



# BULLETIN

Issue 230

July 1996

Price £1

The News Bulletin of the  
**SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION**

Published September, November, January, March, May and July

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**Subscriptions:** Annual subscriptions run from September, price £6. Part-year subscriptions pro rata. Single issues are sold at the cover price. Back numbers are usually available.

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**SCCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee consists of the Officers, plus the following County Delegates (or their deputies).

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Facts we try to get right. Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are the Editor's.

## EDITORIAL

Congratulations to Kent on regaining the Counties Championship after two years in the wilderness. It's their tenth title. And to Sussex on winning the Minor Counties for the fifth time and - unbelievably - the first time since 1987. Commiserations to Kent as well, who lost the U175 Final as they won the other, on board count. In fact all three were tight matches, which is good for chess and it's good for the SCCU. It'll keep us on our toes. Not reaching a single Final below U175 could also have that effect.

To statisticulate, Sussex have won the Minor Counties far more times than anyone else in the competition's 15-year existence. Middlesex head the Championship leader board by a mile with 28 titles starting in 1908, the first year of the competition. Last time was 1989. Which isn't bad for a county that doesn't exist. They're followed by Lancashire with 17 (but none since 1978), and Kent come next.

## SCCU BULLETIN AND GRADING LIST

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## SCCU ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Council met on Saturday 6th July 1996 at the Fountains Abbey near Paddington Station, starting at 2 p.m. 19 attended. Not many decisions, but some useful expression of views. Main points:

(1) **Game Fee.** On hearing that one or two events had not coughed up last year (see BCF Report, page 4), some felt that not grading their games was unfair to players who had paid their contributions and taken part in good faith. Was there not some way of punishing the organisers instead? Don't think anyone came up with a way, except not accepting the event next year, and a straw poll on withholding grading went 5-5. Withholding grading is a bit central to the system, of course. It was noted that non-payment was rare.

(2) **SCCU County Matches.** An Essex delegate said he didn't like 16-board county matches in the Open. At least one other person thought it was embarrassing to have to tell your bottom four players, who'd been turning out loyally all season, that there was no room for them in your last couple of matches. Herts said they'd just decided to join the 16-board counties next season, and there was some feeling that 16 boards could become the rule fairly soon. If that happened, a new U200 division might become attractive.

(3) **Minor Counties Nominations.** You will remember that the current BCF definition of a Minor County is a county nominated as Minor by its Union. Except the BCF Management Board vets the nominations. Crazy system, in the Bulletin's opinion, but there you are. At the moment there's no rule about how soon the MB does its vetting, and last season it didn't happen till well into the new year. It was agreed that the SCCU would propose new rules requiring Union nominations by the end of October, and an MB decision by the end of November.

Sussex's nomination, last year, squeezed past the MB on the Chairman's casting vote. (Apparently he voted for the status quo, as Chairmen will, and then they had to work out what the status quo was.) The SCCU delegates had given a (sort of) undertaking that we wouldn't nominate a county again this year if it won the competition, and it seemed likely that without this undertaking Sussex would have been thrown out. Your Editor has never understood why a Minor County suddenly becomes stronger when it wins the event, but it's more a question of politics than logic. At all events there's no way we'd get Sussex past the MB this year. At the SCCU Council Meeting a Sussex delegate was initially angry that Sussex would not be nominated this year, but he accepted the situation when the history of it was explained to him. (It was explained long ago in the Bulletin and elsewhere, but he'd only recently heard anything about it.) We gather there were mutterings on the other side when Sussex played in this year's Final, though in fact the other side outraded Sussex marginally.

(4) **SCCU U180 KO.** It was felt that the current level of entry more or less justified holding the event. There were one or two noises about changing it to U175. No one was very sure why an U180 match had been re-arranged to

clash with the Council meeting, but it was the reason why the U180 organiser wasn't present.

**(5) Juniors.** Bruce Birchall has an amazing ability to take up time at meetings even when he isn't at them. His three-side Report had only been received that morning and members had had little time to study it, but one paragraph was considered offensive by some and Council spent much time deciding whether to "accept" the report. It noted it in the end, without even "rejecting" the offending paragraph. Then there was also the question of the accounts. BHB had still submitted no figures for much of the season, despite much chasing, and on the figures available junior activities were £6 in the black. Which can't be anywhere near the truth. BHB has, of course, received no expenses and the Executive had resolved at its last meeting that no expenses for last season would be met unless claimed by the end of May. No one seemed to question this and it was accepted that if ever any payment was made it would be on an ex gratia basis. The item has not been budgeted for in 1996-7, but we can't say that till further down. A motion was passed saying Council didn't approve of missing significant chunks of expenditure out of the accounts.

All this took so much time that Council hardly discussed what the report said about junior events.

**(6) MCCU Challenge Match.** This got mixed up with the next item as well, but it was announced that a challenge match was envisaged to mark the MCCU centenary in 1997. Negotiations had been tentative and most likely it wouldn't fall in the 1996-7 period at all, but it was agreed to allow £100 in the budget. That figure wasn't much better than a guess. Talking about budgets led to discussion of travel expenses or appearance money for the professional players if it turned into a high-profile affair. Feeling ran quite high on this. On a straw poll no one voted for appearance money, and it went about 50-50 on travel expenses. Of course if the MCCU got massive sponsorship that might change things.

**(7) Money.** Council adopted the audited Accounts for 1995-6. They showed a surplus of £395 compared with a budget deficit of £230. Some of the reasons were an unexpectedly high Bulletin surplus, postponement of trophy purchase, and failure to spend a contingency £50 marked "other". And Juniors. A deficit budget was approved for 1996-7; the original figure was £128 but it went up to £228 when the Challenge Match came up. The Union will not increase its affiliation fees or prices for Grading List or Bulletin.

**(8) Presentation of Trophies.** You know who won the trophies. But we should say that two nice new ones were presented, one to replace the old Ebony (U125) and one that's not even named yet, for the U100. These trophies were so new they weren't even engraved. Your Editor nearly got lumbered with a different, and bigger, trophy because its proper Kent recipient hadn't turned up to receive it, but he didn't fancy taking it home by tube and train and foisted it on someone else. And anyway, the silver plate was wearing off. That is a problem with cheap plate. Get on with it, Haddrell.

**(9) Election of Officers.** Only a couple of newsworthy bits. Much time (of course) went on Junior Organiser but in his absence no one proposed Bruce Birchall. One name was floated but it was not too clear whether he'd actually take it on. In the end Nigel Dennis agreed to do it, on the understanding that he'd adopt a lower profile than his predecessor and wouldn't undertake to attend events personally. He would do the basic admin but other things were likely to get delegated. The other newsworthy bit was not anticipated, at least not by the Bulletin. Martin Cath said, in a written report, that he was available as Grading Secretary for one more year only. Martin came in with the centralised grading system ten or eleven years ago and he felt that, with a new system coming on stream in 1997-8<sup>1</sup>, the time was ripe for a new man. He was re-elected for his last year and he's going to be missed. It was suggested that he should be asked to write a job description some time during the season, to give any prospective successor an idea of what he'd be letting himself in for. This could go in the Bulletin. Your President is much involved with the preparation of the new system, indeed he said a few words about it at the meeting, and he would no doubt have an input to the job description as well.

In re-appointing the Auditor, Stephen Hill, Council passed a vote of thanks for his work on what has proved (we think) to be an unexpectedly onerous and time-consuming job.

**(10) Millennium Fund.** Can't for the life of us think where this came up, but we're not reporting it anywhere else and it's got to go somewhere. The BCF's application for money has failed. Your Editor would like to pay tribute to the small number of BCF officers who spent many hours on their long and impressive presentation.

**(11) Player of the Year.** Another oddment. Somebody, expressing surprise at the outcome of the Player-of-the-Year vote, wondered if the voting system might have something to do with it. You nominate 5 people and it's 5 points for a first choice, 4 for a second choice and so on. It's not obvious to the Bulletin what effect this will have. The suggestion being made was that maybe a first place should get more weighting. Something to think about in an idle moment, anyway.

**(12) Council Meetings.** One person wondered if next year's meeting could be on a Friday evening, to avoid taking up half a weekend. Several people said they'd have a job getting there and back again, and there'd be no time for the meeting reported next, and Friday got no support.

**(13) Scoring System.** Your Editor isn't sure offhand whether he's met this one before in Kent or the SCCU or both, but it's been around a long time. Someone talked about 3 points for a win, 2 for a draw, 1 for a loss and 0 for a default. It wasn't on the agenda but the idea was noted. (Yes, of course it's absurd. If you want to penalise defaults make it 1, ½, 0 and -½ and don't confuse people any more than you have to.)

The Meeting ended around 5.30.

<sup>1</sup> Allegedly.

## SCCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive met as soon after the Council meeting as watering would allow, and its business wasn't quite as routine as it normally is.

(1) **Location of BCF Council meetings.** Our ideas on this did not seem to have come up at BCF level yet, and it was agreed to ask for it on the agenda of the September meeting. Or it was going to be, only the Secretary said he already had.

(2) **Jobs:**

BCF Management Board reps: CI Howell, RJ Haddrell.

BCF Council reps: CIH, RJH, JA Philpott, C Lean.

Game Fee Review Committee: JAP

London Chess Association rep: CIH. Someone said they should have a rep with us, not the other way round, but that's been dealt with before.

Rules & Appeals Sub-committee: CIH, JAP, RJH, NW Dennis, JT Melsom.

(3) **BCF-Stage Rules for County Matches.** If you remember, it had been agreed that the Union would propose tightening the rules on ungraded players in the grading-limited divisions. Basically our version would require match captains not just to satisfy themselves players weren't too strong, but also to get clearance from the Controller. Same as the SCCU rule. Some time was spent on draft versions. Apparently there's at least one Union that wouldn't allow ungraded players at all. (Can that be right? Sounds far too rigid. And surely the U100 is aimed precisely at players who are quite likely to be ungraded.) Proposals are also going forward about dates for the BCF Stage (Controller can't change them after the end of November) and Minor Counties eligibility (see Council Report, item 3).

(4) **Meetings.** Next Executive meeting: Friday 13th September. No other dates were arranged. Someone queried the habitual uneven timing of meetings (September, March, May). A start-of-season one is obviously a good idea though you might debate (we did) whether it should be before or after the BCF one. There's no obvious reason for another until the SCCU Stage is over, "to agree on nominees for the BCF Stage". Then someone said, "Why do we need a meeting for that?" and the best answer anyone could find was, so the counties can tell us if they accept nomination(!). No one disputed that the meeting always seems to find things to talk about. The May meeting is clearly needed, in preparation for Council. All this will give the September meeting something to talk about.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What, *one?*

Dear Richard,

14.6.96

SCCU Bulletin 229. Report of the SCCU Executive Committee meeting, last item. I hope Martin is careful regarding his advertisements. He might do quite well if he has advertisements for soliciting!

Best regards,

JEFF (DOUGLAS)

Oxted

### BCF MANAGEMENT BOARD

#### SCCU DELEGATE'S REPORT

**Chairman:** Now we've rubbished the Minutes, Item Four is A.

**Director A:** 73% of players in the MCCU are prepared to pay up to £1.14 for a cheese sandwich but only 51% would pay more than £1.67; contrasting with WECU figures of 84% and 55% for prices of £1.05 and £1.50. In the SCCU the figures are 72% and 66% provided at least 45%'s not cheddar, and in the NCCU at least 68% favour pickle with it 92% of the time. Purchase of cheese sandwiches ran at 12 per 100 player-days by EACU players but only 11.7 by SCCU players. Arbiters, however, consumed an average of almost 2.3 cheese sandwiches per round. This demonstrates that the congress refreshment stall was about as popular as last year.

**Director B:** So you did a breakdown last year as well?

**Director A:** No, why?

**Delegate C:** You lot are all the same. Why does everything always have to be centred in the south?

**Director B:** I'm *sick and tired* of you making that remark. And anyway, there were tripe butties round the back.

**Director A:** I propose that we run the refreshment stall again next year.

**Director D:** I'm not used to my views being taken notice of, but I opposed the proposal for tripe butties, otherwise I'd have made it.

**Director E:** I think tripe butties should be the responsibility of the Director of Catering, not the Director of Congresses.

**Director A:** I think we should run the refreshment stall again next year.

**Director D:** It would be wiser not to make specific proposals until we know the views of Council.

**Delegate F:** Are we a Management Board or are we a set of wimps?

**Director G:** In principle, tripe butties should be the responsibility of the Director of Publicity because we must maintain the good standing of the Federation with the public.

**Director A:** I propose that we run the refreshment stall again next year.

**Delegate H:** The cheese sandwiches at Peterborough were a dead loss.

**Chairman:** I think an hour and a quarter<sup>1</sup> is long enough for this item. Item Five is I.

**Director I:** I don't propose to speak to my paper, but I'll invite comments.

**Chairman:** Any comments?

*[Long pause, broken eventually by Director D. Item Five closes only seven minutes later.]*

**Delegate J (thinks):** Five down. You could really get your teeth into this rubbish. 5 letters, starting with T.

<sup>1</sup> The text has been abbreviated for readers' convenience.

Sorry. It wasn't all like that. You want it straight?

### BCF MANAGEMENT BOARD

#### SCCU DELEGATE'S REPORT

The MB met on Saturday 15th June 1996. 17 attended, but half of us rarely spoke. (So the MB's too big?) The meeting started at 11 a.m. and finished on a 6 p.m. guillotine, with a 45-minute break for lunch but the police had closed the pubs. There was a football match or something. Don't know about the football match but the meeting was ill-tempered only in parts. However, points scored would have graced a rugby match and the Chairman was moved to remark, about 4 p.m., on the flak that had been flying round all day. And sorry if that was confidential. We've omitted the items we didn't think worth reporting.

(1) **Yorkshire** have inquired about re-affiliating. No commitments on either side.

(2) **Game Fee.** Practically all the fees due are in. The 4NCL has paid. Outside the North, nearly every "independent" league is paying; in the North, only one or two are. Could we lure the others in, perhaps on a club-by-club basis? This would mean calculating grades but publishing them only for the side that's paid. (The Bulletin thought we'd left all that behind us. How do you do it anyway? If someone has GF games and non-GF games, what do you publish?) Another suggestion was to charge a reduced fee initially as a sort of loss-leader. Don't know whether that would be politically acceptable.

The Birmingham League expects to be 1000 half-games down compared with last year. They're still submitting all their games, but playing less. Similar noises from elsewhere. But Manchester doesn't expect a decline and Leamington's going up. Don't know any congress figures.

The MB discussed proposals to charge more for Rapidplay (agreed, will propose 50% of normal). Also to introduce GF for internal club games (agreed, no decision on amount) and junior events (no decision at all, really, but a straw poll went 6-6 on the question of imposing some kind of fee).

There was one bad GF debtor from 1994-5. At the time of the meeting Francis Bowers had not responded to a formal demand for payment in respect of the Kings Lynn and Spalding events.

(3) **Counties Championship.** The MB decided not to propose an increase in entry fee. It also rejected the idea ("at present it is too easy to become a county player - especially if you have a car - and too many top players do not wish to participate") of turning the Open division into a prestigious and hopefully sponsor-friendly event played over 8 or 10 boards.

(4) **Club of the Year and Player of the Year** were announced but we'll leave the public announcement to the BCF. They've probably made it anyway by the time you read this. John Poole was disappointed with the response to the Player-of-the-Year poll. More than 1000 voting forms were sent out; less than 10% came back. There was sympathy for a proposal to replace the Player-of-the-Year prize (£250, which isn't much for a top GM) with a trophy. **Presidents Award** nominations were also agreed, subject to nominees' acceptance.

(5) **Adjudication Service.** Someone wanted to abolish it! The Service does about 100 adjudications a year, not in decline apparently, and brings in about £200. Abolishing it wasn't on the agenda, wish it had been.

(6) **BCF President.** The MB is looking for a prestige President.

(7) **Directorships coming Vacant.** Stewart Reuben, whose name is going forward as next Chairman of the Management Board or whatever the title is, is to stand down as Director of Congress Chess and the job will be advertised. John Poole announced that he would not stand for re-election as Director of Home Chess.

(8) **Deadlines for General Meetings.** Not stunningly newsworthy, but there's an anomaly with the deadlines for the AGM and the annual Finance Meeting. (Notice of meetings respectively 14 and 21 days; notice of business 21 and 24 days.) It was agreed to propose rationalisation (21 and 35 days for all General Meetings).

(9) **Juniors.** The European Junior Championships couldn't find a host this year, until FIDE changed the rules so players had to contribute to their accommodation costs. It's now in Slovakia but a report from the absent Junior Director said that, apart from clashes with two other events, it would take him way over budget. He proposed

giving it a miss and spending the money saved on something else. It emerged, half way through the meeting, that the U16 Championship in Belgrade had just been cancelled; which may or may not alter his views. The MB would support his original proposal if that was still what he wanted.

(10) **British Championship Qualifying Places.** SW Reuben proposed that congresses granted BCQ places should pay £50 each for them. This was not agreed.

(11) **National Chess Library / National Chess Centre.** The BCF has its eye on a disused school in Hastings. Don't know that the Management Board has been involved but a number of senior members of the Federation have, and consultations have gone some way with the Hastings Borough Council. No commitments have been made. It is a "very ambitious and somewhat daunting" project involving applications for Euro and Heritage money. The Centre was last item on the agenda, barring Union Reports, and those who wanted to talk about it were disappointed.

(12) **Union Reports.** There was only one in the papers, from the MCCU, and we never got to it. Can't remember why there wasn't an SCCU one, but we're sure there was a reason. The Bulletin asked a BCF Director, some time before the meeting, what he thought the value of Union Reports was. His answer was a two-word obscenity.

### INSURANCE CHESS CLUB 1995-6

**Inter-Office Leagues** (two divisions) had a new format this year. You played double round against teams in your own division, and single round against teams in the other. DIV I (4 teams) 1 IOB / PO (OK then, Insurance Ombudsman Bureau combined with Pensions Ombudsman); 2 Lincoln National... DIV II (4 teams but one defaulted three matches so its results were annulled) 1 Bacon & Woodrow; 2 Minet... **Inter-Office KOs:** BOWRING-KING Bacon & Woodrow beat Lincoln National in the Final; DURHAM TROPHY Final is (was?) IOB v Bain Hogg. **Individual:** CHAMPIONSHIP (6 pl) 1 D Malcolm 3½/6; 2-3 AGC Paish, DR Sedgwick 3... MAJOR (5 pl) was unfinished last we heard. Geoff Naldrett finished level on 2½/4 with Steve Fenyvesi (whose initials, intriguingly, are IA). So that's a play-off, and a three-way one if Kevin Denyer joins them by winning an adjourned game. MINOR (7 pl) 1 KS Parrott 5/6; 2 E Lovegrove 4...

### Rodney E James

We hear with regret of the death on 17th June of Rodney James, recipient of the BCF Presidents Award in 1994. He was 90. Rodney was the last known survivor of the inaugural British Boys Championship held in Hastings in 1923. We have not found out just how strong a player he was in his prime, but as late as 1968 he was still listed as 162. He joined the Insurance Chess Club in 1934 and held various offices from 1937 including that of Secretary, followed by a 36-year(!) interlude as Treasurer, a job he relinquished only in 1990. He then "retired" to the committee back benches and started work on a history of the ICC from its inception in 1893. The first volume appeared as part of the Club's centenary celebrations. He was still playing for the club this season, and was guest of honour this March at a lunch marking his final retirement from the committee. He also found time to be match captain for Sutton & Cheam CC, from 1950, and did a part of that job right up to 1991. He was active to the end; even this year he was still to be seen on his racing bike round the streets of Banstead. He had been a Life Vice-President of the Insurance Club since 1990, and was President of Sutton & Cheam from 1974 until May 1996.

### LONDON LEAGUE 1995-6, from Bob Turnham

Div 1	Div 2	Div 3	Div 4	Div 5	Div 6
1 Charlton 11	Ilford I 10	Beck & Bromley 7½	Barbican III 8½	Kings Head IV 7½	Ilford II 6
2 Barbican I 9	<u>Lewisham I 7½</u>	<u>Streatham II 7</u>	<u>Richmond II 6½</u>	<u>Wanstead II 7</u>	<u>Ateneo Monarchs 4½</u>
3 Wood Gn I 9	Athenaeum I 7	Hackney II 5½	Intl Students 6	Streatham III 6½	Fulham 4
4 Streatham I 6	Barbican II 5	Wood Green II 4½	Hammersmith 6	Barbican IV 6	Kings Head V 3½
5 Kings Hd I 5	Wanstead I 5	Lewisham II 4	Athenaeum II 6	DHSS I 5½	GLCC 3
6 Cavendish I 4	Metropolitan I 5	Cavendish II 3½	Kings Head III 5	Wimbledon III 5½	Barbican V 2½
7 Mitcham 4	Wimbledon II 3½	Stock Exchange 2½	Battersea I 4½	West London 4½	Metropolitan IV 2
8 Wimbledon I 4	Kings Head II 3½	Philippine 1½	Willesden 4½	BBC 4	Morley Coll II 0
9 Hackney I 4	<u>Woodbridge 3</u>	<u>East Ham 1½</u>	Morley Coll I 2½	<u>Metropolitn III 1½</u>	DHSS II wd
10 Drunken Ns 4	Gravesend 2½	Islington 1½	<u>Metropolitan II 1½</u>	London Deaf 1	
11 Richmond I 2½	Hampstead I ½	Hampstead II wd	Waltham Forest 1	Battersea II 1	
12 Mushrooms 2					

Penalty points affected the scores in all divisions. Tie-break was on games. We've re-interpreted the figures a bit here and there in the case of ties, so no guarantees.

## BCF STAGE COUNTY MATCHES

## CHAMPIONSHIP

## SEMI-FINALS

Kent*			8.6.96			Lancs			Essex*			16.6.96			Warwicks		
1	Neil McDonald	227 (B)	1	0		JE Littlewood	214		Jon Rogers	221 (W)	½	½	A Webster	224			
2	Philip J Morris	219	1	0		B Lund	207		AP Lewis	217	½	½	CW Baker	215			
3	Alan E Hanreck	209	0	1		NW Ivell	210		MS Twyble	220	1	0	B Stojakovic	213			
4	Ian R Watson	206	1	0		H Hughes	190		NL Carr	207	0	1	PB Johnson	204			
5	DW Gormally	201	1	0		B Hague	193		JP Manley	205	½	½	CCW Shepherd	206			
6	James E Vigus	204	1	0		P Jowett	191		DA Sands	203	½	½	RF Evans	197			
7	Cliff R Chandler	205	1	0		S Barnes	184		Brian Kemish	197	½	½	DA Mason	200			
8	John Naylor	202	1	0		B Dabulowicus	183		JH Hodgson	197	½	½	J Nelson	197			
9	Peter P Taylor	203	1	0		L Kay	182		JA Goldberg	186	0	1	P Briggs	196			
10	Andrew L Mack	198	1	0		MJ Conroy	181		GJ Moore	186	1	0	P Webster	187			
11	John D Wager	195	0	1		D Lees	183		R Manning	160 (r)	0	1	N Thomas	186			
12	G Botley	187	0	1		M Peacock	182		DJ Millward	184	0	1	K Escott	186			
13	John N Sugden	193	1	0		RA Barton	179		S Deeth	184	0	1	P Holt	183			
14	Chris B Rice	186	1	0		R Newton	177		M Roberts	183	½	½	A Baruch	181			
15	Alexis M Harakis	187	1	0		P Seery	159		JR (sic) Moore	178	0	1	RH Wildie	175			
16	Chris I Howell	188	½	½		S Appleby	170		IBN Smith	172	1	0	AD Lloyd	176			
	(Nuneaton)		12½		3½				(Bedford)		6½		9½				

## FINAL

Kent			29.6.96			Warwicks		
1	PJ Morris		1	0		A Webster		
2	SW Giddins		1	0		CW Baker		
3	NF Dickenson		1	0		B Stojakovic		
4	IR Watson		0	1		JG Cooper		
5	AE Hanreck		0	1		CN Dunworth		
6	DW Gormally		½	½		PE Johnstone		
7	JE Vigus		½	½		CCW Shepherd		
8	J Naylor		1	0		RG Evans		
9	CR Chandler		½	½		DJ Mason		
10	PP Taylor		½	½		DM Adams		
11	AL Mack		1	0		JP Nelson		
12	RMR O'Kelly		0	1		PJ Briggs		
13	JN Sugden		½	½		KL Escott		
14	CB Rice		0	1		N Thomas		
15	AM Harakis		½	½		AJD Baruch		
16	JS Williams		0	1		RH Wildig		
	(Birmingham)		8		8			

Kent won (rather comfortably) on board count. We hear from a Kent source that it was really a bit easier than that, because it only went to board count after Kent lost the last three games. So they'd won already with three games to go. Or something.

## MINOR COUNTIES

## SEMI-FINAL

Herts*			8.6.96			Sussex*			FINAL			29.6.96			Sussex*		
1	Steve Swanson	202 (B)	½	½		DH Cummings	211		AP Law	216	½	½	DH Cummings	211			
2	Jerry F Rudge	189	1	0		FJ Kwiatkowski	197		C Cobb	209	0	1	BJ Denman	218			
3	Paul V Byway	186	½	½		BJ Denman	218		T Headlong	195	½	½	FJ Kwiatkowski	197			
4	Chiedu Madueke	199	1	0		DB Graham	198		PA Richmond	202	½	½	GH James	200			
5	Ben D Savage	184	0	1		GH James	200		R Haydon	197	½	½	B Cafferty	192			
6	Kevin R Clark	187	½	½		B Cafferty	192		SP Zeidler	208	½	½	KI Norman	192			
7	Howard L Tebbs	182	0	1		KI Norman	192		P Varley	200	1	0	MR Stott	187			
8	Andrew Gilfillan	198	½	½		MO Costley	188		J Richmond	197	0	1	MD Nicholas	185			
9	Chris E Majer	176	½	½		MR Stott	187		EG Lea	175	0	1	SJ Newman	185			
10	Alex N Ethelontis	172	0	1		MD Nicholas	185		S Elliott	-	1	0	JA Dodgson	183			
11	Steve Law	172	0	1		SJ Newman	185		D Quinn	172	1	0	PG Farr	183			
12	Geoff A Hollis	177	½	½		PG Farr	183		RM Churm	170	0	1	RJ Almond	175			
13	Philip Bonafont	e180*	½	½		RJ Almond	176		JD Bourne	180	1	0	AG Cooper	-			
14	John R Denton	178	0	1		AG Cooper	-		GH Windebank	173	1	0	IG Kelly	172			
15	Terry J Turner	177	1	0		CN Hann	164		N Wingfield	167	0	1	AO Pickersgill	170			
16	John Cook	170	½	½		PR Selby	157		FNF Cohen	158	0	1	J Graham	166			
	(Stevenage)		7		9				(Birmingham)		7½		8½				

\* There's a P Bonafont 186 in master list.

"Could hardly have been closer or closer matched. Last game to finish was board 4: a rearguard action led to a draw from a bad position - a win for Wilts would have given them the title on board count. At one stage Sussex were 1-5 down." - PW



## UNDER 175

## SEMI-FINAL

Sussex	8.6.96	Kent*
1 SON Hawes 173 (B)	0 1	Lyndon R Gurr 173
2 Ian G Kelly 172	0 1	Geoffrey M Brown 166
3 AO Pickersgill 170	0 1	Robert J Everson 166
4 Robin H Clark 170	1 0	Stephen Firth 165
5 James Graham 166	½ ½	Trefor H Owens 163
6 Stephen Blewitt 166	½ ½	John R Cordner 162
7 Paul A Batchelor 165	½ ½	Sydney J Jacob 162
8 Glen Parker 165	½ ½	Mark D Brougham 161
9 Michael J Reddie 164	0 1	Stephen J Peters 160
10 Ian P Judd 164	½ ½	Nicholas C Mackett 158
11 Andrew SJ Fleming 157	0 1	Zia Mehmet 155
12 Roy R Harper 156	0 1	Martin R Taylor 150
13 Susan C Howell 154	0 1	Paul C Rutland 153
14 Brian Izzard 153	1 0	H Trevor Jones 154
15 Steven Willison 149	0 1	Robert E Lane 150
16 R Daniel Hirsch 154	0 1	Roger JA Winterburn 148
(Crawley)	4½ 11½	

## FINAL

Kent	29.6.96	Leicestershire
JF Knowles 171	0 1	I Ward 162
Lyndon R Gurr 173	1 0	D George 169
Geoffrey M Brown 166	½ ½	L Robinson 168
Paul D Fenn 168	0 1	OH Hardy 160
Robert J Everson 166	1 0	A Calderwood 166
David JR Barnes 168	0 1	G Sharpe 166
Mark I Roberts 168	½ ½	D Walton 163
Stephen Firth 165	0 1	R Illesic 156
Trefor H Owens 163	½ ½	S Sheahan 156
John R Cordner 162	½ ½	R Musson 155
Sydney J Jacob 162	1 0	B Ufodike e 153
Mark D Brougham 161	½ ½	P Hogan 151
Stephen J Peters 160	½ ½	M Connor 149
Nicholas C Mackett 158	½ ½	J Calder 144
Zia Mehmet 155	½ ½	G Booley 143
Paul C Rutland 153	1 0	G Ward 142
(Birmingham)	8 8	
Leics won on board count.		

## OTHER FINALS:

Under 150 Devon 9½ 6½ Notts

Under 125 Warwicks 9 7 Cheshire &amp; North Wales

Under 100 Suffolk 8 4 Devon

## SCCU UNDER 180 KO

## SEMI-FINAL

Oxon	6.7.96	Surrey*
1 Jim N Stayt 178 (B)	½ ½	David WW Gunter 170
2 J Dave Lee 177	1 0	Marcus E Osborne 175
3 Alex R Lewis 176	1 0	Paul D Dupré 170
4 Sean A Terry 169	0 1	Philip M Stimpson 169
5 Nick C Jones 168	0 1	Paul JJP Gibbons 165
6 Graham R Chapman 163	½ ½	Kevin Hurst 163
7 John Yates 158	1 0	Chris Briscoe 140
8 Dave J Bruce 155	½ ½	Chris RA Clegg 155
9 Peter Ball 153	½ ½	R John Wilcox 155
10 Peter B Hastings 150	1 0	Fred C Manning 131
(Long Hanborough)	6 4	

Oh dear. We reserved space for all the other matches, and there haven't been any. Initial entry was Herts, Kent, Oxon, Surrey and Sussex. Herts defaulted v Sussex in (presumably) the only quarter-final match. Kent and Sussex had problems arranging their semi-final because of clashes with little things like BCF finals, and last we heard (25.7.96) Sussex were trying to concede but hadn't yet managed to get hold of Kent to tell them so. The Oxon - Surrey semi-final clashed with the SCCU Council Meeting but they got their priorities right. So on the face of it the Final's between Kent and Oxon, perhaps at a half-way venue, on a date to be determined.

Fred Manning, Controller, would support turning this event into a jamboree.

**GAMES** from the Kings Head Open, June 1996, with acknowledgments to Tony Suttil.

Sorry no analysis, we didn't get any. Spot the Flaw in the flawed masterpiece. Took us a while to work out why Lalic didn't take the B, then as soon as we'd worked it out we remembered we'd seen the game before somewhere.

**Best Game:** White JA Speigel 144, Black A James 129

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 d3 e6 6 Be3 Nge7 7 Bxc5 b6 8 Be3 d5 9 exd5 exd5 10 d4 Be6 11 Nge2 Nf5 12 Qd2 Nxe3 13 fxe3 0-0 14 0-0-0 Na5 15 Nf4 Nc4 16 Qe2 Rc8 17 Rhf1 b5 18 Nfxd5 b4 19 Nxb4 Nxb2 20 Kxb2 Bc4 21 Nd3 Qa5 22 Qd2 Rb8+ 23 Ka1 Rfc8 24 Rb1 Bxa2 25 Rxb8 Rxb8 26 Ne4 Qa3 27 Qc1 Rb1+ 28 Qxb1 Bb3+ 0-1

**Best Attack:** White T Woodward (age 9) 76, Black O Blangetti est 112

1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 d6 3 Nc3 Nbd7 4 e4 e6 5 Nf3 Be7 6 Qd2 0-0 7 h4 e5 8 d5 h6 9 Be3 a6 10 Be2 b5 11 g4 Nxe4 12 Rg1 Ndf6 13 Bxh6 Kh7 14 Bxg7 Kxg7 15 Nh2 Rh8 16 Nxe4 Bxg4 17 Qg5+ Kh7 18 Bxg4 Qg8 19 Bf5+ 1-0

**Flawed Masterpiece:** White DE Mayers 166, Black J Lyth 162

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Bc4 Nc6 4 d4 Nf6 5 e5 d5 6 Bd3 Ne4 7 Bxf4 Nxd4 8 Nf3 Bc5 9 Nxd4 Bxd4 10 Bb5+ c6 11 Qxd4 Qa5+ 12 Nd2 Nxd2 13 Bxc6+ bxc6 14 Bxd2 Qd8 15 Bb4 Be6 16 0-0 Qb6 17 Bc5 Qb7 18 Rad1 Qc7 19 Rd3 Qb7 20 Rb3 Qc7 21 Rg3 g6 22 Kh1 h5 23 Bd6 Qd7 24 Qh4 Qd8 25 Rf6 Qd7 26 Rgf3 Rc8 27 Qg5 c5 28 Qxg6 Qxd6 29 Qg7 Qf8 30 Rxe6+ Kd8 31 Qf6+ Kd7 32 Rd6+ Ke8 33 Rb3 Rg8 34 Qf5 1-0

**Grandmaster Clash:** White J Nunn 254, Black B Lalic 250

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 Nc3 cxd4 5 Nxd4 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Be7 8 Qf3 Qc7 9 0-0-0 Nbd7 10 g4 b5 11 a3 Rb8 12 Bxf6 Nxf6 13 f5 e5 14 Nde2 Bb7 15 g5 Nxe4 16 Nxe4 d5 17 N4c3 d4 18 Ne4 Bxg5+ 19 Kb1 0-0 20 N2g3 Kh8 21 h4 Be3 22 f6 g6 23 h5 b4 24 hxg6 fxe6 25 Bc4 Bf4 26 Rxh7+ Qxh7 27 Rh1 Bh6 28 f7 Qg7 29 Rh2 Bxe4 30 Nxe4 g5 31 Nd6 Rb6 32 Nf5 g4 33 Qg3 Qg5 34 Qxe5+ Kh7 35 Bd3 1-0

**"TIMES" NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Final Stage at the Charing Cross Hotel, 4-5 July 1996

**Semi-Finals** Manchester Grammar School 4 2 Oakham School; Maidstone Grammar School 3½ 2½ St Columbs**Third Place Play-off** Oakham School 4½ 1½ St Columbs**Final** Manchester Grammar 3½ 2½ Maidstone GS. Which makes twice in a row Maidstone GS have been losing finalists. One of the two Best Game prizes went to their number 3, Matthew Noakes. Results Mitchell Taylor**CONGRESS RESULTS**

Two Congresses, anyway.

**BASILDON 25-27 May 1996****Premier U200** (14 ent) 1 Eddie Dearing (Perth / Writtle) 5/6; 2-4 Jon Friedland (Wood Green), Robert McFarland (Lichfield), Andrew Stone (Pinner / Streatham) 4...**Major U150** (47 ent) 1 Tobias Stock (Folkestone) 5/6; 2-5 Christopher Briscoe (Hampton), Matthew Broomfield (South Norwood), John Simmons (Wanstead), Jack Spiegel (Southend) 4½...**Minor U110** (37 ent) 1 Geoffrey Bishop (Lewisham) 5½/6; 2 Steve Collins (Chelmsford) 5; 3-5 Barry Archer (Hadleigh), William McLaughlin (Metropolitan), Simon Thanesan (Maidstone) 4½...**11th KINGS HEAD 8-9 June 1996**

"The number of players, at 157, was 42 down on June 1995. Another example of the drop in entries in the South East this year, made far worse in our case by coinciding with the opening day of the European football cup. Substantial deficit incurred as a result. Hot weather a contributing factor too. Similarly the switch in dates for the Midland Open Championship in Birmingham which affected entries in the Open."

**Open** (46 pl) 1-3 M Adams (Slough), JDM Nunn (Duisburg), A Summerscale (Slough) 4½/5... **GRADING** 190-209 JR Richardson (Lewisham) 4; U190 CE Tipplestone (Northampton) 3. **JUNIOR DM** Moskovic**"Major"** (58 pl) 1-3 PG Kelly (High Wycombe), MS Kobylka (Wood Green), G McNay 4½/5... **GRADING** 145-159 PG Kelly; 130-144 M Broomfield (South Norwood) 3; U130 JT Melsom (High Wycombe) 4 **JUNIOR** M Broomfield**"Minor"** (53 pl) 1-2 B Lo (Syston), GL Bishop 4½/5; 3-7 RJV Davies (Ilford), S Howard (Charlton), BA Khan (Metropolitan), TE Rendle (Hastings), G Lane (Enfield) 4... **GRADING** 95-109 GL Bishop; U109 TE Rendle.**JUNIOR B Lo****Best game** A James; **Best attack** T Woodward (age 9); **Flawed masterpiece** DE Mayers. **British Championship Qualifier** "JR or John Richardson"

"An anomaly. We had intended the Major to be Under 170. The entry form was adjusted accordingly but, by mistake, for the stated maximum grade! Hence the nonsense of the 159-145 grading prize." The Bulletin doesn't understand this. Results Tony Suttill

**FISCHER TIMING, AND DGTs**

Well, I'd never tried Fischer Timing. Or a DGT. Turned up at Tony Corfe's East Grinstead congress the other Saturday, to buy a clock, and he said "What are you doing this afternoon? Because we've got an odd number in the Major and you could try a Digital Game Timer out." They only had 50-odd players in the three sections put together, possibly because the Sussex AGM was that day and Sussex AGMs are so short they hold a team event after them. Lucky old Sussex. Anyway, at East Grinstead for a change the Major was correctly named, there wasn't an Open. I was comfortably under the 175 limit so I took him up on it.

First impressions were mixed. For a start I wasn't sure whether 132 was my youthful opponent's grade or his height in centimetres. I didn't find out till afterwards that he was last year's England U11 Captain or something. The clock counting backwards is no problem, analogue clocks do that, but I did find the Fischer timing odd. I'd get used to it. We started with an hour and 20 minutes each and my learning process started on move 2. My opponent was coiled to reply to my move instantly, so I didn't bother to stop my clock. Till he pointed at it and I realised you have to, or it doesn't know how many moves you've made. I must have had my mind on other things when the details were explained to me, because I couldn't remember just how much extra time I was getting and how often, and we were some way into the game before I had it sussed. (It was thirty seconds per move.) We never reached a time scramble, but I managed to work out that the correct terminology is "time scramble" because you'll never have less than 30 seconds for a move. (You do lose on time if your clock gets to zero.) What worried me a bit was that there was no fixed stopping time, you just kept going till you got a result. Bye bye QPFs. This didn't quite square with the fact that the next round was in four hours. What actually happens is that after 3½ hours - by which time you've made at least 50 moves - the Controller steps in and tells you to agree a result. What happens if you can't is unclear. Apparently it's never been a problem in several Corfe-Fischer events so far, don't even know if the rule's been invoked, but it's surely a real weakness. In the last resort you seem to be back to QPF. Tony told me that David Sedgwick and Richard O'Brien (now there's a couple of troublemakers) had

threatened to turn up and play on Sunday and *prove* it was a weakness. I've always wanted to do that sort of thing. Hope they did. Solutions? A four-hour session, with the figures we were using, would ensure 80 moves. The Timer seems to be programmable ad lib, so you could add 20 seconds per move if you wanted, to speed things up. Or 15, or anything. Expect it has to be a whole number. But still the problem's there, it's there in principle.

Fischer timing has been popular in Tony's events. People vote to have it next time. Not sure myself, I've a feeling I prefer to have time scrambles. They don't do much for the standard of play but that's not necessarily a bad thing in my case. (And it's only my opponents who lose on time, I never have.)

A DGT's essential for Fischer timing, obviously. You can also make it sit up and beg, or use it straight. I've got uses for a DGT, but I wouldn't buy one for straight chess games. Partly because of the price (£70 without batteries), and partly because I find analogue displays easier to read. The DGT's one advantage for straight chess - a real one - is that in the last 20 minutes it displays the seconds. It doesn't ring bells at you when you lose on time. But it has a big design fault. If you've got the clock on your right, the right-hand digit for each player is partly obscured by the housing unless you lean forward to have a look at it. (If you can't see any of it, it's a one.) The display's off centre, so no problem if the clock's on your left. I don't understand how such a fault reached production stage. There's a new model without it, I'm told, and they're getting one for me. Same price. Don't buy the old one if you're fussy.

RJH

### SCCU COUNTY MATCHES 1996-7: OPEN

We welcome back Buckinghamshire after their three-year absence from SCCU county matches.

These dates should be regarded as final barring agreement by match captains. Don't re-arrange anything for the 1st March, that's the date of the SCCU U18 team qualifier. And do tell the Controller and Bulletin about re-arranged dates.

A county may opt to play all matches over 16 boards instead of 20 provided it gives written notice to the Controller by the 1st September. Counties not so giving notice may still play over 16 (or 18) boards by agreement, provided both sides tell the Controller in advance.

New match captains:

**Bucks** MS Vann, 1 Kennedy Close, Marlow, Bucks SL7 3JA  
01628 486676

**Cambs** J Parker, Emmanuel College, Cambridge CB2 3AP.  
Outside term time: 10 Greenhill Place, Edinburgh EH10 4BR  
0131 447 6364

**Essex** JR Cooke, 35 The Crescent, Loughton, Essex IG10 4PY  
0181 281 1083

In the other divisions, closing date for entries is the 15th August. Fixture dates will be published in the September Bulletin.

#### Dates: Open Division

Oct	12	OBr	EH	SxSy	MBu
	19				
	26	CK			
Nov	2	SyC	HSx	KO	BrM BuE
	9				
	16	CM	SxBr	EK	HSy OBU
	23				
	30	SyE	KSx	BrC	MO BuH
Dec	7	OC	KH		
	14	BrE	MSx		BuSy
Jan	18	SyK	EM	HBr	SxO CBu
	25				
Feb	1	BrSy	MH	OE	CSx KBu
	8				
	15	EC	HO	SyM	KBr BuSx
	22				
Mar	1	<i>(SCCU U18 qualifier)</i>			
	8	MK	OSy	CH	SxE BrBu

### SITUATIONS VACANT

Two BCF Directorships are coming vacant, as you know. The Federation has issued job descriptions, and invites applications (to the BCF office by the 20th August). The job descriptions are in the Yearbook but we give potted versions. For remuneration, you'd have to ask.

#### Director for Congress Chess

Organise and control British Championships and Congress; British Lightning Championships; all other BCF tournaments "other than those which are the responsibility of another Director"(!). Look after BCF playing equipment. Recommend Arbiter appointments. Do Calendar of Events. Represent congresses at MB. Further information from Stewart Reuben, 11 Haversham Close, Twickenham TW1 2JP 0181 892 6660 (fax and tel).

#### Director of Home Chess

Overall responsibility for Counties Championships, Nat Club, Counties & Districts Correspondence Championships, Grading, Adjudication service, Club/Player/Book of the Year Awards, "endorsements". (Think that means selling the BCF's seal of approval to commercial products.) Further information from John Poole, 6 Cleves Court, Warwick Rd, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2PE 01494 672210.

## CONGRESS DIARY

- Aug 3-4 SPECTRUM BIRMINGHAM. U200/160/120. Les Day, 10 Oaklawn Court, Barton Rd, Torquay, Devon TQ1 4EN 01803 212136
- 4 BASINGSTOKE Rapid. J French, 31 Brocas Drive, South View, Basingstoke RG21 2LS 01256 472537
- 10 WESTMINSTER Rapid. JM Sargent, 903 Longbridge Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2BU 0181 270 9106
- 5-17 BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP CONGRESS. Congress Secretary, BCF, 9a Gradn Parade, St Leonards, E Sussex TN38 0DD
- 8 HENDON BLITZ (10 min each). Yes, it's a Thursday. 7.15 - 10 p.m. at Golders Green Church Hall. Adam Raoof, PO Box 1962 NW4 4NF 0181 202 0982
- 17 GOLDERS GREEN Rapidplay. Adam Raoof, PO Box 1962 NW4 4NF 0181 202 0982
- 18 KENSINGTON Rapid. D Agble, Flat 15, Beit Hall, Prince Consort Rd SW7 2BB 0171 594 9456
- 19-27 4th SCCU INTERNATIONAL at Golders Green. DR Sedgwick, 23 Tierney Court, Canning Rd, Croydon CR0 6QA 0181 656 7682
- 24-26 BERKS & BUCKS at Maidenhead. Championship (usually 175+); Challengers usually 150-175; other graded sections. NW Dennis, Boundary House, 230 Greys Rd, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1QY 01491 576052
- 30-1 THANET at Broadstairs. Open; U165/130/100. AD Hargreaves, 1 Medina Avenue, Whitstable, Kent CT5 4EN 01227 274885
- Sep 1 BASINGSTOKE Rapid. J French, 31 Brocas Drive, South View, Basingstoke RG21 2LS 01256 472537
- 1-7 PAIGNTON. 7 rds Open, U170/125, graded sections U150. 5 rds Mon-Fri U150. BR Wilkinson, Kingscote House, Beeson, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 2HW
- 5 HENDON BLITZ as 8 Aug
- 7-8 KENSINGTON. D Agble, Flat 15, Beit Hall, Prince Consort Rd SW7 2BB 0171 594 9456
- 7-8 SOUTH WALES AUTUMN at Newport. U2120/1700/1400. I Eustis, Tir Bach Farm, Rhos, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 3EG 01792 862115
- 14 WESTMINSTER Rapid. JM Sargent, 903 Longbridge Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2BU 0181 270 9106
- 14-15 SPECTRUM at STREET, Somerset. Under 185/155/120. Norman Went, 53 New Zealand Way, Rainham, Essex RM13 8JT
- 15 RICHMOND Rapid. R James, 95 Lyndhurst Avenue, Twickenham TW2 6BH 0181 898 1190
- 21 GOLDERS GREEN Rapidplay. Adam Raoof, PO Box 1962 NW4 4NF 0181 202 0982
- 21 CROWBOROUGH JUNIOR. S Deere, 11 Beeches Rd, Crowborough, E Sussex TN6 2AU 01892 654495
- 22 CROWBOROUGH Rapid. S Deere, 11 Beeches Rd, Crowborough, E Sussex TN6 2AU 01892 654495
- 22 SOMERS TOWN Rapid. BH Birchall, 26d Colville Square, London W11 2BQ 0171 792 8031
- 21-22 NORTH ESSEX at Braintree. Open; U160/130/100. David Millward, 32 Fir Tree Rise, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9HS
- 28-29 MILL HILL. AC Corfe, 51 Borough Way, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3HA 01707 659080
- Oct 3 HENDON BLITZ as 8 Aug
- 5 BASINGSTOKE Rapid. J French, 31 Brocas Drive, South View, Basingstoke RG21 2LS 01256 472537
- 5-6 SPECTRUM WORCESTER. Les Day, 10 Oaklawn Court, Barton Rd, Torquay, Devon TQ1 4EN 01803 212136. Or the other one, no doubt.
- 5-6 CHEPSTOW *Adults Only* Rapidplay. U2000/1600 Saturday; U1800/1400 Sunday. Kevin Staveley, 57 Treharne St, Cwmparc, Rhondda CF42 6LH 01443 772750
- 6 CHALK FARM Rapid. BH Birchall, 26d Colville Square, London W11 2BQ 0171 792 8031

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: A revived CHESSEX (Essex CA); Insurance CC Report 1995-6