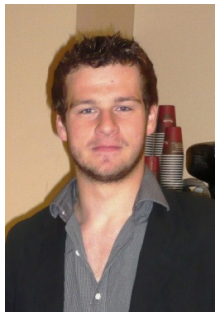




FOUR NATIONS CHESS LEAGUE

Division 1 Round 3 report by Elliott Auckland and Claire Summerscale



And so it was that we found ourselves on a crisp January Saturday morning, hurtling up the M1 towards Hinckley Island (*hurtling, I was just keen to get there – Claire*) for rounds 3 and 4 of what is shaping up to be an extremely hard fought and close 4NCL season.



Pool A

Cambridge University 1 vs Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 1 (0.5-7.5)

A score-line that reflects the strength of the Grandmaster only WGHK team. A well played accurate endgame by Karl on board one ended in a draw and ensured that this wasn't a whitewash.

The board 5 game was interesting:

Moskovic, David M (2307) - Pert, Nicholas (2541) [C02]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Be2 Nge7 7.Na3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nf5 9.Nc2 Qb6 10.h4

[10.0-0 Rc8 (10...a5 11.Kh1 Rc8 12.g4 Nfe7 13.Nh4 Nb4 14.Nxb4 axb4 15.f4 h5 16.gxh5 g6 17.a4 bxa3 18.bxa3 Rc4 19.Be3 Ba4 20.Qd2 Qc6 21.Qe1 Bc2 22.hxg6 Nxc6 23.Nxc6 Be4+ 24.Bf3 Bxc6 25.Bg2 Bf5 26.Rc1 Rxc1 27.Qxc1 Qxc1 28.Rxc1 Kd7 29.a4 Be7 30.Bf2 Bh4 31.Bxh4 Rxh4 32.Rf1 Kc6 33.Bf3 Kb6 34.Bd1 Rh3 35.Kg1 Ka5 36.Rf2 Rc3 37.Rd2 Be4 38.h4 Rh3 39.Rh2 Rg3+ 40.Kf2 Rd3 41.Bh5 Rxd4 42.Bxf7 Bf5 43.h5 Rxf4+ 44.Kg3 Rxa4 45.h6 Ra3+ 46.Kf4 Bh7 47.Bxe6 d4 48.Bf5 Bxf5 49.Kxf5 Rf3+ 50.Ke4 Rf8 51.h7 Rh8 52.Kxd4 b5 53.e6 Ka4 54.e7 b4 1-0 Ni Hua-Kristjansson,S/Goa 2002/CBM 91 ext)]

10...Na5 11.g4 Ne7 12.h5 h6 a typical French Defence move to take control of g5

13.b3 Bb5 14.Ba3 Nec6 15.Bxf8 Rxf8 16.0-0 Bxe2 17.Qxe2 0-0-0 18.Rad1 g5 19.hxg6



[19.Nfe1 f5 20.exf6 Rxf6 21.Rc1 Qc7 22.Nd3 Kb8 23.Qe3 Qf7 black has some pressure, but with accurate play, white should be able to hold. The black knights are struggling to enter the game and the pressure down the f-file seems to be manageable for white. The whole game from here essentially resolves around the f4 square, but white should hold it with his knights.]

19...fxg6 20.Qe3?! slightly dubious, a better way to play is with Nh4. [20.Nh4 Rf4 21.Ng2 Nxd4 22.Nxd4 Rxd4 23.Qc2+ Nc6 24.Rxd4 Qxd4 25.Qxg6 Qxe5 26.Re1 Qg5 27.Qxe6+ Kb8 28.Qf5 here the game is unclear and any advantage seems difficult to push through without risking concessions;

20.Nh4 g5 21.Ng2 (21.Ng2 Nb4) 21...Ne7 22.Qd3 (diagram)

A slight improvement from the real game, as the queen on d3 is on a more accessible diagonal.]



20...Ne7 21.Nh4 g5 22.Ng2 Ng6 [22...Nac6] **23.f4 Nxf4 24.Nxf4 gxf4 25.Rxf4 Rg8 26.Rd2** [26.Kh2] **26...h5 27.Rg2 hxg4 28.Rfxg4 Rh8 29.Rg6** [29.Ne1 Nc6 30.Nd3 Ne7 31.Nc5 finding a good square for the knight, giving white counterplay against the weak e6 pawn.]

29...Kb8 30.Rh6 Rhe8 31.Qd3 Rc8 32.Kh2 Nc6 33.Kh1 Nb4 34.Nxb4 Qxb4 35.Qd2 Qb5 36.Rf6 a5 37.Rgg6 a4 38.Rxe6??

[38.Rf3 Rf8 39.Rgg3 Qe8!? White is under enormous pressure but has some chances compared to the quick finish of the actual game.] **38...Qf1+ 39.Kh2 Rxe6 40.Rxe6 Rg8 0-1**

RD	3	CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY 1	2268	v	WOOD GREEN HILSMARK KINGFISHER 1	2539
1	w	Mah, Karl CC	2417	½ - ½	McShane, Luke J	2615
2	b	Pinter, Gabor	2349	0 - 1	Hammer, Jon-Ludvig	2585
3	w	Dearing, Edward J	2406	0 - 1	Gordon, Stephen J	2535
4	b	Bisby, Daniel L	2297	0 - 1	Baburin, Alexander	2552
5	w	Moskovic, David M	2307	0 - 1	Pert, Nicholas	2541
6	b	Churm, Rohan M	2167	0 - 1	Speelman, Jon S	2525
7	w	Spencer, Carl J	2136	0 - 1	Pert, Richard G	2457
8	b	Chevannes, Sabrina L (F)	2062	0 - 1	Arakhamia-Grant, Ketevan E (F)	2499
				½-7½		

Pride & Prejudice vs Oxford 1 (7.0-1.0)

This game was essentially decided by the overwhelming strength of Pride & Prejudice, who heavily out-rated Oxford on seven of the eight boards. The score-line followed the statistical predictions, however, in not the manner expected, as Aidan Rawlinson picking up a strong win against Pride & Prejudice debutant Glenn Flear and I (EA) picked up a rather lucky win to balance the statistics.

This victory pushed Pride & Prejudice to the top of the league, a nice position to be in before the crunch match against WGHK 1 (see round 4).

RD 3		PRIDE AND PREJUDICE	2423	v	OXFORD 1	2180
1	w	Rowson, Jonathan W	2579	1 - 0	White, Michael JR	2227
2	b	Hebden, Mark L	2503	1 - 0	Milovanovic, Aleksander	2246
3	w	Flear, Glenn C	2497	0 - 1	Rawlinson, Aidan M	2207
4	b	Emms, John M	2484	1 - 0	Eckersley-Waites, Tom	2247
5	w	Ward, Chris G	2431	1 - 0	Dickinson, Tim R	2151
6	b	Grafl, Florian	2426	1 - 0	Tidman, Sophie E (F)	2110
7	w	Hunt, Harriet V (F)	2452	1 - 0	Burt, William	2162
8	b	Auckland, Elliott	2010	1 - 0	Nitz, Tomos	2090
				7 - 1		

Jutes of Kent vs The Ads (3.5-4.5)

Andy Mack comments:

Our team summary: We didn't have our best weekend. The team preparation on Friday night backfired when three of our team lost their room keys and were forced to stay in the bar until 6.00am. Things got worse on Saturday when John Naylor traded in his laptop for a bottle of White lightning. However, we look forward to improved fortune next weekend, and in particular, have some wicked preparation lined up for our round 5 opponents :)

(we'll have to see about that – Claire)

Unfortunately, the team prep was evidenced by some of their short defeats.

RD 3		JUTES OF KENT	2204	v	THE ADS	2208
1	w	Williams, Simon K	2545	0 - 1	Mestel, A Jonathan	2473
2	b	Harakis, Alexis M	2263	0 - 1	Richardson, John R	2298
3	w	Mack, Andrew L	2237	1 - 0	Wheeler, Darren P	2240
4	b	Naylor, John	2189	½ - ½	Snape, Ian L	2189
5	w	Rich, Mark C	2151	1 - 0	Anderton, David W	2211
6	b	Donovan, Nigel P	2059	0 - 1	Swindells, Jonathan E	2170
7	w	Rice, Chris B	2103	½ - ½	Bellin, Jana (F)	2151
8	b	Wilson, Alexandra (F)	2083	½ - ½	Ray, Bill *	1930
				3½-4½		

Guildford A&DC 2 vs Barbican 4NCL (2.0-6.0)

Jonathan Rogers comments:

The second team had had a bad start in October and could not afford anything less than two win against teams which are likely to play in the relegation pool at the end of the season. Fortunately it delivered two resounding 6-2 wins, against Guildford 2 and Jutes of Kent. Since it is yet to play the toughest teams in its pool, Barbican 4NCL 2 may yet end up in the relegation pool itself but at least it should have a nice cushion if that does come to pass.

Guildford 2 started a point down due to a (pre-notified) default and never looked likely to make up the difference, even failing to win an entertaining game when a rook up (but in time trouble) in Rogers v Jackson.

Guildford 2's one good moment came in P. Stimpson v Ynojosa, where White unexpectedly won material with Nh4, in a tactical pattern that none of us had seen before.





It seems that virtually all the pieces have to be in their exact positions for this to work, so it is not surprising that it came as a shock. Credit to Stimpson for finding it, but he later gave some material back and only won in Felix' time trouble.

RD 3		GUILDFORD-A&DC 2	2183	v	BARBICAN 4NCL 2	2265
1	w	Thompson, Ian D	2266	½ - ½	Berry, Neil	2301
2	b	Anderton, Matthew N	2232	0 - 1	Piper, Matthew S	2304
3	w	Granat, Russell G	2250	0 - 1	Morrison, Graham	2353
4	b	Jackson, Adrian	2216	½ - ½	Rogers, Jonathan W	2329
5	w	Allinson, Julian RJ	2135	0 - 1	Chapman, Terry PD	2222
6	b	Punnett, Alan K	2094	0 - 1	Coleman, David J	2244
7	w	Stimpson, Philip M	2085	1 - 0	Ynojosa, Felix Jose	2197
8	b	default		0 - 1	Regan, Natasha K (F)	2170
				2 - 6		

Pool B

Guildford A&DC1 vs Betsson.com (5.0-3.0)

Conquest, making his first 4NCL appearance this season, won an important game on top board, especially in view of Graeme Buckley's surprise defeat to an on-form Dave Ledger.

From an extremely complicated King's Indian position, Ledger's two knights proved too powerful for Buckley's lone rook.



RD 3		GUILDFORD-A&DC 1	2390	v	BETSSON.COM	2271
1	w	Conquest, Stuart C *	2563	1 - 0	Hunt, Adam C	2422
2	b	King, Daniel J	2494	0 - 1	Ledger, Andrew J	2431
3	w	Kosten, Anthony C	2497	1 - 0	Ansell, Simon T	2380
4	b	Berzinsh, Roland	2424	1 - 0	Baker, Chris W	2357
5	w	Buckley, Graeme N	2388	0 - 1	Ledger, Dave J	2245
6	b	Povah, Nigel E	2336	½ - ½	Nelson, Jonathan P	2245
7	w	Wall, Gavin	2296	1 - 0	Ledger, Stephen C	2106
8	b	Grigoryan, Meri (F)	2122	½ - ½	Yurenok, Maria S (F)	1981
				5 - 3		

Pandora's Box Grantham vs Barbican 4NCL 1 (2.5-5.5)

The lower rated team suffered in this match, they were heavily outgunned.



Slaby restored some honour for Pandora's Box Grantham, by outmanoeuvring Turner from a QGD position.

Here, after 25. Bf6+ Turner never recovered from his draughty King position.

RD 3		PANDORA'S BOX GRANTHAM	2152	v	BARBICAN 4NCL 1	2386
1	w	Slaby, Jerzy	2463	1 - 0	Turner, Matthew J	2508
2	b	Slavin,Alexei	2331	½ - ½	D'Costa, Lorin AR	2479
3	w	Cumbers, Paul	2218	0 - 1	Collinson, Adam R	2393
4	b	McCarthy, Kevin C	2106	0 - 1	Collins, Sam E	2431
5	w	Burrows, Martin P	2172	½ - ½	Cox, John J	2378
6	b	Birtwistle, Nigel	2179	½ - ½	Devereaux, Maxim L	2387
7	w	Walton, Alan J	2147	0 - 1	Knott, Simon JB	2348
8	b	Milson, Amy F (F)	1602	0 - 1	Lauterbach, Ingrid (F)	2163
				2½-5½		

Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2 vs Poisoned Pawns 1 (8.0-0.0)

WGHK2 put in an excellent performance for a clean sweep against the Poisoned Pawns.

RD 3		WOOD GREEN HILSMARK KINGFISHER 2	2359	v	POISONED PAWNS 1	2135
1	w	Greet, Andrew N	2433	1 - 0	Swanson, Stephen	2263
2	b	Houska, Jovanka (F)	2381	1 - 0	Posazhennikov, Alex	2252
3	w	Martin, Andrew D	2423	1 - 0	Harley, Andrew D	2204
4	b	McDonald, Neil	2412	1 - 0	Dunn, Andrew	2220
5	w	Hanley, Craig A	2429	1 - 0	Richter, Hans S	2180
6	b	Tiller, Bjorn	2378	1 - 0	McEwan, Ken B	2142
7	w	Sowray, Peter J	2318	1 - 0	Borman, Philip J	2218
8	b	Hegarty, Sarah N (F)	2096	1 - 0	Mountford, Corinne (F)	1602
				8 - 0		

South Wales Dragons vs White Rose 1 (3.5-4.5)

Although much closer match than above, the result nevertheless went in favour of the higher rated team.

Rees vs Palliser was a Bc4 Najdorf, where white never really got going and Palliser converted his endgame advantage.

