



# FOUR NATIONS CHESS LEAGUE

## Division 1 Round 6 report by Jack Rudd

### Pool A

#### Barbican 1 vs. Guildford 2

A crucial match for the second stage of the season: both sides looked highly likely to progress to the championship pool whatever the result of this match, but it's the points carried forward that were of most importance. In the end, Guildford 2 managed to squeeze out the result, with Parker and Sandu getting the wins in a 5-3 victory.

RD 6		BARBICAN 4NCL 1	2377	v	GUILDFORD-A&DC 2	2435
1	w	Turner, Matthew J	2512	½ - ½	Pert, Nicholas	2536
2	b	Parker, Jonathan	2528	0 - 1	Conquest, Stuart C	2531
3	w	Devereaux, Maxim	2437	½ - ½	Kosten, Anthony C	2514
4	b	D'Costa, Lorin A R	2445	½ - ½	Berzinsh, Roland	2420
5	w	Cox, John J	2364	½ - ½	Cherniaev, Alexander	2438
6	b	Knott, Simon	2349	½ - ½	Buckley, Graeme	2399
7	w	Berry, Neil	2317	½ - ½	Muir, Andrew J	2354
8	b	Bhatia, Kanwal K (F)	2067	0 - 1	Sandu, Mihaela (F)	2285
				3 - 5		

#### Richmond vs. Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 1

Richmond were already forced into the relegation pool and Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher were assured of a place in the championship pool. The most interesting result of the match was the Stephen Gordon's fifth win of the season, which places him that much closer to his final GM norm.

#### Bates, Richard (2392) - Gordon, Stephen J (2524) [A04]

[Rudd, Jack]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 e5 6.c3 Nge7 7.Na3 [7.b4 cxb4 8.d4 d5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.dxe5 0-0 11.Bf4 Nc6 12.exd5 Nxe5 13.cxb4 Bg4 14.Qb3 Be2 15.Nd2 Nd3 16.Be3 Rc8 17.Rfe1 Bxa1 18.Rxa1 Re8 19.Bd4 Qg5 20.Bc3 Nxf2 21.Nf1 Bxf1 Azmaiparashvili,Z (2702)-Kasparov,G (2830)/Crete 2003/0-1 (38)]

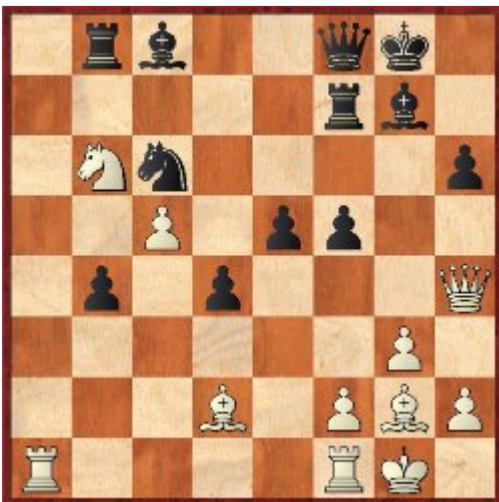


7...0-0 8.Qe2 [8.Nc2 f5 9.d3 d6 10.Ne3 h6 11.Ne1 f4 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Ne7 14.Nc2 b6 15.Bd2 Bf5 16.Be4 Qd7 17.f3 h5 18.Qe2 Rae8 19.Kh1 g5 20.Rg1 Kf7 21.g4 hxg4 22.fxg4 Bxe4+ Maczkowiak,T (1770)-Menzel,J (1978)/Duisburg 2005/½-½ (37)] 8...a6 9.Nc4 d6 [9...d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Ncxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Re8 13.f4 Nb6 14.Qf3

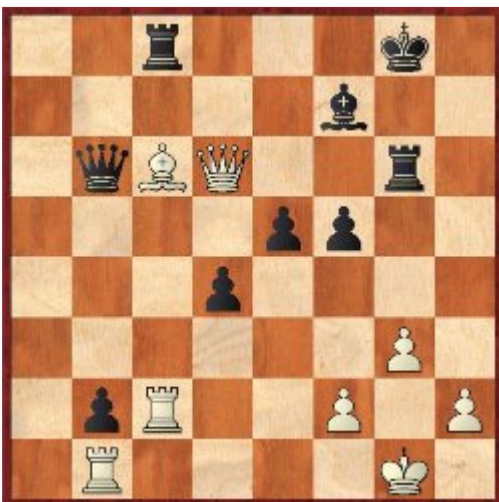
Bf5 15.Qxb7 Bxe5 16.fxe5 Re7 17.Qf3 Raa7 18.d4 cxd4 19.Bg5 1–0 Gorgoglione,P-Cividali,E/Lombardia 1990] **10.a4 Rb8 11.d3** [11.a5? would be an idea in similar positions, trying to restrain the ...b5 pawn break, but here it just loses a pawn: 11...Be6 12.Nb6 Nxa5] **11...b5 12.axb5 axb5 13.Ne3 f5 14.exf5 gxf5 15.Nh4 d5** The five pawns on the fourth rank are an imposing sight; evaluating this position depends on whether black can maintain them. It's not entirely clear. **16.c4 bxc4 17.dxc4 d4 18.Nd5 Ng6**



**19.Qh5?** [19.Nxg6 hxg6 20.Nf4! is Fritz's suggestion. The point is 20...Qd6 (20...exf4 21.Bxc6 and the centre has been broken up.) 21.Bd5+ Kh8 22.Nh5! , exchanging off the g7 bishop.] **19...Nxh4 20.Bg5 Qd6 21.Qxh4 Rf7 22.b4?** The position had already swung in black's favour, but this ends up giving up a pawn for no compensation. **22...h6 23.Bd2 cxb4 24.c5 Qf8 25.Nb6**



**25...Be6!** This is what white might have missed at move 25: the c5 pawn, and with it white's counterchances, is now doomed. **26.Bxc6 Qxc5 27.Rfc1 Qxb6 28.Bxh6 b3 29.Bxg7 Rxg7 30.Qf6 Bf7 31.Rab1 Rc8 32.Qd6 b2 33.Rc2 Rg6**



**34.Qxg6+** Temporarily getting two rooks for the queen, but the resulting endgame is hopeless. **34...Bxg6 35.Bd5+ Kg7 36.Rxc8 f4 37.Rg8+ Kh7 38.Rxg6 Kxg6 39.Be4+ Kf6 40.Kg2 Qb3 41.gxf4 exf4 42.f3 Kg5** There is now no answer to black's plan of ...Kh4, ...Qc3-d2+ and ...d3, so white decided to call it a day here. **0–1**

RD 6		<b>RICHMOND</b>	<b>2232</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>WOOD GREEN HILSMARK KINGFISHER 1</b>	<b>2447</b>
1	w	Bates, Richard A	2392	0 - 1	Gordon, Stephen J	2524
2	b	Wall, Gavin	2302	1 - 0	Greet, Andrew N	2446
3	w	Bisby, Daniel L	2304	½ - ½	Trent, Lawrence	2487
4	b	Franklin, Michael J	2226	0 - 1	Arakhamia-Grant, Ketevan (F)	2500
5	w	Osborne, Marcus E	2192	1 - 0	Hanley, Craig A	2439
6	b	Muter, Donny	2207	1 - 0	Karim, Ismail	2407
7	w	Meyer, Gordon	2160	0 - 1	McDonald, Neil	2401
8	b	Chevannes, Sabrina (F)	2075	0 - 1	Tiller, Bjorn	2370
				<b>3½-4½</b>		

## Sambuca Sharks vs. Cambridge University 1

The Sharks' last hope to carry forward any points to the relegation pool disappeared with this match, as their top four boards all lost in a 5-3 defeat. Perhaps the best game of this match was Karl Mah's win against Sam Williams, in which the latter seemed to do all the right things on the white side of a Classical King's Indian, but then had nothing to do once his queenside attack had broken through.

RD 6		<b>SAMBUCA SHARKS</b>	<b>2167</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY 1</b>	<b>2267</b>
1	w	Rendle, Thomas E	2390	0 - 1	Pinter, Gabor	2355
2	b	Van Weersel, Arlette (F)	2214	0 - 1	Rajlich, Iweta (F)	2399
3	w	Williams, Samuel G	2206	0 - 1	Mah, Karl C C	2404
4	b	Ruston, Mark R	2097	0 - 1	Moskovic, David M	2307
5	w	Linford, Charles	2119	1 - 0	Churm, Rohan M	2192
6	b	Edgell, Ben P	2101	½ - ½	Quist, Sven Roy	2136
7	w	Purton, Ben J	2103	½ - ½	Pickard, Charles	2207
8	b	Varnam, Liam D	2109	1 - 0	Spencer, Carl	2134
				<b>3 - 5</b>		

## South Wales Dragons 1 vs. White Rose

John Cooper will be kicking himself after this one; a pawn up against Richard Palliser, he walked into a fork trick that cost him the exchange and the game, and his team the match. This result put White Rose into the championship pool, while probably condemning the Dragons to the relegation pool. Even so, their points accumulated so far should be enough to see them to safety.

RD 6		<b>SOUTH WALES DRAGONS 1</b>	<b>2210</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>WHITE ROSE 1</b>	<b>2259</b>
1	w	Cobb, James E	2440	½ - ½	McNab, Colin	2473
2	b	Cooper, John G	2362	0 - 1	Palliser, Richard	2406
3	w	Morris, Charles F	2189	1 - 0	Van de Griendt, Jan W	2355
4	b	Zeidler, Sven P	2231	0 - 1	Gourlay, Iain	2362
5	w	O'Neill, Paul	2204	½ - ½	Barrett, Steve J	2234
6	b	Smith, Jeffrey R	2209	½ - ½	Gayson, Peter M	2258
7	w	Rayner, Francis	2151	½ - ½	Adams, David M	2191
8	b	Blackburn, Suzie (F)	1891	½ - ½	Hollingworth, Evie (F) *	1790
				<b>3½-4½</b>		

## Pool A – last-day scenarios

Note: all these scenarios rely on no teams getting points deducted as a result of their round 7 match. The only team who would need fewer than three defaults to make this happen are Richmond, who are one default away from a deducted point.

**Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 1, White Rose and Guildford 2** are through to the championship pool, with one of **Barbican 1** and **South Wales Dragons** destined to join them. **Cambridge University 1, Richmond** and **Sambuca Sharks** are in the relegation pool.

The round seven matches are:

### **Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 1 vs. Sambuca Sharks**

Of most interest to the two sides' norm-seekers. Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher carry forward three wins, Sambuca Sharks three losses.

### **Cambridge University 1 vs. Richmond**

A potentially crucial relegation decider, with the result guaranteed to be carried forward. Both sides are also carrying forward a win against the Sharks, and Richmond are carrying forward a loss against the fourth relegation pool team. Cambridge will carry forward a draw if South Wales Dragons are the fourth relegation pool team, or a loss if Barbican are.

**White Rose 1 vs. Barbican 1** and **Guildford 2 vs. South Wales Dragons** I shall consider together, because both affect the championship pool. So here goes:

<b>White Rose result</b>	<b>Guildford 2 result</b>	<b>Fourth qualifying team</b>	<b>White Rose 2<sup>nd</sup> stage points</b>	<b>Guildford 2 2<sup>nd</sup> stage points</b>	<b>Fourth qualifying team 2<sup>nd</sup> stage points</b>
Win	Win or draw	Barbican 1	4	2	0
Win	Loss	South Wales Dragons 1	4	0	2
Draw	Any result	Barbican 1	3	2	1
Loss	Any result	Barbican 1	2	2	2

## **Pool B**

### **Guildford 1 vs. Betsson.com**

A 7-1 win for Guildford ensured that Betsson.com would finish in the bottom four and be fighting relegation. Jonathan Rowson's extensive experience on the black side of the Najdorf Sicilian came in handy in his game against Simon Ansell, where he was effectively playing one a tempo up with the white pieces.

RD 6		GUILDFORD-A&DC 1	2478	v	BETSSON.COM	2297
1	w	Rowson, Jonathan	2585	1 - 0	Ansell, Simon	2405
2	b	King, Daniel J	2512	½ - ½	Ledger, Andrew J	2431
3	w	Hebden, Mark L	2522	½ - ½	Hunt, Adam C	2431
4	b	Flear, Glenn C	2478	1 - 0	Eames, Robert G	2335
5	w	Shaw, John K	2464	1 - 0	Duncan, Christopher R	2323
6	b	Tissir, Mohamed	2466	1 - 0	Ledger, David J	2265
7	w	Pert, Richard G	2456	1 - 0	Ledger, Stephen C	2150
8	b	Lalic, Susan (F)	2340	1 - 0	Yurenok, Maria S (F)	2035
				7 - 1		

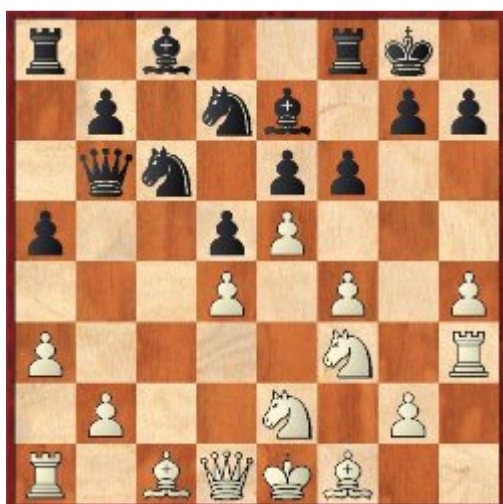
## GAMBIT ADs vs. Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2

This four all draw ensured that Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2 would play in the championship pool (and therefore face their own first team in round 8), and made it highly likely that the ADs would join them. Both the ADs' wins were of theoretical interest, and I've picked the one from the opening whose theory I know more about:

**Lindner, Daniel (2243) - Anderton, David W (2225) [C05]**

*[Rudd, Jack]*

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nce2 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Nf3 cxd4 9.cxd4 f6 10.a3 a5 [10...Be7 11.b4 (11.Nc3 0-0 12.Na4 Qd8 13.Be3 a6 14.b4 Nb6 15.Nxb6 Qxb6 16.Bd3 f5 17.h4 Bd7 18.Kf2 Nd8 19.g4 Nf7 20.gxf5 exf5 21.Qb3 Be6 22.Ng5 Nh6 23.Rac1 Rac8 24.Be2 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 Ng4+ Munoz,L (2396)-Jaquez,J (2195)/Santo Domingo 2006/1-0 (44)) 11...0-0 12.Rb1 a6 13.Qd3 Qd8 14.g3 Nb6 15.Bg2 Bd7 16.0-0 Rc8 17.g4 Nc4 18.Ng3 Qb6 19.Kh1 g6 20.h4 f5 21.Bh3 Kh8 22.h5 fxg4 23.Bxg4 gxh5 24.Bxh5 Rg8 25.Rg1 Hellers,F (2565)-Andersson,U (2625)/Haninge 1993/½-½ (39)] 11.h4 Be7 12.Rh3 0-0**



**13.Ra2?** While this move is often part of white's plans, in this position it is premature... [13.b3 Ndb8 14.Be3 Bd7 15.Neg1 Bxa3 16.exf6 Rxf6 17.Ne5 Bb2 18.Rg3 Bc3+ 19.Kf2 Bxd4 20.Nh3 Bxe3+ 0-1 Dorst,J (2138)-Stotyn,F (2197)/Bad Zwosten 2005; 13.Nc3 fxe5 14.fxe5 Rxf3 15.gxf3 Nxd4 16.f4 Nf5 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Qxd5+ Kh8 19.Bc4 Qg1+ 20.Kd2 Nh6 21.Rd3 Nf8 22.b3 Bf5 23.Qxb7 Qf2+ 24.Kc3 Bxd3 25.Bxd3 Rd8 26.Qe4 Bc5 27.Rb1 Bd4+ Grünfeld,Y (2520)-Schneider,D (2406)/New York 2001/0-1 (60)] **13...a4!** ...and this is the reason why. Now the rook will never come into the game. **14.Be3 Qb3 15.Nc3** [15.Qxb3 axb3 16.Ra1 Nb4 is also uncomfortable for white.] **15...fxe5 16.fxe5 Nb6 17.Qb1 Nc4 18.Nd2?**



[18.Bxc4 Qxc4 19.Nd2 at least gives white chances of beating off the attack, although I still prefer black; the c8 bishop, when it gets into the game, is going to be a monster.] **18...Rxf1+! 19.Kxf1** [19.Nxf1 Nxa3 20.bxa3 (20.Nd2 Nxb1 21.Nxb3 Nxc3 22.bxc3 axb3 23.Rxa8 b2 24.Rxc8+ Nd8) 20...Qxc3+ 21.Nd2 Bxa3 22.Bg5 Qc1+ and black has two passed pawns for the exchange.] **19...Nxd2+ 20.Bxd2 Nxd4** Although the material balance here may seem to favour white, the misplaced rook on a2 and the powerful black bishops swing it in black's favour. **21.Bg5?** [21.Kg1 , attempting to get the king to safety, may have been the last chance.] **21...Bc5 22.Qd1 b6 23.g4 Ba6+ 24.Kg2 Rf8 25.Be3** [25.Rh1 Be2! also wins the exchange back.]

**25...Qxd1 26.Nxd1 Bf1+ 27.Kh2 Bxh3 28.Kxh3 Rf1 29.Bxd4 Rxd1** Completing the trapping of the rook. There's no way to escape without giving black a protected passed pawn on b3. **0-1**

RD 6		THE GAMBIT ADS	2309	v	WOOD GREEN HILSMARK KINGFISHER 2	2285
1	w	Speelman, Jonathan S	2536	1 - 0	Houska, Jovanka (F)	2392
2	b	Davies, Nigel R	2483	½ - ½	Martin, Andrew D	2421
3	w	Mestel, A Jonathan	2475	½ - ½	Sowray, Peter J	2303
4	b	Richardson, John R	2312	½ - ½	Broomfield, Matthew	2340
5	w	Snape, Ian	2210	0 - 1	Briscoe, Christopher	2268
6	b	Anderton, David	2225	1 - 0	Lindner, Daniel	2243
7	w	Bellin, Jana (F)	2184	½ - ½	Hagasaether, Ellen (F)	2223
8	b	Wilman, Carey A (F)	2047	0 - 1	Hegarty, Sarah (F)	2088
				4 - 4		

## Barbican 2 vs. Northwest Eagles

A 6-2 win for Barbican 2 kept their hopes of avoiding the relegation pool alive, but only just: they are still two points adrift of fourth place with a much worse game point total. The Duckers-Franklin game from this match had an unusual feature: when white resigned on move 56, 28 of the 32 pieces were still on the board – just one pawn and one knight each had been captured.

RD 6		BARBICAN 4NCL 2	2208	v	NORTH WEST EAGLES	2159
1	w	Rogers, Jonathan W	2330	½ - ½	Morrison, Graham	2342
2	b	Lewis, Andrew P	2274	1 - 0	Coates, Kenneth G	2234
3	w	Taylor, Martin R	2339	½ - ½	Hulmes, David I	2219
4	b	Piper, Matthew S	2287	1 - 0	Redmond, John	2207
5	w	Taylor, Peter	2252	½ - ½	Hughes, Howard R *	2203
6	b	Franklin, Samuel	2142	1 - 0	Duckers, Harvey L	2060
7	w	Coleman, David	2208	1 - 0	Burke, John	2085
8	b	Smith, Lucy (F)	1830	½ - ½	Morrison, Lynne (F)	1920
				6 - 2		

## Bristol 1 vs. Pride and Prejudice

There's a saying that teams already consigned to relegation, or in this case relegation pools, suddenly start playing much better once the pressure's off. Well, it could be true in our case. We pulled off one of the season's shock results here, with our captain getting the first GM scalp of his career:

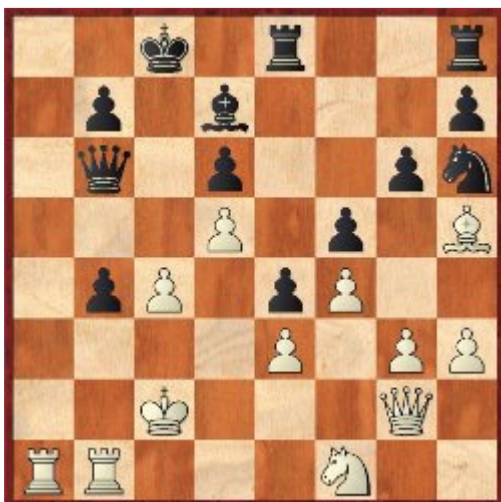
**Ward, Christopher (2426) - Buckley, David (2245) [E20]**

*[Rudd, Jack]*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 c5 5.g3 Ne4 6.Qd3 Qa5 7.Qxe4 Bxc3+**



It was at this stage I first noticed this game. A quick glance told me that it was not going to be especially normal. **8.Bd2 Bxd2+ 9.Nxd2 Nc6 10.d5 Nd4 11.Kd1 d6 12.e3 Nf5 13.Bd3 e5 14.f4 Nh6** [14...Qc7 15.Kc2 Ne7 16.fxe5 Bf5 17.Qf3 Bxd3+ 18.Kxd3 dxe5 19.g4 0-0 20.e4 a6 21.h4 Ng6 22.h5 Nf4+ 23.Kc2 b5 24.a4 bxc4 25.Nxc4 Rab8 26.b3 Rb4 27.Rab1 Rfb8 28.Rhd1 f6 29.g5 Starcic,T (2205)-Grosar,A (2474)/Bled 2002/0-1 (41)] **15.Qg2 f5 16.h3 Bd7 17.Kc2 0-0-0 18.a3** [The computer likes 18.fxe5 dxe5 for white; I do not. The black knight's resulting activity is more important than a heavily-blockaded passed pawn.] **18...Rde8 19.Rhb1 Qb6 20.Nf1 a5 21.b4** [21.Qd2, preparing the b4 advance, may be best here.] **21...e4 22.Be2 cxb4 23.axb4 axb4 24.Bh5 g6**



**25.Qd2??** An attempt to bash through before black can consolidate with ...Kc7 and ...Ra8, but it just doesn't work. [25.Bd1 Qc5 26.Kb3 Kc7 27.Qd2 Ra8 is approximately equal.] **25...gxh5 26.Rxb4 Qc5 27.Qc3 Rhg8 28.Qb3 b5!** And white's pressure on the b-file suddenly comes to nothing. **29.Kd2 Kd8 30.cxb5 h4 31.gxh4** [31.b6 hxg3 32.b7 Ke7 33.Nxg3 Rxc3 34.b8Q Rg2+ 35.Ke1 Rxb8 36.Rxb8 Rg1+ and black ends up two pieces up.] **31...Rg2+ 32.Ke1 Ke7 33.b6 Ra8 34.Rd1** [34.Rb1 Ra3 35.Qxa3 Qc2 with mate to follow.] **34...Raa2 35.Rd2 Qc1+ 36.Qd1**



36...Raxd2 0–1 (I'm actually in physical pain now – ed)

RD 6		BRISTOL 1	2205	v	PRIDE AND PREJUDICE	2310
1	w	Cobb, Charles	2397	½ - ½	Summerscale, Aaron	2470
2	b	Rudd, Jack	2334	½ - ½	Emms, John M	2488
3	w	Beaumont, Chris	2308	½ - ½	Hunt, Harriet (F)	2463
4	b	Buckley, David E	2245	1 - 0	Ward, Chris G	2426
5	w	Dilleigh, Stephen P	2151	½ - ½	Allcock, Rawle A *	2300
6	b	Collier, David O	2083	½ - ½	Sahl, Sheila (F)	2219
7	w	Curtis, John	2125	0 - 1	Winkelmann, Elena (F)	2101
8	b	Smith, Olivia (F)	1996	1 - 0	Auckland, Elliott	2014
				4½-3½		

## Pool B – last-day scenarios

The disclaimer from the Pool A section applies here: this time the only team in more than the usual danger are Northwest Eagles (two more defaults and they lose another match point, if they get one to lose). (*Note: all my calculations here count the two points they scored against Bristol, but these only start affecting things if they pick up points in the relegation pool.*)

**Guildford 1** and **Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2** are in the championship pool, and two of **Pride and Prejudice**, **GAMBIT ADs** and **Barbican 2** will join them. **Bristol 1**, **Betsson.com** and **Northwest Eagles** are in the relegation pool.

The last-day matches are:

**Betsson.com vs. Bristol 1**

**Pride and Prejudice vs. Guildford 1**

**Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2 vs. Barbican 2**

**Northwest Eagles vs. GAMBIT ADs.**

This means:

The two teams going into the championship pool will be Pride and Prejudice and GAMBIT ADs unless the following two events happen:

- 1) Barbican 2 beat Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2.
- 2) Guildford 1 beat Pride and Prejudice, with the combined scores of Guildford 1 and Barbican 2 being at least 14, *or* Northwest Eagles beat GAMBIT ADs, with the combined scores of Northwest Eagles and Barbican 2 being at least 11.

If the two teams in the championship pool are:

**Pride and Prejudice and GAMBIT ADs,**

then Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2 will carry forward 2 points and the ADs 3; Guildford 1 and Pride and Prejudice will carry forward 4 to 6 and 1 to 3 respectively, depending on their result. In the relegation pool, Barbican 2 will carry forward 3 points, Northwest Eagles 2, and Bristol and Betsson 2 to 4 and 3 to 5 respectively, again depending on their result.

**Pride and Prejudice and Barbican 2,**

then Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2 will carry forward 1 point and Barbican 2 will carry forward 2. Guildford 1 and Pride and Prejudice will carry forward 4 to 6 and 3 to 5 respectively.

In the relegation pool,

GAMBIT ADs will carry forward 4 points, Northwest Eagles 4, and Bristol and Betsson 0 to 2 and 2 to 4 respectively.

**GAMBIT ADs and Barbican 2,** then Guildford 1 will carry forward 6 points, Barbican 2 will carry forward 4 points, and Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2 and GAMBIT ADs 1 each.

In the relegation pool, Pride and Prejudice will carry forward 4 points, Northwest Eagles 2, and Bristol and Betsson will each carry forward 2 to 4 points.

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

PGN [http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809\\_div1-06.pgn](http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809_div1-06.pgn)

Game viewer [http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809\\_div1-06viewer.htm](http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809_div1-06viewer.htm)

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