

BULLETIN

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Richard,

11.11.97

I would like to correct an opinion that you put forward in the September Bulletin (see page 237:1) regarding the grading data from the London League.

It is correct that there was an error in the data that was submitted for Simon Brown for his London League games, however the fault could not, and did not, lie with Mike Cansdale, the London League grader. The London League data was sent to me, on forms, not on disc, and transcribed onto disc using the Gmenu program, before onward transmission to the central computer. The error was not the loss of 1000 points, worse than that, the points were reduced from 1888 to 188 (the loss of the final digit and 1700 points!). Whereas the Gmenu program has no means of telling whether 9 games for 188 points is outside the possible score for a 200+ player, the central computer reacted immediately and the error was quickly resolved.

Your article suggests that all the London League data would be similarly affected. I can reassure you that this is not the case.

I am sure that you will recall that I had expressed my concern, in the SCCU meetings earlier this year, that the loss of Lorraine Harding as the Grading Administrator at the BCF Office would create serious problems. Well, it could have been worse! The fact that four events were omitted was the result of the absence of a regular and reliable supply of "Input Log Details" (the print-out that shows what data the central computer has accepted). If ILDs had been forthcoming, as they had when Lorraine was in charge, the graders concerned would have been aware, without any delay, that these events had been omitted.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN CATH Purley

Here, I correct my opinions! But it wasn't one, it was a story I'd heard (from a source I thought reputable) and I'm glad to correct it. What originally looked to me like "one of those computer jobs" turns out to have been an HM Cath typing error. You might as well say it was one of those computer jobs. I tried Gmenu once, and it's a pig. But it's only one of the reasons the system needs re-writing. As for the four events omitted, I don't think the lack (or lateness?) of ILDs was the sole villain of the piece. ILDs aren't the only check available, or even the most obvious one. Events are registered for game fee, so the BCF knew what results to expect. How hard is it to keep a list of events, and tick them off when the results arrive?

Dear Richard,

4.10.97

Your report (#4) in the September SCCU Bulletin concerning my emergency motion on grading to Council, which was agreed nem con, leaves out one important point. The motion not only asks for a report to the November Management Board Meeting on the financial implications of administering the new grading system but also requires an assessment of the administrative costs of producing the 1998 National Grading List; this is the priority. As I understand the situation, production of the 1998 List could involve partial use of the new system if available at that time, otherwise, presumably, we will have to soldier on with all the disadvantages of the existing one.

Your readers should be made aware that, as things stand at the moment in the BCF Office, work on the 1998 National List could lead to a demand for a rise of 4p (16%) in the 1998/9 standard game fee to pay for a half person resource in the BCF Office to handle grading administration. The reason for this is that when the highly experienced grading administrator, Lorraine Harding, left in November 1996, no-one took on her grading work in the BCF Office which effectively left it de-skilled on grading administration; her replacement took on other duties. Work in producing the 1997 National Grading List largely fell to the National Grading Officer, Roger Edwards, who has made it clear he is unwilling to take on this responsibility in 1998.

In his report to the September Council Meeting, Roger said that he envisaged that, when the new grading system is fully operational, a full time person would be required to run it.¹ If that person were located in the BCF Office and were additional to existing resources, the on cost in game fee terms could be as much as 8p compared with now.

It is therefore absolutely essential that the new Grading and Game Fee Director takes urgent action in discussion with the Director of Management Services to assess the administrative cost implications of producing the 1998 National Grading List as well as looking at the longer term situation as regards the new system.

You make one rather curious comment in your notes on grading arising from my letter in your September issue: "If we had known then what we know now about the real extent of the shambles". Considerable concern was expressed by me and minuted, as proxy for Alan Martin, at the Management Board Meeting on 21 June on the lack of effective management of grading operations which seemed to come as a surprise to many members of the Board. It was obvious that prompt and effective action needed to be taken and later events speak for themselves on the failure to do this. This is not a criticism of Roger Edwards who made a considerable personal sacrifice to get the 1997 National List out on time.

Grading is arguably the prime benefit most chess players obtain from the BCF from payment of game fee. I very much hope the new Director will energetically tackle the challenge of organising the production of the 1998 List so it is published on time, whilst minimizing any increase in administrative costs. Also that he re-energises work on the new system which the National Grading Officer reported to Council in September had ground to a halt!

I hope your readers help to monitor progress on these grading issues by asking questions through their delegates to the SCCU or the BCF. The next few months are crucial to production of the 1998 National List and to establishing longer term arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

BRYAN (FEWELL) Chairman, BCF Finance Committee

c.c. John Philpott, President SCCU.
Alan Martin, London League.

¹ Chris Howell (see page *****) doesn't seem to agree. I gather, at second or third hand, that the Finance Committee is now broadly satisfied with the plans.

Bryan doesn't say why he thinks my remark curious. I thought I was saying that we'd have been even more concerned if we'd known how bad things really were. Important events had been omitted because no one had checked, and we didn't know.

Bryan's letter, though plainly word-processed, came on paper. He can't have read the September Editorial. Let's do things the *efficient* way, Bryan! I scanned it in, and any errors will be down to the character-recognition software. That's the risk you run if you send hard copy when you could have sent a floppy disk: I don't promise to check for O(ptical) C(haracter) R(ecognition) errors. I'll check if you're using a steam typewriter. (People do!) I checked in Bryan's case, and found and corrected *two* errors. Two errors in 2981 characters, if it really was two, isn't bad going for something as stupid as a computer program. My typing, before corrections, is one or two orders of magnitude worse. But be warned that the OCR isn't always that good. It wasn't, for two of the other letters, and one of those was word-processed but I checked again. It can't read handwriting. I welcome handwritten letters, and I type them out.

Dear Richard,

13.10.97

The September 1997 Bulletin asks for a definition of a Minor County. Logically, it should be weaker than the Open tournament but stronger than the Under 175. A Minor County tournament must be grading-restricted for any classification to make sense.

From the Bulletins for the 1996-7 season I have worked out the average grades per board for every Open, U175 and Minor Counties match. These are shown below.

Open	matches	mean grd	MC	matches	mean grd	U175	matches	mean grd
Kent	11	196.8	Herts	3	185.7	Essex	9	162.6
Essex	11	192.2	Oxon	3	182.9	Kent	6	160.8
Sussex	8	187.3	Beds	1	176.1	Sussex	7	160.4
Cambs	8	183.9	Suffolk	1	174.6	Surrey	6	155.7
Herts	8	178.6	Dorset	1	167.6	Warks	1	156.3
Surrey	8	178.1	Derbys	1	156.7	Hants	1	154.8
Oxon	8	177.4				Lancs	1	147.3
Berks	8	169.6						
Bucks	8	158.5						
Lancs	1	184.1						
Notts	1	179.3						
Gtr Mcr	1	176.5						
			Overall averages:					
			Open		180.1			
			Minor Cties		178.1			
			U175		156.8			

This brings to light some anomalies. Both Herts and Oxon have higher grades in the Minor Counties event than in the Open. In the Final Herts had a massive 190.1 against 186.1 for Oxon. This gives some food for thought.

One could suggest that a Minor County should not exceed an average of 175 per board, for example. I hope the above may assist the Management Board in their calculations. My labours over the past few days may help to classify a Minor County, and if not there's no harm done. I still have all the working if anyone would like it.

Best wishes,

MICK CROFT

Margate

Ed: - So *that's* why he wanted copies of all last season's issues! Surely it's not surprising that Herts and Oxon got stronger for the BCF stage? If this comment is as long as the letter it goes with, it's because I've been mulling it over as well. Mick would agree that there's other ways of looking at these figures. For example, SCCU "Major" counties (there are four) 190-ish including some matches where the strongest counties, at the BCF stage or elsewhere, were really trying. (I think Kent were nearly 204 for the Final.) SCCU Minor counties 173-ish at the Union stage and easily 180+ for the stronger ones when they were trying. Other Unions, not much to go on but these were the strong ones and *they* were trying.

I agree that restrictions would have to be on mean grade, not just Under X. When I suggested mean grade to David Sedgwick he said it would be a pain to monitor. It would. And will the restrictions apply at the Union stage? They'll have to, or who's eligible? But at the Union stage, the Minor counties (at least in theory) are trying for the Open as well. Force them to go Minor at the outset, with a grading limit, and you might as well have two separate competitions. Tell you what, let's do it on overall mean grade and work it out at the end. So Kent, doomed to third place with one match to go, wheel out their U11 "B" team for it and turn into a Minor county. OK Kent wouldn't, but Middx might. To be slightly more serious, counties who went for the Minor (at the outset) could be grading-restricted amongst themselves, and no holds barred when they played Kent. Matches against Kent wouldn't count for the Minor, but the Minor counties could qualify for the Open. This might even work. It would still be a pain to monitor.

Or you could have grading bands: not more than n players over 200, and so on. Easy to administer, but tough on the weakish county that happens to have n + 1. Someone's suggested doing it on population-of-county. Any more ideas, anyone?

17.11.97

Dear Richard,

In reply to Lester Millin(237:3) the UK Challenge grades had to be announced in July, well before the 1997 BCF grades were published, to help national publicity for the event and fund-raising for a children's charity.

The relevant official grade then for Lester's player was B71 from 1996, while the player he claims was preferred had no 1996 grade but a May 1997 rapid grade of A89. I explained this to Lester on the day of the final, but it evidently slipped his memory when complaining to the Bulletin.

The updated grades actually favoured Lester's player, whose 1996 grade and 1996 BCF congress grade of 70 (not mentioned in his letter) were given less weight than better 1997 results as well as a D100 rapid grade. But the other player also had good 1997 results, and indeed played 21 games at 110 at the 1997 BCF congress just before the UK Challenge final.

Given how eager they are to complain now, it is curious that Lester ("those bad old days"), the Bulletin ("ignoring official grades") and the SCCU Executive, hotfoot to the BCF Council, have all failed to mention that updated grades were used in the SCCU's own official junior championships for 14 years, no less. Collective amnesia?

Perhaps, but at least five of the present Executive, including Lester, the Bulletin Editor, and the signer of the SCCU cheques which were a welcome support to the junior championships, were active officials for most of that period. What are they all ashamed of? I don't recall complaints to the Bulletin or Council during those 14 years, during which the SCCU/BCF squad event helped develop Short, Adams, Sadler and other GMs as well as many strong county players. Nearly half the Kent and Essex 1997 county finalists are graduates from the SCCU junior championships.

And a relevant point today is that the SCCU has failed to organise its own individual junior championships for nearly a decade. Instead, the Union's talented youngsters have to trek to Newcastle or Liverpool at Easter for the BCF squad which used to be combined with the SCCU event in London. It would be easy to award SCCU junior open and girls titles to the Union's best players via existing Opens and junior congresses, but your Executive doesn't seem even to have discussed its own inaction for many years. It's unfortunate that the SCCU should throw stones at somebody else's event which attracts nearly 25,000 entrants while apparently trying to write its own junior championships out of the Union's history.

Finally, since Lester alleges deliberate bias against his player, I sign myself

LEONARD BARDEN

President and former county captain, Oxfordshire Chess Association

Ed: - I append, with LWB's permission, a recent item explaining how his updates are calculated. (He tells me it's really a bit more flexible than this, where other relevant information is available.) Correspondence is closed on the specific details of the 1997 Terafinal. Comments on the general issues will be welcome.

JUNIOR WORLD RANKINGS SEPTEMBER 1997 Leonard Barden

This list of leading world and British juniors shows the latest Fide rating and BCF grade or, where applicable, an update based on recent results. Lists are issued to organisers and players, and are designed to help juniors measure their current skills against the best of their generation.

A simplified Elo-type system highlights rapidly improving juniors of all ages. The base rating is changed after each event, using a divisor for points won or lost. The divisor applied is 20 for those rated U150, 30 for 150-199, and 40 for 200+. It is doubled for rapidplay games by U15s and older.

Examples: A Jones, rated 130, has a 7-round performance rating of 159. Jones thus gains $7 \times (159 - 130) = 203$ rating points. 203 is reduced by the 20 divisor to 10 points (numbers are rounded up or down). So Jones's new rating is 140, which figure is used for evaluating his/her next qualifying event.

J Smith, rated 170 and an U16, has a 10-round rapidplay performance rating of 195. Smith gains $10 \times (195 - 170) = 250$ points. The divisor of 30 becomes 68 for a rapidplay. 250 divided by $68 = 4$, Smith's new rating of 174 is used for his/her next event.

This system was used by the SCCU/BCF Junior Squad in 1973-86. Professor Elo's book *The Rating of Chessplayers* reproduced a graph of GM Julian Hodgson's progress between ages 9-14, where squad ratings demonstrated quantum jumps and consolidations. David Short calculated Nigel's weekly updates and included them in his book on his son's early career.

During the late 70s and early 80s England had more Fide rated juniors than any other nation. Today at U14 (born 1.1.83ff) level we have only 6 Fide rated players as against the Ukraine with 24, Hungary 35, and Russia with 55.

Principal events and data used for this list:

May-June: BCF Rapidplay list, minisquad championships, Agency Masters July: Fide rating list, Scottish rating list, Smith & Williamson (all events), UK Gigafinal, Newport, Highgate, World U20 Ch.

August: BCF 1997 Grading list, BCF championships and congress (all tournaments), European U10/14, Mind Sports Olympiad 30 mins, UK Terafinal, Chorley. Also: all Mill Hill, Richmond and Spectrum congresses. Awaited: Glorney/Faber Cup, Welsh rating list, Newcastle and Manchester intls. Other relevant data is welcome and can be sent via the BCF office.

July Fide ratings in this list are updated (by normal FIDE calculation methods) if there are significant later results. Bracketed Fide ratings should be published Jan 1998. Note that Fide world and European championships have birth qualifications of 1 Jan, not 1 Sept as with BCF events.

4NCL first event of the season 25.10.97 suffered a disaster when the person supposed to be bringing the equipment didn't turn up. They rustled up enough sets and boards to play Division 1, and twelve teams (of eight) in Division 2 had a wasted day.

Ralph Barnet Trophy 16th August 1997: 1 Essex 14; 2 Surrey 10½; 3 Civil Service 4½. The Ralph Barnet is an annual jamboree for teams of 20.

Insurance CC Championship is shared by Paul Barclay and Mike Wiltshire, still level (ahead of Tony Paish) after a three-way play-off. Only the second time the title has been shared in 103 years. (Shades of Hove.)

BRAINTREE CONGRESS 20-21 August 1997

Open (16 pl) 1-2 John Anderson 192 (Grays), Richard Savory 174 (Dereham) 4/5; 3 C Paul Botham 171 (Ipswich) 3½...

Under 160 (25 ent) 1 Lawrence Trent 120 (Ilford: age 11) 4½/5; 2-3 David Pearse 158 (Maldon), Bob Latter (Braintree) 4...

Under 130 (32 ent) 1 Michael Newman 110 (Braintree) 4½/5; 2-4 David King (Milton Keynes), David Lilley 104 (Braintree), Paul Stukas 104 (Chelmsford) 4...

Under 100 (37 ent) 1 Peter Elliott 92 (Chelmsford) 4½/5; 2-5 Peter Brander 88 (Chelmsford), Kenneth Smith 98 (Sidcup), Charles Szentmihaly 80e (Kings Gambit), Jim Wilson 98 (London NW) 4...

POWDERMILL RAPIDPLAY 14th September 1997

Open / Major (28 pl) 1-2 Ben Morgan 171 (Cambridge Univ), Bill Stirling 190 (Powdermill) 5/6; 3-4 Jim Howson 187 (Dartford), John Guilfoyle 145 (Islington: U152 grading prize) 4½... **GRADING U172** Daniel Lee (Portsmouth) 4; **U132** Dominic Allen (Powdermill), Lawrence Trent (Ilford) 3½

Under 107 (14 pl) 1 Howard Berlin 102 (Ilford) 5/6; 2 Stewart Trent 93 (Ilford) 4½; 3 Keith Woodhouse 83 (Royston) 4...

MAIDSTONE 17-19 Oct 1997

Open (33 pl) 1-4 Cliff R Chandler 202 (Phoenix), Philip H Potopaev 187 (Crystal Palace), James E Vigus 210 (Beckenham & Bromley), Richard M Webb 211 (Crowthorne) 4½/6; then 13 people on 3½. **BCQ**: Philip Potopaev.

Major U160 (40 pl) 1 Thomas D Phillips 155 (South Norwood) 5/6; 2-3 Paul Lawrence 143 (St Albans), Roger JA Winterburn 153 (Lewisham) 4½; 4-11 SJ Peters 155 (Dartford), G Josephs 145 (Dartford), A Nicol 136 (Folkestone), M Finch 146 (Eastbourne), J Bashall 147 (Shrewsbury), K Majewski 142 (Maidstone), TE Rendle 132 (Hastings), Z Mehmet 153 (Lewisham) 4...

Intermediate U130 (29 pl) 1-4 Steve Bartlett 121 (Rainham), Peter L Childs 126 (Beckenham & Bromley), Simon Thanesan 122 (Maidstone), Julian Ward 115 (Maidstone) 4½/6; 5-6 JR McKenna 125 (Beckenham & Bromley), R Scott 112 (Danson) 4...

Minor U105 (38 pl) 1 Konrad Sanders 104 (Danson) 6/6; 2-4 John E Fowers 104 (Phoenix), Malcolm Jamieson 70 (Eastbourne), Lalin Navaratne 91 (Maidstone) 4½; 5-9 IC Smith 104 (Whitstable), WG Ward 104 (Crowthorne), M Mannings 70 (Deal), J Shortt 85 (Chislehurst), P Ruffle 96 (Birchington) 4...

Rapidplay (30 pl) 1-3 Stephen W Giddins (Medway), Leo Keely (Hastings), Jim R Poulton (Wood Green) 4/5; 4-7 DC Eden (Dartford), Heather Richards (Whitstable), R Turrell (Dartford), DA Wood (Chatham) 3½...

They give numbers of white wins, black wins and draws for the standardplay events. For interest, and in that order: Open 28,20,37; Major 41,33,31; Intermediate 19,32,24; Minor 43,41,19.

DARTFORD RAPIDPLAY 23rd November 1997

1-3 Andrew Bigg (Hayes Kent), Martin Taylor (Rainham), John Bennett (Beckenham & Bromley) 5/6; 4-7 Mark Roberts (Dartford & Swanley), David Munford (Maidstone), Gavin Josephs (Ramsgate), Oliver Cooley (Hayes Kent) 4½... 35 played. They threw half the juniors in because entries were low, and it made a real mixed bag of a tournament. Your Editor, in his first ever(!) individual rapidplay event, got one opponent graded 50 points above him and one graded 80 points below him.

JUNIOR NEWS

KENT JUNIOR CA: first Grand Prix event at Maidstone, 27th September 1997

Under 16/14 (21 played) 1-2 Andrew Bigg, Thomas Rendle 5/6; 3-4 Amir Habibi, David Ho 4½; 5-6 Matthew Moore, Alistair Taylor 4; 7-8 Oliver Cooley, Robert Wilson 3½...

Under 12 (24 pl) 1 Paul Richards 6/6; 2 Edmund Birkhamshaw 5; 3 Lalin Navaratne 4½; 4-5 Martin Parsons, Andrew Welch 4; 6-10 James Chapman, Edward Coughlan, Sara Higgins, Mark Richards, David Ridout 3½...

Under 10 (24 pl) 1 David Franklin 5½/6; 2-4 Christopher Collison, Samuel Lim, Geoffrey Walters (U8) 4½; 5-7 Guy Aust, Melanie Jones, Jennifer Munroe 4; 8 Laura Weatherhead 3½...

ESSEX JUNIOR RAPIDPLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS at Colchester, 5th October 1997

Under 14 (14 ent) 1 Dominic Allen (Powdermill) 5½/6; 2 Caius Turner (Powdermill) 5; 3 Lawrence Trent (Ilford) 4...

Under 12 (35 pl) 1 Alexander O'Neill (Ilford) 6/6; 2 Stewart Trent (Ilford) 5; 3-5 Joshua Rubin (Ipswich), Robert Payne (Ilford), Heather Walker (Customs Southend) 4½...

Under 10 (28 pl) 1 Edward Morris (Southend) 5½/6; 2 Josiah Lutton (Basildon) 5; 3-4 Alan Hawrainy (Ilford), Jacob Rubin (Ipswich) 4...

Under 8 (9 pl) 1 David Donaghy (Ipswich) 5/6; 2-5 Andrew Alexandrou (Powdermill), Abigail Flint (Chelmsford), Nathaniel Lutton (Basildon), Alex O'Toole (Southend) 4...

Open Adult (32 pl) 1-2 Shaun Munson (Ipswich), Terry Turner (Powdermill) 5/6; 3-5 Stephen Gregory (Ipswich), Richard Watts (Stowmarket), Steve Williams (Colchester) 4½...

RICHMOND JUNIOR Under 18 1-2 November 1997

1 Martin Taylor (Rainham Kent) 5½/6; 2 Thomas Rendle (Hastings) 4½;
3-6 David Edwards, Nick Kingston-Smith, Thomas Nixon, Ross Rattray
(all Richmond Juniors) 4...

GRADING U100 Lee Gold (North London), David Howell (Seaford) 3

David Howell is six (maybe just about seven by now). Here's a position of his.

White (Howell) to play.

1 Rf6! and Black went ...Qxf6 instead of resigning. White won 18 moves later.

Results Richard James



RGS GUILDFORD 8-9 November 1997

Under 18 Open (8 pl) 1 SK Williams (Farnham College) 6/6; 2 M Broomfield 4...

Under 18 U105 (12 pl) 1-2 NJ Bawden, CP Hoffman (both RGS) 5½/6; 3 TE Landais (RGS) 4...

Under 14A (Saturday: 16 pl) 1 D Kay (More House) 5½/6; 2 KL Feld (LE Holles) 4½; 3-4 C Dixon (Whitgift), D Manders (Therfield) 4...

Under 14B (Sunday: 14 pl) 1-2 JJ Povah (RGS), O Wilson (Wallington) 4½/6; 3-5 MJ Harborne (Frimley), BD Morgan (Warlingham), A Navias (Bearwood College) 4...

Under 12A (Sat: 26 pl) 1 B Jablonski (St Catherines) 5½/6; 2-3 V Aarons (S Hampstead), MJ Harborne (Frimley) 4½; 4-7 R Greensmith (Aldro), S Hegarty (Knaphill), C Kay (Sandfield), TB Macleod (MacLeod?: Aldro) 4...

Under 12B (Sun: 28 pl) 1 O Coddington (Portsmouth GS) 5½/6; 2 A Webb (Warneford) 5; 3-4 PT Hayward (Lawn), B Purton (Bearwood College) 4½; 5-7 D Howell (Seaford), R King (Dorcaw), J Purcell (Hollybrook) 4...
[We've assumed all the tournaments were 6 rounds. Worked it out for the U18 Open but not the others.]

Results AJW Thorn

DARTFORD JUNIOR UNDER 11 23rd November 1997

1 Sara Higgins (Sevenoaks) 5/6; 2-5 Karim Habibi, Gregory Jones (both Maidstone), Zakerey Bennett, Laura Weatherhead (both "Kent Junior") 4½... 23 played.

Grading and Game Fee: Current and Future Policy

This is a (much cut down) version of a paper produced for the BCF by Chris Howell.

As the years have passed [the] system has been completely overcome by events. The introduction of Rapidplay Grading, not supported by the Central Grading System, has meant that all sorts of contortions have to be gone through to produce lists using the same player codes from physically separate databases. The printing mechanisms are archaic, and have resulted in numerous problems with printing lists. The user interfaces of the system are unfriendly to the extent that a) most 'computerised' graders have written their own software to do their grading, and b) the training overhead in the office has been prohibitive.

This has led to the Grading Processing being undertaken very largely by the only person who knows all the tricks required to circumvent the shortcomings of the system, Roger Edwards. However, it would be a serious mistake to underestimate the amount of time spent by the Office staff on grading-related issues this year.

When the Game Fee Scheme was first introduced to replace the County Levy, the inflexibility of the Grading system meant that it had to be administered entirely separately; this has meant considerable duplication of effort within the Office, and indirectly costs money.

Arrangements for 1997/1998

The usual array of Grading Lists will be produced for the rest of the 1997/1998 season:

- The Master List will be produced by the end of November and made available to all Graders in electronic or paper form. Technical difficulties also affect the printing of this list, but an adequate method of circumventing these has now been found.
- The November 1997 Rapidplay list will in fact appear in early December, available for a standard price of £2.50 per copy.
- A Supplementary list of New Players and Corrections will appear in February; due to the unusually large number of corrections this year (see above) this list will be made available free of charge to anyone sending a SAE to the office.
- A new player Master list will be sent to all Graders on the 30th April 1998.
- The May 1998 Rapidplay list will be issued at the end of May/first week in June, again for £2.50. This will be the last list produced using the current Grading Software.

- The 1998 BCF Grading List will be available in electronic form on Friday 17th July 1998. The first printed versions will be available at the British Championships in the week beginning Monday 27th July. This list will of necessity be produced using the new Grading Software by the Grading Project Team, with all results (other than some generated by the team themselves) intended to be submitted exactly as in all recent years.

Subsequent Development

Grading season 1997/1998

- Transfer of current standardplay and rapidplay databases into the database format required by the new system, which combines both.
- User-friendly interface to all functions in the office, to minimise training requirements and avoid errors caused by complications of current system.
- Ability to print current range of reports (including grading lists) on any printer or to file for transmission by email through standard methods.
- Ability to input grading results in the current {code,games,points} format generated by GMENU and other current grading software used by graders.
- Ability to calculate new grades using the identical calculation method as used currently.
- Some new reports to assist with time-consuming requirements such as 'new player merges' and club updates, not adequately dealt with by the old system. Reports and lists with both Rapidplay & Standardplay results in the same document.
- Limited ability to input results using the prototypes of new input programs using the new data entry format currently being finalised - desirable but not necessary.

Grading season 1998/1999

- Merging of Game Fee and Direct Membership information into the system; this will produce massive efficiency savings within the office and result in a very much improved service to Congress Organisers and members. Release of precisely-defined new (textual) format for result entry, allowing individual graders and third-party developers to become compatible with the new system. A conversion module for such popular programs as "Tournament Director" will be an early priority.
- The release of the BCF's own new Grader/Organiser Pack, with programs to help with running Leagues, Congresses, All-Play-Alls and in recording individual games. These will produce Grading results in the required format automatically, for submission to the Office by disk in the post or directly by email. Written submission will remain possible also.
- A further expansion of the range of reports produced, to take in various administrative Game Fee functions (including prediction of future income), various statistical information used to monitor and correct the Grading System itself, and reports for such things as the Leigh Grand Prix. The inclusion of various archiving facilities used when each Grading List is produced. It will be possible to keep all Grading data for about 20 years within the system.
- The incorporation of the FIDE Rating List for British players, so that this information can be incorporated into reports. Also, space for one 'foreign' grade such as Scottish or Welsh is allocated in the database.
- Minor changes to the way in which grades are calculated for games against 'new' players without previous grades and for players playing less than 30 games a year.

When adjudged desirable

- Any desired new way of calculating grades can be used, e.g. Elo system, because the calculation scheme is now independent of the data collected.
- Printing of (say) two lists a year, each containing newly calculated Elo, Standardplay and Rapidplay grades for every player. At any one time, only one list needs to be consulted for all purposes! End January and end July suggested. More frequent lists are possible if the results come in quickly enough - this is the limiting factor.
- Grading lists made available on the Internet, as the Scottish Chess Association already does. This can be limited to Direct Members and graders (say) by use of 'userids' and passwords; in any case many people will always want to buy a printed list, which perhaps should include the list on CD-ROM with good browsing software.
- Automatic upgrade of grading programs throughout the country by using rapidly developing special features of the Internet - minimising administration.

General Office Issues

A number of significant changes are required at the BCF office to support the new systems being put in place. The current operating system at the Office is now considered obsolete by the manufacturers and should be replaced with Windows 95 or NT as soon as possible. As we qualify for educational terms on such products, this will not be expensive. A simple network should be introduced at the same time, so as to allow sharing of resources including the increasingly vital modem for email and Internet access and the faster printers. Networking prices are also at a low level presently, but are unlikely to fall much lower.

The email capabilities of the office should be extended to Directors wherever possible; each extra node on the BCF account only costs £50 per annum, and we might save more than this in postage! The offer of cheap Internet access and email through the BCF domain could also be extended (say) to DMs and Game Fee organisers, as a benefit of membership or for a small profit.

It really is overdue for the BCF to set up its own World-Wide Web site; over fifty chess organisations have beaten us to it already, and the 4NCL and Scottish CA sites are particularly effective and impressive. We already have a few web pages available at no extra cost as part of our basic email account; let's at least get Directors' contact details, a rolling version of the BCF calendar and links to the FIDE, 4NCL and major news sites such as Mark Crowther's excellent 'The Week In Chess'.

Financial Impact

The financial impact of these changes will in the long term be entirely positive; it is even possible that when the new systems are in place a reduction in Game Fee rates might be considered. I personally would rather see the benefits exploited by using the time saved in the Office to get involved in new activities, and only put in reductions in Game Fee in the form of discounts. An obvious example is a discount for organisations who submit their grading promptly and in the correct format, rather than simply sending in pairing cards or wallcharts. This is something that could be put in place immediately if desired.

The downside is that there is a clear need for some capital outlay in the next year or two; clearly raising Game Fee temporarily just to put it back down again later is a nonsense, so I believe we should be prepared to run a deficit budget over the next one or even two years if necessary given the completely exceptional nature of the expense and the ultimately rosy outlook.

SCCU COUNTY MATCHES: LEAGUE TABLES

including all results received up to

OPEN	Br	Bu	C	E	H	K	O	Sy	Sx	MP
Berks					4½	5		8½		
Bucks						2½		4½	6	
Cambs					10½	8	12			
Essex								10½	9½	
Herts	11½		5½				11½			
Kent	11	13½	8							
Oxon			4		4½					
Surrey	7½	11½		5½						
Sussex		10		6½						
UNDER 175	E	K	Sy	Sx		E	K	Sy	Sx	MP
Essex		10	10½							
Kent	6			10½						
Surrey	5½			8						
Sussex		5½	8							
UNDER 150	E	H	K	M	Sy	Sx				MP
Essex				10		9				
Herts			7½		7½ =					
Kent		8½		10						
Middx	6		6							
Surrey		7½ =				8				
Sussex	7				8					
UNDER 125	E	H	K	O	Sy	Sx				MP
Essex			8							
Herts										
Kent	8					7				
Oxon					8					
Surrey				8						
Sussex			9							
UNDER 100	E	H	M	Sy		E	H	M	Sy	MP
Essex		8½		5½						
Herts	3½		7½	5½						
Middx		4½		4						
Surrey	6½	6½	8							

= match drawn

Please tell the Editor if you spot mistakes in these tables. Everything seems to have come in, up to and including matches played 15th November. An asterisk by the county name, on the following pages, means the result has been received from that side. "Sic" (or "so") in brackets, with a player's name, means we have copied what we received but don't necessarily believe it. "(r)" means reserve.

We wish captains would give full initials, but if they won't they won't. And could *EDITOR* please have a quiet word with his.

Since we're on the subject: Full names are important for new players. Michael Q Mouse first time round, and after that MQ by all means. The Bulletin prefers MQ to Mickey, but that's the Bulletin for you. Some of the thorough captains (yes, there are some) go out of their way to give names exactly as in the grading list every time. Even the Bulletin thinks this a little over the top, especially when they won't fit. And you *are* allowed to improve on the grading list. If you're naming fifteen players in full, don't call the other one J Smith just because that's what the list says. You know he's James Q Smith. Call him that, and if you're lucky it may even find its way into next year's list. People called James Smith with no other initials should get themselves some. People called Edward Blanchard-Wrigglesworth won't fit in the BCF computer, let alone the Bulletin match results. Not with the existing database, anyway. Maximum 18 characters. Chris I (not J) Howell is pressing for dates of birth for identification purposes. If you start writing those on result sheets they *will* get left out.

Asked an opponent the other day, Do you spell your name with a hyphen? (We knew it got spelt both ways. Three ways actually, because without the hyphen there wasn't always a space.) "It's optional," he said. Grrr. For that, we beat him.

Ungraded players. David Sedgwick reminds match captains that ungraded players may not play in the grading-limited divisions unless cleared with him *in advance*. One or two have offended and DRS has been more indulgent, where satisfied as to strength, than your Editor might have been.

Match Captains

Kent U150: Steve Chick is now at 7 Sequoia Gardens, Orpington, Kent BR6 0TZ. His phone number is unchanged: 01689 877358.

Middx U100: G Snow's telephone number was wrong in the published list. It is 0171 736 5693.

Middx have withdrawn from the Under 175.

OPEN

Herts*	11.10.97	Berks*	Surrey	11.10.97	Essex*
1 Phil G Maguire 198	½ ½	PS Cooksey 200 (W)	RA Bates 220	½ ½	JW Rogers 217
2 Simon JB Knott 226	½ ½	HW Murphy 193	def	0 1	AP Lewis 212
3 Paul V Byway 196	0 1	AM Leech 187	def	0 1	DA Sands 204
4 Jerry F Rudge 188	1 0	DS Tucker 187	RA Allicock 196	0 1	M Twyble 200
5 Alastair M Simpson 187	1 0	PJ Sharp 183	KD Richardson 192	0 1	G Kenworthy 200 ¹
6 Simon J Roe 185	1 0	KD Smallbone 184	DWW Gunter 190	½ ½	JH Hodgson 196
7 Kevin R Clark 188	1 0	IR Henderson 170	ME Osborne 188	½ ½	JC Moore 182
8 Andrew Gilfillan 187	½ ½	MC Bowhay 166	PD Kemp 187	0 1	PL Williamson 184
9 Howard L Tebbs 182	½ ½	PJ Colby 152	TM Thrower 182	0 1	R Parker 177
10 Paul D Hatchett 181	1 0	DJ Lewis 149	JM Shepley 174	1 0	T Hebbes 174
11 John R Denton 177	1 0	BG Millis 148	S Thrower 173	0 1	WL Saunders 171
12 Jeremy N Fraser-Mitchell 179	1 0	NW Dennis 141	K Hurst 173	½ ½	R Heppinstall 170
13 D Ross Brennan 175	½ ½	M Colgate 138	PM Stimpson 170	1 0	IJ Myall 168
14 Steve J Tovey 168	1 0	Ivana Houska 123	CRA Clegg 168	½ ½	DJ Millward 168
15 Philip J Gregory 169	0 1	Mario Houska 129	ME Page 164	1 0	CR Ramage 167
16 Terry J Turner 163	1 0	def	FC Manning 133	0 1	IBN Smith 161
(St Albans)	11½ 4½		(Sutton)	5½ 10½	

¹ Bd 5: Essex gave no grade. They'll have spotted by now that Gary's in the BCF list under Bradford. See footnote to Essex-Middx in the U150. Watch out Essex, there's a Yorks plot afoot.

Kent*	11.10.97	Bucks*	Essex*	1.11.97	Sussex*
1 Danny Gormally 225	½ ½	Gerald Moore (W)	JW Rogers 217 (B)	1 0	DH Cummings 208
2 Philip Morris 223	0 1	Andy Hammond	AP Lewis 212	1 0	FJ Kwiatkowski 204
3 Ian Watson 214	1 0	Jonathan Beedle	DJ Coleman 204	0 1	DB Graham 204
4 Andy Mack 202	1 0	Roger de Coverly	M Twyble 200	½ ½	GH James 197
5 John Naylor 201	1 0	Steve Law	JP Manley 205	½ ½	F Rayner 193
6 Alan Hanreck 201	1 0	Brian Atkinson	G Kenworthy 200	1 0	B Cafferty 192
7 Lyndon Gurr 201	1 0	def	JH Hodgson 196	½ ½	MD Nicholas 192
8 John Sugden 196	1 0	Dave Mansfield	D Sherman 191	1 0	M Broom 193
9 David Farndon 194	1 0	Steve James	PL Williamson 184	½ ½	SJ Newman 187
10 John Wager 193	1 0	James Burke	RP White 187	0 1	S Wade 183
11 Peter P Taylor 191	1 0	Richard Thursby	D Kraszewski 183	0 1	JA Dodgson 179
12 Alexis Harakis 188	1 0	Dave Turner	JA Goldberg 178	1 0	PG Farr 179
13 Chris [!I] Howell 188	½ ½	Thomas Quilter	R Parker 177	0 1	JC Mansson 178
14 James Scholes 184	1 0	Nigel Johnson	W Saunders 171	1 0	MR Stott 177
15 Rory O'Kelly 183	1 0	Syringa Turvey	JC Moore 182	1 0	MO Costley 176
16 Nigel Donovan 181	½ ½	Andy Huxley	T Hebbes 174	½ ½	RJ Almond 175
(Charlton House)	13½ 2½		(Wanstead)	9½ 6½	

Neither side gave Bucks grades.

Essex give different grades for most of the Sussex players. Looked two or three of them up, and the Sussex figures were right.

Bucks*	1.11.97	Surrey	Berks*	1.11.97	Kent*
1 Richard Webb 211 (W)	0 1	Steve H Berry 209	PS Cooksey 200 (B)	0 1	Neil McDonald 237
2 Simon Lazarus 192	1 0	Matthew N Anderton 204	Jovanka Houska 195	0 1	Steve W Giddins 214
3 Mike Lambshire 197	0 1	Rawle A Allicock 196	HW Murphy 193	½ ½	Ian R Watson 213
4 Jonathan Beedle 184	1 0	Jon C Benjamin 194	AM Leech 187	½ ½	Neil F Dickenson 210
5 Roger de Coverly 173	0 1	Kevin D Richardson 192	DS Tucker 187	½ ½	Andrew L Mack 202
6 Andy Robbings 172	0 1	Daniel B Rosen 190	KD Smallbone 184	0 1	Alan E Hanreck 201
7 Malcolm Armstrong 166	0 1	Marcus E Osborne 188	I Duvall 176	0 1	John N Sugden 196
8 Manfred Egby 156	½ ½	Julien M Shepley 174	ACP Milnes 170	0 1	David A Farndon 194
9 Dave Mansfield e150	0 1	Kevin Hurst 173	IR Henderson 170	1 0	Peter P Taylor 191
10 Andy Huxley e150	0 1	Philip M Stimpson 170	PS Janota 168	½ ½	Nathan SW Alfred 190
11 Nick Butland 148	½ ½	Chris RA Clegg 168	J Townsend 167	0 1	Alexis M Harakis 188
12 Adrian Laurence 148	0 1	Ken FH Inwood 160	MW Marlow 165	0 1	Chris I Howell 186
13 James Burke 136	0 1	Paul D Dupré 158	MF Redmond 156	0 1	James E Scholes 184
14 Dave Turner 135	1 0	Adrian DP Waldock 135	PR Maul 155	1 0	Stuart J Williams 180
15 Steve James 133	½ ½	Eamonn P Goggin 130	PAF Watkins 152	1 0	Nigel P Donovan 181
16 Syringa Turvey 119	0 1	Justin I Adcock 126	DJ Lewis 149	0 1	Chris B Rice 171
(Marlow)	4½ 11½		(Newbury)	5 11	

Cambs*	1.11.97	Herts*	Oxon*	9.11.97	Cambs*
1 M Ferguson 226 (W)	½ ½	Phil G Maguire 198	Max Devereaux 208	0 1	Jonathan Parker 244 (W)
2 B Kelly 222	½ ½	Simon JB Knott 226	Adam Hunt 208	0 1	Matthew Turner 231
3 H Hunt 217	1 0	Neil H Bradbury 204	Matt Rose 197	0 1	Mark Ferguson 226
4 A Cohen 213	1 0	Steve Swanson 201	Jochen Wittmann 186	0 1	Brian Kelly 222
5 D Moskovic 204	1 0	Paul V Byway 196	Alex Lewis 183	0 1	Harriet Hunt (!) 217
6 J Rudd 197	½ ½	Jerry F Rudge 186	Tim Dickinson 185	1 0	David Moskovic 204
7 M Shephard e190	1 0	Kevin R Clark 182	Dave Hackett 186	½ ½	Jack Rudd 197
8 M Thornton 187	1 0	Andrew Gilfillan 187	Shashi Jayakumar 180	½ ½	Natasha Regan 194
9 S Foister e180	1 0	Howard L Tebbs 182	Ed Horton 172	0 1	M Shephard e190
10 B Morgan 171	1 0	Paul D Hatchett 181	Graham Chapman 172	1 0	Mark Thornton 187
11 S White 169	1 0	Chris E Majer 180	Ray Starkie 171	0 1	Ben Morgan
12 E Goodall 166	0 1	JN Fraser-Mitchell 179	Dave Bruce 166	0 1	Stuart White 169
13 N Harmer 153	0 1	John R Denton 177	Jim Stayt 166	0 1	Ed Goodall 167
14 B Weller e150	0 1	Philip J Gregory 169	Mark Hannon 165	1 0	C Howell 152 ¹
15 M Campbell 153	0 1	Barry Morris 161	Nick Jones 166	0 1	Mark Campbell 153
16 C Howell 151 ¹	1 0	David E Bower 159	Pete Ball 150	0 1	Sam Essen 142
(Cambridge)	10½ 5½		(Long Hanborough)	4 12	

¹ Both matches above. Grades for C Howell are Cambs versions. Herts said 152 and Oxon said 155. Presumably this is Chris J.

Surrey	15.11.97	Berks*	Sussex*	15.11.97	Bucks*
1 SH Berry 209 (B)	½ ½	PS Cooksey 200	Andrew PH Kinsman 226	½ ½	Richard Webb 211 (W)
2 MJ Franklin 204	½ ½	Jovanka Houska 195	Feliks J Kwiatkowski 204	½ ½	Gerald Moore 202
3 RA Allicock 196	0 1	HW Murphy 193	David B Graham 204	0 1	Andrew P Smith 201
4 DB Rosen 190	1 0	AM Leech 187	Luke E Rutherford 198	½ ½	Simon Lazarus 192
5 ME Osborne 188	1 0	KD Smallbone 184	Geoffrey H James 197	1 0	Raymond B Edwards 185
6 PD Kemp 187	1 0	L Davis 165	Bernard Cafferty 192	½ ½	Hans-Peter Hansen 180
7 JC Marley 177	0 1	DL Roberts 177	Michael D Nicholas 192	½ ½	Roger de Coverly 173
8 SG Walker 177	½ ½	I Duvall 176	M Broom 193	½ ½	Malcolm Armstrong 166
9 DR Sedgwick 173	1 0	JT Munday 175	Stephen J Newman 187	1 0	Stephen Law 156
10 CRA Clegg 168	0 1	IR Henderson 170	S Wade 183	½ ½	Manfred Egby 156
11 KFH Inwood 160	½ ½	ACP Milnes 170	John A Dodgson 179	0 1	Dave Mansfield e150
12 PD Dupré 158	1 0	PS Janota 168	Peter G Farr 179	1 0	Andy Huxley e150
13 SR Jones 152	½ ½	J Townsend 167	Michael R Stott 177	½ ½	Brian Atkinson 150
14 EP Goggin 130	0 1	MC Bowhay 166	Martin O Costley 176	1 0	Stephen P Clark 147 j
15 JI Adcock 126	0 1	PR Maul 155	Richard J Almond 175	1 0	Nicholas J Butland 148
16 def	0 1	NW Dennis 141	SON Hawes 168	1 0	Richard Thursby 141 j
(Sutton)	7½ 8½		(Horsham)	10 6	

Herts*	15.11.97	Oxon*	Kent*	15.11.97	Cambs*
1 Phil G Maguire 198	½ ½	Adam C Hunt 208 (B)	Neil McDonald 237	½ ½	J Parker 243 (W)
2 Simon JB Knott 226	1 0	Max L Devereaux 208	Danny Gormally 225	0 1	M Ferguson 226
3 Steve Swanson 201	1 0	Jochen Wittmann 186	Philip Morris 223	0 1	B Kelly 222
4 Paul V Byway 196	½ ½	Tim R Dickinson 185	James Vigus 215	0 1	H Hunt 217
5 Kevin R Clark 188	½ ½	Dave G Hackett 186	Steve Giddins 214	0 1	A Cohen 213
6 A Gilfillan 184	0 1	Graham W Chapman 172	Ian Watson 213	1 0	D Moskovic 204
7 Howard L Tebbs 182	½ ½	Ray J Starkie 171	Andrew Mack 202	½ ½	N Regan 194
8 JN Fraser-Mitchell 179	1 0	Lester R Millin 176	G Botley 191 (r)	½ ½	M Shephard 190
9 John R Denton 177	½ ½	Jim N Stayt 166	Alan Hanreck 201	1 0	P Scott 182
10 Chris E Majer 180	1 0	Sean Terry 160	Lyndon Gurr 201	½ ½	M Thornton 187
11 D Ross Brennan 175	½ ½	Dave J Bruce 166	John Sugden 196	½ ½	I Gooding 177
12 Philip J Gregory 169	1 0	Nick C Jones 166	David Farndon 194	½ ½	S White 169
13 Geoff D Hollis 168	½ ½	Peter Ball 150	John Wager 193	½ ½	S Larski 167
14 Barry Morris 161	1 0	Tony G Heslop 122	Nathan Alfred 190	1 0	P Webster 161
15 DE Bower 159	1 0	Jonathan Kennedy 84	Alexis Harakis 188	½ ½	M Campbell 153
16 David M Hill 150	1 0	def	Chris Rice 171	1 0	C Howell 152
(Welwyn Garden City)	11½ 4½		(Charlton House)	8 8	

UNDER 175

Kent*			Sussex*			Sussex*			Surrey*		
4.10.97						25.10.97					
1 Matthew Noakes 170 (W)	0	1	Michael J Reddie 168	Robert V Elliston 174	0	1	David R Sedgwick 173 (B)				
2 John R Cordner 170	0	1	Robert V Elliston 174	Richard O'Brien 171	0	1	Chris Briscoe 171				
3 Steven Pullinger 169	1	0	Paul A Batchelor 168	Michael J Reddie 168	½	½	Chris RA Clegg 168				
4 Keith G Hyde 169	1	0	Andrew SJ Fleming 168	Andrew SJ Fleming 168	0	1	Kevin P Mynett 167				
5 Robert J Everson 165	1	0	SON Hawes 168	SON Hawes 168	1	0	Paul D Dupré 158				
6 Alvin N Kissoon 163	1	0	Ian G Kelly 166	Paul A Batchelor 168	1	0	Nicholas D Grey 156				
7 Sidney J Jacob 161	1	0	James Graham 165	Ian G Kelly 166	1	0	D Tuddenham 154				
8 Mark D Brougham 159	½	½	AO Pickersgill 165	AO Pickersgill 165	½	½	R John Wilcox 152				
9 Alan Atkinson 152	1	0	Arthur Hall 163	James Graham 165	0	1	Paul R Archer 151				
10 John H Lewin 156	0	1	David G Ratcliffe 150	Arthur Hall 163	½	½	Eric J Brodie 149				
11 Stephen J Peters 155	½	½	P Greaves 150	Alan H Palmer 155	½	½	Ian S McLeod 145				
12 Barry Beavis 155	1	0	David L Roberts 148	Ian P Judd 155	½	½	Paul E Barnard 141				
13 Zia Mehmet 153	½	½	Brian Izzard 144	Paul R Selby 153	1	0	John B Hawson 140				
14 Roger JA Winterburn 153	½	½	Laurence Rackham 142	P Greaves 150	1	0	ST Kevin Wilkinson 139				
15 Nicholas C Mackett 152	½	½	Timothy J Woods 139	Timothy J Woods 139	0	1	Fred C Manning 133				
16 Mark M Robertson 150	1	0	R Daniel Hirsch 139	R Daniel Hirsch 139	½	½	KN Mehendale 132				
(Charlton H)	10½	5½		(Hassocks)	8	8					

Surrey's hero of the day was Fred Manning who didn't know how to mate with bishop and knight but worked it out over the board.

Essex*			Kent			Essex*			Surrey		
8.11.97						22.11.97					
1 Tim Hebbes 174 (W)	½	½	David JR Barnes 173	Tim Hebbes 174 (B)	0	1	David R Sedgwick 173				
2 Trevor D Coote 173	1	0	def	Paul R Barclay (r) 156	½	½	Chris RA Clegg 168				
3 Ken W Clow 173	0	1	Matthew D Noakes 170	Bill L Saunders 171	0	1	Martin C Page 164				
4 George McNally 172	0	1	K Hyde 169	Martin McCall 171	1	0	def				
5 William L Saunders 171	1	0	def	Roy Heppinstall 170	½	½	Neil Maxwell 160				
6 Peter C Doye 170	1	0	Robert J Everson 165	Peter C Doye 170	1	0	Kenneth FH Inwood 160				
7 Larry Marden 169	1	0	Sydney J Jacob 161	Ken W Clow 173	0	1	Paul D Dupré 158				
8 David J Millward 168	½	½	Mark D Brougham 159	George McNally 172	1	0	Nicholas D Gray 156				
9 Colin R Ramage 167	0	1	John H Lewin 156	Larry Marden 169	1	0	D Tuddenham 154				
10 Ian D Hunnable 166	½	½	Alex M Stille 155	Ivan J Myall 168	1	0	Stuart R Jones 152				
11 Les J Crane 164	1	0	def	David J Millward 168	1	0	R John Wilcox 152				
12 Ivor BN Smith 161	½	½	Roger JA Winterburn 153	Colin R Ramage 167	1	0	Colin PL Parker 146				
13 Ray Purse 161	½	½	Nick C Mackett 152	Ian D Hunnable 166	1	0	Ian S McLeod 145				
14 Neville H Twitchell 160	½	½	Peter M Titmas 139	Les J Crane 164	1	0	ST Kevin Wilkinson 139				
15 Andy King 156	1	0	def	Neville H Twitchell 160	0	1	Fred C Manning 133				
16 John A Philpott 152	1	0	def	Andy D Hartland 160	½	½	KN Mehendale 132				
(Wanstead)	10	6		(Wanstead)	10½	5½					

UNDER 150

Essex*			Middx*			Surrey*			Herts*		
11.10.97						1.11.97					
1 John White 147 (B)	½	½	R Aw 148	Keith Selby 116	1	0	def				
2 Stephen M Williams 147	½	½	C Fewtrell 146	Claire Thrower 146	½	½	Philip Primett 149				
3 Thomas G Winter 147	1	0	def	Charles Fellowes 146	½	½	Bryan Judkins 148				
4 David Smith 146 ¹	1	0	def	Ian McLeod 145	½	½	David Webb 148				
5 Mark RA Murrell 146	1	0	G Brown 143	Rod Bell 143	0	1	Christopher Lovisa 147				
6 Jason Roberts 145	½	½	P Sargeant 143	John Marshall 141	1	0	Mir Wali 136				
7 Tony Drake 145	1	0	A Fulton 140	John Hawson 140	0	1	Ron Hughes 144				
8 Laurie J Burt 144	1	0	B Haase 140	Kevin Wilkinson 139	½	½	John Coles 143				
9 Mike J Cresswell 143	½	½	K Morris 140	Don Baldock 135	0	1	Paul Lawrence 143				
10 Philip Zammit 138	½	½	N Tomkin 139	def	0	0 ¹	def				
11 Michael Erntroy 137	0	1	P Kennelly 138	Fred Manning 133	1	0	John Marshall 141				
12 David J Rawlings 136	½	½	BA Tysoe 137	John W Halls 132	½	½	Karl Hardy 140				
13 David FC Bird 133	½	½	G McLeod 136	Krishna Mehendale 132	1	0	Anthony Wall 136				
14 Roger D Sharman 132	1	0	C Wallace 133	Jo Harta 131	0	1	Simon Charles 132				
15 Barry Sheppard 130	½	½	E Larkman 139	Jim Hale 127	½	½	Derek Price 136				
16 David G Cannan 128	0	1	K Parr 108	Jessie Gilbert 91	½	½	Tom Wright 128				
(Wanstead)	10	6		(Sutton)	7½	7½					

¹ "The Essex board 4 does not appear in the SCCU grading list at all. He played *one* game for York last year as a result of which his Wanstead and Essex allegiances were deleted and he appears in the BCF list (only) as York RI! So much for the SCCU list being correct." - David Smith.

¹ Both sides give the double default as a draw but 0 - 0 it is.

Middx*	1.11.97	Kent*	Essex*	1.11.97	Sussex*
1 R Aw 148 (W)	½ ½	Dave Helsby 149	John White 147 (B)	½ ½	L Rackham 142
2 M Williams 146	½ ½	Andrew Heard 148	Stephen M Williams 147	½ ½	DL Roberts 148
3 C Fewtrell 146	½ ½	Roy Parsons 148	Thomas G Winter 147	1 0	WH Partridge 148
4 Y Tello 145	0 1	Mike Wiltshire 148	Keith S Jones 146	½ ½	P Watson 147
5 G O'Grady 144	0 1	Mark Finch 146	David Smith 146 (r)	0 1	IK Edgson 144
6 G Brown 143	1 0	Alan Sheriff 146	Jason Roberts 145	0 1	PN Kington 143
7 A Fulton 140	½ ½	Mark Jordan 146	Tony Drake 145	1 0	TJ Woods 139
8 B Haase 140	0 1	Kerry Kingston 146	Laurie J Burt 144	½ ½	RD Hirsch 139
9 K Morris 140	0 1	Derek Davis 145	Mike J Cresswell 143	½ ½	EJ Hillier 138
10 N Tomkin 139	1 0	Simon Moate 142	Philip Zammit 138	½ ½	LJ Cannon 131
11 BA Tysoe 137	0 1	Peter Titmas ¹ 139	David J Rawlings 136	1 0	CC Dunn 132
12 A Yekta 136	0 1	Ian Hames 140	David FC Bird 138	1 0	G McCulloch 131
13 G McLeod 136	0 1	Edward Bromilow 138	Roger D Sharman 132	1 0	RA Clement 128
14 CICH Wallace 133	1 0	Robert Pooley 138	David J Payne 132	0 1	RC Grundy 127
15 G Jordan 131	½ ½	David Gleed 132	Barry Sheppard 130	½ ½	PH Benson 129
16 K Parr 108	½ ½	Steve Chick 128	David G Cannan 128	½ ½	P Dezzani -
(Northolt)	6 10		(Wanstead)	9 7	

¹ Bd 11: Kent match captain please note spelling.

Herts*	15.11.97	Kent*	Sussex*	15.11.97	Surrey*
1 Neil Rughwani 149	1 0	Dave Helsby 149 (W)	L Rackham 142 (W)	½ ½	Colin Parker 146
2 Chris Louisa 147	0 1	Andy Heard 148	DL Roberts 148	0 1	Charles Fellows 146
3 Roger Lever 147	0 1	Roy Parsons 148	IK Edgson 144	0 1	Ian McLeod 145
4 Mir Wali 136 (r)	0 1	Mike Wiltshire 148	PN Kington 143	½ ½	Rod Bell 143
5 L d'Costa (?D'Costa) 141	1 0	Mark Finch 146	K Davies 143	½ ½	John Marshall 141
6 Ronald Hughes 144	1 0	Andrew Mata 146	R Hollinghurst 140	1 0	Paul Barnard 141
7 John Coles 143	½ ½	Kerry Kingston 146	TJ Woods 139	0 1	Kevin Wilkinson 139
8 Paul Lawrence 143	½ ½	Derek Davis 145	EJ Hillier 138	½ ½	Don Baldock 135
9 John Marshall 141	0 1	Simon Moate 142	LJ Cannon 131	1 0	Fred Manning 133
10 Karl Hardy 140	1 0	Peter Titmas 139	CC Dunn 132	½ ½	John W Halls 132
11 Ian Mutton 137	½ ½	Ian Hames 140	MR Hickman 131	0 1	Jim Hale 127
12 Anthony Hall 136	½ ½	Stephen Casement 137	RC Grundy 127	1 0	Albert Jones 126
13 Simon Charles 132	½ ½	David Gleed 132	PH Benson 129	1 0	Howard Curtis 126
14 Dave Young 133	½ ½	Steve Chick 128	RA Clement 128	0 1	David Hodgson 124
15 Derek Price 134	0 1	Mike Jones 121	G McCulloch 131	1 0	Neil Clifton 106
16 Tom Wright 128	½ ½	Geoff Bishop 120	A Bradbury 124	½ ½	Jessie Gilbert 91
(Welwyn Garden City)	7½ 8½		(Horsham)	8 8	

Herts opponents (both matches) had trouble with Simon Charles. One said Charles Simon, the other said C Charles. How about Herts sending their results?, we asked plaintively. They just have (28th Nov) and the name's plain enough. Promptness is appreciated.

UNDER 125

Sussex*	25.10.97	Kent*	Surrey*	25.10.97	Oxon*
1 A Bradbury 124 (B)	½ ½	S Thanesan 122 j	David Hodgson 124	1 0	W Tutty 123 (W)
2 C Power 120	½ ½	M Snashall 114	David Rees 123	1 0	A Collins 121
3 M Plumb 115	½ ½	N Lister 114	Scott Freeman 75 (r)	0 1	A Heslop 122
4 J Helliwell 120	½ ½	P Poland 109	Dornic Weston-Lewis 121	0 1	T Frost 121
5 P Burgis ¹ 120	0 1	D Picton 113	Chetan Deva 120	1 0	L Collins 119
6 M Bryant 117	1 0	IC Smith 104	Steve Wood 120	½ ½	M Duck 116
7 S Deere 117	½ ½	IB Bryan 108	Joe Xuereb 116	0 1	A Wyeth 116
8 P Smith 117	1 0	I Stoneman 104	Keith Selby 116	½ ½	M Brindley 116
9 D Simkins 107	1 0	A Hargreaves 103	Dennis Ramsey 115	1 0	Z Marham 111
10 J Povey 114	1 0	DSJ Shipp 101	David Innes 115	0 1	R Langham 111
11 M Curtis 116	½ ½	J Robertson 97	Hugh Wylie 114	1 0	D Metcalfe 108
12 I Phillipson 115	½ ½	AP Fabian 97	Keith Lovell 114	½ ½	S Grigson 102
13 DJ Langridge 111	0 1	T Hogg 94	Muhammed ¹ Daood 111	½ ½	D Buckland 96
14 C Jefferies 111	0 1	Alistair Taylor ² 90 j	Chris Dixon 105	½ ½	P Williams 88
15 P Buswell 103	½ ½	J Thanesan 84 j	David Howes 104	½ ½	J Kennedy 87
16 S Carter 75	1 0	R Gosden 75 j	Paul Battersby 96	0 1	M Creasey 81
(Eastbourne)	9 7		(Sutton)	8 8	

¹ Bd 5: Sussex confirm the spelling. He is listed that way. ² Bd 14: Kent give a second initial but since it's T we'll wait for confirmation.

¹ Bd 13: Looks like -ed; BCF have -ad.

Essex*	8.11.97	Kent*
1 M Ashkettle 124 (B)	0 1	M Jones 121
2 M Bradford 123	1 0	S Thanesan 122
3 R Davies 123	1 0	CW Dunsmore 116
4 T Cole 123	½ ½	M Snashall 114
5 R Ianetta 123	½ ½	N Lister 114
6 R Payne 118	0 1	D Picton 113
7 E Walker 117	1 0	P Poland 113
8 W Petchey 116	0 1	K Sanders 104
9 R Giddens 116	½ ½	IC Smith 104
10 C Turner 113	½ ½	A Hargreaves 103
11 I Rook 112	½ ½	DSJ Smith 101
12 D Allen 110	½ ½	J Robertson 97
13 P Flint 107	0 1	K Hendrikse 97
14 M Grieve 106	1 0	T Hogg 94
15 G Bengier 106	1 0	N Lang 76
16 P Pattison 97	0 1	R Gosden 75
(Wanstead)	8 8	

UNDER 100

Middx*	1.11.97	Herts*	Surrey*	1.11.97	Essex*
1 T Rowland 99 (W)	0 1	Michael Brookes 98	Chris Hoffman 99 j	0 1	John Sneesby 98 (W)
2 WGV McLaughlin 97	0 1	Richard Player 99	Oliver Wilson 99 j	0 1	Katie Bates 98
3 Giovanni Vasco 94	1 0	Keith Sears 96	John Darling 98	1 0	Graham Walker 96
4 Gregory Procyk 94	½ ½	Peter Tuck 95	Laila Tillett 98	1 0	Josiah Lutton 96
5 Stephen Banks 93	0 1	Nick Chandler 95	Nicholas Bauden ¹ 93 j	1 0	Stewart Trent 93
6 Barry S Miles 93	0 1	James Palmer 95	Harvey Murray-Smith 96	0 1	Matthew Cain 90
7 L McDonagh 93	0 1	Wolf Hamm 90	Eric Wilson -	0 1	Alan Trent 78
8 Paul Humphries ¹ 92	0 1	Frank Batchelor 88	Richard Davey 96	1 0	John Marsh 77
9 Paul Roche 89	1 0	John Mackenzie 89	Bartek Jablonski 91 j	½ ½	Robert Parish "??" ²
10 Alem De Nardi-Jones 85	½ ½	Maurice Kenton 71	Graham Curtis 79	0 1	Heather Walker 77
11 Cliff Ayett 76	½ ½	Alan Brewis 71	Chris Manders 78 j	1 0	Jonathan Livesley 61
12 Graham Snow 76	1 0	John Dalton 47	David Manders 73 j	1 0	Nicholas Fenton 58
(Bayswater)	4½ 7½		(Sutton)	6½ 5½	

¹ Bd 8: Middx version. Herts suggest Humphry.¹ Bd 5: Essex say Bawden. ² Bd 9: Essex mc quotes various unpublished grades. But no doubt it's Robert Parrish 68 (see below).

Essex	15.11.97	Herts*	Surrey*	15.11.97	Middx*
1 John Sneesby 98 (B)	1 0	Michael Brooks 98	Oliver Wilson 99 (W)	1 0	William McLaughlin 97
2 Katherine Bates 97	½ ½	Robert Huhn 98	Laila Tillett 98	0 1	Teejay (so) Rowland 99
3 Josiah Lutton 96	0 1	Kris Devoti 95	Paul Battersby 96	1 0	Giovanni Vasco 94
4 Michael Bridger 95	1 0	Keith Sears 96	Harvey Murray Smith 96	½ ½	Steve Banks 93
5 Ron Prickett 95	1 0	Peter Tuck 95	Richard Davey 96	1 0	def
6 Stewart Trent 93	1 0	Des Wasik 92	Lana Boztas 93	1 0	Andrew Harvey 93
7 Matthew Cain 90	1 0	Frank Batchelor 88	Bartek Jablonski 91	1 0	Larry McDonagh 92
8 John Marsh 77	0 1	Rees ¹ Gates 90	David Wallis 91	½ ½	Paul Roche 89
9 Heather Walker 77	0 1	Simon Morris ² -	Ben Morgan 90	1 0	Sarah Hurst 80
10 Robert Parrish 68	1 0	Mark Senn -	Bernard Sweetman 89	½ ½	Carl Tams 79
11 Jon Livesley 61	1 0	Alan Brewis 71	Colin Kay 84	0 1	Cliff Ayett 76
12 Nicholas Fenton 58	1 0	John Dalton 47	David Morgan 82	½ ½	Graham Snow 76
(Southend)	8½ 3½		(Sutton)	8 4	

¹ Bd 8: he's not Reece as in grading list. ² Bd 9: This is a new Simon Morris, from Hertford (town, not necessarily club). An adult; not the same as the junior Simon Morris from Watford.

Herts*	22.11.97	Surrey*
1 Michael Brooks 98 (W)	0 1	Oliver Wilson 99
2 Stuart Tinsley 98	0 1	John Darling 98
3 Robert Huhn 98	1 0	Laila Tillett 98
4 Alison Winston 97	0 1	Bartek Jablonski 91
5 John Wholley 97	½ ½	Harvey Murray-Smith 96
6 Nick Chandler	0 1	Richard Davey 96
7 Peter Tuck 95	1 0	Fred Bleasdale 92
8 Des Wasik 92	0 1	Ben Morgan 90
9 Frank Batchelor 88	1 0	Graham Curtis 79
10 John Mackenzie 89	1 0	Chris Manders 78
11 Mark Sen	1 0	Andrew Foster Yeow 88
12 Stephen Burt	½ ½	David Manders 73
(St Albans)	5½ 6½	

This year's Fleming Trophy match, belatedly:

Beds	30.7.97	Bucks*
1 P Habershon 186 (W)	0 1	Gerald Moore 197
2 def	0 1	Andy Hammond 191
3 R Freeman 170	½ ½	Andrew P Smith 190
4 P Taylor 168	½ ½	Natasha Regan 187
5 K Williamson 166	½ ½	Roger de Coverly 178
6 R Mahony 168	½ ½	Richard O'Brien 168
7 A Elwin 164	0 1	Andrew George 165
8 A Slough 159	1 0	Manfred Egby 162
9 K Bush 155	1 0	Tony Kelly 159
10 I Bacon 152	1 0	Kevin Hawkins 151
11 C Bullock 149	½ ½	John Springall 150
12 P Thomas 145	1 0	Adrian Laurence 146
13 N Hickman 140	½ ½	Steve James 142
14 G Ward 134	1 0	Eugene Bolduc 132
15 K Liddle 131	1 0	Richard Thursby 131
16 E Lake 130	½ ½	Andrew Hill 118
(Milton Keynes)	9½ 6½	

The grades are 1996-7 ones.

Arbiters' Corner

An incident in the Essex League last season has led to the following note in the October *Chessex*.

If your opponent leaves the room, for whatever reason or for however long, try not to forget that you have already made a move and make another before he returns.

Wonder which move he stopped the clock after.

Apparently it was the *opponent* who got disciplined, but that was for what he said when he came back.

SCCU COUNTY MATCHES 1997-8

Or what's left of them. Matches asterisked are on re-arranged dates.

	Open	Under 175	Under 150	Under 125	Under 100
Dec 6		SxE		ESy	
13		KSy			
Jan 10				KSy	ME
17	EBr SxC KH SyO		HE KSx	*HE	
24	(4NCL)	KE SySx		SySx	
31	BrBu CE HSy OSx		SyK HM	OE	HM
Feb 7		SyE		*HSy	MSy
14	BuC SxH SyK EO		SxH ESy	KO	
21					SyH
28	OBu HE KSx CBr			SxH	
Mar 7	(SCCU U18 qualifier)	SxK			
14	BuH EK BrO SxSy		MSx		
21	(4NCL)	SyK ESx		KH SxO	ESy

GAME. We don't have annotated games in the Bulletin. So here's one. It's shamelessly filched from *Chessex* (always an excellent read, and available from Ivor BN Smith 01245 421193). Tried to get his permission, actually, but couldn't contact him so pirated regardless. *White* R Ponomarev GM 2555, *Black* Eddie Dearing 2210: World U18 Championship Yerevan 1997. Round 1, and the only game Ponomarev lost in taking the title with 9/11. Apparently he burst into tears after Black's 33rd move (and got mugged by a trainer after the game). How old is he? ED got 6, an IM norm, and a rating score of 2400. It's a marvellous game. Our notes, very condensed, lack the exuberance of the ED originals which are their source.

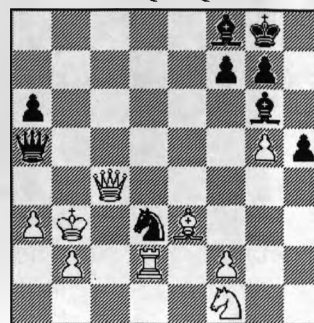
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 Nc6 8.h3 Bh5 9.a3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Be7 11.Nc3 Qd6 12.Be3 0-0 13.Qb3 Rfd8 14.Rfd1 a6?! 15.d5!? exd5!? 16.g4! Bg6 17.g5 Ne4 18.Nxd5 Qe6!? 19.Qxb7! Bf8 20.Nc7? (Nf4!) Qxh3 21.Nxa8 Qg4+ 22.Kf1! (If 22.Kh1 Qh3+ 23.Nh2 Ng3+! 24.fxg3 Be4+ and White is mated.) 22...Qh3+ 23.Ke1 Qh1+ 24.Bf1



24...Ng3! 25.Nh2 (If 25.Nd2? Nb4 wins outright.) 25...Nb4 (anyway) 26.Qc7 Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1 Nxf1 28.Nxf1 Nd3+ 29.Kd2 Qxa8

The dust has settled, White is an exchange up, but his pieces are in a terrible tangle.

30.Kc3 Qd5 31.Rd2 h5 32.Qc4 Qa5+ 33.Kb3



33.. Nxb2! 34 Qb4 Bxb4 35 axb4 Qb5 0-1

BCF MANAGEMENT BOARD

The MB met on Saturday 29th November 1997, back on familiar territory at the Hotel Ibis near Euston Station. Your Editor doesn't get to attend MB meetings now, but it sounds to have been a familiar sort of meeting as well. Our correspondent (a BCF Director) described it as "very tedious".

- (1) **Grading.** Chris Howell's paper (see page 5) was very well received. Work is still needed on financial aspects.
- (2) **BCF Yearbook 1998** is out, and will be posted this week to people who've ordered it. Price £10 (up from £8), and that may or may not include postage. Ask the BCF Office.
- (3) **BCF Website.** There isn't one, but they're working on it. The Federation is advertising, or is to advertise, for an Internet Officer.
- (4) **European Team Championships 1999.** The Championships will be 3 - 11 July. The venue was agreed and an announcement will be made shortly. No agreement was reached on "who" should nominally run the event. (The BCF? A limited company?) A break-even budget was agreed, or possibly not.
- (5) **National Chess Centre.** The Hastings Council was in the process of buying the premises. It's a former furniture shop, currently empty, on the sea front. Usable floor space is 15,000m² (or it could be 13,000m²) on three floors. That sounds like quite a big furniture shop. Hastings Chess Club would occupy a part of it. The whole project depends on getting lottery money and an application will be made, by a trust, in February 1998. The answer should be available in the autumn. What the Hastings Council will do with the premises if the answer's no we can't say, but they've presumably got backup plans. The BCF has made no financial commitment.
- (6) **British Championships 1999** will "hopefully" be at Scarborough. Well, one informant says hopefully and another says it's firm.
- (7) **Leigh GP.** Leigh has been taken over by Onyx (also in the waste disposal business) but sponsorship will continue. We believe the competition will be known as the Leigh Onyx GP.
- (8) **Counties Under 18 Championships.** The 1998 events will have "mixed teams with no defined composition", and if you understand that you have the advantage of your Editor. There will be one round. There will also be Girls events, on a different date.
- (9) **Minor Counties Nominations.** There seems to have been doubt about who some of the Unions were nominating; decisions as to eligibility were postponed until December. Incidentally, some counties are reported to have no teams in the Open this year. Presumably for lack of match captains or players or both. Hants were mentioned.

CONGRESS DIARY

No time for one, sorry. Not to say room. We'll make a virtue of necessity and call this an experiment. If there's no outraged protests we'll drop the Congress Diary permanently. Except for Congresses that actually trouble to send a leaflet; most don't.

Stop Press 29.11.97

MCCU Centenary match is Saturday 13th December 1997 at Nuneaton. 40 boards: 10 x Open, 10 x U175, 10 x U150, 10 x U125.

U125 match: Essex 12½ 3½ Sussex 22.11.97. Details next time.

Match Captains

Kent U150: Steve Chick is now at 7 Sequoia Gardens, Orpington, Kent BR6 0TZ. His phone number is unchanged: 01689 877358.

Middx U100: G Snow's telephone number was wrong in the published list. It is 0171 736 5693.

The **Mystery Page** from page 2 was 5, and the **Mystery Date** from page 7 was 28th November. And no, we didn't put the MP scores in. You want jam on it? (We would have, if we'd remembered, but we were already pressed for time. We've a feeling there's another mistake on page 7 somewhere.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: *Chessex* for October; *ChessIns* for October; Manchester & District CA Bulletin for August; Surrey Girls Newsletter for November

An apology

Your Bulletin is probably later, this time, than it's ever been. Sorry. Blame the Accident. The whole thing was duplicated and collated, and we'd started stuffing the envelopes, when it emerged that we'd reported some Management Board things that were supposed to be confidential. Our informant hadn't told us they were confidential. So the back page had to be removed, re-printed on both sides and re-stapled, and we weren't pleased.