



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.

EDITORIAL

Scarcely an Editorial, just a request. If you've got word-processed copy for me, send it on a floppy disk. No point in both of us typing it out. By all means send a printed version as well, just in case. Floppies will be returned. Or you could send a data file if it's urgent. Or fax, but that saves time only. Usual number, but telephone first.

County match results on floppy disk, unfortunately, are more or less unusable unless they happen to be formatted my way. I can read them, but reformatting them is more bother than typing them out again. You can have my (Word 6/7/97) template if you want and it would make me very happy if you used it, but it's unlikely to meet your private requirements. Just send them on paper.

SO BUY THE SCCU LIST!!

The National Grading List appeared on time on the 1st August and they started complaining at once. A number of major events, including the International ones, had been missed out. It's not entirely clear what happened to them. Maybe graders forgot to post their results, maybe the Post Office lost them, maybe the BCF Office did. Maybe all of those. What's disturbing is that, until the punters noticed, no one knew they were missing. Routine checks were omitted. Grading admin has been at sixes and sevens this year, due to staff shortages, but it shouldn't have happened.

Good news is, they've now got hold of the results. They went back to the graders and asked for them. Whether that means *all* the results we don't know. They've gone in, and the sums have been done again.

Bad news is, the list was done in one big print run, costing about £4500, so there won't be a revised second edition. About 540 grades in the published list are wrong. That must be a good three players per page. It's largely SCCU people, Kent and Oxon in particular. A list of corrections has been prepared, and is now being supplied with every copy sold. If you bought a list without, the BCF will supply one on request. Unfortunately, it turns out that the corrections aren't complete. They exclude people who weren't in the original list. That is, the people who should have been but "didn't qualify" for publication because half their games were missing. So it's more than the 540; don't know how many more.

THE SCCU LIST IS RIGHT. It was produced later from the corrected file, and it doesn't miss anyone out. The same goes for the various County lists the Union has supplied. For grading limits in SCCU County matches, the SCCU list will take precedence over the BCF one. That's official.

Here's one they did pick up before publication. Simon D Brown, who's a 200+ player as you probably know, came out at 150. Turned out that the London League grading had docked all its players 1000 points or something. Well, that's what we heard. Sounds like one of those computer jobs that throw away the Thousands column. Expect they put it right for everyone, not just SDB.

To change the subject, the co-ordinator responsible for getting the new programs written has been replaced. He's an SCCU man. It would be nice to think the new man will get things moving. We'll name him in due course, if he does.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The first letter has been substantially edited. We've been on the phone to its author, and we think what's below is an agreed version.

Dear Richard,

rec 7.8.97

...For people with poor hearing [see page 236:11], standing up is a good idea; a better horizon to see gestures, body language and lip reading... [Ed: - makes my Quote look sick. It wasn't meant to be in poor taste.]

Your Wood Green / Slough report is not that accurate in some respects, but it's a complex subject. Decisions were completely inconsistent with precedent... In previous years the director has overturned several of the controllers' decisions. I'm fairly disgusted, and the Barbican club looks forward to moving back into the 4NCL with renewed vigour.

Another big concern is the Department of National Heritage grant. We need better planning and strategy (ie business and corporate plans). IT IS NOT BUMF... One thing the Civil servants wanted was details of the mechanisms for training trainers. There needs to be a body that provides certificates, qualifications, advice and vetting of the trainers. This is a concern of Bob Wade, Keith Brown and myself...

Yours sincerely,

GARY KENWORTHY

Waltham Abbey

Dear Richard,

It's always good to read your personalised account of what goes on in the higher echelons of organising chess; your reports on the BCF Management Board Meeting on 21 June and the BCF Council Meeting on 12 July are indeed droll! I hope I may be permitted to give a more balanced comment on some points.

BCF Management Board Meeting 21 June 1997

1. The shambles on grading was indeed a "Management Problem",¹ primarily because the extent of the difficulties came as a real shock to the Director in charge and to other Board members. One obvious requirement if you manage anything is to know what goes on and to take prompt corrective action when needed. The fact that the 1997 National Grading List has now, I understand, come out on time is due to the tremendous dedication of the Officer concerned, Roger Edwards, to whom we all owe sincere thanks.
2. Business planning is a fact of life in modern organisations and it is no surprise the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (formerly the DHN) has decided that organisations receiving grants, like the BCF, should undertake this discipline. Business planning is all about the thinking process and not the "bumf" as you delicately put it. If you are aiming to do something, you should decide what you want to achieve, consider the options available to you to carry out your plan, work out how much it will cost, decide what targets you will set to determine success and so on. Essentially, this is common sense whether you are a multi million £ international company or a chess organisation. So the point made by the DCMS that the exercise helps the grant organisations to do their job better is unarguable!
3. What on earth do you mean by "unprovoked" in relation to the paper I presented on Succession Planning? Speak to the BCF Chairman who had suggested producing a paper when I discussed the matter with him.¹ "The time was wrong" only in the sense that the matter should have come before the Board years ago. At least now the subject is on the table. The fact that half the number of directorates are vacant at the time of writing this letter simply emphasises the importance of introducing Succession Planning.

BCF Council Meeting 12 July 1997

- (1) I was touched by your comment that we appear to be in close harmony on the subject of the importance of Management Skills.³ What the majority of the Working Group tried to get across was that it is idle to pretend that chess can operate in some sort of a time warp when everything around it is changing so fast. For example, would anyone taking their first job in a bank in the 40s or 50s have remotely considered the possibility of redundancy; now look at the situation!
- (2) Chess is not alone amongst recreational activities in having to face up to dramatic change, often extremely painful, in the way it manages its affairs. The Management Board should not spend so much of its time on the minutiae of chess activities but should focus on more strategic issues as the future for chess in the years ahead, how it can be more adequately financed, what happens if (when) the government grant disappears or is significantly reduced. How we should go about finding and training the Officers of the future (Succession Planning), how should we broaden the attraction of chess to a wider population, in particular to women and girls, what can be done to improve the often very poor background environment in many chess clubs. I could go on but I think you get the drift.
- (3) The Management Board is likely to remain largely ineffective with too large a membership, split between "Us" and "Them". It will still spend far too much time on minutiae, the long meetings will wear everyone out (if they bother to go), there will be little evidence of leadership from the Board to the active chess public at large, questions will arise whether the requirements of our sponsors such as the DCMS are given sufficient attention, the new Policy Unit will probably be merely a talking shop and produce little of importance for the future;⁴ even if it does, the Board may well disagree. As ever, successes in the BCF will depend on the diligence and dedication of a small number of key officials. Am I guessing right; time will tell!
- (4) Like it or not, chess organisation, dare I say its style of management, will have to change. The BCF has achieved a great deal on the purely chess front such as the success of our international teams and the growth of the number of juniors with so much potential. But life is getting tougher especially on matters relating to finance and in finding people willing to spend their spare time on chess organisation especially when there are now so many more competing attractions, not to mention the demands of many families with both partners working. The BCF, like other chess organisations and chess in general, has to face these challenges otherwise you know what happened to dinosaurs!

Yours sincerely,

BRYAN (FEWELL)

Harpenden

Ed: - I don't, actually. But never mind. It is true that I'm free with my opinions. My tone may provoke, if you don't share my sense of humour. But read the last sentence inside the front cover. I try not to be *factually* unbalanced. Here's some facts. On the bumf: only the comment specifically labelled "cynical" was mine, and I said it was mine. The others were made at the meeting, by people perhaps equally cynical. On Succession Planning: I reported Bryan's proposals, fairly I think, and I made no comment on them. All the opinions reported were expressed at the meeting, and not by me, and I think they were representative. The one about timing seemed to be the opinion of the Board. Bryan doesn't suggest otherwise, and he was there. As for Management, and reorganisation: I know Bryan's views and I'm not sure how I provoked him to repeat them. I expect it was my barely concealed satisfaction at the outcome, and it'll teach me not to crow. But I think readers got the drift

long ago, and I just reported the decisions. If I'd wanted to spend half a page on the discussion I'd have reported both sides.

In case I've given the impression that I'm opposed to management and planning: I'm not, and I don't believe anyone is.

Notes: (1) Of course it was. I just wouldn't have bothered to say so, and I'm not so sure I'd have laid all the blame in one quarter. If we'd known then what we know now about the *real* extent of the shambles... (2) I didn't know that. The word was used humorously. (3) That wasn't *quite* what I said! (4) Why?

Dear Richard,

14.9.97

As the grading system is being revamped computer-wise, is it not also time to consider other changes?

(1) Can anyone be a grader, or is there a qualification required as for an arbiter?

(2) Is there a common way for ungraded players to be graded? (Such as 7 year olds being given a grade of 40, 8 year olds 50.. up to 11 year olds and over 80.) If not, there should be, to remove graders' "opinions" of strengths of Juniors.

(3) In the World Championships, entrants without an International Elo Rating are put at the bottom of the draw. Is it not time for ungraded players of any strength also to be put at the bottom of the draw in any congress?

(4) Is it optional whether the controller of an Under 8 tournament enters the grades for the full BCF grading list, the Rapidplay list, or both? To mind, the time limits which apply to adult tournaments should also apply to junior ones. All under 8 events would then be Rapidplay events and graded as such, the children benefitting by seeing their grades change twice a year.

(5) Now we have Game Fee, is it not time for the BCF to approach any congress, league or Junior Organisation, to insist, as far as they are able, that BCF grades are used? The Terafinal at the Festival Hall in August was ruined by the non use of BCF grades. Lee Gold, August 1997 BCF grade A82, was given a grade of 98 for the Terafinal, the only time he has ever had this grade. Catherine David, BCF grade A101, was given a grade of 92!!! Lee was put in the top half of the draw for the 1st round of this knock-out tournament; Catherine was put in the bottom half. As 1st round winners received +£50, I would like to know why such bias was used! I have been unable to explain to Catherine why, when she has paid over £5 in game fees, played over 60 gradable games, her achievement in obtaining a grade of A101 has been rubbished. Harriet Hunt has coached Catherine, and I have transported her to the London Junior Congress, West of England Junior Congress, Oxford League matches etc etc, and I object in the strongest terms to having our efforts and the efforts of Roger Edwards and other graders ignored. Why are we expected to pay game fees?

I suggest that no games from any of the stages of the UK Chess Challenge are accepted by the BCF for grading unless a particular venue (e.g. Nottingham) is able to provide evidence that the draw was made using BCF grades. Any other event using non BCF grades in any form for the draw or grading of a tournament, should not be accepted by the BCF Grading Director. The "Gaffney" grades of 10 years ago could be compared with the paying of monthly compound interest to those players playing in his tournaments, whilst the rest of us were paid in BCF yearly simple interest. Irfan Nathoo entered the BCF Junior Championships in Swansea using a grade of 140 approx instead of his BCF grade of A91 (1986). Simon Ansell used his BCF grade of 97, and was put in the bottom half of the draw because so many London juniors were allowed to use non BCF grades. Those bad old days must NOT be allowed to return. London and district juniors must use the same grading system as everyone else.

Yours sincerely, a very angry

LESTER MILLIN

Begbroke, Oxon

Ed: - I don't know whether it's just London and district, but in a general sort of way I agree with Lester about ignoring official grades for seeding purposes. So does the SCCU Executive Committee, and it agreed 12.9.97 to raise the point at the BCF Council Meeting.

To answer three questions (with some opinions, of course): (1) No formal qualification. Just get an organisation to nominate you as its grader. (2) There's an official way, but I don't know whether anyone uses it. I can't even find my copy (it's years old). I don't remember that it made any special reference to juniors. But you have to draw a distinction between estimates used for grading, and estimates used for seeding. For grading purposes, there's no problem. Or there won't be with the new system, and I don't care about the failings of a system they're just about to replace. Chris Howell will know the details better than me, but the new system, effectively, will work its own estimate out when it does the sums at the end of the season. It will do this using *all* the player's results; it's not going to use different estimates for different events (or different methods for different areas!). That's grading, and it doesn't solve the seeding problem. I'm not sure you can solve the seeding problem as naively as Lester would, and I don't see why seeding-estimates shouldn't vary in the course of the season as you learn more about people. It will have no effect on the grading outcome. (4) This isn't clear, for juniors. Adult rule for standard play is, not less than 1 ¼ hours each. If it's less, you grade it as Rapidplay. But you're allowed some (unspecified) latitude with juniors, and I admit I accept one-hour-each for standard grading in Kent junior events. I wouldn't accept ¾ hour. Perhaps the rules should say how much latitude is latitude. I think it's clear that you can't include an event for *both*!

SCCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive met on Friday 12th September 1997 at the Durham Castle, London W1. 14 attended. Some items, in more or less chronological order:

- (1) **Trophy.** Oh dear. Kent never returned the Harry Woolverton Trophy (Counties U100) at the end of last season, and they now announced that they had *lost it*. At least that's one missing trophy with an honest culprit. They said they would replace it. It was brand new in 1995-6 when Kent won it, and not yet engraved.
- (2) **Slough v Wood Green.** Bob Turnham of Wood Green had written to the President, objecting to the "biased and inaccurate" things reported from the SCCU Annual Council Meeting (July Bulletin, page 3). He felt that a correction should be published. He had declined an invitation to write to the Bulletin. We cannot publish a correction, because he did not say what the inaccuracies were.
- (3) **Grading.** We spent a fair while on this; see the separate grading report on page 1. Lester Millin raised some matters that appear in a letter from him on page 3.
- (4) **County Match Controller.** David Sedgwick said that, in view of his other commitments, he would be unable to continue as CMC after this season. Arising out of the last SCCU Council Meeting, we needed to make some proposals to the BCF on the definition of a Minor County. He invited concrete proposals by (say) 31st December.
- Counties Rapidplay Championship. News had been slow to emerge, and the recent entry form made it look like a closed MCCU event. It usually was an MCCU event, *de facto* at least. We could offer to host it ourselves in future; or we could hold an SCCU event and challenge the "MCCU" winner to play ours. It was agreed to invite offers from Counties, and have it on the agenda for the March Executive meeting.
- (5) **SCCU Match Captain.** RCNLA said he hoped the MCCU challenge match was still going ahead, though he had heard nothing lately. (It should be: see below.) The Essex Centenary match was in the pipeline. RCNLA appealed to Counties to put him in touch with strong players.
- (6) **Restructuring of the Union.** Sort of *déjà-vu* here, you might think. Basically it's a response to July's BCF Council Meeting (see last issue, page 5). It wasn't really all that clear what the BCF had decided at that meeting, but a sort of impression arose that the Unions had two or three years in which to broaden their involvement with chess organisations. They'd face the chop otherwise, in terms of Management Board representation, and who'd replace them wasn't the BCF's problem.

The Executive thought that a re-structuring exercise was worth while in its own right. (Well, one or two had doubts.) It is true that the SCCU represents Counties and no one else. The real questions were, who else *wants* to be represented? What would they expect to get out of it that they don't have already? Minor questions were, what would be the status of the "independent" leagues within the Counties? How would you handle representation and voting rights? "Who's going to re-write the Constitution?" was the least of the questions. There was some preliminary discussion, entirely positive we think, and the President will consult some of the larger organisations in our area.

We knew one answer to one of the questions. The Hastings International Chess Congress had formally expressed an interest in joining the Union. Watch this space. There's already no bar to it in the Constitution, but details will want sorting out. It's for next year's Council Meeting to decide, and we can't think the answer will be "no".

(7) **BCF Matters.** David Sedgwick announced that the recent FIDE Congress had accepted the BCF's application to host the European Team Championships. The venue was not firm, but it was quite likely to be Plymouth.

The Executive considered the Union's response to some of the things coming up at the BCF's September Council Meeting.

(a) There were to be two extra places on the Management Board for the two largest game-fee contributors interested and not already entitled; with the proviso that Council would decide whether this entitlement should be restricted to leagues. We would oppose this restriction.

(b) Game Fee Director to become Director of Game Fee and Grading. (The current Game Fee Director had resigned, and it was understood that Roger Edwards would continue, at least for a year, as national Grading Officer.) We would support this motion. We would also support Chris Howell's election to the new Directorate. He was the only candidate.

(c) European Club Cup. The BCF Extraordinary Council Meeting in July had, after very full discussion, resolved to select both English nominees from the 4NCL, rather than one from the 4NCL and one from the National Club. The London Chess League had now tabled a motion to reverse that decision and select one team from each. We would oppose this motion.

(d) Counties Championship Rules. The MCCU proposed that where a Union qualifying competition includes less than three teams, so that only one team from the Union qualifies for the BCF Stage, then that team must play in the preliminary round if there is one. We would support this.

(e) Under 18 Team Championships. The papers of the BCF Meeting said that revisions to rules not specified "would be tabled on the day for Council to approve". We would oppose these changes, largely on the ground that you don't table rule changes without saying in advance what they're about.

(f) We would support a proposal that the Girls Under 18 Team Championships should be held on the day after the "Boys" ones. Someone said the Under 18 events should be held in term time. He suggested holding the Union events just before Christmas, and the National ones at the time vacated by the Union ones.

(8) Future Meetings. Executive Committee: Fridays 13th March and 15th May 1998. Annual Council Meeting: Either Saturday 27th June or Saturday 4th July, depending on the date of the BCF Finals.

(9) Union Individual Championship 1998. This would be offered to the Southend Easter Congress. (Our BCQ places for the 1999 Congress would be allocated at the March Executive meeting.)

(10) The meeting closed at 10.47 pm and your Editor caught the last train to Tunbridge Wells with 15 seconds to spare. Then someone (not your Editor) got unruly on the train and they held it up for more than an hour waiting for the police to arrive. At Tonbridge, five minutes short of where he gets off.

BCF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING is a bit close to the Bulletin deadline but, mindful of readers' interest, we'll try to squeeze it in somewhere.

CHALLENGE MATCHES

Things are happening with the MCCU Centenary Challenge Match. It is expected to be over 50 boards, probably at Nuneaton and probably in grading bands, some time in the next couple of months. The WECU (it's their half-century) may also be involved. The Essex Centenary match is planned for (probably) October 1998, over 100 boards!

BERKS Leagues 1996-7: Div 1 1-2 Crowthorne A, Camberley A 19/24... Crowthorne were ahead on games but that doesn't count: title shared. Div 2 1 Newbury 20/22; 2-3 Reading B, Bracknell B 16... Div 3 1 Telecom B 18/22; 2 Camberley B 17... It's two up two down; wonder how they split ties for that.

Premier Precision Cup: Final was Crowthorne A 4 2 Bracknell A. Plate: Reading A* 3 3 Bourne End.

Results Ted Matthewson

ESSEX League 1996-7, Division 1. The play-off is resolved, and Southend beat Wanstead (5-5) on board count. Unlike Berks, they don't share titles. First tie-break in the League, we hear, is game points *if more than two teams are tied*. If it's only two, as it was, then it's result of match between them (they drew it). Then straight to play-off. Either they drew all ten games first time round, or board count and elimination aren't applied at that stage.

Essex Team Blitz 13.7.97 (8 teams) 1 Writtle 22; 2 Southend A 19... **Individual Lightning** 1 J Goldberg (Ilford) 4½/5; 2 P Barclay (Wanstead) 4½ (don't ask)...

And Essex swept the board in the Counties & Districts Correspondence Championships, winning all three divisions.

KENT County Champion is Ian Watson, for the nth time. **Summer Quick-play** Champions, for the second time in a row, are Hastings & St Leonards who beat Lewisham 8½-7½ in an exciting and fluctuating Final 14.9.97. We're broad-minded in Kent, and we always let Hastings play in the KSQP. Crowborough too, when they feel like it.

Well, Sussex don't have a KSQP. Every county should have one. Hastings are back in Kent for the mainstream leagues 1997-8, at U140 level. That is, mean grade ≤ 140.

SUSSEX Champion is Feliks Kwiatkowski who beat Bernard Cafferty in the final (three draws, then a win). Veterans Champion RH Williams. West Sussex Queen TJ Woods; East Sussex Queen RR Harper. McArthur Cup: Northern section The Holt; Western section Worthing; Eastern section Hastings, unopposed. Brighton went straight to the semi-finals and took the title (again) by beating Worthing 5½-½ in the final. Sussex Jamboree 12.7.97: 1-2 Brighton A, Chichester 5/6...

Juniors, 3-4 May: U18 (8 pl) Thomas Rendle (Hastings); U14 (26 pl) 1-2 Edward Lamb (The Holt), Ben McManus (Eastbourne). Primary: U11 Joseph Carthew (Battle & Langton); U9 Matthew Moore (Gt Walstead); U7 David Howell (Seaford); Girls Nathalie McManus (Birchwood Grove). Primary Teams: U11 St Lawrence A (Hurstpierpoint); U9 1-2 Gt Walstead, St Lawrence; U7 Dorset House, Bury(?!).

Mid-Sussex League: Div 1 Hastings I; Div 2 Crawley I; Div 3 Brighton III; Div 4 Horsham II. South-west Sussex League (one division, 8 teams): Bognor B. (Bognor A were second.)

LONDON LEAGUE

Eastman Cup Final: Wood Green 6½ 3½ Barbican. Average grade of the Wood Green team was 222 and a bit, and Barbican were only five points worse. Plate Final: Mushrooms 7 3 Beckenham & Bromley.

Results Gary Kenworthy

WRITTLÉ CONGRESS (for the Essex Championship) 26-27 July 1997 attracted 33 players.

1-2 David Kraszewski (Grays: takes title), CP Botham (Ipswich, and not eligible) 4½/5; 3 Russell White (Chelmsford) 4... **Minor** (incorporated) 1-3 Paul Barclay (Wanstead), Stan Harwood (Southend), Kerry Chilvers (Writtle) 3½ They will play off.

BERKS & BUCKS CONGRESS at Desborough School, Maidenhead, 23-25 August 1997

Championship (14 pl) 1 Gerald Moore (SW7) 4/5; 2-3 Richard Webb (Yateley), Aiden Leech (Maidenhead: age 17) 3½...

Challengers (14 pl) 1 John Townsend (Winnersh) 4/5; 2 CA Costello (Southall) 3...

Reserves A (16 pl) 1-3 Michael Lucey (Newbury), Peter Ball (Oxford), Nick Kewick (Appleton Oxon) 4/5...

Reserves B (16 pl) 1-2 Koichi Nicolas (Stoke Poges: age 13), Thomas Quilter (Beaconsfield: age 16) 4/5...

Reserves C (14 pl) 1 David Kay (Guildford: age 13) 4/5; 2 Anthony Duncan (London N4) 3½...

Reserves D (16 pl) 1-2 Peter Staneland (Southall), Kenneth Smith (Eltham) 4/5...

Reserves E (15 pl) 1 Malcolm Dent (Reading) 5/5; 2-3 Adam Thorpe (Chinnor Oxon: age 12), Jeff Thomas (Reading) 3½...

Reserves F (15 pl) 1-4 Gary Loughran (Oxford), SG Hunter (Oxford), Fred Coomes (Morden), Malcolm Jamieson (Seaford) 4/5...

Mrs Stean Cup for best performance by an U14: Koichi Nicholas (Bucks). **Lightning Tournament**: 1 RC Noyce (Eastleigh) Results Nigel Dennis

THANET CONGRESS at Broadstairs, 29-31 Aug 1997

Open (24 ent) 1 Michael Adams (Slough) 5/5; 2-5 SJ Bibby (Whitstable), SW Giddins (Black Lion), R Palliser (Hull), J Wager (Charlton) 3½... **GRADING U185** GM Brown (Ashford); **BEST THANET** Heather Richards (Whitstable).

Major U165 (37 ent) 1 T Philips (South Norwood) 4½/5; 2-4 M Owen (Folkestone), SJ Peters (Dartford), BJ Westover (Ramsgate) 4... **GRADING U145 A** Bigg (Hayes Kent); **BEST THANET A** Atkinson (Herne Bay).

Intermediate U130 (39 ent) 1 S Thanesan (Maidstone) 5/5; 2-3 P Havens (Broadstairs), DE Rattray (South Norwood) 4... **GRADING U115 G** Foxon (Wokingham), E Lutton (Basildon); **BEST THANET S** Guy (Ramsgate).

Minor U100 (37 ent) 1-2 A Swersky (Richmond), G Clewley (Ramsgate) 4½/5; 3 LR Jones (Beckenham) 4... **BEST THANET J** Cutting (Broadstairs).

Special prizes: **LADIES** Susan Richards (Whitstable); **SENIORS 60+** GH Redfern (Folkestone); **JUNIORS 15-** J Thanesan Results Tony Hargreaves

13th RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY 14th September 1997

Open (36 pl) 1 GM Michael Adams (London) 6/6; 2 IM Peter Large (London) 5; 3-8 Miroslav Houska (Epsom), Andrew Lewis (Twickenham), IM Ryad Rizouk (Algeria), Peter Varley (Addlestone), Gavin Wall (London), Tim Wall (London) 4... **GRADING U200** 1 Richard Bates (Richmond) 4½ **SO HE WAS 3RD DAMMIT AND JUST FOR ONCE WE'RE NOT GOING TO BACKTRACK AND CORRECT IT**; 2 Jovanka Houska (Slough) 4 and she was =4th.

Major U160 (24 pl) 1 David Lewis (Reading) 5/6; 2-4 Geraint Edwards (Kingston), David Faldon (London), Thirumurugan Thiruchelvam (New Malden) 4½... **GRADING U140** 1-3 Shane McCabe, Ross Mooring, Donny Muter (all London) 4

Intermediate U120 (38 pl) 1-3 Paul Battersby (Wallington), Michael Healey (London), Adam Swersky (Pinner) 5/6... **GRADING U100** 1-2 Andrew Bigg (Oxted), Mark Wieder (Hanworth) 3½

Minor U80 (27 pl) 1-2 Harvey Murray-Smith (Esher), Matthew Robinson (Wallington) 5/6; 3-4 Alexandra Kelly (Caterham), Amir Mughal (Southall) 4½...

Best Game Prize David Faldon; **2-Generation-Family Prize**: the Houskas (8 pts). Results Richard James

JUNIOR NEWS**KENT JUNIOR GRAND PRIX FINAL EVENT** at Astor of Hever School, Maidstone, 5th July 1997

Under 18 (22 played) 1 David Moskovic 5½/6; 2 Martin Taylor 5; 3 Heather Richards 4½; 4 Mark Roberts 4...

Under 11 (29 pl) 1 Thomas Rendle 6/6; 2-3 Paul Richards, Thomas Stradwick 5; 4-9 David Ho, Lalin Navaratne, Mark Richards, Harry Shaw, Arwen Van Der Elst, James Thanesan 4...

Under 9 (22 pl) 1 Amir Habibi 6/6; 2 Karim Habibi 5; 3-7 Guy Aust, David Franklin, Matthew Moore, David Ridout, Thomas Sharp 4... Results Dave Vigus

BASMANIC KASPAROV ROTARY TERAFINAL RFH 23rd August 1997

Press handout said "Dinosaur Tournament Roars its Last". All it seemed to mean, when you read it, was "Big Tournament Reaches Conclusion". Hope so, anyway.

Terafinal (Knock-out 50/50 QP: the press release lists 15 players, but it was supposed to be 16 and we're fairly sure everyone turned up) 1 (and STRAT) Richard Cleveland (U18: Bishop Vaughan, Wales: £500 prize); 2 Nicholas Timms (U12: Millfield, Somerset); 3-4 Richard Jones (U15: Birchwood Comprehensive, Wales), David Ho (U11: Barming Kent: U11 prize of £250); 5-8 Lucy Broomfield (U18: Wallington HS Surrey); Jessie Gilbert (U10: Croydon HS Surrey); Lee Gold (U9: Northbridge House Middx); David Howell (U7: Seaford CP Sussex)...

There was a **Challengers Section** (20 min each: 28 pl) for previous-stage runners-up. David Ho and Lucy Broomfield played in this as well (8th=, 3rd=). Your Editor telephoned Michael Basman to ask how that happened, but got his answering machine. He hates saying complicated things to answering machines unrehearsed, so didn't, and never got round to trying again. He's just found out, having had another look, that *everybody* in the main event played in the Challengers, with the exception of the winner and runner-up.

KENT U14 Squad Championships at Sevenoaks, 13th September 1997

1-5 Oliver Cooley, Paul Richards, Russell Scott, Alistair Taylor, Peter Titmas 4/5; 6-7 Richard Cheeseman, Markku Slattery 3½...

RUSSELL TROPHY JAMBOREE at RGS Guildford, 14th September 1997

1 St Pauls 8/8; 2 Tiffin 7; 3 KCS 4½; 4 Whitgift 3½... 7 teams of 8. Results AJW Thorn

SCCU COUNTY MATCHES 1997-8

Teams entered:

	Br	Bu	C	E	H	K	M	O	Sy	Sx
Open	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*
U175				*		*	*		*	*
U150				*	*	*	*		*	*
U125				*	*	*		*	*	*
U100				*	*		*		*	

All matches are over 16 boards except in the Under 100 (12 boards).

In the fixture list below, the home side is named first. Dates are final unless otherwise agreed by match captains. If match captains agree to change any dates, they must inform the Tournament Controller in advance. And please also the Bulletin Editor, for publication.

	Open	Under 175	Under 150	Under 125	Under 100
Sep 27				HE	
Oct 4		KSx			SyM
11	HBr KBu SyE		EM		HE
18		EM*			EM
25	(4NCL)	SxSy MK		SxK SyO	
Nov 1	CH BrK BuSy ESx		SyH MK ESx		SyE MH
8	OC	EK SyM		EK	
15	SyBr SxBu KC HO		HK SxSy		EH
22	(4NCL)	ESy MSx		ESx	HSy
29	BuE OK CSy BrSx		KE MSy	OH	
Dec 6		SxE		ESy	
13		KSy			
Jan 10		KM		KSy	ME
17	EBr SxC KH SyO		HE KSx		
24	(4NCL)	KE SySx		SySx	
31	BrBu CE HSy OSx		SyK HM	OE	HM
Feb 7		SyE SxM			MSy
14	BuC SxH SyK EO		SxH ESy	KO	
21	(4NCL)	MSy			SyH
28	OBu HE KSx CBr			SxH	
Mar 7	(SCCU U18 qualifier)	ME SxK			
14	BuH EK BrO SxSy		MSx	HSy	
21		SyK ESx		KH SxO	ESy

The one match asterisked (18 Oct) has been re-arranged for that date: it is not as in the list previously circulated. Names and addresses on next page.

Addresses:

County Match Controller DR Sedgwick, 23 Tierney Court, Canning Rd, Croydon CR0 6QA 0181 656 7682

Bulletin Editor RJ Haddrell, 48 Southview Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9BX 01892 532361

Grading Secretary CI Howell, 28 Fowler Close, Maidenbower, Crawley, W Sussex RH10 7UN 01293 885176

Match captains:

- Berks O NW Dennis, Boundary House, 230 Greys Rd, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1QY 01491 576052
- Bucks O SL Turvey, 29 Gordon Way, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks HP8 4QX 01494 874462 (*work 01276 808930*)
- Cambs O M Ferguson, Queens College, Cambridge CB3 9ET 01223 505780
(Outside term time: Gooserye Lodge, Beech Road, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2BX 01428 661490)
- Essex O JR Cooke, 35 The Crescent, Loughton, Essex IG10 4PY 0181 281 1083
175 JA Philpott, 50 Cranston Gardens, Chingford, London E4 9BQ 0181 527 4063
150 D Smith, 21 Chigwell Rd, London E18 1LR 0181 530 2118
125 RP Joyce, 215 Waterhouse Moor, Harlow, Essex CM18 6BW 01279 434028
100 P Walker, 62 East Street, Prittlewell, Southend-on-Sea Essex SS2 6LH 01702 309693
- Herts O KR Clark, 42 Honey Way, Royston, Herts SG8 7ES 01763 231296
150 MM Wali, 56 Rowans, Welwyn Garden City, Herts 01707 331833 (*work 01707 326318 ext 4280*)
125 Q Latif, 13 Daltry Rd, Stevenage, Herts 01438 352405
100 A Brewis, 5 Cedar Close, Ware, Herts SG12 9PG 01920 463698
- Kent O G Botley, 26 Crescent Rd, Bromley, Kent BR1 3PW 0181 464 1357
175 A.M. Stille, 27 Milton Street, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8JT 01622 206156 or 01622 728646
150 GF Steele, 50 Ramsgate Rd, Margate, Kent CT9 5SA 01843 297045
125 IC Smith, 6 Little Paddocks, Molehill Rd, Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3PR 01227 794790
100 LR Jones, 243 Worsley Bridge Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1RW 0181 650 4042
- Middx 175 WB Haase, 28 New End, Hampstead, London NW3 1JA 0171 435 3189
150 C Fewtrell, 77 Byron Way, Northolt, Middx UB5 6AZ 0181 723 8028
100 G Snow, 3 Ravensworth Court, 570 Fulham Road, London SW6 5NN 0171 536 5693
- Oxon O TR Dickinson, 3 Ivatt Walk, Manor Fields, Banbury, Oxon OX16 7WE 01295 255084
125 M Brindley, 16 Denton Close, Abingdon, Oxon 01235 532164
- Surrey O PD Dupré, 13 Russell Rd, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 2JZ 01932 887097
175 FC Manning, 44 Willow Rd, Wallington, Surrey SM6 0PF 0181 647 0063
150 N Clifton, 114 Windermere Rd, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2JB 0181 660 8564
125 DJ Howes, 12 Raglan Court, Croydon, Surrey CR2 6NT 0181 681 6270
100 RG Davey, 1 Greville Park Avenue, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2QS 01372 813576
- Sussex O P Watson, Flat 7, Regency Court, Withdean Rise, London Rd, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 6YG 01273 505480
175 RD Hirsch, 5 Orde Close, Pound Hill, Crawley, W Sussex RH10 3NG 01293 883244
150 P Watson as above
125 MA Bryant, 88 Manor Rd, Hastings, E Sussex TN34 3LP 05850 25995 (U125 team secretary)
P Buswell, 51 Kenilworth Rd, St Leonards on Sea, E Sussex TN38 0JL 01424 444321)

NOTES TO MATCH CAPTAINS

Remember that the home captain should contact the away captain to confirm arrangements at least one month in advance (or two weeks, for matches played before 13th October).

Match results: Result sheets must be sent to DRS within one week of the match, and should also be sent promptly to the Bulletin for publication.

Ungraded players: In the grading-limited divisions, ungraded players may play only if cleared with DRS in advance. Where a player's last published grade is above the limit and relates to 1992 or later, he does not intend to grant clearance. Beyond this he will proceed on a case by case basis.

The SCCU Grading List 1997 (obtainable from CI Howell, price £4 by post) is the definitive list for this purpose. The BCF National list is less complete and less accurate and will be used only for players not appearing in the SCCU list. If using the BCF list, remember to check the correction sheets that came with it (or if they didn't, ask the BCF office for a copy). A player will be treated as ungraded only if he appears in neither SCCU nor BCF list.

DRS will not be available between the 1st and 17th October. In this period, requests for permission to play ungraded players should go to the Grading Secretary and other urgent matters should be referred to the Union President.

Bulletin. Your Editor would add: Please do send all your result sheets to the Bulletin, even if you're sure your opponents will. I need both copies as a check. Try to be prompt. And *please* be legible, and give full initials (and grades) for all players. Accuracy is important because the grader works directly from the Bulletin. If a player has just moved into your county, or hasn't played county chess before, add a note first time round saying where he's from. BCF reference number is helpful too, and if he hasn't got one say so. No need for reference numbers generally, unless you think confusion's possible.

Corrections already

There's two mistakes in the Kent entry on page 8 (duplicated early, dammit). The word processor, editing last year's list of match captains, forgot to change the Kent U150 one. He's Steve Chick, 85 Poverest Rd, Orpington, Kent BR5 2DZ 01689 877358. It also forgot to delete their U100 captain. Kent haven't got an U100 team. Sorry about this; we've checked the other counties and they seem to be right. Incidentally, the Kent U125 captain really is I(vor) C Smith. The other Ivor Smith, if you're from Essex. The list sent out to counties has him as J.

County matches, BCF stage 1997. John Philpott sends an extra match and some notes.

Under 100 semi-final:

Suffolk		Essex
1 R Barnes 98	½ ½	R Prickett 99 (B)
2 V Allen 97	0 1	B Mehanjedad 99
3 S Froud 95j	1 0	C Wiggins 99
4 G Stebbings 99	0 1	R Payne 98
5 A Barnes 93	0 1	L Trent 95
6 R Doyle 92	0 1	E Lutton 95
7 S Banham	1 0	A O'Neill 94
8 R Adams 89	0 1	C Turner 83
9 G Chapman 89	0 1	D Allen 87
10 A Molloy 86	0 1	A Trent 91
11 S Payne 81	1 0	S Trent 82
12 E Fletcher 72	0 1	J Lutton 81
	3½ 8½	

This match never reached us at the time. Other points:

Open Final. The Essex board 11, never mind what we said, was PR Barclay 148 (reserve). Kent gave that name, but when their version arrived we'd already copied the incorrect name from another source - not Essex - and didn't check. PRB was there as reserve for the Essex U175 team. He gave away as many minutes as grading points, 50-odd, and "had much the better of the draw despite replying to 1 d4 with 1...e5".

Under 100 Final. The Essex board 1 was R Prickett, and the Essex board 5 was A O'Neill. You'll have guessed that. We gave them their proper grades, though we had to put question marks after them.

BCF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

27th September 1997 at the Kennedy Hotel (well, it's *near* the Ibis one), London NW1

Attendance will have been getting on for 50, excluding proxies and postals. Proxies and postals always complicate things. Your Editor was there with an SCCU delegate's hat on. It was a better behaved, and more organised, meeting than its predecessor. There *were* some contentious matters and they were dealt with in a pretty civilised way, considering. Time was wasted, as always, and the meeting went on till 6.25.

(1) **Minutes of Last Meeting**, sorry. On Restructuring of Management Board (last issue, page 5, an inch from the bottom) we said it was hard to tell exactly what had been agreed. The draft minutes were in broad agreement with this statement. The September Meeting decided what *had* been agreed. But it did it on the word of someone speaking quickly and indistinctly, and the Chairman refused your Editor's request to have it at dictation speed.

Understandable, and let's just hope the minute secretary got it. (We did get the gist, but you don't really want to know it. The point we're labouring, and "we" means your Editor, is the importance of having decisions clear.)

(2) **Presidents Awards** for Services to Chess. You know Fred Manning got one. There were two others: Keith Brown and Roger Simpson, both with northern associations, whom we hadn't heard of. It is entirely fitting that Presidents Awards should go to people we haven't heard of, if they're outside the SCCU purview.

(2) **Trophies.** There weren't any there to be presented, though it appeared on the agenda. Someone said the policy should be, present trophies at the appropriate time (at the Final, or whenever). As far as we know, this *is* the policy in practice. Everybody agreed with him.

(3) **European Team Championships 1999.** Came up briefly, and someone didn't like the idea of Plymouth. Ought to be more central. Knew there'd be someone.

(4) **Grading.** Bryan Fewell proposed that the Federation should formally examine the financial and organisational implications of implementing the new system. Everyone agreed, including your Editor, but we still managed to take 20 minutes saying so. The new system is an unknown quantity. People expressed varying mixtures of ignorance, scepticism and alarm.

Council agreed to create a new Directorate of Game Fee and Grading, and elected Chris Howell to it. There were stifled attempts, at various times during the day, to discuss FIDE's intention of farming out the international rating system. We mention it here because Chris had expressed an interest in taking it on. It would sit well with the new system. The BCF might not need, or wish, to be involved.

(5) **Management Board.** It was agreed that the two extra places - the game-fee-related ones - should not be restricted to leagues.

(6) **BCF Chairman.** Nigel Johnson had put in a late application for this post, in competition with the incumbent, Stewart Reuben. We won't dwell on what happened at Hove, though it came up. SWR was re-elected by a comfortable margin.

- (7) **Junior Director.** Four candidates is a bit of a luxury, and more than one of them got substantial support. All spoke, and answered questions, and Brian Jones was elected by a healthy majority.
- (8) **Coaching Director.** A new post, and another contested election. Three candidates this time. It went to Fred Appleton, one of the unsuccessful candidates for the junior job.
- (9) **Other jobs.** Congress Director Neil Graham (also contested!); Home Chess George Thirlaway; Womens Chess Lara Barnes. Otherwise no change.
- (10) **Policy Unit.** David Eustace will chair this. There was an attempt to elect other members, but it ground to a halt and the rest of the Unit, sensibly, will be co-opted at more leisure.
- (11) **European Club Cup** (see 7c on page 4). Someone proposed next business, and that was that.
- (12) **Counties Championship Rules** (7d). Carried.
- (13) **Under 18 Rules** (7e). Turned out to be a re-write of the current rules, with one major change (two rounds instead of one). It was contentious, and shelved after considerable debate. The other bit (Girls on the day after) was defeated, but that presumably doesn't mean it can't be done. Other changes about girls have been talked about and may still come up at a later meeting.
- (14) **Any Other Business.** There wasn't time for any, so the SCCU never raised the point dealt with in Lester Millin's letter.

CONGRESS DIARY

- Oct 3 GOLDERS GREEN Rapidplay. Adam Raof, PO Box 1962 NW4 4NF 0181 202 0982
- 4 COULSDON JUNIOR. Scott Freeman 0181 645 9586 daytime
- 4-5 METROPOLITAN CHESS CLUB CONGRESS. The Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2 4QH 0171 247 6844
- 4-5 SPECTRUM WORCESTER. Norman Went, 53 New Zealand Way, Rainham, Essex RM18JT 01708 551617
- 5 ESSEX JUNIOR RAPIDPLAY at Colchester + Open adults. Roger Sharman 01206 795624
- 5 BEDFORD JUNIOR (London Junior Qualifier) Under 16,14,12,10,8. Nicky Harbour, 1 Beverley Grove, Bedford MK40 4BU 01234 355234
- 11 WESTMINSTER Rapid. JM Sargent, 903 Longbridge Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2BU 0181 270 9196
- 11 OXFORD CITY. Philip Vinaker 01865 55762
- 11-12 IPSWICH JUNIOR. Mrs A Durnford 01473 727790
- 12 ASHFORD JUNIOR (London Junior Qualifier) Under 18 Open / U121; U14,12,10; plus Novices 7 - 17. MPJ Whitwood, 8 Iden Crescent, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 0NU 01580 892005
- 17-19 MAIDSTONE BCQ. Open; U160, 130, 105; Open Rapidplay Sunday. NC Mackett, 74 Peel St, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2SD
- 18 GOLDERS GREEN Rapidplay. Adam Raof, PO Box 1962 NW4 4NF 0181 202 0982
- 18 JOHN RW HARRADENCE MEMORIAL, London. N Went 01708 551617
- 18 SOUTHWATER JUNIOR U11 near Horsham. SP Deere 01892 653688
- 19 BUCKS JUNIOR at High Wycombe. David Balderson 01494 722069
- 19 ROYSTON (Herts) JUNIOR. JG Jones 01763 853873
- 19-25 GUERNSEY INTERNATIONAL. S Naftel 01481 728948
- 22 COULSDON HANDICAPPED RAPIDPLAY. Scott Freeman 0181 645 9586 daytime
- 24-26 SCARBOROUGH. Keith Jones 01723 352044
- Nov 8-9 ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL GUILDFORD Under 18 Open / U105; one-day U14, U12 (one of each on each day). Christopher Hoffman, Royal Grammar School, Guildford GU1 3BB
- 28-30 TORBAY Open, U155, U125, U100. VJ Dunleavy, 59 Belle Cross Rd, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1NL

We have not listed the 32nd Dorset Congress and the 33rd Dorset Congress, being held at the same weekend in Weymouth.

CORRECTION

SCCU jobs: last issue, page 3. The SCCU doesn't have a representative to the London Chess League; David Sedgwick is representative to the London Chess Association. [Whoops. We did know that.]

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: *Checkpoint* (GMCCA) for August; *Chessex* for August/September; Herts CA Newsletter 1997; *Sussex Chess* 1997.