



FOUR NATIONS CHESS LEAGUE

Division 3 Round 5 report by Matthew Lunn (KJCA Kings)

Now is the point in the 4ncl season where the promotion struggle really begins, with the stronger teams hoping to derail their competition early on in order to get an easier draw during the crucial final weekend.

Littlethorpe 1 vs AMCA Dragons (2.0-4.0)

The AMCA Dragons must be delighted by this result, managing to defeat one of the toughest teams in the division at such an early stage. Some quite interesting games emerged from this fixture, most notably that which materialised from the off-beat opening on board one. FM Webb navigated the complications successfully and after 20 moves was a pawn up for insufficient compensation, and his endgame technique allowed him to convert comfortably. The results on boards 2 and 4 were never really in doubt, although Alistair Compton may have had some winning chances around move 35. Boards 3 and 6 were subject to Littlethorpe blunders, the merciless Dragons converting the point on both occasions. James Jackson's excellent victory following a drawish middlegame will however act as some consolation.

RD 5		LITTLETHORPE 1	2101	v	AMCA DRAGONS	2107
1	w	Smith, Andrew P	2189	0 - 1	Webb, Richard M	2266
2	b	Salisbury, Michael W	2119	½ - ½	Purdon, Colin	2097
3	w	Byron, Alan M	2162	0 - 1	Norman, Kenneth I	2168
4	b	Compton, Alistair	2079	½ - ½	Morris-Hill, Ray	2063
5	w	Jackson, James P	2093	1 - 0	Duvall, Ian	2047
6	b	Gibson, Christopher A	1964	0 - 1	Sparkes, Daniel A	2000
				2 - 4		

Poisoned Pawns 2 vs Guildford-A&DC 4 (2.5-3.5)

Guildford A&DC must have been counting themselves lucky before this fixture, going in with a 2-0 lead against a lower rated team. It is a shame that the match was weighted as it was, because for the most part the games were very close! Board 2 was the exception, throwing up nothing in particular before the repetition at move 30. Black's pawn sacrifice on board one left a little to be desired, but inactive play by white allowed him to swap down to a level ending. On board 3 white played a variation of the Scandinavian that allowed black a French with his bishop deployed outside the pawn chain, arguably an inferior opening choice but one that allowed him to draw with his higher rated opponent.

The board 4 match was of particular interest – I have annotated a couple of the key positions below.

Eckloff, Colin (2116) - Judkins, Brian (1895) [C43]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.e5 Ne4 5.Qxd4 d5 6.exd6 Nxd6 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.Qf4 g6 9.0–0 Bg7



According to Chessbase 9 the most common move in this position is Re1+, making a logical developing move with a gain of tempo. Instead Eckloff played the highly provocative 10.Bd2! which offers both an exchange and a pawn. As someone who does not play the opening for either side, it seemed surprising to me that accepting the sacrifice is so unpopular. Clearly it is not fully endorsed by theory, for Judkins continued 10.Bd2 Bxb2 11.Bc3 Bxc3 where white's lead in development and the weakness of the dark squares offer compensation for the pawn.

Had the sacrifice been accepted then the following variations might have occurred. [11...Bxa1 12.Re1+ Be6 13.Bxa1 Rg8 (13...0–0 14.Qh6 f6 15.Rxe6+-) 14.Ng5 (14.Bf6 Qc8 15.Qh6 Kd7 16.Qxh7 Qf8 17.Ng5 This may be as good as the "text" - it is not entirely clear! 17...Re8) 14...Kd7 (14...h6 15.Nxf7 Nxf7 16.Rxe6+ Kf8 17.Bb2÷) 15.Nxh7 Kc8 16.Nf6]



White has regained the pawn, maintains dark squared dominance and is significantly better developed. Whether this is enough for an exchange is unclear – especially when there is no longer a simple way of attacking the black king.

Judkins may even be able to place his rook on h8 in the above position, as there is no clear way of exploiting the discovered attack. With this in mind, black's position becomes that little bit freer and white's plan less coherent. Instead the game continued as follows.

12. Nxc3 Be6 13.Rfe1 0–0 14.Rad1 Kg7 15.Bb5 Qf6 16.Qxf6+ Kxf6 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Nd4 Bd7 19.Na4 Rfe8 20.Nc5 Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Rd8 22.Nxd7+ Rxd7 23.Nxc6 Nf5 24.Nxa7 Rd2 25.a4 Rxc2 26.Ra1 Rb2 27.Nc6 Ne7 28.Na5 Rb6 29.Kf1 Ra6 30.Nb7 Nc8 31.a5 Nd6 32.Nc5 Ra7 33.Ke2 Ke7 34.Kd3 c6 35.Kc3 Kd8 36.Kb4 Nb7 37.Rd1+ Kc8 38.Rd7 Rxa5



Now white should play 39. Rxb7, after which 39.Rxc5 40. Rxf7 Rh5 the players would most likely shake hands and split the point.

But Eckloff, presumably under time constraints played the shocker 39.Nxb7? allowing black to win with the intermezzo 39.Rb5+! After 40. Kc4 Kxd7 white was forced to resign. A horrible way to lose.

RD 5		POISONED PAWNS 2	2041	v	GUILDFORD-A&DC 4	2075
1	w	Richter, Hans	2149	½ - ½	Punnett, Alan K	2102
2	b	Jarvis, David *	2160	½ - ½	Shepley, Julien M	2076
3	w	Stewart, Ashley	1960	½ - ½	Stimpson, Philip M	2077
4	b	Judkins, Brian	1895	1 - 0	Eckloff, Colin	2116
5	w	default		0 - 1	Simmons, John C *	2012
6	b	default		0 - 1	Hill, David F	2064
				2½-3½		

Metropolitan vs Braille Chess Association (3.0-3.0)

Braille Chess Association seem to increase in strength every year, and must be considered serious contenders for promotion. However they were not at their best against Metropolitan, despite a crushing defeat on board one (Djabri made a single error and his IM opponent capitalised) the rest of the team were simply unable to create any winning chances. FM Mordue offered an early draw against George Dickson, whilst the hostilities on boards 3, 5 and 6 all concluded following an uninspiring opening. A fairly conclusive win by Vachtfeidl allowed Metropolitan to secure a draw, an excellent result considering the rating deficit.

RD 5		METROPOLITAN	2030	v	BRILLE CHESS ASSOCIATION	2112
1	w	Djabri, Zafer M	2101	0 - 1	Crouch, Colin	2365
2	b	Dickson, George	2103	½ - ½	Mordue, A Tyson	2290
3	w	Calvert, D Ian	2051	½ - ½	Ross, Chris	2197
4	b	Vachtfeidl, Petr	2005	1 - 0	Cole, Tristram C	1970
5	w	Djabri, Katherine (F)	2037	½ - ½	Burnell, Steve	1950
6	b	Cooke, Charlie	1880	½ - ½	Hilton, Steve	1897
				3 - 3		

Sussex Smart Controls – White Rose 2 (1.5-4.5)

The score in the Sussex – White Rose 2 match doesn't come close to telling the full story of this fixture, from the games it appears that White Rose were lucky to win the match at all, let alone so convincingly. Admittedly David Graham was a little fortunate that Peter Shaw accepted his draw offer (in a position where black hadn't much to lose by playing on), but luck favored the Yorkshire side on the other occasions! Elliston, Payne and Woods all lost despite being substantially better at various points, whilst Whitaker-Yates was a dead draw until black swapped down into an unfavourable ending. A clever tactic on board 3 allowed Sussex to walk away with one victory, although I can't help but feel they were unfortunate to lose as they did.

RD 5		SUSSEX SMART CONTROLS	2007	v	WHITE ROSE 2	2084
1	w	Graham, David B	2212	½ - ½	Shaw, Peter	2123
2	b	Elliston, Robert	2128	0 - 1	Lewyk, Ihor	2146
3	w	Salimbeni, George	2100	1 - 0	Archer, Richard	2120
4	b	Payne, Matthew	1865	0 - 1	Faulkes, Nick	2084
5	w	Woods, Tim	1900	0 - 1	Webb, Matthew	2035
6	b	Yates, Christopher	1835	0 - 1	Whitaker, Thomas R	1995
				1½-4½		

Iceni vs Warwickshire Select 2 (2.0-4.0)

Whilst Warwickshire will be pleased with this result it should perhaps not be considered a “giant-killing” as such - the ratings in this fixture were made misleading by the presence of three of the country most promising under 14s on the bottom 3 boards. Solid draws on the top two boards weren't enough compensation for Iceni, as John Feavour overpressed and Mark Szymanski blundered early on. Creditable draws on the bottom boards allowed Warwickshire to walk away with a nice victory.

RD 5		ICENI	2043	v	WARWICKSHIRE SELECT 2	2008
1	w	Reynolds, D Ian	2108	½ - ½	Fishburne, Stewart K	2115
2	b	Lunn, Timothy	2056	½ - ½	Webster, Paul	2095
3	w	Feavour, John	2073	0 - 1	Cooper, David M	2085
4	b	Szymanski, Mark	1985	0 - 1	Clarke, Brandon	2001
5	w	Downham, Alan	1995	½ - ½	Stepanyan, Henrik	1975
6	b	Botham, Paul	2042	½ - ½	Stepanyan, Astghik (F)	1775
				2 - 4		

Cambridge University 2 vs Guildford-A&DC 5 (3.5-2.5)

This was a very close match, and one that could have easily gone the other way. The underdogs gave it a very good shot, and it came close to being one of the upsets of the season. There are certainly a couple of points of note. Firstly I have illustrated the game McCullough – Beckett below, as it is an interesting example of how even county level players are prone to the most horrific blunders (if the score is incorrect then I apologise to the players concerned!)

McCullough, Simon (1896) - Beckett, Chris (2105) [C01]

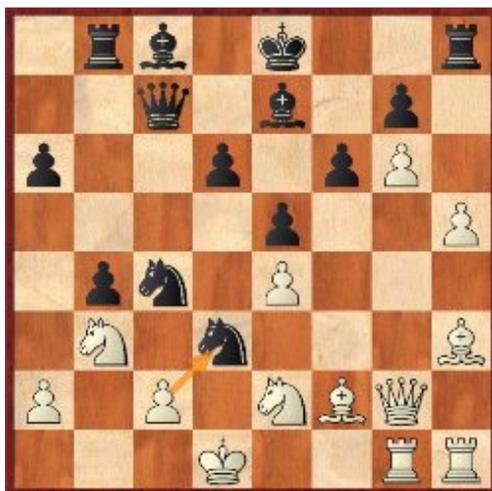
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.Bd3 Bg4 6.0-0 Ne7 7.Re1 c6 8.Nbd2 Qc7 9.h3 Bh5 10.c4 Bg6 11.Qc2 0-0 12.b3 Na6 13.a3 Rfe8 14.Bb2 Rac8 15.Re2 Bxd3 16.Qxd3 Ng6 17.Rae1 Rxe2 18.Qxe2 Nf4 19.Qe3 Nb8 20.Ne5 Ng6 21.cxd5 cxd5 22.Qf3 Bxe5 23.dxe5 Qd7 24.Rc1



McCullough has just played 24. Rc1, allowing Beckett to net a pawn after 24. Rxc1+ 25. Bxc1 Nxe5. Instead black played 24.Nxe5?, based on the idea that Bxe5 loses to Rxc1+. However if McCullough plays the intermezzo move 25.Rxc8+, black is lost after 25.Qxc8 26. Bxe5 +- White apparently missed this, and played a stunning looking move that is infact one of the worst moves on the board! The game continued 25. Qxd5+???



Now the thematic 25. Rxc1+ 26. Bxc1 Qxd5 leaves black a queen up. However, Beckett missed this and played 25. Qf5, allowing 26. Rxc8+ upon which he resigned. It seems that for 2 moves both players forgot that their rooks were on the board! Crazy stuff.



The other game of note was Campbell – Waldock, where black elected to take a draw after outplaying white in the opening.

In this position instead of the game continuation 23...Ndb2+, black should have played 23...Ncb2+ 24. Kd2 Bxh3 25. Rxh3 Rc8 26.Nal (all forcing) which leaves him with an overwhelming position. And after 26...Nxf2 black is in a commanding position with little risk – offering the conclusion that despite appearances on move 23, black should certainly have played on.

RD 5		CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY 2	2020	v	GUILDFORD-A&DC 5	1910
1	w	Cooley, Oliver	2128	1 - 0	Gibbs, Daniel	1925
2	b	Beckett, Chris J	2105	0 - 1	McCullough, Simon L *	1896
3	w	Gooding, Ian	2009	1 - 0	Deswarte, Ian	1950
4	b	Lee, Richard	1985	1 - 0	Shaw, Matthew	1925
5	w	Campbell, Mark	1984	½ - ½	Waldock, Adrian	1925
6	b	Lim, Mark	1908	0 - 1	Albrecht, Theo	1840
				3½-2½		

Nottinghamshire 1 vs Oxford 2 (3.0-3.0)

One of the most entertaining fixtures of the round – both sides gave it their all and we were rewarded with several creative attacking games! Particular accolade must go to Dave Bruce of Oxford – a man notorious for playing seemingly sedate openings and then blasting them open with creative attacking play. His style paid off against David Levens, sacking an exchange to open up the black king before reaching this position.



Black has just played 21.Qe3 in order to prevent white parking his queen on the h6 square and delivering mate. However Bruce found the stunning 22.Nd5!! threatening both the queen and check on e7. Black was obliged to take this piece, but after 22. exd5 23.Bxd5, black resigned in view of the threat of Qxg6+. If the knight moves or the queen defends it then white will force mate on the dark squares.

With the exception of Morris – Combie, it never seemed clear which way the other games were going to go. Richmond – Chapman was a Czech Benoni in which white sacrificed a pawn to open up lines on the kingside, it did the trick but whether it was sound or not is uncertain! Ed Stembridge was unlucky not to win his game; he ended up with 2 pawns and a piece for a rook (and tripled e pawns) but with a very promising pawn on e2. Unfortunately he wasn't able to take advantage of this and made a positional blunder near the time control, Kingston took advantage of this and managed to eek out a win. Place – Rawlinson should of all accounts been a draw, whilst on the bottom board Neatherway blundered in a slightly better ending, and missed a later continuation that might have secured him a draw.

RD 5		NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 1	2018	v	OXFORD 2	2044
1	w	Richmond, Robert J	2223	1 - 0	Chapman, Graham W	2080
2	b	Levens, David	2009	0 - 1	Bruce, Dave	2091
3	w	Kingston, Ian	2023	1 - 0	Stembridge, Ed	2062
4	b	Combie, Alexander	1950	0 - 1	Morris, Graham	2022
5	w	Place, William	1965	0 - 1	Rawlinson, Chris	2047
6	b	Thompson, Brian	1938	1 - 0	Neatherway, Philip	1960

FCA Solutions 2 vs Gloucestershire Gambits (2.5-3.5)

Gloucestershire Gambits must feel indebted to Nigel Hosken, who won again to make it 3.5/4 for the season. He outplayed Paul Kendall in a c3 Sicilian, despite refusing a free pawn for five moves! Boards 2, 4 and 5 always looked fairly equal, whilst Adrian Elwin took advantage of an unsound sacrifice to defeat Andrew Gilmour. John Shaw gave away the exchange on the bottom board, and never looked like being able to find a compensatory attack. A good win for the Gloucestershire Gambits.

RD 5		FCA SOLUTIONS 2	1987	v	GLOUCESTERSHIRE GAMBITS	2035
1	w	Kendall, Paul S N	2063	0 - 1	Hosken, Nigel	2057
2	b	Borrowdale, Graham	2035	½ - ½	Lambourne, Daniel M	2003
3	w	Elwin, Adrian G	2009	1 - 0	Gilmour, Andrew J	2070
4	b	Valentine, Brian J	1997	½ - ½	Meade, Philip J	2055
5	w	Matthews, Adrian	1924	½ - ½	Taylor, Geoffrey P	2019
6	b	Shaw, John S	1895	0 - 1	Dodwell, Phil	2005
				2½-3½		

Hackney vs The Full Ponty (3.5-2.5)

An almost unprecedented occurrence makes commenting on this match fairly difficult – The score to Chin – Sully simply reads “scoresheets both illegible”. We’ll simply never be privy to a game that I am sure was both educational and packed with drama. Rivlin – James is well worth a look, as is the ending that occurred in Shaw – Robinson. Martin Lee did well to convert the win on board 2, whilst The Full Ponty will surely be disappointed that Peter Warden blundered to an equal position after being a clear piece up.

RD 5		HACKNEY	1955	v	THE FULL PONTY	1927
1	w	Chin, Francis	2236	1 - 0	Sully, David	2135
2	b	Lee, Martin	2050	1 - 0	Adams, Mark A	2033
3	w	Shaw, Dashiell L	1940	½ - ½	Robinson, David	1987
4	b	default		0 - 1	StClair, Allan	1941
5	w	Rivlin, Mark	1795	½ - ½	James, Dai	1994
6	b	Perryman, Dylan *	1755	½ - ½	Warden, Peter *	1472
				3½-2½		

KJCA Kings vs SCS (4.0-2.0)

We (KJCA Kings) went into this match brimming with confidence and although we won I do not think any of us expected SCS to put up such a fight! Despite a convincing win for William Jones on the top board and a default on the bottom the other boards were a bit shaky – with the SCS player achieving at least a slight advantage at some point. Victor Jones was very lucky to escape with a draw against an opponent graded 50 points lower than him (Victor is an immensely talented junior and just had an “off-weekend”) whilst Lyall Bayliss’s exchange sacrifice went horribly wrong and his young opponent was able to walk away with the full point. Gahir – Bogoda looked a bit dodgy in the opening, but in the end experience paid off and Gahir capitalised on black’s white squared weakness. And the less said about my game the better! I played an incredibly passive variation of the Caro-Kann and Arnold was very generous to offer a draw in a position where I had few active moves.

RD 5		KJCA KINGS	1908	v	SCS	1844
1	w	Jones, William	2030	1 - 0	Bigio, Jacob	2035
2	b	Jones, Victor	1993	½ - ½	Fonseca, Antonio	1875
3	w	Bayliss, Lyall C P	1971	0 - 1	Bogoda, Sagara T	1870
4	b	Lunn, Matt	1882	½ - ½	Lutton, J Arnold	1847
5	w	Gahir, Jasdeep	1872	1 - 0	Bogoda, Nathasha (F)	1595
6	b	Maguire, Robert	1702	1 - 0	default	
				4 - 2		

Littlethorpe 2 vs AMCA Rhinos (3.0-3.0)

This fixture between two closely matched teams provided many points of note. Green – Mapletoft proved to be one of the more instructive games of the round, an excellent example of the sort of blunder we all make in the moves directly preceding the time control. Having been a clear pawn up for much of the game this must have come as a devastating result. Elsewhere many of the matches were one-sided – Christopher Jones and Peter Jaszkiwskyj outplaying both of their opponents after emerging with opening advantages. The bottom boards were both decided by blunders, with Andrew Marley discovering a combination that netted him a whole rook on board 5 whilst Matt Bunn fell foul of an unusual fork in the opening – and was left a whole knight down. But it was Tart – Ireland that provided the most interest, demonstrating an unusual tactic in a variation of the Grand Prix attack.



Alarm bells should now be ringing, the immortal words of John Nunn resonating across the hall “Loose Pieces Drop Off”... However, I think what follows now is a case of miscalculation. Ireland played 12.e6?! allowing Tart to continue 13.d4! whereby retreating the Bishop to g7 is impossible due to the threat of f6. But having opened the black queen with his previous move, Ireland continued 13.Bxh2! But does he have enough for the piece?

Obviously 14.Bxh6 falls foul of 14.Qh4... Well no actually! White can play 15.Rf3! and swing it across to h3 the following move. 15.Bg3+ 16.Kg1 Qh2+ 17.Kf1 Qh1+ 18.Ng1 is the most promising continuation, but black has nothing better than to take on h6 and lose the bishop on g3 – 19.exf5 leaves him two pawns for a piece down with inadequate compensation. Tart instead took on h2, and after 14.Qh4+ 15. Kg1 black was left with an insufficient attack. If you fancy some personal analysis, the continuation after 14.Ng4+ 15.Kg1 d5! (or b5 with similar ideas) is well worth a look.

RD 5		LITTLETHORPE 2	1962	v	AMCA RHINOS	1945
1	w	Jones, Christopher M	1950	1 - 0	Mitchell, Stephen R	2032
2	b	Ireland, David J	1997	0 - 1	Tart, Peter K	2005
3	w	Jaszkowskyj, Peter	2020	1 - 0	Tunstall, George	2014
4	b	Mapletoft, Alexander J	1925	0 - 1	Green, George D A	1975
5	w	Watkinson, Phil K	1950	0 - 1	Marley, Andrew	1805
6	b	Deacon, Paul *	1930	1 - 0	Bunn, Matthew	1840
				3 - 3		

Mind Sports vs Oxford 3 (3.5-2.5)

This result was never really in doubt, with Oxford suffering from both a rating deficit and a team bereft of their bottom two boards. Things were made worse very quickly after Oxford's Majid Jeffries made the baffling decision of taking a draw (as white) after only 7 moves of play. The rest of Oxford 3 deserve more praise, with Yi Ming Lai grinding out a good win on board 4 whilst Sean Terry valiantly tried to hold the draw on board 3. Ackley's premature resignation on board 1 seems a little bizarre, in a position where Ludbrook had an advantage but with equal material and no immediate winning attack. The ending on board 3 is undoubtedly the most instructive.

RD 5		MIND SPORTS	1955	v	OXFORD 3	1928
1	w	Ackley, Peter	2101	0 - 1	Ludbrook, Matt	2011
2	b	Taylor, Robert K	2106	½ - ½	Jeffries, Majid	1997
3	w	Hardman, Michael J	2087	1 - 0	Terry, Sean	1870
4	b	Twitchell, Neville H	1976	0 - 1	Lai, Yi Ming	1835
5	w	Barr, Gabriel	1820	1 - 0	default	
6	b	Chadwick, Susan E (F)	1640	1 - 0	default	
				3½-2½		

Nottinghamshire 2 vs Halesowen (3.0-3.0)

Considering the average rating of both sides it may come as no surprise that this fixture ended in a 3 – 3 draw. However some of these games are definitely worth looking at, throwing up several points of interest. Notably the game on board 2, where Neil Graham played the Fajarowicz gambit and came out of the opening a pawn up!



Equally I would recommend a look at the opening in Taylor – Pugh, where black missed a combination that would have forced his opponent to concede material (and very possibly the game with it). For me the most engaging position occurred in Myers – Peck after move 17. Black has just played 18.Be7, and few of us would doubt that white harbours a positional advantage. Although black is in possession of the bishop pair, he has not yet managed to castle, and his pieces are severely lacking in coordination.

Myers took the principled decision to swap off dark squared bishops, however in the long run this did not prove effective and the game petered out to a draw. Much stronger is 19.Be3! which on first sight looks a little strange. One might erroneously believe that the bishop is poorly placed, as its only role appears to be overprotecting the d4 square. However, anyone who has read Jonathan Rowson’s excellent ‘Chess For Zebras’ might consider the move as an opportunity to put black into what the GM refers to as “zugzwang lite” – where he has no moves that will help improve his position. Because the bishop is blocking the safest retreat square for the c6 knight it makes sense not to exchange it off and give black room to breathe, furthermore the threat of 20.d5 must be dealt with. A move like 19.Bd7 or 19.Bc8 becomes an unfortunate necessity, whereupon white is doing very well indeed.

RD 5		NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 2	1882	v	HALESOWEN	1882
1	w	Taylor, Robert P	1956	½ - ½	Pugh, Glyn D	2045
2	b	Graham, Neil	1925	0 - 1	Lee, Darren	1950
3	w	Cranmer, Stan	1890	½ - ½	Doran, Michael J	1855
4	b	Hill, Maurice J	1870	½ - ½	Llewelyn, John D	1815
5	w	Myers, Richard	1840	½ - ½	Peck, Windsor W	1845
6	b	Willoughby, Robert	1810	1 - 0	Pitt, Christopher	1780
				3 - 3		

Wales Old Boys vs Celtic Tigers 2 (0.0-5.0)

I have used the phrase “a result never really in doubt” (or some variant) a couple of times in this report, but this is far and away the most cogent example! The Welsh side fell foul of the inches of snow that devoured the country during this February weekend and luck simply wasn’t on their side.

I would recommend looking at Harley-Yeo – Thomas, both because the opening is somewhat uncommon and also because it is interesting how white’s advantage dissipated after swapping off two rooks for a queen and a pawn during the middlegame. A blunder by Rees at around move 20 allowed her experienced opponent to walk away with the point on board 3.

RD 5		WALES OLD BOYS	1720	v	CELTIC TIGERS 2	1829
1	w	Harley-Yeo, Gareth	2044	0 - 1	Thomas, Mark *	2015
2	b	default		0 - 1	Kitchen, Peter J	1895
3	w	Rees, Sioned (F) *	1395	0 - 1	Larter, Nick	1807
4	b	default		0 - 1	Buttall, David	1714
5	w	default		0 - 1	Kitchen, Michael J	1715
6	b	default		-	default	
				0 - 5		

AMCA Hippos vs Littlethorpe 3 (1.0-5.0)

The AMCA Hippos can be a difficult team to face, due to their high proportion of juniors in their squad. Notably their top board is Manibharathi Periasamymanjula, a regular on the tournament circuit whose FIDE of 1718 negates the fact that his ECF is 129 (equating to an elo of 1895). Lower down they have Tarun Malhotra, whose draw against an ECF 163 in round 6 strongly suggests that he is a talent worth watching. Board 1 was a long fought draw, although bizarrely Mani offered it when he had finally secured some sort of advantage (after a great deal of maneuvering in what was genuinely a drawn position). Elsewhere van der Westhuizen was lucky when his opponent made a couple of errors in a position where he was certainly not worse, and Rajeswaran won after outplaying her young opponent in the opening.

Malhotra – Farrall was by far the most interesting game, throwing up the following position at move 32.



After 32... Kg8, Malhotra elected to force a perpetual with 33.Nh6+ Kg7 34. Nf5+ Kg8. However, the stunning 33.Nd5! wins on the spot (as does 33.Qg4+) as the black queen has no acceptable square to retreat itself. Black must play 33.Qg6, as any other move (with the exception of Qh8, whereupon the queen is lost after 34.Qg4+ Kh7 35.Qh4+ Kg8 36.Nf6+) allows 34.Qg4+ followed by mate on g7. However, 34.Nfe7+ also surely forces resignation as the queen is dropping next move/it's forced mate!

RD 5		AMCA HIPPOS	1668	v	LITTLETHORPE 3	1819
1	w	Periasamymanjula, Mani.	1718	½ - ½	Turvey, Steven	1915
2	b	Ward, Matthew J	1760	0 - 1	van der Westhuizen, Charles	1824
3	w	Malhotra, Tarun	1730	½ - ½	Farrall, David J	1812
4	b	Meechan, Catriona (F)	1780	0 - 1	Rajeswaran, Kiruthika (F)	1850
5	w	O'Neill, Tom C	1532	0 - 1	Jones, Michael *	1835
6	b	Coates, Christine (F)	1490	0 - 1	Harrison, Peter K	1680
				1 - 5		

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

PGN http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809_div3-05.pgn

Game viewer http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809_div3-05viewer.htm

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