25 ♜d5 ♞d6 26 e4 Now Black's only bad piece, the h5 knight, is able to enter the game to be exchanged for White's only good piece, the d5 knight. 26 ♜f3 could have been tried, though after 26...e4! 27 ♜xe4 ♜c5 28 ♜f3 dxe3 White is hanging on and probably only a computer could successfully defend. 26...♜f4+ 27 ♜xf4 exf4 28 ♜c4 Attempting to activate the bishop. While it will look nice on d5, it is striking at thin air and is no match for the black knight about to arrive on e5. It's difficult to give good advice here, though, as White's position is full of holes in any case. 28...♜e5 29 ♜d5 f3+ 30 ♜g1



30...♞d7! The entry of the queen into the White position spells the end. 31 ♜f1 ♞g4 32 ♞g1 ♞h3+ 33 ♜e1 d3 34 ♞d2 ♞h2 35 ♜f1 ♞xd5! There are lots of ways to win, but this is the prettiest. 36 exd5 ♞e8 If there was any doubt before, now there is definitely no escape for the white king! 37 ♞e3 d2 38 ♞g3 and Keith resigned rather than wait for 38...♞h1+ 39 ♞g1 ♞h3+ 40 ♞g2 ♞xg2 mate A very smooth win by Nick Pert.

The 7-1 match victory gave Wood Green the title with a round to spare. The outcome has never been in doubt and they are worthy winners – congratulations to Brian Smith and his team!

Guildford, with on paper the next strongest squad, finished a distant second in the Championship Pool. They lost a close round nine encounter with third-placed White Rose, who had an excellent season and for whom Richard Palliser made a GM norm. Thanks to Richard for his notes to his win from this match against former Women's World Champion Antoaneta Stefanova.

NOTES BY PALLISER



IM Richard Palliser annotates his win against a former women's world champion

Round 9 White Rose - Guildford

R.Palliser - A.Stefanova

Slav Defence

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♜f3 ♜f6 4 ♜c3 a6 5 c5 ♜bd7 6 ♜f4 ♜h5 7 ♜g5! Not White's most popular choice at this juncture, but quite a fiendish little move and one which was covered by Chris Ward in a work I was fortunate to edit, *Dangerous Weapons: The Queen's Gambit*. 7...h6 8 ♜d2 ♜hf6?! To my surprise this was played after some thought. 8...♞c7!?, Kasparov's choice against Sasikiran in the 2002 Bled Olympiad, is the critical choice, albeit still a move which gives White decent chances to emerge with the advantage in my view. 9 ♜f4 The bishop returns. Stefanova had previously faced 9 ♞c2, which isn't so bad either. 9...♜h5 10 ♜e5! White declines the chance to repeat moves and now the reason for moving the bishop first to g5 becomes clear. Put Black's h-pawn back on h7 and she'd have no problems after ...f6, but here 10...f6 can be met by 11 ♞c2!, forcing Black into the sub-optimal 11...♜f7. 10...♜hf6 A new move, but hardly a particularly scary one to face. 11 e3 g6 12 ♜d3 ♜g7 13 b4 0-0? 14 0-0? ♜h5 14...♜xe5 15 ♜xe5 ♜d7 16 f4 ♜xe5 17 fxe5 ♜e6 wouldn't be much fun either; White can build up for b4-b5. 15 ♜xg7

♜xg7 16 a4 ♞e8 17 ♜e2 ♜hf6 18 b5 ♞a5! Stefanova tries to throw a spanner in the works on the queenside. The text does place the queen in some danger, but it's not hard to see why she wanted to avoid 18...e5 19 bxc6 bxc6 20 a5! with an excellent reversed French position for White. 19 ♞c1 e5



20 b6? Cutting off the queen's retreat, but it turns out that there is no way to trap her. Thus I should have preferred the calm 20 ♞b2. 20...exd4 21 exd4 ♜f8 22 ♞b2 ♜g4 23 ♜e5 ♜xe2 24 ♜xe2 ♜e4! Introducing the idea of ...♜d2-c4, while adding to the potential pressure against the c5 pawn. 25 ♞a2!? ♞xe5! An essential move. Otherwise, after 25...f6 26 ♜d3 the idea of ♜e2-c1-b3 would have been back on the agenda. 26 dxe5 ♜e6 27 ♜d4! White is in danger of landing up in some trouble as his pawns fall and Black's knights crawl all over his position. The text prepares to swap one of them off, while freeing the major pieces to swing across the second rank.



27...♜4xc5? Sensing that she was back in the game, Stefanova may have been playing for the full point by this stage, but this asks too much of her position. After 27...♜c3! 28 ♜xe6+ fxe6, I was intending 29 ♞a3 d4 30 ♞b3! ♞xc5 31 ♞xe6 ♞xa3 32 ♞d7+! ♜h8 33 ♞xb7 ♜f8 34 ♞xc6 when White's active queen and advanced passed pawns look scary, but Black can hold the balance, most simply with 34...♜e2+ 35 ♜h1 ♜xf2! when White must force perpetual. 28 f4 ♜d3 It's hard to believe that Black might get away with

28...♖xa4 and, indeed, she couldn't: 29 ♖a1! ♜xd4 30 ♖xa4 ♜e2+ 31 ♔f2 ♖b5 32 e6+ exploits the temporary lack of harmony in the black position to seize a strong initiative. **29 ♜xe6+ fxe6 30 ♖b3 ♜b4 31 ♖af2 ♖xb6 32 ♜h1?** Unpinning is the natural move, but throws away much of the initiative which White has seized. I was attracted by the idea of 32 a5!, trying to draw the queen away from the defence of e6, with 32...♖xa5 33 ♖h3 ♜e8 34 f5! looking pretty dangerous for Black, but I rejected 32 a5 because I couldn't see what to do after 32...♖d4 33 ♖d1 ♖e4, missing the subtle 34 ♖c3! which is spotted instantly by the machine: the threat of 35 ♖d4 is by no means easy to meet. **32...a5** This surprised me, but Stefanova was no doubt hoping to activate her queen and knight after ...♖d4 and may also have been scared by the possibility of 32...c5 33 f5!? exf5 34 g4. It should also be said that she was down to just a couple of minutes to reach move 40, whereas I had an extra five or so. **33 ♖g3 ♜h7 34 f5!?** Not a nice move to face when low on time, although objectively 34 h4! would have been even more dangerous. **34...exf5** It wasn't easy to decide which recapture was best but perhaps 34...gxf5! would have led to an easier defence. **35 e6** Preparing to sacrifice the rook on f5. After the immediate 35 ♖xf5 gxf5 36 ♖xf5 ♖c7, the e-pawn is pinned and 37 ♖f4 is answered by 37...♜d3 when 38 ♖f7+ ♜g8 39 ♖g3+! ♜xf7 40 e6+ ♜xe6 41 ♖xc7 ♜c5 gives Black rook, knight and two pawns for the queen. **35...♖d4 36 h4!** White finds another piece to throw into the attack, at the same time freeing an escape square for his own king. **36...♜e8!** Good defence. 36...h5?? would have been cleaned up by 37 ♖xf5! gxf5 38 ♖xf5, etc. **37 h5 ♜xe6 38 ♖h3!?**



Setting a sly trap... **38...♖g4??** ...into which Black blunders badly with just a few seconds left. Stefanova also had to avoid 38...♖d3? on account of 39 ♖f3 ♖e4 40 ♖e3!! ♖xe3 41 hxg6+ ♜g7 42 ♖xf5 when White's queen breaks

through with decisive effect, but the calm 38...♜g7! would have left me with nothing better than 39 ♖g3 (39 hxg6 ♖g4! now works – don't forget that Black is several pawns ahead!) 39...♜h7!, when Black's defences hold firm after 40 ♖c7+ ♖g7 41 ♖c8 ♜e7. **39 ♖xg4 fxcg4 40 ♖f7+** Finally the f-file is open and the remaining moves were frantically blitzed out: **40...♜g8 41 ♖f8+ ♜g7 42 ♖1f7 mate**

Nigel Short, playing for Guildford, won a miniature in round 11 against the unfortunate Pähztz.

Round 11 Guildford - Cheddleton E.Pähztz - N.Short

Sicilian c3

1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 c3 d5 4 exd5 ♖xd5 5 d4 ♜f5!? Slightly unusual. Black's main choices here are 5...♜g4, 5...cxd4 and 5...♜f6. **6 ♜e3 ♜f6 7 ♜a3 cxd4 8 ♜b5 0-0-0 9 ♜fxd4**



9...♜g4! Nigel plays very actively in this short game and is already at least equal. White needs an improvement earlier – perhaps 7 ♜a3, though a typical move in this line, is not the most accurate. **10 ♖e2 10 ♜d2 ♖e4+ 11 ♜e2 ♖xg2 12 ♜f1 ♜xh2 13 ♜xf5 ♖e4 14 ♜e3** is my computer's suggestion, with crazy complications. Lack of space prevents me from including a thorough analysis of this position, so you'll have to excuse my continuing of the computer line and telling you it's a draw after 14...♜e5 15 ♜d4 ♖xd4 16 cxd4 ♜ef3+ 17 ♜xf3 ♜xf3+ 18 ♜e2 ♜xd4+ 19 ♜e1 ♜f3+ 20 ♜e2 ♜d4+ with a repetition. **10...♜xe3 11 ♖xe3 ♜xd4 12 ♜xd4 e6 13 ♜b3?** I assume White wanted to stop ...♜c5, but this is taking one too many liberties in the opening. It was of paramount importance to get the king to safety – 13 ♜e2 ♜c5 (13...♖xg2 is met by 14 ♜f3 ♖h3 15 ♜b5! with a dangerous attack) 14 0-0 was OK, but of course Black is more than fine here. **13...♜c2!** The most direct. The f8 bishop wants to come to c5 anyway after an exchange on b3. **14 ♜e2** If the knight goes back to d4 then 14...♜c5 and

White has just lost a couple of tempi with her king still stuck in the centre. **14...♜xb3**



15 ♜f3? 15 axb3 ♜c5 16 ♜f3! ♜xe3 17 ♜xd5 was the only way to stay in the game, but Black is still better in the endgame after 17...♜xf2+ 18 ♜xf2 ♖xd5 19 ♖xa7 ♜c7 – the e-pawn is already passed, Black has the d-file and the white king can also be weak. **15...♖a5 0-1** Winning a whole piece.

Matters were much closer at the wrong end of the table – with Cambridge as good as safe and Anglian Avengers and Bristol essentially doomed, the other five teams were battling to avoid two relegation places.

The round nine clash between Blackthorne Russia and Oxford was, as they say in football, a 'six-pointer'. Blackthorne have been terrible this year, but we managed to produce our only convincing performance of the season to win 7-1 and consign Oxford to relegation. My own game featured a nice tactical sequence in the middlegame.



Tom Eckersley-Waites

Round 9 Oxford - Blackthorne Russia
T.Eckersley-Waites - S.Ansell



White hasn't really been able to get any advantage against my trusty Kalashnikov Sicilian. The position is roughly level.

14...♖c8 I'd wanted to play **14...♗c7** here, defending the b7-pawn and preparing ...♜e7 with ideas of exchanging on e3 followed by on d5, but it fails to **15 ♙xe6 fxe6 16 ♜d5!**, when Black has problems – a tactic seen in the game under less favourable circumstances. For the moment the ♙g5 needs to be defended. **15 ♙xe6?!** Relinquishing control of the d5 square like this is usually not a good idea in such structures, but here my opponent has a concrete idea in mind. **15 c3** would be normal. **15...fxe6 16 ♗g4** It's slightly awkward to defend the e6 pawn, but I'd seen this coming and was aware I could at least play **16...♗e8**, which is not ideal as the rook obviously belongs on the f-file, or perhaps **16... ♖h8** – but both of these moves involve concessions. **16...♙xe3** fails to the intermezzo move **17 ♗xe6+**. **16...♗f6!** This is the move I wanted to play, defending the pawn whilst staying active, but it allows White a tactical shot. **17 ♜d5?** **17 c3** again would have kept the balance. **17...exd5 18 ♙xg5 ♗g6!** **18...♗f7 19 exd5 ♗xd5 20 ♖ad1** is slightly better for White. **19 exd5 ♜d4!**



White has 'won' a pawn, but suddenly has immediate insurmountable problems – **20...h6**, winning the bishop, is the move threatened. **20 c3 ♜f5** And now there is no good move. If White defends the queen with **21 h3** (or **21 f3**), the Black h-

pawn moves one square further with **21...h5** and the queen cannot maintain the defence of the bishop. My opponent tried **21 f4** when I chose **21...♜e3** over **21...h6**, which is possibly stronger than the text, but I wanted to avoid all White activity after **22 fxe5 dxe5 23 ♖ae1** when there might be vague compensation for the piece. **22 ♗e6+ ♗xe6 23 dxe6 ♜xf1 24 ♖xf1 h6 25 ♙e7 ♖xf4 26 ♙xd6 ♖xf1+ 27 ♜xf1 ♖c6 28 e7 ♜f7** Black emerges the exchange up and I converted on move 72 without any drama.

Wood Green and Guildford's second teams were involved in the relegation scrap – but they had the benefit of being able to strengthen considerably due to their first teams being at full strength. Indeed, both won all three matches to move clear of trouble. Wood Green II beat Anglian Avengers on Saturday in a match where Alan Merry, whom I mentioned last time, took another notable scalp in Craig Hanley.

Wood Green II then won a reasonably close match against Blackthorne, for whom Harriet Hunt produced a beautiful tactical finish.

Round 10 Wood Green II - Blackthorne
L.Trent - H.Hunt



This position arose from a **2 c4** Caro-Kann. White is close to consolidating his extra pawn so Harriet decides to take it back now – though this obviously involves some risk with the opposition of white rook and black queen on the d-file. **16...♙xd5 17 ♙g5!** Indirectly increasing the pressure on d5. **17...♖c5** Giving the bishop extra support. **18 ♗b4?!** Attempting to remove one of the bishop's defenders immediately. The rook can't retreat, as **18...♖c8 19 ♙xf6** wins a piece, while **18...♖c4 19 ♗b3** with the same threat is also problematic. **18 ♙e3** also hits the rook, but removes the pressure on f6 – so Black can retreat with **18...♖c8**, when the position is tense but balanced. White can of course repeat immediately with **19 ♙g5**. So is Black now in trouble?



Harriet Hunt is an infrequent competitor these days but she is still extremely strong.



18...♗c8!! I was sitting on the next board to this game and was trying to work out why Harriet hadn't just blundered something. Eventually it dawned on me – Black suddenly whips up a kingside attack out of nowhere! **19 ♙xf6** White had to play **19 ♙xd5 ♙xd5 20 ♗a3 ♖c2**, but in the long term the pressure on the white queenside will be hard to deal with. **19...♙xf3! 20 ♙xg7 20 ♙xe7 ♖c4! 21 ♙xf8 ♖xb4 22 ♙xb4 ♗g4** and we see why the queen went to c8 and not c7. **20...♙g5!** This way it's the rook that assists the bishop in the attack. White can't defend the g2 pawn, as **21 g3 ♗h3** is a mate every Moscow taxi-driver knows. **21 ♙xf8 ♖xg2+ 22 ♜f1 ♙g1+! 0-1**

The ADs were the other team involved at the bottom – they faced a tough weekend with matches against top-of-the-table Cambridge and both second teams. Ultimately it proved too much, and they will join Anglian Avengers, Bristol and Oxford in Division Two next season after a long stay in the top division (under various names).

In an event of this size, there are always several notable individual performances – congratulations to Michael White of Oxford and Sam Franklin of Barbican who made IM norms. As if Blackthorne Russia's season couldn't get any worse, Dave Ledger, who had been nailed on for a norm earlier in the season, missed out due to a miscalculation of the average rating of his opponents.

Congratulations also to Division Two Champions AMCA Dragons, who along with Warwickshire Select, South Wales Dragons and Sambuca Sharks will play in Division One next season.

The strength and numbers on display at Hinckley Island over this May Bank Holiday weekend show that the 4NCL continues to go from strength to strength. It's no small task to run an event of this size – thanks to everyone who makes it happen and see you all next season!



White Rose (right), playing Barbican Youth, have been one of the season's high achieving teams.



A long way from home: Aussie GM Dave Smerdon played in this year's 4NCL.

Rk	Div 1, Champ	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	GP	Pts
1	Wood Green I	X	5½-2½	4½-3½	7-1	5½-2½	7½-½	7-1	5½-2½	42½	14
2	Guildford I	2½-5½	X	3½-4½	6½-1½	5-3	6-2	4-4	8-0	35½	9
3	White Rose I	3½-4½	4½-3½	X	3½-4½	3½-4½	4½-3½	5½-2½	5½-2½	30½	8
4	Cheddleton I	1-7	1½-6½	4½-3½	X	4½-3½	2½-5½	6-2	6½-1½	26½	8
5	Barbican I	2½-5½	3-5	4½-3½	3½-4½	X	5-3	4-4	6-2	28½	7
6	Jutes of Kent	½-7½	2-6	3½-4½	5½-2½	3-5	X	4-4	4½-3½	23	5
7	Barbican II	1-7	4-4	2½-5½	2-6	4-4	4-4	X	3-5	20½	3
8	e2e4.org.uk I	2½-5½	0-8	2½-5½	1½-6½	2-6	3½-4½	5-3	X	17	2

Rk	Div 1, Demotion	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	GP	Pts
1	Cambridge Univ I	X	4½-3½	4½-3½	4½-3½	5-3	6-2	5½-2½	5½-2½	35½	14
2	Wood Green II	3½-4½	X	5-3	5-3	3½-4	7-1	5½-2½	6-2	35½	10
3	Guildford II	3½-4½	3-5	X	4-4	5½-2½	5½-2½	6-2	6½-1½	34	9
4	Blackthorne Russia	3½-4½	3-5	4-4	X	7-1	3½-4½	4½-3½	5½-2½	31	7
5	Oxford I	3-5	4-3½	2½-5½	1-7	X	4-4	6½-1½	4½-3½	25½	7
6	The ADs	2-6	1-7	2½-5½	4½-3½	4-4	X	4-4	5-3	23	6
7	Bristol I	2½-5½	2½-5½	2-6	3½-4½	1½-6½	4-4	X	4-4	20	2
8	Anglian Avengers I	2½-5½	2-6	1½-6½	2½-5½	3½-4½	3-5	4-4	X	19	1

Rk	Div 2, Promotion	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	GP	Pts
1	AMCA Dragons	X	5-3	6-2	5-3	2½-5½	5-3	5-3	5½-2½	34	12
2	Warwickshire I	3-5	X	4-4	4-4	4½-3½	6-2	4½-3½	7-½	33	10
3	S Wales Dragons	2-6	4-4	X	5-3	4-4	6-2	4-4	6-2	31	9
4	Sambuca Sharks	3-5	4-4	3-5	X	4½-3½	6½-1½	4½-3½	4½-3½	30	9
5	Pandora's Box	5½-2½	3½-4½	4-4	3½-4½	X	4-4	6-2	6-2	32½	8
6	White Rose II	3-5	2-6	2-6	1½-6½	4-4	X	6-2	4-4	22½	4
7	King's Head	3-5	3½-4½	4-4	3½-4½	2-6	2-6	X	5-3	23	3
8	Poisoned Pawns	2½-5½	½-7	2-6	3½-4½	2-6	4-4	3-5	X	17½	1

Division 2 Demotion Pool winners: Barbican Youth.

Demoted from Division 2: Cambridge University II, Bradford DCA Knights I, Brown Jack, FCA Solutions.

Division 3 Champions: e2e4.org.uk II.

Also promoted to Division 2: KJCA Kings, North East Eagles, Wessex.

Accepted European Club places: White Rose, Jutes of Kent, e2e4.org.uk

Norms achieved: Richard Palliser (White Rose, GM, 11 rounds); Samuel Franklin (Barbican II, IM, 11 rounds); Michael JR White (Oxford, IM, 10 rounds)

4NCL Top Performers, 2011/12 (at least 4 games played)		
Name	TPR	Score
Michael Adams	3134	5/5
Romain Edouard	2826	4½/5
Hjorvar Gretarsson	2806	3½/4
Gawain Jones	2717	5½/7
Nick Pert	2697	8/9
David Howell	2669	5½/7
Matthew Piper	2664	3½/4
Nigel Short	2640	3½/5
Jonathan Rowson	2620	7½/10
Adam Eckersley-Waites	2607	5½/6
Richard Palliser	2600	8/11
James Cobb	2599	6/8
Richard Polaczek	2570	5½/6
Jonathan Hawkins	2565	7½/11



Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher: champions for the sixth time

4NCL Roll of Honour	
Year	Champions
1993/94	Invicta Knights
1994/95	Midland Monarchs
1995/96	Slough
1996/97	Midland Monarchs
1997/98	Midland Monarchs
1998/99	Slough
1999/00	Slough
2000/01	Beeson Gregory
2001/02	Beeson Gregory
2002/03	Wood Green
2003/04	Guildford-ADC
2004/05	Wood Green
2005/06	Wood Green
2006/07	Guildford-A&DC
2007/08	Guildford-A&DC
2008/09	Wood Green HK
2009/10	Wood Green HK
2010/11	Pride & Prejudice
2011/12	Wood Green HK