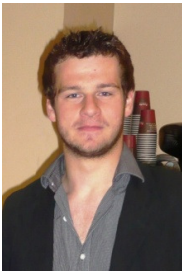




FOUR NATIONS CHESS LEAGUE

Division 1 Round 5 report by Elliott Auckland and Claire Summerscale

And so it was that we found ourselves on a crisp Saturday morning, hurtling up the M1 towards Hinckley Island (*hang on a minute, isn't this last month's report? – Claire*). Well, it was a fairly similar start to the weekend, except this time, there was that police car you didn't see! (*hmmmm! Back to the chess.*)



The weather seemed to be holding across most of the country and the forecast snow would only prove to be a minor inconvenience, as people fought their way up Hinckley for what would be a great weekend of chess.

Pool A

Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 1 vs Barbican 4NCL 2 (5.5-2.5)

Comments from Jonathan Rogers:

The second team fought well against Wood Green and Peter Poobalasingham won his first game since transferring to us from Bristol, whilst Mike Twyble, having found a local farmer to dig him out of snowbound Devon, then had a relatively routine draw with Andrew Martin (his third draw with Andrew in the 4NCL, all three with Black).



(*Ketevan continued her winning ways - Claire*)



RD 5		WOOD GREEN HILSMARK KINGFISHER 1	2462	v	BARBICAN 4NCL 2	2253
1	w	McShane, Luke J	2616	1 - 0	Morrison, Graham	2328
2	b	Speelman, Jon S	2525	½ - ½	Piper, Matthew S	2320
3	w	Arakhamia-Grant, Ketevan E (F)	2470	1 - 0	Berry, Neil	2320
4	b	Tissir, Mohamed	2434	½ - ½	Lewis, Andrew P	2273
5	w	Hanley, Craig A	2429	0 - 1	Poobalasingam, Peter S	2341
6	b	Greet, Andrew N	2423	1 - 0	Dorrington, Chris J	2262
7	w	Martin, Andrew D	2423	½ - ½	Twyble, Michael S	2264
8	b	Tiller, Bjorn	2378	1 - 0	Morrison, Lynne GP (F)	1918
				5½-2½		

Cambridge University 1 vs Guildford-A&DC 2 (6.0-2.0)

This match went to form, Guildford were heavily out-rated and this showed in the match result, the only surprise result coming on board 6.

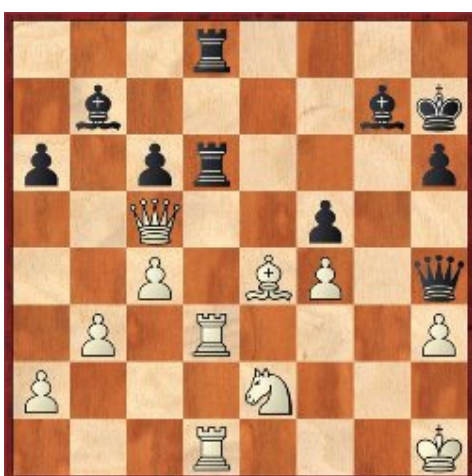
RD 5		CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY 1	2240	v	GUILDFORD-A&DC 2	2034
1	w	Pinter, Gabor	2349	½ - ½	Singleton, Michael PF	2159
2	b	Mah, Karl CC	2417	½ - ½	Stimpson, Philip M	2085
3	w	Moskovic, David M	2305	1 - 0	Allinson, Julian RJ	2135
4	b	Bisby, Daniel L	2297	1 - 0	Punnett, Alan K	2094
5	w	Eckersley-Waites, Adam	2197	1 - 0	Eckloff, Colin	2097
6	b	Pickard, Charles	2191	0 - 1	Roset, Christophe	2056
7	w	Quist, Sven Roy	2143	1 - 0	Bryant, Richard BE	1945
8	b	Chevannes, Sabrina L (F)	2022	1 - 0	Shepherd, Katherine M (F)	1698
				6 - 2		

Pride & Prejudice vs Jutes of Kent (5.0-3.0)



As Andy Mack correctly predicted last month, the Jutes did have some interesting prep up their sleeves for the Pride & Prejudice team in this match. You can watch Simon's online annotation of his game against Jonathan Rowson on his excellent website www.gingergm.com <http://www.gingergm.com/2010/02/24/rowson-williams-a-kings-indian-clash/#more-2399>

Glenn and John both won reasonably quickly but Harriet found herself unable to break through in a very balanced position.



On board 6, Rice vs Kilpatrick White has just played the decidedly tricky 34. Be4 and after 34... fxe4 would have been rewarded for his inventiveness, had he found the intermezzo 35. Qf5+, which crucially defends h3. Unfortunately, after 35. Rxd6 he was completely lost and allowed a nice finish in the time scramble.

35... Qxh3+ 36. Kg1 Rg8 37. Qf2 Bd4+!



RD 5		PRIDE AND PREJUDICE	2364	v	JUTES OF KENT	2192
1	w	Rowson, Jonathan W	2579	0 - 1	Williams, Simon K	2548
2	b	Flear, Glenn C	2514	1 - 0	Harakis, Alexis M	2232
3	w	Emms, John M	2484	1 - 0	Mack, Andrew L	2213
4	b	Hunt, Harriet V (F)	2452	½ - ½	Naylor, John	2189
5	w	Ward, Chris G	2431	1 - 0	Rich, Mark C	2151
6	b	Kilpatrick, Callum	2260	1 - 0	Rice, Chris B	2082
7	w	Sahl, Sheila (F)	2183	½ - ½	Wilson, Alexandra (F)	2075
8	b	Auckland, Elliott	2010	0 - 1	Donovan, Nigel P	2042
				5 - 3		

Oxford 1 vs Ads (2.0-6.0)

A match that on paper should have been much closer, proved to be a big victory for the ADs. The ADs titled players, proved to be too strong. Showing a positional maturity belying his years, Eugene Daley caused a major upset on the bottom board by slowly grinding down a played rated over 300 points higher.

(certainly a player to watch in the future, well done Eugene - Claire.)



RD 5		OXFORD 1	2210	v	THE ADS	2204
1	w	Savage, Ben DM	2290	0 - 1	Cernousek, Lukas	2417
2	b	Rose, Matthew	2282	0 - 1	Jirka, Jiri	2398
3	w	Shaw, David A	2241	½ - ½	Richardson, John R	2298
4	b	Rawlinson, Aidan M	2207	0 - 1	Wheeler, Darren P	2240
5	w	White, Michael JR	2239	1 - 0	Snape, Ian L	2176
6	b	Smallbone, Kieran D	2218	½ - ½	Swindells, Jonathan E	2170
7	w	Tidman, Sophie E (F)	2110	0 - 1	Bellin, Jana (F)	2151
8	b	Nitz, Tomos	2090	0 - 1	Daley, Eugene	1782
				2 - 6		

Pool B

South Wales Dragons vs Guildford-A&DC 1 (2.0-6.0)



James Cobb restored some Welsh pride and the only upset in a match where the Dragons were heavily out-rated. James grabbed a blundered pawn and then continued to remorselessly wear down his Grandmaster opponent.

RD 5		SOUTH WALES DRAGONS	2193	v	GUILDFORD-A&DC 1	2322
1	w	Cobb, James E	2415	1 - 0	King, Daniel J	2494
2	b	Cooper, John G	2346	0 - 1	Berzinsh, Roland	2423
3	w	Morris, Charles F	2189	0 - 1	Buckley, Graeme N	2390
4	b	Zeidler, Sven P	2221	0 - 1	Wall, Gavin	2296
5	w	Redmond, John P	2196	½ - ½	Povah, Nigel E	2336
6	b	Smith, Jeff R	2185	0 - 1	Thompson, Ian D	2266
7	w	Roberts, David L	2101	0 - 1	Anderton, Matthew N	2244
8	b	Wilson, Julie C (F)	1890	½ - ½	Grigoryan, Meri (F)	2125
				2 - 6		

White Rose 1 vs Betsson.com (4.5-3.5)

This was a closely contested match in which Maria Yurenok, taking a 10 month sabbatical from her career in telecoms, to play massive amounts of chess and aiming to get into the English women's Olympiad squad showed good endgame technique to beat a higher rated opponent. You can read her chess blog here: <http://maria-yurenok.blogspot.com/>



RD 5		WHITE ROSE 1	2281	v	BETSSON.COM	2292
1	w	Wells, Peter K	2492	1 - 0	Ledger, Andrew J	2431
2	b	Palliser, Richard JD	2435	½ - ½	Bates, Richard A	2402
3	w	Buckley, Simon T	2348	1 - 0	Ansell, Simon T	2381
4	b	Townsend, M Paul	2222	½ - ½	Baker, Chris W	2357
5	w	Barrett, Stephen J	2181	0 - 1	Webb, Laurence E	2321
6	b	Adams, David M	2217	½ - ½	Ledger, Dave J	2227
7	w	Gayson, Peter M	2205	1 - 0	Nelson, Jonathan P	2245
8	b	Fernandez, Lucia Fidalgo (F)	2150	0 - 1	Yurenok, Maria S (F)	1974
				4½-3½		

Poisoned Pawns 1 vs Barbican 4NCL 1 (0.5-7.5)

Comments by Max Devereaux:



Barbican 1 produced two workmanlike but ultimately very efficient team performances this weekend. The team have occasionally looked distinctly frail when sitting on a sizeable rating advantage and often only scraped home (or even failed to do so, as in the 4-4 vs. South Wales Dragons in the opener to the 208-9 season and losing 3-5 to White Rose in round 2 this year), but there were no such wobbles this time.

A 7.5-0.5 win against Poisoned Pawns undoubtedly flattered Barbican, as such a score-line can rarely fail to do and was their largest win for many years. Mark Ferguson deserves a mention for disusing Stephen Swanson's piece sacrifice very efficiently and while Black always looked to have many more than enough pawns for this exchange in Posazhennikov-D'Costa, the time scramble towards the conclusion of the game did add some interest, but Goodger-Knott on board 7 probably had more genuine excitement than boards 2-6 combined. The objective merits of Black's piece sacrifice are worthy of consideration, while practically it certainly looks easier to play that side. White's attempt to fend off Black's attack by sacrificing back his extra piece (and even some more into the bargain) and attempting to queen his passed a-pawn never really looked likely to succeed, and Simon duly brought home the point. Only on top board did Poisoned Pawns clearly look to have the upper hand and indeed at some stages it seemed likely they could bring home the full point, but gritty defence from Matt Turner ultimately led White to make overtures of peace, despite still being a pawn up in the endgame.

RD 5		POISONED PAWNS 1	2119	v	BARBICAN 4NCL 1	2380
1	w	Dunn, Andrew	2220	½ - ½	Turner, Matthew J	2508
2	b	Swanson, Stephen	2263	0 - 1	Ferguson, Mark	2393
3	w	Posazhennikov, Alex	2252	0 - 1	D'Costa, Lorin AR	2466
4	b	Richter, Hans S	2165	0 - 1	Collinson, Adam R	2393
5	w	McEwan, Ken B	2142	0 - 1	Cox, John J	2387
6	b	Byway, Paul V	2158	0 - 1	Devereaux, Maxim L	2387
7	w	Goodger, Martyn	2147	0 - 1	Knott, Simon JB	2348
8	b	Mountford, Corinne (F)	1602	0 - 1	Lauterbach, Ingrid (F)	2158
				½-7½		

Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2 vs Pandora's Box Grantham (5.0-3.0)

Wood Green put Pandora back in the box and were simply too strong.

(pictured Sarah Hegarty)



RD 5		WOOD GREEN HILSMARK KINGFISHER 2	2296	v	PANDORA'S BOX GRANTHAM	2139
1	w	McDonald, Neil	2421	½ - ½	Slaby, Jerzy	2470
2	b	Sowray, Peter J	2334	0 - 1	Slavin, Alexei	2368
3	w	Pein, Malcolm	2391	½ - ½	Birtwistle, Nigel	2179
4	b	Houska, Jovanka (F)	2401	1 - 0	Burrows, Martin P	2186
5	w	Moen, Andreas	2309	0 - 1	Stockwell, Mark B	2242
6	b	Briscoe, Chris	2232	1 - 0	Milson, Samuel A	1994
7	w	McFarland, Robert S	2215	1 - 0	Mangione, Claudio	2074
8	b	Hegarty, Sarah N (F)	2067	1 - 0	Milson, Amy F (F)	1602
				5 - 3		

You can find all of the games from this round here:

PGN http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0910_div1-05.pgn

Game viewer http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0910_div1-05viewer.htm

And view results and information about the 4ncl here: <http://www.4ncl.co.uk/>