



FOUR NATIONS CHESS LEAGUE

Division 3 Round 8 report by Matt Lunn



AMCA Dragons vs Poisoned Pawns 2 (3.5-2.5)

The AMCA Dragons practically secured promotion with this close win over Poisoned Pawns 2, something the team must be ecstatic about. Congratulations to the Andrew Martin Chess Academy team.



The fact that they have conceded just one point from these 8 games, and that they have faced the five teams directly below them will surely do well to harbour confidence going into the final weekend. However only one of these wins was greater than a two game margin, so the question ultimately remains as to

whether a chess player can make their own luck or not! I think in this particular case the Dragons were the deserved victors, although some of the results could have gone the other way.

Colin Purdon was certainly fortunate against Paul Kemp, who blundered away a bishop for two pawns after a tactical oversight. Still the Poisoned Pawns player managed to get away with a draw. Noel McLaughlin won a piece very early on against Paul McMahon, sacrificing it back to ensure swift and decisive entry into the enemy camp – an excellent win for a player surely stronger than his 155 grade. Philip Bonafont squandered an excellent advantage (he would have been completely winning after 26.bxc4) and his experienced opponent played well, getting his pieces as active as possible in order to roughly equalize the ending. Board 1 was a fairly solid draw, white came out of the opening with a slight pull but when pieces came off a draw looked to be the most likely result. This leaves the two Dragons wins on 4 and 5.

The position below was reached in Doci – Duvall; thus far we have been treated to a fairly theoretical variation of the Chinese Dragon. Doci has just played 17.e5 and Duvall is forced to make a decision. Should he take?



Black is doing absolutely fine after 17.Ng8 or 17.Ne8 (maybe even slightly better), but the game continuation was very unpleasant for black. Duvall played 17.dxe5 and after 18.Qxd5 he has to deal with discovered attacks down the d file and the g5 thrust. After 18.Qb6 19.g5 Qxb2+ 20.Kd2 the f6 knight is dropping and compensation is lacking.

20.Rd8 fails to offer black anything, for after 21.Nd5 c3+ 22.Ke3 white's monarch is perfectly safe in the centre of the board, whilst black must deal with a raging attack and impending material loss. The game concluded just 3 moves later.

Hart vs Bailey was unequivocally one of the highlights of the round, and an excellent example of a '40th move blunder'.



Black had been slightly better for most of the game, but David Hart had gradually managed to improve his position in the moves leading up to the time control. Although he is the exchange for a pawn down, his bishops are excellently placed and the pawn on h7 is a real thorn in black's side. Sadly Kevin Bailey sealed his fate with the unfortunate 40.Kc7?? and after the natural 41.Rxe6 black's position is impossible. Instead black should opt for 40.Kd8, where after he can meet Rxe6 by sacrificing the exchange on h7! The opposite coloured bishop ending is probably drawn.

However the game continuation is tragic for black! Note that there are 8 passed pawns on the board after this move, for one side to have 5 connected at this stage of the game is practically unheard of! Hart can keep Bailey's passers at bay with his two bishops, but ultimately black's pieces are inadequate to stop a massive pawn roller. Bailey tried sacrificing his bishop for two pawns, but Hart played very accurately, forcing the swap off of rooks and leaving Bailey with the dud piece on h8. White won shortly after – a fascinating game that is definitely worth looking through!

RD 8		AMCA DRAGONS	2101	v	POISONED PAWNS 2	2089
1	w	Webb, Richard M	2266	½ - ½	Richter, Hans	2149
2	b	Bonafont, Philip	2140	½ - ½	Winfridsson, Ola	2127
3	w	Purdon, Colin	2097	½ - ½	Kemp, Paul R	2102
4	b	Duvall, Ian	2047	0 - 1	Doci, Stefan	2052
5	w	Hart, David	2029	1 - 0	Bailey, Kevin	2056
6	b	McLaughlin, Noel	2025	1 - 0	McMahon, Paul	2045
				3½-2½		

Guildford-A&DC 4 vs White Rose 2 (3.0-3.0)

A recent article implied that Sam Franklin, Felix Ynojosa and Yang-Fan Zhou were the sole future of British chess. To my mind, missing out James Adair from this list is a grave error. I write this a week after the Surrey Chess Congress, an event in which James won the Open section (6/7 including a win against International Master Graeme Buckley), qualifying for the British Championship in the process. In this fixture he played a very interesting game against David Adams, winning a pawn after 20 moves of an Alekhine's Defence. Sadly for James his opponent's excellent technique allowed him to escape with a draw. Shaw – Stimpson is worth looking at for I believe it illustrates how difficult Budapest Gambit positions are against a strong opponent, Shaw won with a nice tactic in the middle game. Boards 3 and 4 were both quick draws (a good result for Anthony Higgs, black against an opponent that outgraded him by 25 points) and board 6 was a draw played out to the full. This game is definitely worth a look; for it is another good example of a "move 40 blunder" and indicative of how difficult it can be to win 'won' positions. Simon McCullough showed an excellent display of tenacity to get a crucial win on board 5, winning yet another equal ending to ensure his team stays within the promotion battle.

RD 8		GUILDFORD-A&DC 4	2011	v	WHITE ROSE 2	2097
1	w	Adair, James	2074	½ - ½	Adams, David M	2191
2	b	Stimpson, Philip M	2077	0 - 1	Shaw, Peter	2123
3	w	Punnett, Alan K	2102	½ - ½	Arnott, Jonathan W	2117
4	b	Higgs, Anthony	1995	½ - ½	Archer, Richard	2120
5	w	McCullough, Simon L	1896	1 - 0	Webb, Matthew	2035
6	b	Bryant, Richard	1920	½ - ½	Whitaker, Thomas R	1995
				3 - 3		

Cambridge University 2 vs Warwickshire Select 2 (5.5-0.5)

Outrated by an average of 5 elo per board, against a team with two strong juniors... Cambridge University 2 may well have gone into this match thinking that they were the underdogs. On this occasion Cambridge demonstrated excellent form, winning in crushing style. With the exception of board 2 (on which they were never worse) every game turned in their favour. On board 1 black enjoyed a comfortable game before white got his knight into h7 – Webster must have got cold feet (Nf6 ideas) because he made a rather unnecessary exchange sacrifice – he is probably a bit better after 21.Ng6. Ian Gooding's kingside attack laid waste to Jeremy Fallowfield's kingside, whilst Nicholas

fell foul of Campbell's technique in an inferior rook ending. Astghik Stepanyan was a little better out of the opening, but made a rather dubious exchange allowing the advantage to swing her opponent's way. This was however nothing on the calamity her brother experienced on board 5...



Black has exchanged off some pawns, in an ideal world he would play 13.Rxe5 and probably stand about equal due to white's blocked in dark squared bishop. But who ever said it was an ideal world?!

Stepanyan played 13.Rxe5?? only to discover that 14.c4! wins the knight. It cannot move due to the discovered attack Bxh7+! Subsequently the England junior had to surrender the piece and inevitably the game with it.

RD 8		CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY 2	1995	v	WARWICKSHIRE SELECT 2	2000
1	w	Cooley, Oliver	2128	1 - 0	Webster, Paul	2095
2	b	Robertson, J Stuart	2050	½ - ½	Ingram, Keith	2070
3	w	Gooding, Ian	2009	1 - 0	Fallowfield, Jeremy	2022
4	b	Campbell, Mark	1984	1 - 0	Fallowfield, Nicholas	2060
5	w	Lee, Richard	1985	1 - 0	Stepanyan, Henrik	1975
6	b	Kourtseva, Julie (F)	1815	1 - 0	Stepanyan, Astghik (F)	1775
				5½-½		

Braille Chess Association vs Gloucestershire Gambits (3.0-3.0)

This was a game notable (for this division at any rate) in that all results ended in a draw! One cannot help that Braille will be feeling disappointed by this result, having been such strong contenders for promotion a few rounds ago. Nigel Hosken once again demonstrated his tremendous form with a well played draw against IM Colin Crouch (Nigel never looked like losing), a game worth looking at just to see black's defensive resources in a slightly inferior ending. The quick (fewer than 30 move) draws on boards 3, 4 and 6 are probably worth a look for the value of studying the openings – I also think that Graham Lilley would have played on in the knowledge that he may exploit the a file and the backwards c7 pawn at some point. Further up the fixture Chris Ross squandered his winning chances (after an excellently played game) against Daniel Lambourne, although they were certainly nothing on the opportunity John Waterfield was presented with against Les Whittle.

Black has played very well so far, and should be able to seal the win with his next move (which Fritz evaluates as +11!).



But winning ‘won’ positions is rarely a simple matter, as we discover with John’s next (and seemingly natural) move – 51.Kd4? The game continued 52.Kd2 e5 53.fxe5 Kxe5 54.Ke3 Kf6 55.Kf4 g5+ 56.hxg5+ Kg6 57.Ke3 Kxg5 58.Kf3!! (upon which black realizes his winning chances have disappeared) h4 ½–½

In the diagram position white can resign after 51.Kc2! upon which it is impossible for white to stop the black monarch capturing the kingside pawns and bringing the victory home.

RD 8		BRAILLE CHESS ASSOCIATION	2060	v	GLOUCESTERSHIRE GAMBITS	2027
1	w	Crouch, Colin	2365	½ - ½	Hosken, Nigel	2057
2	b	Ross, Chris	2197	½ - ½	Lambourne, Daniel M	2003
3	w	Lilley, Graham	2097	½ - ½	Meade, Philip J	2055
4	b	Cole, Tristram C	1970	½ - ½	Taylor, Geoffrey P	2019
5	w	Whittle, Les *	1885	½ - ½	Waterfield, John	2023
6	b	Ross, David J *	1845	½ - ½	Dodwell, Phil	2005
				3 - 3		

Metropolitan vs Littlethorpe 1 (1.0-5.0)

Littlethorpe once again asserted their eagerness for promotion with another crushing win, Metropolitan’s second consecutive 5-1 loss. John Sugden demonstrated his prowess with an excellent positional crush, eventually the pressure told and Chris Fegan gave up a rook. Christopher Jones was equally impressive, taking advantage of an understandable positional error in order to secure an excellent position. This game was notable for white moving neither his a1 rook nor his b1 knight throughout! Compton – Vachtfeidl was a solid draw (albeit one where white had some chances), as was Calvert Salisbury. It is rare to see players who have as many short draws as Michael Salisbury (I played him last year, I failed to draw...) or Ian Calvert, the result may not come as a surprise to either team. This leaves the encounters on the top and bottom boards. Chris Gibson won a good game after a run of poor form in the 4ncl - Cooke was better for most of the ending but Gibson’s connected central pawns eventually decided the game in white’s favour. George Dickson blundered a pawn early on against the excellent Alan Byron – black managed to convert into an easy rook and pawn ending where his technique proved enough to secure victory. A well played fixture by Littlethorpe!

RD 8		METROPOLITAN	2030	v	LITTLETHORPE 1	2076
1	w	Dickson, George	2103	0 - 1	Byron, Alan M	2162
2	b	Fegan, Chris	2091	0 - 1	Sugden, John N	2184
3	w	Calvert, D Ian	2051	½ - ½	Salisbury, Michael W	2119
4	b	Vachtfeidl, Petr	2005	½ - ½	Compton, Alistair	2079
5	w	Murphy, Kieran	2048	0 - 1	Jones, Christopher M	1950
6	b	Cooke, Charlie	1880	0 - 1	Gibson, Christopher A	1964
				1 - 5		

FCA Solutions 2 vs KJCA Kings (2.5-3.5)

We made it our fourth consecutive win after this fixture, in which many interesting games were had. Maguire – Shaw always looked like it was going to be drawn, neither side getting anything out of a Sveshnikov Sicilian. Victor Jones got a good win against Brian Valentine, whilst his brother William absolutely crushed his opponent's slightly dubious essaying of the Sokolsky. This leaves 3 games, and several diagrams! I have decided to embarrass my team mates a little.



This is taken from Matthews – Gahir, white has just played the slightly offbeat 6.Nbd2, an unusual line that has the benefit of setting a rather nasty trap. Jasdeep played 6.cxd4, and after 7.Bc4 followed up with the unfortunate 7.Qd6? (7.Qh5 and it's about equal) Matthews played 8.Qb3 and the double attack on the b7 and f7 pawns gives white a decisive advantage.

And on to the second position...



I was sitting next to this match and for a while I had wondered when Adrian Elwin was going to resign. He had been an exchange down for nothing for quite a while now, but now the tables turn in an utterly surprising way. Lyall played 50.a4??? which was immediately met by the crushing 51.Ng3! 1 – 0

I'm tempted to quote Wittgenstein here - "Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent"

Bit of a cliché though – I think 'Oh whoops' is more than adequate.

Femi declined my draw offer a few moves previously, but since then I've managed to improve my position quite a bit.



I prefer white here (despite being a pawn down), my pieces are well coordinated and black's bishop is just appalling. Invasion on the dark squares looked imminent, so Femi tried 34.Rxc7!? After 35.bxc7 Qxc7 I found an idea that cemented my advantage... 36.h4! Black should probably play 36.h5, but his position is very difficult. Instead he tried 36.Kf7, but after 37. h5 Nd7 38.h6! it is impossible for black to stop Rg7 and a capture on h7. This ultimately proved decisive.

RD 8		FCA SOLUTIONS 2	1987	v	KJCA KINGS	1908
1	w	Ioannides, Milton	2076	0 - 1	Jones, William	2030
2	b	Valentine, Brian J	1997	0 - 1	Jones, Victor	1993
3	w	Elwin, Adrian G	2009	1 - 0	Bayliss, Lyall C P	1971
4	b	Adebajo, Femi	2019	0 - 1	Lunn, Matt	1882
5	w	Matthews, Adrian	1924	1 - 0	Gahir, Jasdeep	1872
6	b	Shaw, John S	1895	½ - ½	Maguire, Robert	1702
				2½-3½		

Hackney vs Oxford 2 (4.5-1.5)

Hackney achieved an excellent victory in a fixture that looked as though it would be pretty close. Francis Chin and John Reid asserted their presence on the top two boards, gradually outplaying their experienced opponents. A blunder by Justin Hadi allowed Martin Lee to trap his rook, whilst one board lower Terrence Donnelly accepted a draw in a position where he was (and had been) a bit better. Rawlinson and Ludbrook provided a great deal of the fixture's entertainment (obvious credit to Shaw and Vives too!) with the following gems.



Black is worse here, but can play on after 32.Rxg2+ 33.Kxg2 Bxf1+ 34.Rxf1 Qe7, where he may have some drawing chances. Instead Rawlinson offered the line of least resistance – 32.Bxf1???? 33.Rf8# (for my verbal response – see Elwin – Bayliss)

I could annotate Ludbrook – Vives to my hearts content – but at the risk of seeming like I am copping out (seriously, I'm not!) I would invite you to look at how black could have got an excellent position after 19.Ng4+ - it really was a fascinating game!

RD 8		HACKNEY	2049	v	OXFORD 2	2048
1	w	Chin, Francis	2236	1 - 0	Bruce, Dave	2091
2	b	Reid, John	2230	1 - 0	Chapman, Graham W	2080
3	w	Lee, Martin	2050	1 - 0	Hadi, Justin	2015
4	b	Donnelly, Terence *	2000	½ - ½	Duggan, Chris	2044
5	w	Shaw, Dashiell L	1940	1 - 0	Rawlinson, Chris	2047
6	b	Vives, Pepe	1840	0 - 1	Ludbrook, Matt	2011
				4½-1½		

Littlethorpe 2 vs Nottinghamshire 1 (3.5-2.5)

Sadly for Nottinghamshire, the days of being likely promotion challengers look to be over, this season it was cemented with the result of this fixture. Good wins for Robert Richmond and Ian Kingston did not make up for what must have been a very disappointing result. Alex Combie allowed a nice intermezzo that ensured Phil Watkinson an excellent game; although the position was unbalanced eventually the passed d pawn turned the game in white's favour. Hewitt – Truman was always slightly unbalanced but neither side could really push for an advantage, a draw always looked the likely result. William Place's frankly magnificent opening advantage was spoilt by a

couple of blunders, but it was Levens – Ireland that I would most recommend looking at most. Chinese Dragons are known for being double-edged and entertaining, this was no exception and I think David Ireland played very well to gain the full point and his team the victory.

RD 8		LITTLETHORPE 2	1955	v	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 1	2033
1	w	Bingham, James T	1945	0 - 1	Richmond, Robert J	2223
2	b	Ireland, David J	1997	1 - 0	Levens, David	2009
3	w	Hewitt, Sean D	1995	½ - ½	Truman, Richard G	2028
4	b	Deacon, Paul	1930	0 - 1	Kingston, Ian	2023
5	w	Watkinson, Phil K	1950	1 - 0	Combie, Alexander	1950
6	b	Turvey, Steven	1915	1 - 0	Place, William	1965
				3½-2½		

The Full Ponty vs Sussex Smart Controls (2.0-4.0)

Sussex Smart Controls kept themselves in the promotion race after this victory against the Full Ponty, who suffered a second lost against a team comprised mainly of juniors! Some very entertaining games were had for sure – Grant and Andrew’s nice wins on the middle boards would be my principle recommendations. Fryer – Adams was a well played draw, Woods – Gilbert less so (Tim played well but acquiesced to a repetition, but in a team game it seems a respectable enough decision). Sully – Salimbeni was certainly very exciting, white made a perfectly natural looking pawn capture on move 19 that allowed black to generate some excellent play. This was undoubtedly the turning point in an unbalanced (but roughly equal) position – I would recommend analysis of 19.g5.



And David Perrett produced one of the prettiest checkmates I have seen at the 4ncl.

31.exd5# is very pretty indeed!

RD 8		THE FULL PONTY	1994	v	SUSSEX SMART CONTROLS	1985
1	w	Sully, David	2135	0 - 1	Salimbeni, George	2100
2	b	Adams, Mark A	2033	½ - ½	Fryer, David W	2080
3	w	Davis, Lee	1954	0 - 1	Bucher, Grant W	1993
4	b	Robinson, David	1987	0 - 1	Tucker, Andrew L	1972
5	w	Perrett, David	1960	1 - 0	Payne, Matthew	1865
6	b	Gilbert, Colin	1893	½ - ½	Woods, Tim	1900
				2 - 4		

AMCA Rhinos vs Bristol 2 (5.0-1.0)

This was unequivocally the most surprising result of the season so far! Bristol 2 lost 5 – 1 despite outrating AMCA Rhinos by an average of 120 points per board – a testament to how underrated Peter Andreev (who recently won the U175 section at the Surrey Chess Congress) and Mani Periasamymanjula are. The top board was a well played but uninspiring draw, something I was going to say about the board 2 clash until I saw the final position...



I understand that black can probably hold with best play – but this does seem a slightly odd time to offer a draw! The weakness of the e7 pawn should offer white a nice advantage.

Elsewhere George Tunstall played well (in a position that would have been easy to blunder in!) to win against Dominic Bennett, and Mani won a piece early on to secure victory on the bottom board. Andrew Marley invaded Martin White's king with decisive effect (in an impressive 21 moves) on 5, whilst Peter Andreev offered up a spectacular endgame display on board 4. If you only look at one element of this fixture, I would recommend looking at the final 10 moves or so of this game.



RD 8		AMCA RHINOS	1904	v	BRISTOL 2	2024
1	w	Stayt, James N	2026	½ - ½	Bass, John W	2101
2	b	Sparkes, Daniel A	2000	½ - ½	Hardy, Roger	2024
3	w	Tunstall, George	2014	1 - 0	Bennett, Dominic *	2040
4	b	Andreev, Peter	1861	1 - 0	Humphreys, Jerry	2076
5	w	Marley, Andrew	1805	1 - 0	White, Martin	1980
6	b	Periasamymanjula, Mani.	1718	1 - 0	May, Michael	1920
				5 - 1		

Mind Sports vs ICENI (1.5-4.5)

Despite 3 short draws this fixture offered up some elements of interest. Richard Donaghay won a nice game despite some slightly convoluted opening moves, and Mark Szymanski achieved an excellent result, grinding down Gabriel Barr after winning a pawn in the middlegame. Downham – Chadwick was a typical Colle – Zukertort in which white got some excellent play – a blunder allowed white to win the exchange and with it, the game.

RD 8		MIND SPORTS	1943	v	ICENI	2030
1	w	Hardman, Michael J	2087	½ - ½	Reynolds, D Ian	2108
2	b	Ackley, Peter	2101	½ - ½	Ruthen, Steven	2050
3	w	Hawkins, Nick	2031	½ - ½	Feavyour, John	2073
4	b	Twitchell, Neville H	1976	0 - 1	Donaghay, Richard	1969
5	w	Barr, Gabriel	1820	0 - 1	Szymanski, Mark	1985
6	b	Chadwick, Susan E (F)	1640	0 - 1	Downham, Alan	1995
				1½-4½		

Halesowen vs Guildford-A&DC 5 (2.5-3.5)

With the exception of the short draw on board 5 this proved be a very interesting fixture, no game less so than the clash on top board.



Black is a bit worse here, but can struggle on with 22.Bxd5 and try and generate some attacking chances. However Shaw played the disastrous 22.Kf6?? whereupon Brockbank forced resignation with 23.Bxe6! Nd5 is coming; infact 23.Ne4+ would have been even more decisive. A testament to the problems of a draughty king!

Deswarte – Lee is also well worth a look, it takes a while to comprehend white’s middlegame advantage but it is clear that the rook and knight dominated black’s inactive queen. Joseph Quinn invaded Windsor Peck’s kingside with catastrophic effect, one board up Peter Lalic converted his pawn advantage after a lot of manoeuvring. Christopher Pitt played well to win the (slightly similar) ending against Theo Albrecht, who allowed his minor pieces to be swapped off and ensure a black victory.

RD 8		HALESOWEN	1893	v	GUILDFORD-A&DC 5	1897
1	w	Brockbank, Henry	2103	1 - 0	Shaw, Matthew	1925
2	b	Lee, Darren	1950	0 - 1	Deswarte, Ian	1950
3	w	Asbury, Jon A	1865	0 - 1	Lalic, Peter	1905
4	b	Peck, Windsor W	1845	0 - 1	Quinn, Joseph	1835
5	w	Llewelyn, John D	1815	½ - ½	Waldock, Adrian	1925
6	b	Pitt, Christopher	1780	1 - 0	Albrecht, Theo	1840
				2½-3½		

Wales Old Boys vs Oxford 3 (3.5-2.5)

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this clash was the ending provided on board 5, analysis of the variations resulting after white combining Nb5 and Be6+ are quite interesting! The games on 1 and 6 were both solid draws, but good wins for Kanike (who played well after coming out of the opening slightly worse – 6.Bf5 really was disastrous) and Davies swayed the game in the favour of the ‘Welsh’ side. A nice win by Sean Terry will act as some consolation.

RD 8		WALES OLD BOYS	1885	v	OXFORD 3	1844
1	w	Harley-Yeo, Gareth	2044	½ - ½	Jeffries, Majid	1997
2	b	Kanike, Uday Kumar *	2050	1 - 0	Neatherway, Philip	1960
3	w	Zhu, Yao Yao (F)	1997	0 - 1	Terry, Sean	1870
4	b	Davies, Matthew	1943	1 - 0	Corcoran, Gary *	1840
5	w	Jones, Jeremy J *	1635	½ - ½	Henbest, Kevin B	1795
6	b	Smith, Steve	1638	½ - ½	Foster, Chantelle (F)	1600
				3½-2½		

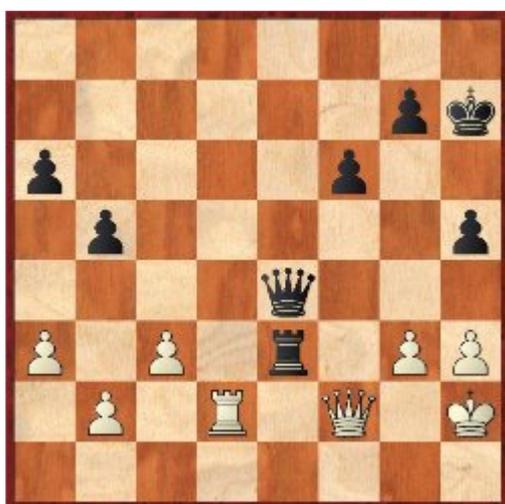
Nottinghamshire 2 vs Celtic Tigers 2 (2.5-3.5)

It is a shame that such a close fixture had to be decided by a default, but nevertheless some entertainment was had. Robert Taylor played well (against dubious opening play) to win against Craig Evans, I was also impressed by Joe Fathallah’s handling of the endgame that arose against Neil Graham (although black did have some half-decent drawing chances). Cranmer – O’Grady was an entertaining draw (well worth a look), and board 5 was a draw despite some enterprising play from both sides. Boards 2 and 3 are by far the most interesting and certainly worth a glance.

RD 8		NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 2	1884	v	CELTIC TIGERS 2	1878
1	w	Taylor, Robert P	1956	1 - 0	Evans, Craig	2030
2	b	Graham, Neil	1925	0 - 1	Fathallah, Joe	1962
3	w	Cranmer, Stan	1890	½ - ½	O'Grady, Gary	1926
4	b	Hill, Maurice R (default)		0 - 1	Larter, Nick	1807
5	w	Myers, Richard	1840	½ - ½	Wagner, Guy	1830
6	b	Willoughby, Robert	1810	½ - ½	Buttell, David	1714
				2½-3½		

Littlethorpe 3 vs SCS (1.5-4.5)

This was a well deserved win for SCS, who have had a slightly unlucky run this season. Justin Baptie was the real star, persevering in an ending that many would have declared drawn and resigned themselves to the comforts of the bar.



Baptie has played well thus far to keep his winning chances alive, and in this position finds the excellent 41.h4! After 42.gxh4 Qe6 white is as good as lost. Black's queen and rook are brilliantly coordinated and threaten to harass the white king beyond belief! White can play on with 43.Kg2, but things look bleak. Instead the text move 43.Qg2?? lost quickly to 43.Qe5+ 44.Kh1 Re1+ 0 - 1. A well played ending by the SCS player.

Lower down Fonseca and Bogoda tried hard to convert slightly better endings, but the Littlethorpe players both managed to hold. Arnold Lutton continued an excellent run with another win, whilst the board 5 clash had 'draw' written all over it. Farrell – Baptie is undoubtedly the one I'd most recommend looking at.

RD 8		LITTLETHORPE 3	1773	v	SCS	1858
1	w	Farrall, David J	1915	0 - 1	Baptie, Justin P	2101
2	b	van der Westhuizen, Charles	1824	½ - ½	Fonseca, Antonio	1875
3	w	Jones, Michael	1812	½ - ½	Bogoda, Sagara T	1870
4	b	Harrison, Peter K	1835	0 - 1	Lutton, J Arnold	1847
5	w	Ricketts, David	1680	½ - ½	Hardy-Wallace, Daniel *	
6	b	default	1570	0 - 1	Bogoda, Nathasha (F)	1595
				1½-4½		

Conquistadors vs AMCA Hippos (4.0-2.0)

It is tempting to refrain from analyzing games between sub-2000 players, but Malhotra – Gibbs was certainly one of the most interesting positional games of the round. James Foster got a nice win in a symmetrical French (Even so - Ward's resignation was probably a little premature). James Holland and Catriona Meechan halved out when white was probably a little better, whereas Foster – Pritchard was played out to the time control before it was peacefully concluded. Jerzynek eked out his positional advantage against Barnaby Paul, and Ray Ryan smashed through Christine Coates' kingside to bring home a well deserved victory. Malhotra – Gibbs is enjoyable viewing for the positional player, if you like that sort of play (which I do!) then have a look!

RD		CONQUISTADORS	1825	v	AMCA HIPPOS	1685
1	w	Foster, James C	1995	1 - 0	Ward, Matthew J	1760
2	b	Gibbs, Dominic	1995	1 - 0	Malhotra, Tarun	1730
3	w	Holland, James	1920	½ - ½	Meechan, Catriona (F)	1780
4	b	Paul, Barnaby	1750	0 - 1	Jerzynek, Neil	1760
5	w	Foster, Caroline (F)	1610	½ - ½	Pritchard, Abigail (F)	1590
6	b	Foster, Ray Ryan	1680	1 - 0	Coates, Christine (F)	1490
				4 - 2		

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

PGN http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809_div3-08.pgn

Game viewer http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809_div3-08viewer.htm

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