



BULLETIN

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SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION

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

A heroic attempt to get the May issue at least posted in May has led to parts of it being hastily typed and stuck together, and not even spell checked. (I can spell, but I can't type.) So apologies for blunders. We'll get the meetings out of the way first, as usual.

BCF COUNCIL MEETING

Birmingham, 26th April 1997

The annual Finance Meeting was attended by something like 50 people, though proxies and postal votes pushed it close to 200. It wasn't entertaining, apart from the bits where needle crept in. But then, the main function of Council is to allow people to sound off. Main points, and reading it through we're struck by how little was actually done in 4½ hours:

(1) **Voting.** It was agreed, just for this meeting, to use multiple voting throughout. Took the best part of half an hour to decide that. If you're vague about single and multiple voting you won't be the only one, which is mostly why they wanted to change it. People at the previous Council Meeting voted now one way, now the other, as fancy or confusion led them.

(2) **Budget** went through unscathed.

(3) **Game Fee.** Standard fee went up from 23p to 25p per player per game, as proposed by the Management Board. Much discussion, but the vote was clear. If you want to know, it went: 26p 11 votes; 25p 112; 24p 31; 23p 32. The median vote takes it, and it's not hard to see where the median comes when one answer gets more than half the votes. Rapidplay fee went up to 50% of standard, that is 12½p. (Management Board, after some deliberation, had proposed rounding it up to the next whole number of pence rather than down. Council saw no need to round it.)

Club internal games. Yes, well, the MB wanted to remove the Game Fee exemption. Discussion was long, heated, and pointless. Your Editor doubts if anyone had the slightest intention of being influenced by the debate, and mandated delegates generally won't even have had the *right* to be. We'll spare you the arguments; you know them. The MB proposal was lost by 88 votes to 106, approximately. (The exact numbers depended on which count you believed.) Mercifully, this saved us the bother of deciding what rate to charge. SCCU, as you know, supported the motion and would have voted for phased introduction. So we lost.

(4) **FIDE Delegate.** Another contested election, that makes two in two meetings. Candidates were Gerry Walsh of the NCCU, and Peter Wilson of Guernsey. They spoke, and answered questions, and Council elected Gerry Walsh by a substantial majority.

(5) **National Club Championship.** The Director of Home Chess had a string of proposals, including an upper grading limit in the "Open" of 214 and the introduction of a new section above that which would not be restricted to *bona fide* club members. Sound like anything to you? The proposals were controversial and shelved, but could be raised at the September Council Meeting. So no change for next season.

(6) **Restructuring of BCF Management Board.** This came up at quarter to six and it seemed as good a reason as any for your Editor to start packing his bags. (He didn't want to be home too late. He still had the pairing cards and wall charts to do for a congress next day.) As he left, a spokesman for the working group was complaining that such an important matter should be left till the dying moments of a meeting. We've heard, since the meeting, that at the end of it people were pursuing the chairman with formal requests for a Special General Meeting. The BCF office confirms 14.5.97 that an SGM has indeed been formally requested, and it's been fixed for Saturday 12th July in London. This clashes with your Editor's School Fete, and it's a toss-up.

Postscript

It didn't come up at the Council Meeting, but buried in the Management Board papers for their morning session (and noticed there only *en passant*) was a paper from the Federation's Development Unit. Mostly it was about Membership. First sentence: "With the grading system changing this is an appropriate time to consider a lower tier membership fee where players who didn't pay would not have a published grade." After a while your Editor worked out that they were talking about Direct Membership and, *as an innovation*, wanted to link it to grading. Italics ours; they don't seem to enlarge on the point, but they must have known it was radical. Thought we'd been there before actually, a while back. We called it Registration, and non-publication of grades was tried in one or two Unions. And abandoned fairly quickly; we won't rehearse the objections to it. We didn't have Game Fee then. Presumably, since Game Fee is linked to grading as well, they'll abolish it. They don't seem to say, though. What sort of a think tank is this? Maybe they intend to have both, to triple the paperwork and quadruple the remarks about screwing people.

Heard later: they *do* intend to have both. Better re-phrase that. They intend to propose having both.

SCCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive met on Friday 16th May 1995 at the Durham Castle. 15 attended. A few points of interest:

(1) **SCCU Secretary.** Basically, we haven't got one. The incumbent - who took the job on reluctantly and never undertook to be zealous - has been inactive and lately uncontactable. We *need a Secretary*. Ideas, anyone?

- (2) **Grading.** Martin Cath said he thought the BCF system was verging on collapse. Important routine checks didn't seem to be happening, and he feared a large crop of errors in the August grading list. Chris Howell said it was becoming obvious how much the system had depended on Lorraine Harding, the old Grading Administrator. The computer programs are very old, not the sort of thing your average secretary works with, and she knew them. The new list was expected to be on time, with corners cut. They *are* re-writing the programs, but it's hard to get news of progress. CIH, who is officially co-ordinating the programming team, had heard very little.
- (3) **Juniors.** The Union has nominated one school for a BCET award; won't name them till they get it. And it looks as though the SCCU U18 Jamboree will go ahead next year in JG Jones territory on the 7th March.
- (4) **Fixtures** Secretary said there would be some changes in response to comments about imbalance. No details. Cambs and Oxon want their match to be the first one of the season so they can postpone it.
- (5) **Equipment.** It's all there, apart from a clock that walked in the Surrey Congress. This is quite rare in the Surrey Congress, apparently. Another organiser said his congress had lost several in two or three years. Some of the other clocks want mending. "Not worth spending money on", someone said. The clocks are not, perhaps, in first-rate condition but most people seem to find them usable.
- (6) **Money.** The Executive went through the draft accounts and budget in, shall we say, some detail. The budgeted deficit had turned into a "healthy" surplus. Won't try to give details. The Junior Organiser, whose activities leave him well within budget, proposed giving £50 to EPSCA and £100 to the BCF Junior Squad for assistance with travel and other expenses of SCCU Juniors. No one voiced any objections to this. Oh, and it appears that chess is unlikely to become a sport till it's in the Olympics and that's not imminent.
- (7) **U100 Trophy.** Following a donation by JA Philpott it was agreed to name this new trophy in commemoration of Harry Woolverton, a late stalwart of Essex chess.
- (8) **Executive venue.** Not exactly of general interest, but there was some feeling that our regular meeting place was insufficiently central (and the wrong shape). Can't say the Bulletin's ever objected to it, when the lights are working. And it *is* a pub.
- (10) **SCCU U180 Jamboree** had duly taken place (see page 11).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr Haddrell,

8.4.97

I have had reason to turn the spotlight on a question concerning ungraded players in a chess congress. It seems that fairness is struggling to prevail, and the congress controllers can only say, "What can we do?"

I played in the "Major" (U145) section at the recent Surrey Easter Congress. My grade is 138. Two of my games were against ungraded players who, in my opinion, performed very much better than their estimated grades would suggest. I scored 4½ points out of 5 against the other players with a current grade, but lost both games against the ungraded players. One of them was allocated a grade of 113! and the other 121, and they both played about 30 or 40 points above these figures. At least they did against me, and the 121 player won his first four games.

The emergence of my good friend Michael Franklin in support of my complaint enabled me to summon up the energy to try to find a possible solution. Michael is firmly of the opinion that the ungraded should be obliged to enter the highest section below the "Open". In the Surrey Congress, that would be the "Premier" (U170). This idea has much merit, although I can imagine a great deal of despondency on the face of a player graded, say, 169 if he lost to someone with an estimated grade of 113!

I thought the best solution was for the players without an authentic grade to be banned from entering congresses until such time as they had achieved a current grade by playing in league matches, official club tournaments or County games. Of course I appreciate that it makes life difficult if they are not members of a club.

Michael Franklin suggested that I write to Stewart Reuben to get his views on the matter and I duly sent a letter to Stewart. He replied promptly and I have thanked him for putting at my disposal his admirable advice. I am enclosing a photostat copy of his letter as I thought you might wish to publish these comments and invite the views of other Bulletin readers. Stewart Reuben has no objection to his letter being published.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN HAWSON

Worcester Park

Ed: This letter has been shortened. SWR's reply:

Dear John,

4.4.97

Thank you for your letter of 2 April. The matter which you raise has been discussed at great length many times, especially since I introduced grading restricted tournaments to Britain in 1968. Each event is a law unto itself so that how the matter is dealt with is at the discretion of the congress director, in this case Martin Cath.

I think it would be quite wrong to bar players from a Major prior to their achieving an established grade. Currently this can easily take more than a year. We need to attract players, if nothing else, otherwise entry fees

would continue to soar. It is perfectly possible to prevent such unestablished players winning the main prize money - which Surrey does. However that doesn't overcome the problem of their competing in the wrong section.

The solution lies in more regular grading lists. In the US your rating changes after each event. I have been in favour of something like this for over 20 years. By contrast I believe Martin Cath believes one grading list a year is quite adequate (I could be wrong, perhaps he believes more is simply unworkable).

The problem which concerns you directly is that some players have extremely inaccurate grades. Surely this will always be with us. At least we haven't made the same mistake as the Americans. They have some tournaments with huge prize money that are restricted to players under a certain rating. This results in players deliberately seeking to falsify their rating and make it artificially lower. Even here some players do deliberately throw games when scoring poorly, so that their grade goes down.

In answer to the comment from the director, "What can we do about it?", the answer is, bar anyone who is known to you to be considerably under-graded. A player was allowed in the Premier whose most recent proper grade was 210. He has a shadow grade of 169. He was only allowed to win a small fraction of the prize money, but still anybody who played him was meeting too strong an opponent. Here the problem is getting the information to the organiser.

I hope you still enjoyed the event and I look forward to seeing you next year, if not before.

Yours sincerely,

STEWART REUBEN

Ed: - I've always thought frequent lists impracticable. The new grading system in the pipeline makes them sound much more plausible, if everyone co-operates. But how do you promulgate all the new grades? Congress organisers will have computers and modems, naturally. Congress players might not have. Any thoughts?

Middlesex County Chess Association

22.5.97

Dear Mr Haddrell,

We were somewhat concerned to note the innuendo and misinformation supplied as a part of one of the recent letters. (That from Neil Clifton, with the Editor's comments, in the March 97 issue.) As a result of this we have checked our records and discovered that we are partially to blame.

We would like to set the record straight. The first official information was Tony Suttill's letter published by you in September 94. This letter informed the SCCU of the problems the Middlesex County were experiencing.

We held a Special General Meeting on November 25th 1994. During the course of that meeting Mr Bruce Birchall was debarred from holding any position in Middlesex County Chess. This was passed by a substantial majority after a lengthy discussion. Mr Birchall had ample opportunity to defend his position. This information, and our resolution, should have been passed to the SCCU through your Bulletin. Please accept our apologies for our failure to do so at that time.

Other business was conducted, as required by the agenda. This included an alternative captain of the U100 team for the rest of that season; he was to take Mr Birchall's place. Any other activities organised by Mr Birchall were delegated to him by Mr Ransome, our then Junior Organiser.

Mr Ransome retired at the end of that season. Since that time we have been unable to fill the post of Junior Organiser. A variety of reasons have been put forward as to why people cannot accept the post. Two people have subsequently admitted to me, personally, that they would have felt unable to contend with the degree of expected interference.

During the chess season of 95-96 Mr Birchall continued to organise the Middlesex Girls Squad. As far as Middlesex were concerned he did this as the SCCU Junior Organiser. Without our consent, nor our approval. They were unofficial teams and therefore probably infringing SCCU rules.

During the current season we received a letter from a parent complaining that we were preventing the Girls from playing chess. This was the first we had heard that they wished to play. It was also the first time we had a name and address of a team member. Mr Suttill, with my full approval, and after negotiations with the SCCU Junior Organiser (who quite rightly refused to accept an unofficial entry), then arranged for that same parent to be the captain of the Girls Squad. He, Mr Bowdery, has full powers. But he also has the responsibility to report, and account to the executive for the activities undertaken. The information imparted by you was therefore incorrect. As was the information from Mr Clifton.

I trust this letter will have answered everybody's misunderstandings.

Yours sincerely,

ZOE RYLE

Hon Sec

Ed: - The information imparted by me wasn't about Mr Bowdery's job description. What I said was that there seemed to have been a misunderstanding and Middx had, after all, no objection to Mr Birchall's entering "unofficial" teams. Perhaps I just wasn't paying attention, but this was the impression I got from both Mr Birchall and the Middx President shortly before the event. There's been a lot of ignorance floating around. I didn't know about Mr Bowdery's appointment. I believe his letter to Middx was written about the same time as Neil Clifton's to the Bulletin, not many weeks before the event on the 1st March; so presumably Mr Clifton didn't know about it either. I note that Middx knew nothing of the girls' wishes till Mr Bowdery wrote.

I am glad that Middx have clarified their position, and this subject is closed.

NATIONAL CLUB**OPEN**

Quarter-finals Crowthorne 1½ 4½ Wood Green; Crowwood 1 5 Ilford; Guildford 5 1 Cardiff; Slough 4 2 Bedford
Semi-finals Wood Green v Slough; Ilford v Guildford (ugly!). Should be completed by now.

PLATE

Quarter-finals Atherton w/o def Atticus; Maidstone 4 2 Hastings & St Leonards; Hayes Kent 4 2 Bristol & Clifton.
 Bye: Nidum Liberals.

Semi-finals Hayes v Atherton; Nidum Liberals v Maidstone

MAJOR

Quarter-finals Prescot & Knotty Ash 3 2 Great Lever; Exeter 2 3 Maidstone; Kingston ½ 4½ Guildford; St Johns
 Ear 4½ ½ Abercynon. No. St Johns EAR 4½ ½ Abercynon.

Semi-finals St Johns EAR 4 1 Prescot & KA; Maidstone 3½ 1½ Guildford

PLATE

Quarter-finals Dista 2 3 Undercliffe; Hereford 3 2 Teignmouth; Southampton 2½ 2½* Eastbourne; Hastings 2 3
 Kings Head

Semi-finals Undercliffe 4 1 Hereford; Kings Head 2 3 Eastbourne

INTERMEDIATE

Quarter-finals Cosham 1½ 3½ Southend; Gt Lever 3 2 Ashfield; Southbourne 2 3 Basingstoke; Warley Quinborne
 1½ 3½ Hereford

Semi-finals Hereford v Gt Lever; Southend v Basingstoke

PLATE

Quarter-finals Grimsby & District 2 3 Morecambe; Slough 3 2 Wanstead & Woodford

ESSEX: First Eastbrook Open Team Blitz 23rd March 1997. 1 Avalon 33½/40; 2 Writtle 29½... 21 teams of four. Yes, a one-day 10-round Swiss!

KENT Finals Day at Sevenoaks 18th May 1997

County Cup Charlton 5 1 Maidstone; **Lewis Cup** Dartford & Swanley II 3½ 2½ Rainham II; **Stevenson Cup**
 Rainham III 3½ 2½ Thanet II; **En Passant** Charlton IV 3½ 2½ Hayes IV; **Harvey Cup** Maidstone V 3½ 2½
 Rainham IV; **Tom Fuller Cup** Kildown IV 3 1 Danson III

The Individual Finals are supposed to get played at Finals Day as well. Or before, if those involved are playing in a team Final. In practice it doesn't happen much, and it didn't happen at all this year.

CHILTERN LEAGUE 1996-7: final positions

Adults 1 Herts 8/9; 2 Oxon 7; 3 Berks 6; 4 Bucks 3. **Juniors** 1 Bucks 4/7; 2 Herts 2; 3 Berks 0

CONGRESS RESULTS

Time to repeat an old request. One organiser - make that two now - sent results in (apparently) Order of Prizes Won. So Jim and Fred were 3rd = on 4/6. Only they weren't, because further down you came to Sheila with 4½ and they'd listed it as a Grading Prize. And then a couple more players on 4 but they'd won grading prizes too. Then another one, with a different grading prize. Please don't do this. Finishing order, dammit. If you want to say who's won grading prizes (and why not?), you still can.

While we're about it, please give date and venue and grading limits (not just "Major"), and players' clubs. Grades as well if you like. One organiser did, this time, and it seems like a good idea. Say how many played in each section. Don't want to know how many *entered*. Unless you'd like to list the ones who didn't turn up, for publication. I'll publish it.

5th GUILDFORD RAPIDPLAY 16th March 1997

Premier (Open: 27 ent) 1 Michael Hennigan (London) 5½/6; 2 Hamid Ksdhi (Liverpool) 5; 3-6 Simon Williams (Farnham), Peter Kemp (Streatham), Russell Granat (Wimbledon), Clive Frostick (Farnham) 4½... **GRADING**
 U180 Simon Bibby 4. "Also Susan Lalic 3½; Desmond Tan 3; Ritan Hennigan, Noemi Lendvai 2½."

Challengers (U166: 34 ent) 1 Rod Nixon (Dagenham) 5/6; 2-5 Chris Purry (Guildford), Toby Stock (Folkestone), Anthony Kelly (High Wycombe), Martin Cutmore (Wood Green) 4½... **GRADING** U155 Ian Henderson (Reading) 4; U140 Andrew Morgan (Richmond) 3½. "Also Andrew Morgan 3½; P Dhonau, Matthew King, Pawel Koziol 3"

Intermediate (U131: 34 ent) 1-3 Bernard Bruno (Worthing), Jeremy Cowle (Cobham), Adam Norton (Southampton) 5/6... GRADING U120 Brian Cochrane (Portsmouth) 4½. JUNIOR Paul Flack (Petersfield) 4½; Piers Cox (Winchester), David Ho (Maidstone) 4

Amateur (U101:47 ent) 1 Andrew Denny (Dagenham) 5½/6; 2-4 Richard Miles (Oxted), Ben Morgan (Whyteleafe), Peter Alexander (Richmond) 5... GRADING U90 James Wingfield (Richmond); U75 Brian Edwards (Cranham); Ungraded P O'Hagan (Cheam) 4½. JUNIOR Chris Rawlinson (Aldro) 4½

Correspondent supplied an address in Godalming, but no name.

SOUTHEND 28-31 March 1997

Open (72 ent) 1 Mark Hebden 245 7/7; 2-4 David Ledger 202, Eddie Dearing 195, Philip Gregory 170 5½; 5-9 Colin Crouch 222, David Sands 201, Adrian Jackson 195, Stephen Ledger 199, R Alan Barton 181 5; 10-16 Andrew Lewis, John Moore, John Anderson, Tim Hebbes, John Feavour, Edmund Player, Leon Wooldridge 4½... GRADING 171-185 RA Barton; 141-155 John Allison, Stan Harwood, Mark Weighell; 126-140 Jason Roberts; U126 John Bennett, John Jestico

Swiss A (18 ent) 1-4 David Tucker, James Stevenson, John Holland, Ross Walker 3½/5...

Swiss B (18 ent) 1-2 Ronald Gooch, Richard Nash 4/5; 3-4 David Cannan, Kevin Cook 3½...

Swiss C (20 ent) 1-3 Robert Arthurton, David Hutchings, Gerald Luetchford 4/5...

Swiss D (18 ent) 1-3 Roy Shaw, John Sneesby, Maurice Forward 4/5...

Swiss E (20 ent) 1 Carey Hemmings 4½/5; 2-3 Donald Cuckson, Nicholas Jellett 4...

Lightning (10 seconds a move: 34 pl) 1 Rod Nixon 6/6. "Prize - 1 litre of spirits. (I presume that the organiser had allowed for the possibility of a junior winning the event!)"

Results *Chessex*

SURREY EASTER at Sutton, 28-31 March 1997

"The overall number of entries for the Surrey Congress was up on last year, 459 competitors playing in the seven events compared to 429 last year. [Ed: - Not that many bodies. Some people played in more than one event.] The Congress retains its position as the third-largest in the country (behind the British Championships and Hastings) and therefore the largest Congress for a weekend event. A quarter of the competitors are DIRECT members of the BCF, almost the same proportion as last year. The increased numbers allowed the Congress Committee to increase the prize fund by an extra £1100, and still make a modest profit." Kings Head meanwhile have cancelled the 12th London Open because of falling numbers and substantial losses on the last two London Opens.

Frank Winter Memorial Open (101 pl "plus one filler") 1 Michael Adams (Slough) 6/7; 2-6 Adam Collinson (Gambit Nottingham), Mark Ferguson (Cambridge Univ), Susan Lalic (Slough), Karl Mah (Wanstead: BCQ place), Timothy Wall (Coulson) 5½; 7-10 Richard A Bates, Anthony R Corkett, Stephen Dishman, Michael J Franklin 5... GRADING (think that should be RATING) U2220 Matthew Anderton, Paul Cooksey, Alex Harakis, Costas Karayiannis, Richard McMichael, Kevin Richardson, Robert Willmoth 4½; U2100 William Lowe 4; Unrated Rawle Allicock, Alek Ethelontis, James Mansson, Philip Potopaev, Stephen Pullinger 3½. JUNIOR U18 1 Richard Bates; 2-5 Daniel Bisby, Charles Cobb, Oliver Rosten, Simon Williams 4½; U15 Richard Palliser 3½. "Michael Adams was the clear favourite, even more so when GM James Plaskett withdrew through illness on the second day, but when he was held to draws by Mark Ferguson and Adam Collinson, there was a six-way tie going into the final round. However he emerged as the only winner from this group and becomes the highest-rated SCCU Individual Champion in the history of the Championship. There were 72 rated players in the Open; five more completed their full ratings and a further ten achieved a part-rating (all subject to ratification)." There was a second BCQ place, don't know who got it. In the following sections, an ungraded (or E-graded) player was limited to winning at most one-third of first prize.

Premier U171 (61 pl) 1 Martin Taylor (Rainham Kent) 6/7; 2-3 Kevin Hurst (Surbiton), Dominic Mackle (Hackney) 5½; 4-11 Kevin Bailey (Mitcham), Ricky Barcenias (Philippines), Paul Dupré (Cobham), Bobo Lo (Australia), Ilya Shevelev, Jeremy Kaye, Stephen MacDonald-Ross, Nicholas Mitchem 5... GRADING U160 Jeremy Kaye, S MacDonald-Ross; U150 Nicholas Mitchem. JUNIOR U18 Mark Campbell 4.

Eric Weimann Memorial Major U145 (88 pl) 1 Anthony Brown (Hendon) 6½/7; 2 John Flanagan (South Norwood) 6; 3-5 Mark Finch (Eastbourne), Andrew Thake (Streatham), Mark Webley (Wallington) 5½... GRADING U135 Paul Kennelly 5; U125 Paul O'Brien 5; U115 Andrew Curran 4½. JUNIOR U18 Thomas Rendle 5; U14 Thirumurugagan Thiruchelvam 5.

Minor A U120 (69 pl) 1-3 CJ it says here (Brighton), David Ho (Maidstone), Robert Springett (Rainham Kent) 4½/5; 4-8 Michael Gunn (Guildford), Dominic Howard (Charlton), Kenneth Smith (Sidcup), Hugh Wylie (Ashtead), Simon Thanesan (Maidstone) 4... GRADING U111 John Baldwin, William McLaughlin, Martin Smedley 3½; U102 Trevor Dickerson, Norman Tidy 3. JUNIOR U18 Simon Thanesan; U14 Peter Titmas 3½

Minor B U120 (51 pl) 1 Ray Robinson (Streatham) 5/5; 2 Andrew Bigg (Hayes Kent) 4½; 3-5 Ben Chamberlain (Richmond Juniors), Muhammed Daood (Coulson), William Philpott (London N8) 4... GRADING U110 Dieter Beavan (so), Julian Ward 3½; U103 Michael Gunn, Russell Scott 3. JUNIOR U18 Leighton Powell, David Waltham; U13 Peter Titmas, David Zoubaida 3

Novice A Under 100 (56 pl) 1-4 Thomas Boesen (Hayes Middx), Tristan Clayton (Cambridge Univ), Chris Dixon (Ashtead), Keith Findley (Birchington) 4½/5... JUNIOR U18 Jessie Gilbert 4; U12 Leila Nathoo 3½

Novice B Under 100 (34 pl) 1 Konrad Sanders (Lewisham) 4½/5; 2 Tristan Clayton (Cambridge Univ) 4; 3-10 David Bate-Smith (Barnet), Martin Garrod (Portsmouth), Laurence Jones (Beckenham), Danielle Wells (Petts Wood), David Wheatley (Broadstairs), Ben Roberts, James Wingfield, Jonathan Zoubaida 3½... JUNIOR U18 Ben

Roberts, James Wingfield; U15 Jonathan Zoubaida

Special Prizes: LADIES Susan Lalic 78.6% (Open); Jessie Gilbert 80% (Novice A). VETERANS Michael Franklin 71.4% (Open); FAMILY 1 Leila and Karim Nathoo 70%; 2-3 David and Kwok Wai Ho, James and John McKenna 65%. BEST GAME to be announced. Results Martin Cath

SOUTH HERTS at St Albans 5-6 April 1997

"Premier" 1-2 Eddie Dearing (Hertford), Gary Kenworthy (Barbican) 4/5; 3-7 Abimbola Adelaja (Hackney), John Anderson (Grays), Paul Georghiou (Barnet), Alan A Smith (White Swan), Alan P Spice (Cardiff) 3...

"Challengers" 1 JM Shepley (Guildford) 4½/5; 2-5 Philip Bonafont (Berkhamsted), Martin Cutmore (Wood Green), Desmond TH Tan (St Pauls), Andrew H Kitchlew 4; 6-9 David Parr, Adam Raof, Mark Rogerson, Pritpel Thethi 3½...

"Major" 1-2 Dave Holmes (Eastleigh), Peter Lim 4½/5; 3-5 Russell Goodfellow (Tunbridge Wells), Alan Prince (Edinburgh Civil Service), Edward B Sandercock 4; 6-12 Thomas Allen (Powdermill), Simon Armour (Southend High), Sam Essen (Queens College Cambridge), David Faldon (Hendon), Paul Lawrence (St Albans), Mir Mohamed Wali (Chess Forum), Donald Quinn 3½...

"Intermediate" 1-4 Richard G Carter (Letchworth), Stephen Burrige (Colchester), Tony Heslop (Leys), J Brief 4½/5; 5-7 Ross AC Mooring (Richmond Juniors), Peter T Housden, Ian Willmore 3½...

"Minor" 1 David J Webb 5/5; 2 Simon Thanesan (Maidstone) 4½; 3-6 Anthony Duncan (Islington), James Luck (Grays), RC Harrison (WGC), Alan Trent 4; 7-9 Ronald Prickett (Grays), Ronald Prickett (Grays) it says here, KW Smith (Sidcup) 5... Results John Leake

KENT LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS at Bexleyheath 12th April 1997 attracted 15 players.

Open 1-2 Rosalind Kieran, Heather Richards 5½/6; 3 Sue Howell 4...

Under 100 (combined) 1 Susan Richards 4; 2-3 Emily Lerwill, Antoinette Wilson 3½... Results Roger Holmes

11th RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY at Hampton 20th April 1997

Open (28 pl) 1 Michael Adams (London) 5½/6; 2 Bogdan Lalic (Sutton) 5; 3 Peter Varley (Addlestone) 4½; 4-7 Susan Lalic (Sutton), Gavin Wall (London), Abimbola Adalaja (London), David Wood (Chatham), Marcus Osborne (Wallington) 4... GRADING U200 1 Peter Varley, 2-3 Abimbola Adelaja, David Wood. U175 1 Marcus Osborne; 2-5 Michael Duggan, Richard James, Chris White (all Twickenham), Alan Punnett (Woking) 3

Major U175 (28 pl) 1-3 Thomas Dougherty (London), David Edwards (Worcester Park), John Reid (London) 5/6... GRADING U125 1-2 Keith Morris (Hayes Middx), Ray Robinson (London) 4½

Minor U100 (34 pl) 1-2 Nigel Knott (London), Robert Skinner (Twickenham) 5/6; 3-4 Kate Feld (Cobham), Robert Hansell (High Wycombe), Robert Rundaba (Kingston) 4½... GRADING U75 / Never Graded 1 Robert Rundaba 4½; 2-3 Tom Boesen (Hayes Middx), Edward Leung (London) 4 Results Richard James

JUNIOR NEWS

ESSEX JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS at Southend 8-9 March 1997

Under 18/16/14 (10 pl, all of them U14 and half of them U11) U18 Iain Gunn (Maldon) 5½/6; U16 Graham Walker (Southend) 4½; U14 Ezra Lutton (Basildon) 4...

Under 11 (24 ent) 1 Matthew Jellett 6/6; 2 James Berlin 4½...

Under 9 (36 ent) 1 Daniel Hedges 6/6; 2 Tom Swift 5...

"In view of the success of our U11s and U9s, it would appear that Essex chess is not only doing well but can look forward to continuing good fortune in the future. However the situation at secondary school level is very disappointing... It is also unfortunate that the County was unable to raise a team for the recent SCCU U18 Jamboree.

"The Essex Secondary Schools League established just after the war reached a peak in the early 70s when over 50 teams took part (U18/15/13). Today there are none as support for the League has dwindled during the past ten years. A decline in extra-curricular activities in schools is now more apparent, so much needs to be done by chess clubs and individuals.

"The recent formation of the Essex Junior Chess Association will no doubt help to improve the situation... One proposal, put forward by the EJCA, is the formation of an Essex Inter-Club Junior League - a venture that would require considerable support from chess players and parents alike." - Ivor Smith in *Chessex*. Are other counties seeing the same thing? (Kent Schools League soldiers on but the number of teams - 100+ including Primary - is half what it was fifteen years ago.)

MAIDENHEAD JUNIOR 1st-3rd April 1997

Under 18 (11 pl) 1 M Broomfield (12: London SE25) 7/8; 2 MC Campbell (17: Merrow) 6½; 3 OG Payne (16: Godalming) 6; 4 KB Nicholas (12: Stoke Poges) 5½...

Under 13 (12 pl) 1 A Smith (12: Swindon) 7/9; 2-3 A Navias (11: Ascot), R Hansell (12: Great Kingshill) 6½; 4 J Buchanan (11: Thame) 6...

Under 11 (26 pl) 1 C Hansell (10: Great Kingshill) 7/9; 2-3 VS Aarons (10: London NW3), CL Boyles (10: Swindon) 6½; 4-5 D Bareham (10: Cricklade), GP Morris (9: Abingdon) 6...

Under 9 (33 pl) 1-2 J Zhang (8: London NW2), J Hillman (8: London N20) 9½/11; 3 CH Morris (8: Abingdon) 8½; 4 W Foster (8: Newbury) 8; 5 T Hollings (8: Caversham) 7½; 6-9 D Hitchens (7: Oxford), PDH Armstrong (7: Windsor), J Pither (8: London NW11), R Lall (8: Oxford) 7... Results Nigel Dennis

BEXLEYHEATH JUNIOR 12th April 1997

Under 18 / Adults Major (8 pl) 1-2 David Moskovic, Mark Roberts 5/6; 3-4 John Bennett, Martin Taylor 4½...

Under 18 / Adults Minor (24 pl) 1 David Ho 5½/6; 2 Oliver Cooley 5; 3-6 Steven Pretty, Konrad Sanders, Russell Scott, Simon Thanesan 4...

Under 11 (21 pl) 1 Andrew Welch 5½/6; 2 Zakerey Bennett 5; 3 Nikhil Arora 4½; 4-6 Edmund Birkhamshaw, Thomas Stradwick, David Ridout 4...

Under 9 (13 pl) 1 Daniel Diamond 5½/6; 2 David Franklin 4½; 3-5 David Howell, Alex Partridge, Stephen Wassermann-Fry 4... Results Roger Holmes

EPSCA UNDER 11 TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Three rounds, teams of 20)

Zonal at Barnet 19th April 1997: 1 Essex 44½/60; 2 Richmond 42; 3 Kent 41½; 4 Wey Valley 40; 5 Barnet, 30; 6-7 Herts, NW London 20; 8 S London 17; 9 Bucks 15; 10 Croydon absent. Top 5 qualified. Results Arnold Lutton

Final at St Dunstons College (Kent) 10th May 1997: 1 Richmond 46½/60; 2 Kent 45½; 3 Essex 44½; 4 Wey Valley 42½; 5 Hants 38; 6 Devon 32; 7 Notts 27½; 8 Manchester 26½; 9 Cambs 25½; 10 Lancs 24½; 11 Barnet 24; 12 Cornwall 23½; 13 Lincs 22; 14-15 Cheshire & N Wales, Oldham 20½; 16 Liverpool 16½. SCCU first and the rest nowhere, pretty well, and the U9 was similar. Results Bob Blake

EPSCA UNDER 9 TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Three rounds, teams of 12)

Zonal at Leatherhead 15th March 1997: 1 Richmond 32/36; 2 Kent 24; 3 Essex 22; 4 Wey Valley 20; 5 NW London 19; 6 Barnet 16; 7 Herts 13½; 8 Croydon 10; 9 South London 5½. Top four qualified.

Final at Liverpool 26th April 1997: 1 Kent 28½/36; 2 Richmond 27½; 3 Wey Valley 26; 4 Devon 22½; 5-6 Essex, Yorks 21; 7 Oldham 19½; 8 Notts 17; 9-10 Liverpool, Norfolk 16; 11 Wilts 14; 12-13 Sussex, Northants 13; 14 Cambs 12½; 15 Lancs 11½; 16 Wirral 9. Results Hamid Habibi

EPSCA UNDER 11 GIRLS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Three rounds, teams of 12)

Final at Corby 17th May 1997: 1 Wey Valley 31/36; 2 Devon 27½; 3 Kent 24; 4 Liverpool 23½; 5 Notts 22½; 6 Wilts 19½; 7 Essex 19; 8 Somerset 18½; 9 Barnet 17½; 10 NW London 17; 11 Manchester 16½; 12 Hants 15½; 13-14 Lincs, Northants 13½; 15 Suffolk 12; 16-17 Herts, South London 7½ Results Chris Higgins

TONBRIDGE JUNIOR at Tonbridge School, 27th April 1997

Under 18 / Under 14 / Parents (35 played. The U18 was supposed to be split into Open and U121, but only three entered the Open. An U14 with six players didn't seem like a good idea either.) 1 Mark Roberts (Sevenoaks) 6/6; 2-5 Oliver Cooley, Richard Cheeseman (both St Olaves), Andrew Bigg (Hayes Kent), Martin Taylor (Gillingham) 4½... **UNDER 14** (and U91) Andrew Welch (Folkestone) 4

Kent U12 Championship (16 pl) 1 Daniel Diamond (Dulwich) 5/6; 2-3 Lalin Navaratne (Maidstone), Raymond Gosden (Whitstable) 4½; 4 James Chapman (London SE3) 4...

Under 10 / Under 8 (29 pl) 1 Thomas Stradwick (Bromley) 6/6; 2 Tom Shillingford (Croydon: U8 Prize); 3-4 Edward Coughlan (Amherst), James Regan (Tonbridge Wells) 4½; 5-8 Antoinette Wilson (Amherst), Andrew Hallam (Bearsted), Andrew Byfield (Maidstone), Arwen Van Der Elst (Bromley) 4...

BASMANIC MEGAFINALS 3/4 May 1997

Supremo first, Suprema second. Well, we couldn't type them simultaneously.

ESSEX/SUFFOLK (180 pl) **U18** No qualifier; Ellen Walker. **U15** Edward Hawker; Sarah Manning. **U12** Graham Walker; Amy Stone. **U11** Ezra Lutton; Katie Bates. **U10** Robert Payne; Heather Walker. **U9** Josiah Lutton; Francesca Berlin. **U8** Chris Maynard; Christina Gargan. **U7** Philip Gibbs; Tulin Rufaioglu.

KENT/SUSSEX (194 pl: 152 boys, 28 girls) **U18** Paul Wood; no qualifier. **U15** Paul Higgins; Elizabeth Giddings. **U12** Andrew Maynard; Lyndsey McDonald. **U11** David Ho; Grace Yip. **U10** Thomas Stradwick; Antoinette Wilson. **U9** Matthew Moore; Kathleen Watson. **U8** Thomas Sharp; Megan Wheatley. **U7** David Howell; Kristina Allen. We gather the entry from secondary schools was disappointing.

MIDDX/HERTS/BUCKS (316 pl: 245+71) **U18** Anthony Mohipp; no qualifier. **U15** J Daykin; Elaine Bettaney. **U12** Lorin d'Costa; Elizabeth O'boyle but we're not sure we believe that spelling. **U11** Daniel Caps; Vanessa Aarons
U10 Marco Lizzul; Rachel Lambert. **U9** Lee Gold; Danielle Gross. **U8** Philip Makepeace; Anna Savitsky. **U7** Andrew Regan; Philippa Macintyre.

SURREY (465 pl: 299+166) **U18** ?Alexei Moisseenkov; Lucy Broomfield. **U15** Matthew Robinson; Tracy Gent. **U12** Chris Rawlinson; Kate Feld. **U11** Kenan Boztas; Alexandra Wilson. **U10** Chetan Deva; Sophie Eagle. **U9** Jonathan Zoubaida; Meenatchy Kanagasapay. **U8** Robert Heaton; Sarah Hegarty. **U7** Graham Hantman; Hannah Dale.

Plus nine other Megafinals ("2500 turn out for Megafinals") from all over GB. National Gigafinals (Nottingham University 13 July) will decide the Ultimi for the different age groups. Might all be girls. Feminine of Ultimi, anyone? Terafinal (RFH 23 August) will decide one overall winner, who for some reason will be called the Strat.

SUSSEX JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS at Brighton, 3-4 May 1997

Under 18 (8 pl) 1 Thomas Rendle (Hastings) 6½/7; 2-3 Glen Parker (Eastbourne), Kevin Carter (Battle) 5½...

Under 14 (26 pl) 1-2 Edward Lamb (The Holt), Ben McManus (Eastbourne) 6/7; 3 Stephen Carter (Battle) 5½...

BEST U11 Roland Foxcroft (Aldrington)

Results Paul Watson

KENT Schools League 1996-7 (U16) went to Maidstone GS. We reported the Senior and U13 last time (St Olaves Orpington and Judd GS Tonbridge); Primary, watch this space.

"TIMES" NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP

Round 3 Hampton School Twickenham (15.0) 4½ 1½ Bedford Modern (17.5); Manchester Grammar (15.5) *3 3 Torquay Boys GS (17.3); Methodist College Belfast (16.8) 5 1 RGS Newcastle (13.6); Oakham School (14.3) *2½ 3½ Maidstone Boys GS (16.5). Semi-finals and Final at the Charing Cross Hotel 3-4 July.

PLATE Semi-finals St Olaves GS Orpington beat North Bridge House, London; K Edward VI Camp Hill

Birmingham beat Truro School. **Final:** St Olaves beat Truro School. Sorry no details. Results Mitchell Taylor

SCCU LEAGUE TABLES 1996-7

Well, one of them. The U125 wasn't quite complete last time. Not that the missing game result made any real difference.

UNDER 125	H	Sx	Sy	K	O	E	GP	MP
1 Herts		8½	8	14	9½	9½	49½	4½
2 Sussex	7½		10½	8½	8½	11	45½	4
3 Surrey	8	6½		10½	4	8½	37	2½
4 Kent	2	6½	5½		8½	11½ ³⁴	34	2
5 Oxon	6½	7½	12	7½		11	44½	2
6 Essex	6½	5	7½	4½	5		28½	0

There were also two match results we hadn't published.

UNDER 175

Kent	22.3.97	Sussex*
1 Nathan SW Alfred 174	½ ½	John A Dodgson 170 (W)
2 Stephen Firth 170	½ ½	Michael J Reddie 174
3 Robert J Everson 173	1 0	Chris Hann 171
4 Mark I Roberts 169	1 0	Robert V Elliston 173
5 David JR Barnes 167	½ ½	SON Hawes 167
6 John R Cordner 167	½ ½	Paul A Batchelor 167
7 Alan Atkinson 165	0 1	Andrew SJ Fleming 165
8 Peter W Eldridge 162	½ ½	Graham James 164
9 Jeremy JM Thomson 160	0 1	Ian G Kelly 163
10 Mark D Brougham 159	0 1	James P Munday 159
11 John H Lewin 159	½ ½	David G Ratcliffe 157
12 Stephen GB James 156	½ ½	G Scamardella 155
13 Sydney J Jacob 155	1 0	David G Roberts 155
14 def	0 1	Laurence Rackham 150
15 Nicholas C Mackett 152	0 1	P Greaves 147
16 def	0 1	R Daniel Hirsch 138
(Charlton)	6½ 9½	

UNDER 125

Sussex	22.3.97	Surrey*
P Helliwell 119 (B)	1 0	L Evbounwan 124
B McManus 123	1 0	G Morse 121
B Horscroft 120	1 0	J McGing 120
G McCulloch 123	½ ½	M King 119
T Rendle 110	0 1	D Weston-Lewis 118
A Higgs 118	½ ½	M Bolan 117
A Quant 118	0 1	K Lovel 116
P Britton 116	½ ½	D Howes 115
J Parker 115	½ ½	H Wylie 114
B Wilkinson 118	1 0	W Waterton 110
MA Bryant 115	1 0	R Wright 109
M Curtis 110	½ ½	A Thake 104
SP Deere 114	½ ½	D Parsons 117
C Holcombe 108	1 0	LI Makinson 97
D Simpkins 120	1 0	PM Shaw 105
N Pestelle 111	0 1	D Innes 96
(Crawley)	10 6	

¹ Controller's ruling: QPF claim

BCF STAGE COUNTY MATCHES

OPEN

Quarter Finals

Hants		17.5.97	Kent*	Essex	18.5.97	Notts	
1 Tony Kosten 242 (W)	1	0	Neil McDonald 236	A Plüg	½ ½	A Collinson 221	
2 def	0	1	John M Emms 239	J Rogers 225	0	1	A Dyce 199
3 Philip Rossiter 210	½	½	Daniel W Gormally 213	AP Lewis 212	1	0	BD Beake 189
4 Richard Webb 210	½	½	Ian R Watson 212	M Twyble 208	1	0	T Hinks-Edwards 205
5 Tony Corkett 209	½	½	Cliff R Chandler 206	JP Manley 205	1	0	JA Tait 200
6 Ian Thompson 202	1	0	Chris M Cooley 205	D Sands 201	1	0	NA Lazonby 188
7 Mike Yeo 201	1	0	Richard Eales	G Moore 197	1	0	AN Walker 178
8 Gerald Bennett 203	0	1	John Naylor 202	G Kenworthy 195	1	0	M Thomas 176
9 Nigel Johnson 128	0	1	Andrew L Mack 202	J Hodgson 194	1	0	PJ Mercs 173
10 Arthur Brameld 199	0	1	David M Moskovic 196	J Goldberg 190	0	1	JT Swain 173
11 Ken Coates 193	0	1	Alan E Hanreck 199	J Burnett 190	0	1	RJ Savory 172
12 Mathew (so) Anderton 190	½	½	Neil F Dickenson 193	A Dunn 185	1	0	AJ Wright 166
13 Bob Noyce 189	½	½	Alexis M Harakis 191	IJ Myall 184	½	½	JUI (Jul?) Cast 161
14 Dominic Tunks 189	½	½	RMR O'Kelly 191	JC Moore 183	1	0	BM Hayward 160
15 Colin Purdon 183	½	½	Peter P Taylor 190	W Saunders 181	1	0	RJ Webster 159
16 Roger Marsh 176	0	1	John N Sugden 189	R Parker 177	0	1	HR Edwards 150
(Basingstoke)	6½	9½		(Bedford)	10	6	

MINOR COUNTIES

Quarter Finals

Herts*		10.5.97	Derbyshire	Suffolk	17.5.97	Oxon*	
1 Simon JB Knott 218	1	0	M Alderson 175 (B)	K Bowden 228 (B)	0	1	H Hunt 217
2 Jerry F Rudge 194	½	½	R Gamble 174	M Cook 187	0	1	J Hastings 197
3 Chiedu Maduekwe 193	½	½	S Gilmore 168	S Gregory 184	0	1	M Rose 194
4 Phil G Maguire 189	1	0	M Johnson 161	S Munson 182	0	1	M Devereaux 188
5 Kevin R Clark 185	1	0	M Altinsoy 2215 ¹	C Franklin 177	0	1	A Lewis 190
6 Alistair M Simpson 189	1	0	P Moore 160	I Wallis 176	0	1	N Jackubovics ¹ 187
7 Alex N Ethelontis 180	½	½	I Iglesias 156	P Botham 176	½	½	T Dickinson 184
8 Simon J Roe 181	½	½	D Williams 155	D Whitehead 175	0	1	R Starkie 180
9 Howard L Tebbs 179	1	0	S Bracey 150	D Spence 173	0	1	G Chapman 174
10 John R Denton 176	1	0	D Beckford 146	R Sanders 173	½	½	J Stayt 175
11 Andrew Gilfillan 176	1	0	M Hill 149	T Lunn 169	0	1	L Millin 176
12 Paul D Hatchett 172	0	1	J Hoody ¹ 147	A Charity 165	1	0	J Wittman 172
13 Philip J Gregory 170	½	½	D Brown 148	J Feavyour 163	0	1	D Hackett 175
14 Steve Law 169	½	½	J Collins 151	M Taylor 160	½	½	D Bruce 158
15 John Cook 162	0	1	A Stevens 141	T Rubin 153	0	1	N Jones 168
16 David E Bower 157	½	½	J Murphy 125	C Rutledge 153	1	0	S Terry 165
(St Albans)	10½	5½		(Wanstead)	3½	12½	

¹ Derbys say team position correct. ² Not found, but there's a JD Hoddy with that grade.

¹ So how do you spell it?

UNDER 175

Quarter Finals

Essex*		17.5.97	Hants	Lancs	17.5.97	Sussex*	
1 Paul L Williamson 173	½	½	John R Wilkinson 171	Stephen Milligan 170	1	0	John A Dodgson 170
2 Roy Heppinstall 174	½	½	John H Jones 168	S Appleby 158	½	½	Michael J Reddie 174
3 Larry E Marden 173	1	0	DW Bell 167	P Mulleady 166	½	½	Robert V Elliston 173
4 David J Millward 172	0	1	ML Newbury 166	Mark A Whitehead 158	1	0	SON Hawes 167
5 Ivor BN Smith 173	1	0	M Body 163	John D Lyth 154	1	0	Paul A Batchelor 167
6 Peter C Doye 166	½	½	Martin GS Buckley 159	Simon Woodcock 161	½	½	Ian P Judd 168
7 Sid Kalinsky 165	½	½	Stephen J Smith 157	PT Seery 166	1	0	James Graham 164
8 Colin R Ramage 163	½	½	JM Ramsdale 155	S Foulkes 165	0	1	Susan C Howell 159
9 Neville H Twitchell 162	1	0	MC Priest 152	J Tennant-Smith 152	½	½	Keith Davies 156
10 Ian D Hunnabell 161	1	0	Peter C Copper 151	P Furlong 151	1	0	David L Roberts 156
11 Andy King 159	1	0	Richard D Perrin 149	M Lythgoe 148	½	½	Paul Watson 152
12 Ken Clow 158	1	0	K Byard 148	A Catz 142	0	1	WH Partridge 151
13 Steve M Williams 157	½	½	P Barber 147	G Jones 101	½	½	Laurence Rackham 150
14 Andrew D Hartland 155	1	0	D Kinsler 145	M Hamer 109(?) ¹	½	½	PR Selby 148
15 Ray Purse 154	1	0	David F Thompson 143	Steven White 117	0	1	P Greaves 147
16 Mark Weighell 151	1	0	BJ Knight 137	E Andersons 118	½	½	R Daniel Hirsch 138
(Crawley)	12	4		(Syston Lincs)	8½	7½	

¹ We can't find him either.

Nor can we make the scores add up. Looks like 9-7 to us. Sussex match captain tells us it was 8½-7½: "Essentially, we lost on board count. The score was 8-7 to Lancashire and the likely win I had on bottom board would not have mattered. The Lancs captain, Armand Catz, is to be congratulated for sensing the actual playing strength of his individual team members on the day. At first I thought his team order rather odd, but as the match progressed it became clear that his judgment was sound. I hope to meet him again. Thanks go to the Leicestershire President, Julia Hodgson, for hosting an interesting day's play."

UNDER 150

Preliminary

Cambs		26.4.97	Herts*	
1 M Szymanski 148		1 0	A Hall 149	
2 A Gregory 146		0 1	A Fulton 148	
3 M Pollard 146		½ ½	D Young 148	
4 T Bramley 142		½ ½	R Gordonsmith 147	
5 P Barkas 141		½ ½	S Charles 146	
6 M Wells 140		0 1	S Weston 144	
7 S Halliday 140		1 0	C Howe 146	
8 R Newman 139		0 1	B Judkins 144	
9 P Ribbands 136		½ ½	P Lawrence 142	
10 R Ferrer 133		0 1	K Hardy 142	
11 S Pride 132		0 1	D Webb 141	
12 A Bailey 129		0 1	S Cook 141	
13 C Norton 128		1 0	M Wali 128	
14 S Hart 120		0 1	M Waltham 136	
15 F James 119		½ ½	D Price 141	
16 T Hazel 120		0 1	J Marshall 134	
(Cambridge)		5½ 10½		

Two of the quarter-final results came from AJ Douglas, not the match captains.

Semi Finals (from AJD again):

Open Essex v Greater Manchester; Lancs v Kent

Minor Counties: Dorset v Oxon; Beds v Herts

U175 Essex v Warwicks; Lancs v Devon

U150 Warwicks v Essex; Notts v Herts

U125 Herts v Salop; Lancs v Notts

U100 Suffolk v Essex; Notts v Surrey

Semi Finals are to be played 7/8 June; Finals are 28 June in Birmingham.

Quarter Finals

Essex*		18.5.97	Cleveland	
1 PR Barclay 148 (W)		0 1	D Baillie 148	
2 J White 148		1 0	A Collins 146	
3 TG Winter 145		½ ½	M Haslam 146	
4 David Smith 145		0 1	J Garnett 145	
5 LJ Burtt 144		1 0	C Tart 144	
6 S Harwood 143		1 0	B Addison 144	
7 DJ Rawlings 139		1 0	S McCormack 143	
8 P Zammit 139		½ ½	P Welford 143	
9 D Cannan 137		1 0	EJ Lazenby 142	
10 SA Taylor 137		0 1	B Myers 140	
11 MRA Murrell 136		0 1	M Creaney 133	
12 A Drake 135		½ ½	S Morgan 130	
13 RD Sharman 134		½ ½	P Mitcheson 125	
14 JA Speigel 134		½ ½	D Richardson 124	
15 I MacLachlan 132		0 1	G Jones 117	
16 D Bird 126		1 0	B Rowe 115	
(West Bridgford)		8½ 7½		

Herts v Hants

or it may have been Hants v Herts; Herts match captain wasn't sure offhand. "Neutral" venue was Nuneaton!

Herts won by default. This probably means the BCF will be asking Hants awkward questions.

UNDER 125

Quarter Finals

Herts*		18.5.97	Cambs		Sussex*		10.5.97	Lancs	
1 T Wright 124		1 0	def		PJ Helliwell 119		0 1	Craig Hanley 113	
2 C Kidd 124		1 0	M Barnes 122		Con Power 121		0 1	Chris Dunlop 122	
3 C Byrne 124		1 0	def		Brian Horscroft 120		0 1	Roy Wild 116	
4 M Connock 121		1 0	S Hart 120		Gary McCulloch 123		0 1	Stephen Flaherty 124	
5 L D'Costa 118		½ ½	F Jones 119		J Quant 119		1 0	William O'Rourke 116	
6 A Phillips 122		0 1	R Palumbo 119		MA Bryant 115		0 1	D Jones 114	
7 T Sims 121		1 0	R Hickford 117		Andrew Hix 118		½ ½	Anthony Smith 111	
8 M Flatt 120		1 0	A Nicholson 117		D Simpkins 120		0 1	Ray Ashcroft 119	
9 S Kumar 119		1 0	D Rayner 116		John Povey 114		0 1	Ken McMahon 113	
10 J Moore 118		1 0	A Lynch 115		Mick Curtis 110		½ ½	Ben O'Rourke 115	
11 T Lawson 116		1 0	W Gruse ¹ 114		Simon P Deere 114		½ ½	Derek Brent 118	
12 G Lunn 119		½ ½	I Stone 114		Adam Wood 111		1 0	Steve Hughes 110	
13 K Baggs 115		½ ½	Z Harper 112		Charles Holcombe 109(?)		½ ½	E Andersons 118	
14 def		0 1	M Friday ² 110		Nigel Pestelle 111		0 1	Steven White 117	
15 M Read 109		1 0	I ³ Eckersley-Waites 109		Paul V Buswell 100		1 0	Neil Fawcett 97	
16 Q Latif 108		1 0	G Ellwood 108		T Peffer 94		0 1	Martin Hammer 109	
		12½ 3½					6 10		

¹ aka W Cruse? ² Neither did we, but there is an R Mike Friday graded 110. ³ T, probably.

Scores don't seem to add up (5-11?). We had this result by telephone so can't be sure.

UNDER 100

Quarter Finals

Surrey*		17.5.97		Devon	Shropshire	18.3.97 it says here		Essex
1 Edward Radford 99	½	½	Roy Greenhalgh 97 (W)	G Viskokai 98	½	½	Ron Prickett 99	
2 Bill Upton 95	1	0	B Tindal ¹ 95	G Matthews 97	½	½	Bijan Mehanjedad 99	
3 Chetan Deva 97	½	½	Tony Tatham 94	J Squires "E9x"	1	0	Chris Wiggins 99	
4 Oliver Wilson 96	½	½	Sean Ariss 90	S Jones 95	0	1	Robert Payne 98 j	
5 Chris Dixon 93	0	1	Patrick Gwynne 89	SL Davies 90	0	1	Lawrence Trent 95 j	
6 Lana Boztas 93	1	0	Ian Greenhalgh 89	I Davies 89	½	½	Ezra Lutton 95 j	
7 Tim Chase 90	1	0	Adam O'Reilly 77	BC Brown 87	0	1	Alex O'Neill 94 j	
8 Philip Cable 89	1	0	Matthew Allen 84	D Ogundipe 82	0	1	Caius Turner 83 j	
9 Laila Tillett 89	½	½	John Britten 84	R Hinsley 88	0	1	Dominic Allen 87 j	
10 Storm Ballard -	0	1	Ian Dudley 83	P Broderick 78	½	½	Josiah Lutton 81 j	
11 Graham Curtis 88	1	0	Paul Dransfield 83	L Roberts 76	0	1	Stewart Trent 82 j	
12 Richard Davey 84	1	0	Robert Lock 83	T Jones 72	½	½	Alan Trent e80	
(Frome)	8	4		(Adamston Salop)	3½	8½		

¹aka W Tindall?

Oxford friendly:

Town		10.5.97		Gown
1 M Rose 194	0	1	M Devereaux 188	
2 T Dickinson 184	1	0	B Savage 186	
3 G Chapman 174	0	1	A Lewis 190	
J Stayt 175	1	0	J Bosson 118	
5 N Jones 167	½	½	C Blake 184	
6 S Terry 165	½	½	N Rizvi 154	
7 D Bruce 158	1	0	N Cundy 147	
8 C Moxley 161	0	1	SP Ng -	
9 P Ball 150	½	½	M Ludbrook 146	
10 W Burt 142	1	0	M Cundy 140	
11 D Robson 145	1	0	B Hadwen 147	
12 L Smith 127	1	0	C Tan -	
(Keble College)	7½	4½		

SCCU UNDER 180 JAMBOREE

at Sutton, 12th April 1997

White		Black		White		Black	
1 Larry E Marden 173 E	1	0	Michael R Stott 177 Sx	E Horton 178 O	1	0	David Sedgwick 176 Sy
2 Julien M Shepley 173 Sy	½	½	Ivor BN Smith 173 E	John A Dodgson 170 Sx	½	½	James N Stayt 175 O
3 Paul Stimpson 171 Sy	½	½	Chris N Hann 171 Sx	David J Millward 171 E	0	1	Dave G Hackett 175 O
Nicholas C Jones 167 O	½	½	John S White 169 Sy	SON Hawes 167 Sx	0	1	Colin R Ramage 163 E
5 Neville H Twitchell 162 E	0	1	KP Mynett 167 Sy	ASJ Fleming 165 Sx	1	0	Sean Terry 165 O
6 Philip Vainker 162 O	1	0	Ian D Hunnable 161 E	David Spearman 165 Sy	½	½	Jim Graham 164 Sx
7 DJ Bruce 158 O	1	0	Paul D Dupré 160 Sy	Andy King 159 E	0	1	Ian G Kelly 163 Sx
8 David G Ratcliffe 157 Sx	1	0	N Hepworth 153 O	Thomas D Phillips 156 Sy	½	½	David G Pearse 155 E
9 Richard J Weeber 154 E	½	½	P Bell 150 O	CRA Clegg 154 Sy	1	0	Laurence Rackham 150 Sx
10 Paul Watson 152 Sx	½	½	John A Philpott 153 E	Peter B Hastings 145 O	0	1	Ian S MacLeod 139 Sy

Positions: 1 Surrey 6½/10; 2 Oxon 5½; 3-4 Essex, Sussex 4. Mean grades, in descending order: Sussex 163.6; Surrey 163.0; Oxon 162.8; Surrey 162.5 (!)

They sent half a zillion games with the Sutton Congress results. Neatly typed as well (only no notes). No time to look through all of them, so here's two of the shortest we could find.

White RA BatesB, Black K McEwan

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 g6 4.e4 Bg7 5.Be3 0-0 6.Qd2 c6 7.Bh6 Nbd7 8.e5 Nd5 9.h4 Nxc3 10.bxc3 f6 11.h5 Qe8 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.hxg6 Qxg6 14.Bd3 f5 15.Nh4 Qg4 16.Be2 Qe4 17.Qg5+ Kh8 18.Ng6+ 1-0

White C Cobb, Black DM Moskovic

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 g6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Be2 0-0 8.Nb3 d6 9.g4 Be6 10.f4 Rc8 11.f5 Bxb3 12.axb3 Ne5 13.Rxa7 b5 14.0-0 Nc6 15.Rb7 b4 16.Nd5 Nxe4 17.Bb5 Nc5 18.Bxc6 Nxb7 19.Bxb7 Rb8 20.Bb6 Qe8 21.Bc6 1-0

CONGRESS DIARY

- Jun 6 GOLDERS GREEN Rapidplay. Adam Raof, PO Box 1962 NW4 4NF 0181 202 0982
 6-8 AINTREE. J Dilworth, 5 Edge Lane, Thornton, Merseyside L23 4TF 0151 931 3788
 6-9 MIDLAND OPEN Birmingham. JM Robinson, 7 Manor Rd, Stanion, Kettering NN14 1DL
 01536 261697
 8 KINGS HEAD RAPIDPLAY. WA Suttill, 7 Lonsdale Rd, London W11 2BY. (12th Kings Head
 London Open cancelled.)
 14 WESTMINSTER Rapid. JM Sargent, 903 Longbridge Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2BU
 14-15 CAMBRIDGE. Open; U170/145/125/100. P McMahon, 91 Cambridge Rd, Hardwick, Cambridge
 01954 212256
 21 GOLDERS GREEN Rapidplay. Adam Raof, PO Box 1962 NW4 4NF 0181 202 0982
 21 1st ST OLAVES TOURNAMENT at Orpington. Open; U160/120; Junior U18/14/11. St Olaves
 Chess Club, St Olaves School, Goddington Lane, Orpington, Kent BR6 9SH
 21 COULSDON Rapidplay. Scott Freeman, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Rd, Coulsdon, Surrey
 0181 645 9586
 21-22 SPECTRUM FOLKESTONE. L Day, 2 Ferncroft Avenue, Mosborough, Sheffield 01142 485726
 22 BASINGSTOKE JUNIOR. J French, 31 Brocas Drive, South View, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2LS
 01256 472537
 22 RICHMOND. R James, 95 Lyndhurst Avenue, Twickenham 0181 898 1190
- Jul 5 KENT JUNIOR GRAND PRIX: Final event 1996-7 at Maidstone. U18/11/9. MPJ Whitwood, 8 Iden
 Crescent, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0NU 01580 892005
 11-13 2nd MILLSTREAM at East Grinstead. U180/135/105. 2nd Millstream Congress, 51 Borough Way,
 Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3HA
 12-13 6th ISH (International Students House!) London W1. Open; U160; U130. J Weightman, ISH Chess,
 225a Finchley Rd, London NW3 6LP 0171 435 7205
 12 WESTMINSTER Rapid. JM Sargent, 903 Longbridge Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2BU
 26 GOLDERS GREEN Rapidplay. Adam Raof, PO Box 1962 NW4 4NF 0181 202 0982

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: *Chessex* for April 1997