



FOUR NATIONS CHESS LEAGUE

Division 2 Round 5 report by Jack Rudd

Pool A

Oxford 1 vs. Anglian Avengers

Bishop and knight against a lone king is a notorious ending for tripping people up, but not Michael White. His ability to convert this ending proved the clincher in Oxford's 4½-3½ win against Anglian Avengers. This result may have flattered Oxford somewhat: Malcolm Bucknell could have safely held on to a sacrificed piece against Tim Dickinson, instead of returning it, and Sophie Tidman managed to claw her way back from the exchange down against Alan Merry.

RD 5		OXFORD 1	2219	v	ANGLIAN AVENGERS	2147
1	w	Savage, Ben D	2307	½ - ½	Spence, David	2223
2	b	Smallbone, Kieran	2237	½ - ½	Talsma, Paul A	2269
3	w	White, Michael J R	2252	1 - 0	Gray, Mark S	2138
4	b	Eckersley-Waites, Tom	2227	0 - 1	Player, Edmund C	2129
5	w	Dickinson, Timothy R	2160	1 - 0	Bucknell, Malcolm	2175
6	b	Shaw, David A	2240	0 - 1	Munson, Shaun D	2175
7	w	Rawlinson, Aidan	2236	1 - 0	Gregory, Stephen J	2169
8	b	Tidman, Sophie (F)	2093	½ - ½	Merry, Alan B (J)	1900
				4½-3½		

Pandora's Box Grantham vs. Poisoned Pawns 1

This is a match where Pandora's Box were grateful for their extra strength at both ends: their wins on top and bottom boards helped them to a 4-4 draw. A noteworthy game from this match was Walton-Swanson, in which black found a rather unusual situation in which to make the traditional Dragon sacrifice on c3.

RD 5		PANDORA'S BOX GRANTHAM	2150	v	POISONED PAWNS 1	2119
1	w	Civin, Tomas	2421	1 - 0	Posazhennikov, Alex	2253
2	b	Burnett, Andrew	2202	½ - ½	Harley, Andrew	2212
3	w	Walton, Alan J	2189	0 - 1	Swanson, Stephen	2244
4	b	Cumbers, Paul	2189	½ - ½	Byway, Paul	2167
5	w	Birtwhistle, Nigel	2159	1 - 0	Rosen, Daniel B	2149
6	b	Coates, David	2014	0 - 1	Goodger, Martyn	2153
7	w	McCarthy, Kevin	2070	0 - 1	Winfridsson, Ola	2127
8	b	Milson, Samuel (J)	1955	1 - 0	Mountford, Corinne (F)	1650
				4 - 4		

Jutes of Kent vs. Wessex 2



Simon Williams's top-board game in this match was typically wild; it's not clear what was going on in the middle, but by the end of it he had emerged a queen for a rook up with forced mate on the cards. This helped his side to a 5½-2½ victory over a team seemingly destined for the drop.

RD 5		JUTES OF KENT	2197	v	WESSEX 2	2055
1	w	Williams, Simon K	2507	1 - 0	Jenks, Bruce	2134
2	b	Harakis, Alexis	2253	½ - ½	Gregory, Keith D	2060
3	w	Mack, Andy	2239	½ - ½	Marsh, Roger	2076
4	b	Naylor, John	2183	½ - ½	Clark, Ian C	2098
5	w	Donovan, Nigel	2087	1 - 0	Krawczuk, Michael J	2045
6	b	Rich, Mark	2147	½ - ½	Pleasants, Allan J	2080
7	w	Rice, Chris	2120	½ - ½	Tunks, Dominic	1989
8	b	Wilson, Alexandra (F)	2039	1 - 0	Norman, Dinah (F)	1956
				5½-2½		

Brown Jack vs. Barbican Youth

This match featured the only game of the round to go over 100 moves; Smith v Rabbitt lasted for 119, at the end of which black's patient manoeuvring with a good knight against a bad bishop eventually paid off. This was, however, in a losing cause: the other three endgames in the match went Barbican's way, and they emerged with a 5-3 victory.

RD 5		BROWN JACK	2132	v	BARBICAN 4NCL YOUTH	2046
1	w	Richmond, Peter A	2253	0 - 1	Coleman, David	2208
2	b	Girdlestone, Paul	2127	1 - 0	Hodgson, John H	2193
3	w	Headlong, Timothy	2200	0 - 1	O'Toole, George E	2059
4	b	Hall, Daniel J	2133	0 - 1	Sen, Subin	2066
5	w	Richmond, Jane (F)	2137	½ - ½	Moore, John C	2060
6	b	Cabero, Pablo Padilla	2162	0 - 1	Brett, Andrew	2065
7	w	Tomboline, David	2018	½ - ½	Cumming, Rhys	1883
8	b	Rabbitt, Michael	2025	1 - 0	Smith, Lucy (F)	1830
				3 - 5		

Pool B

Wessex 1 vs. Warwickshire Select

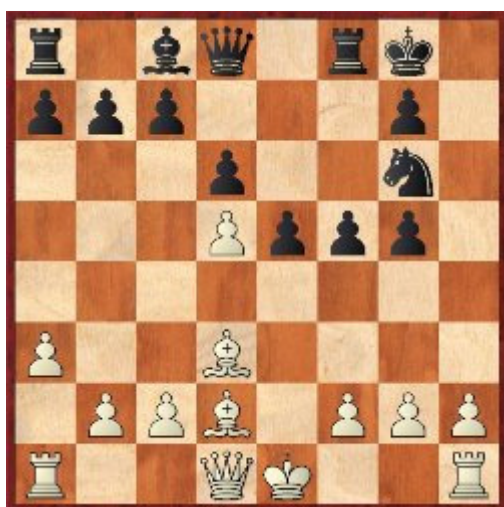
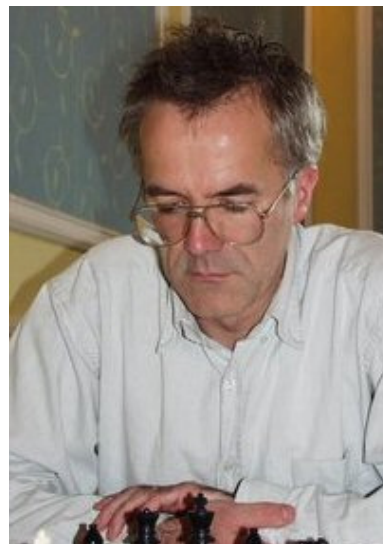
Wessex's 4½-3½ win in this match kept them firmly in the running for a promotion place. Key to their victory were the following two games:

Galloway, Ian (2131) - Yeo, Michael (2120) [C47]

4ncl Division 2b (5), 17.01.2009

[Rudd, Jack]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 Bb4 5.d5 Ne7 6.Bd2 d6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.a3 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 Ng6 10.Bd2 Nxe4 [10...Re8 11.0-0 Bd7 12.Re1 Nh5 13.Bf1 Nhf4 14.Be3 Qc8 15.Nd2 Rf8 16.c4 c5 17.dxc6 bxc6 18.c5 d5 19.Bxf4 Nxf4 20.exd5 cxd5 21.Rxe5 Qb8 22.Re3 Qxb2 23.Nf3 Rfe8 24.Rb1 Qf6 25.Rxe8+ Bastian,H (2355)-Münch,I/Germany 1996/1-0 (45)] 11.Bxe4 f5 12.Ng5 h6 13.Bd3 hxg5



14.Qh5? [14.h4! keeps the position double-edged, because 14...Nxe4 runs into 15.Qh5 Nxe4+ 16.Kd1 Nf4 17.Bxf4 exf4 18.Qh7+ Kf7 19.Rh6 Rg8 20.Bxf5] **14...Nf4 15.Bxf4 gxf4 16.0-0-0** The best way to try for some play here: if white castles kingside, he's just a pawn down with a bad position. **16...Qf6 17.Kb1 Bd7 18.Bc4 b5 19.Bb3 a5 20.g3 a4 21.Ba2 b4 22.axb4 a3 23.gxf4?** [23.Qe2 was necessary, bringing the queen back to defend.] **23...e4 24.c3 axb2 25.Rd4 Ra3?** [25...c5! appears to be winning: 26.dxc6+ Be6 27.Bxe6+ Qxe6 28.Kc2 Ra1 29.Rb1 Rxb1 30.Kxb1 Ra8 31.c4 Qf6 with ...Ra1+ to follow.] **26.Kxb2 Rfa8 27.Bb3** [Better is 27.Bc4 : 27...c5 28.dxc6+ Be6 does not have an immediate threat, so white can play 29.c7] **27...c5 28.dxc6+ Be6 29.Bc2**



29...Rxc3? Tempting, but wrong. [29...Ra2+ 30.Kc1 Ra1+ 31.Bb1 Ba2 32.Kb2 Qe6 33.Kxa1 Bxb1+ 34.Kxb1 Qb3+ 35.Kc1 Qxc3+ 36.Kd1 Qxd4+ with mate to come shortly.] **30.Kxc3 Ra3+ 31.Kb2?** [31.Bb3! Rxb3+ 32.Kc2 allows white to escape with either perpetual check or a very double-edged position.] **31...Qxd4+ 32.Kxa3 Qc3+ 33.Ka4 Qxc6+ 34.Ka3** [34.b5 makes it harder, although there's still a win in there: 34...Qxc2+ 35.Ka5 Qc7+ 36.b6 (36.Kb4 Qc4+ 37.Ka5 Bd7 38.Rb1 Qa2+) 36...Qc5+ 37.Ka6 (37.Ka4 Qc4+ 38.Ka5 Bd7) 37...Bc4+ 38.Ka7 Qa5+ 39.Kb7 Bd5+ 40.Kc7 Qc5+ 41.Kd7 Qc6+ 42.Ke7 Qb7+ 43.Kd8 (43.Kxd6 Qc6+ 44.Ke5 Ba2) 43...Qxb6+ 44.Kd7 Bc6+ 45.Ke6 Qc7 46.Kxf5



46...Bd7+ 47.Kxe4 Qc4+ 48.Ke3 Bb5 49.Rd1 (49.f5 Qc5+ 50.Kf4 (50.Kd2 Qd5+) 50...Qxf2+ 51.Kg5 Qg2+) 49...Qc3+ 50.Ke4 Bc6+ 51.Rd5 (51.Kf5 Qa5+ 52.Kg4 Bf3+) 51...Qc4+] **34...Qc3+ 35.Ka4 Qxc2+ 36.Ka5 Qc7+ 37.Ka4** [37.Kb5 Bc4+ 38.Ka4 Qa7#; 37.Ka6 Bc8+ 38.Kb5 Bd7+ 39.Ka6 Qc8+ 40.Ka7 Bc6 41.Kb6 Qb7+ 42.Ka5 Qb5#] **37...Qa7+ 38.Kb5 Qb7+ 39.Ka5 Bd7 40.Qe2 Qc7+ 41.Ka6 Bc8+ 42.Kb5 Qd7+ 43.Kb6** [43.Kc4 Ba6+] **43...Qb7+ 44.Ka5 Qa7+ 0-1**

de Coverly, Roger (2078) - Ingram, Keith (207) [C42]

4ncl Division 2b (5), 17.01.2009

[Rudd, Jack]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0

8.c4 Bg4 9.cxd5 f5 10.Nc3 Nd7 [10...Qe7 11.h3 Bh5 12.Re1 Nxc3

13.bxc3 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Qh4 15.Bf1 Nd7 16.c4 b6 17.Bg2 Rf6 18.Re6

Raf8 19.Qe2 R8f7 20.Qe3 f4 21.Qe2 Rf5 22.Bb2 Rg5 23.Kh1 Nf8

24.Re5 Rf6 25.Rxg5 Martin Gonzalez,A (2440)-Garcia Caballero,L

(2300)/Oropesa del Mar 1996/1-0 (40)] **11.Bxe4** [11.h3 Bh5 12.Nxe4

fxe4 13.Bxe4 Nf6 14.Bf5 Kh8 15.Be6 Ne4 16.g4 Bg6 17.Be3 Qf6

18.Ne5 Qh4 19.Nxg6+ hxg6 20.Kg2 Bf4 21.Qd3 Ng5 22.Bxf4 Rxf4

23.Qg3 Qh6 24.Qxf4 Qxh3+ 25.Kg1 Nf3+ Gutierrez Castillo,J (2290)-

Valderrama,E (2326)/Neiva 2005/1-0] **11...fxe4 12.Nxe4 Qe8**

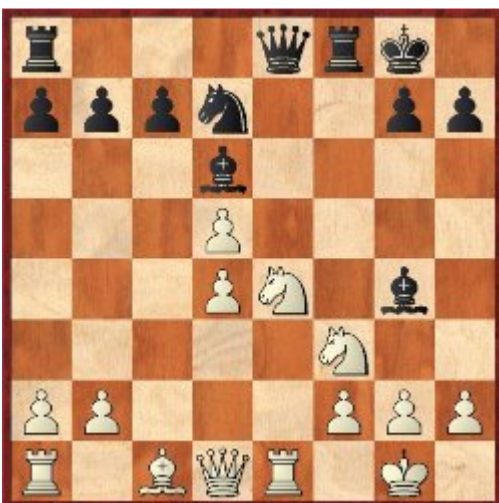
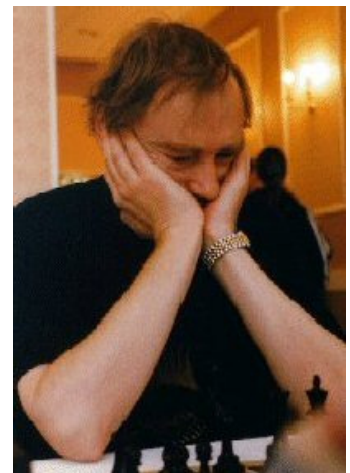
[12...Bxf3 13.gxf3 Nb6 14.Qd3 h6 15.Ng3 Kh8 16.Qg6 Qf6 17.Qxf6 Rxf6

18.b3 Rxf3 19.Bb2

Nxd5 20.Ne4 Bb4 21.Rad1 Re8 22.Nd2 Rh3 23.Nc4 Re4 24.Ne5 Kh7 25.Rd3

Rh5 26.a3 Bd6 27.b4

Mafra,L-Vonk,R/Brazil 1998/0-1 (42)] **13.Re1**



13...Bxh2+? [13...Bxf3 14.gxf3 Qh5 15.Nxd6 cxd6 16.f4 is approximately equal: black will win back one of the two pawns immediately, and will have plenty of play against the remaining weak white pawns.] **14.Kxh2 Qh5+ 15.Kg1 Rxf3 16.gxf3 Bxf3 17.Ng3 Qg4 18.Qd3 Rf8 19.Re3 h5**



20.Qc4? [20.d6! c6 (20...cxd6 21.Qb3+ d5 (21...Kh7 22.Qe6) 22.Rxf3 Rxf3 23.Qxd5+) 21.Re4 and white emerges a piece up.] **20...Kh8?** [20...Nb6! 21.Qxc7 Nxd5 22.Qc4 h4 23.Rxf3 Qxf3 24.Nh1 h3! (24...Qg4+? 25.Kh2 Rf3 26.Qxd5+ Kh7 27.Qxf3 Qxf3 28.Be3 and the rook and two pieces should overcome the queen here.) 25.Qf1 Kf7 26.Ng3 Kg6 27.Bd2 Rh8 28.Qb1+ Kf6 and white now has to give back the extra piece with 29.Qf5+] **21.d6 h4 22.Qe6 hgx3** [22...Qxd4 23.Qxd7 hxg3 24.Qh3+ Kg8 25.Qe6+ Kh7 26.fxg3 Bd5 27.Qh3+ Kg6 (27...Kg8 28.Qh5 cxd6 29.Qe2) 28.Bd2 Qxd2 29.Qg4+ Kh7 30.Re2] **23.Qxg4 gxf2+ 24.Kxf2 Bxg4+ 25.Kg3** The dust has settled, and white is the exchange up with a winning position.

25...Nf6 26.dxc7 Bd7 27.Re5 Bc6 28.Bg5 Rc8 29.Bxf6 gxf6 30.Rc5 Rxc7 31.d5 Rg7+ 32.Kf2 Rg5 33.Rd1 Rf5+ 34.Ke3 Kg8 35.b4 Re5+ 36.Kd4 Be8 37.d6 Re2 38.Kc3 Re3+ 39.Kb2 Re2+ 40.Ka1 1-0

RD 5		WESSEX 1	2142	v	WARWICKSHIRE SELECT 1	2170
1	w	Lock, Gavin R	2243	0 - 1	Mason, Don	2255
2	b	Simons, Martin J	2223	½ - ½	Thomas, Nicholas	2313
3	w	Kawuma, Moses	2224	0 - 1	Pitcher, John	2183
4	b	Kawuma, Stephen	2166	½ - ½	Hynes, Anthony	2243
5	w	Rutter, Nicholas	2187	½ - ½	Shephard, Chris C W	2214
6	b	Yeo, Michael J	2120	1 - 0	Galloway, Iain	2131
7	w	de Coverly, Roger	2078	1 - 0	Ingram, Keith	2070
8	b	Thilaganathan, Jessica (F)	1894	1 - 0	Weaving, Richard (J)	1950
				4½-3½		

FCA Solutions 1 vs. Guildford 3

FCA Solutions were bottom of the table with no points before this match, and they were never likely to rise from that position against a side whose board 7 out-graded their board 1. With this in mind, the final 3-5 score-line is no disgrace. Those of you who enjoy knight endgames should check out the game Thompson-Almond.

RD 5		FCA SOLUTIONS 1	2050	v	GUILDFORD-A&DC 3	2219
1	w	Tippleston, Charles	2170	0 - 1	Povah, Nigel E	2324
2	b	Almond, Richard	2126	1 - 0	Thompson, Ian D	2261
3	w	Habershon, Paul	2090	0 - 1	Tymrakiewicz, Rafal	2260
4	b	Majer, Chris E	2081	½ - ½	Sharpe, Ian	2290
5	w	Smith, Graham	2103	1 - 0	Granat, Russell G	2257
6	b	Freeman, Richard C P	2066	0 - 1	Anderton, Matthew N	2238
7	w	Williamson, Kevin J	2020	½ - ½	Jackson, Adrian	2215
8	b	Evans, Helen (F)	1745	0 - 1	Lalic, Peter (J)	1905
				3 - 5		

Kings Head vs. Celtic Tigers 1

I wonder what the probability of getting two people with the same surname and same first initial playing each other is? That's what happened in this match, as Kings Head's Richard Thomas got the crucial victory against Celtic Tigers' Robert Thomas, to give his side a 4½-3½ victory. This was one

of just three decisive games in the match; Kings Head's other victory, on board seven, is one for which my descriptive powers fail me.



Board 8 was an all junior clash between Megan and Ravi.



RD 5		KINGS HEAD	2134	v	CELTIC TIGERS 1	2024
1	w	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J	2224	½ - ½	Kemp, Peter D	2167
2	b	McMichael, Richard	2285	½ - ½	Mueller, Jan	2100
3	w	Thomas, Richard H	2194	1 - 0	Thomas, Robert K	2156
4	b	Okike, David C	2211	0 - 1	French, Angus	2115
5	w	Ward, Julian T	2190	½ - ½	Josse, Mark	2033
6	b	Forbes, Cathy (F)	2114	½ - ½	Fathallah, Joe	1962
7	w	Stevenson, James A B	2087	1 - 0	O'Grady, Gary	1926
8	b	Haria, Ravi	1765	½ - ½	Owens, Megan (F)	1735
				4½-3½		

South Wales Dragons 2 vs. Cheddleton-Pointon

Another mismatch of FCA Solutions vs. Guildford 3 proportions, with a similar outcome. The all-Welsh bottom board clash between Patrick Bennett and Julie Wilson threw up the somewhat unusual material balance of queen against two pieces, which was unclear for a while, but ended up going in favour of the queen.

RD 5		SOUTH WALES DRAGONS 2	2062	v	CHEDDLETON-POINTON	2214
1	w	James, David J	2123	½ - ½	Arkell, Keith	2510
2	b	Roberts, David L	2117	0 - 1	Bellin, Robert	2389
3	w	Morris, Gareth L	2146	1 - 0	Wallace, Paul A	2253
4	b	Jameson, David	2066	0 - 1	McKenna, Jason P	2161
5	w	Burton, Graham P	2061	½ - ½	Sharp, John R	2130
6	b	Miles, Richard	2050	½ - ½	Berglitz, Regina H (F)	2083
7	w	van Kemenade, Rudy	2020	0 - 1	Gregory, Philip	2105
8	b	Wilson, Julie (F)	1916	0 - 1	Bennett, Patrick	2078
				2½-5½		

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

PGN http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809_div2-05.pgn

Game viewer http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809_div2-05viewer.htm

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