

THE MIDDLE GAME

Volume 1, Issue 2

January 2003

ANOTHER GM FOR THE MIDLANDS

The MCCU can claim another Grandmaster, Matthew Turner of Bottesford, Lincolnshire has received ratification of his title from FIDE. There are various methods of qualifying for a GM title, one of which is to achieve 2 or more GM results or "norms" in events covering at least 24 games, and a FIDE rating of at least 2500 (there are a few provisos which I haven't detailed). Matthew gained 2 "norms" at 4NCL events and a third at Hastings last year. FIDE mistakenly thought the Hastings event was a swiss tournament which would not have been acceptable. Whilst the Hastings Challengers is a swiss, the Premier is an all play all which fulfils the FIDE requirements. His achievement is all the more remarkable as these "norms" were gained whilst successfully studying for a degree. His attentions are now taken up by chess even more, as he is the first dedicated chess coach at Millfield School. Congratulations Matthew!!

Matthew joins Mark Hebden, Glen Flear, Chris Baker & Keith Arkell as GMs who can be claimed as Midlands boys.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Letters & feedback
- 5 Situations vacant & Forthcoming events
- 6 Combines Services v MCCU match report
- 8 PC Gibbs Trophy final result & table
- + County team results supplement & tables & much more

THE BCF BRAINSTORMS

With thanks to Gerry Walsh BCF President who spoke to your editor about the Management Board meeting of 25th January.

The meeting took a somewhat different format than other meetings. It developed very much into a brainstorming session that produced a number of positive and interesting ideas.

2004 will be the BCF Centenary. A special BCF diary will be produced including a section on its history. A special edition of the Chess Moves magazine will also be produced which will aim to give grass roots chess players a clearer picture of what the BCF actually does in a typical year. As part of this, each director will outline the activities in their area. Members of the Management Board will then cascade this information down at Union and County meetings. This will hopefully address a number of misconceptions that seem to exist over what the BCF does and how it does it. The question of whether the current style of Chess Moves is what people actually want was raised and will be taken forward. If anyone wishes to give any feedback please send this to the BCF Office. This is part of a larger plan to improve communications within and from the BCF. Another part of the plan will involve unions, counties, clubs and players being invited to contribute their email address to a database held by the BCF Office, these addresses could then be used to provide a sort of "news flash" service to direct people to items of interest published elsewhere.

The BCF Web site will also be expanded so that each directorate has its own page. The website diary will have a facility that will enable anyone wanting an entry form for an event to click on and feed interest through

continued on page 3

Publication dates

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LETTERS & FEEDBACK

Many thanks to those of you who provided feedback; I welcome any constructive comment. Special thanks to those who provided advice and suggestions regarding solving glitches that arose in the email version. Thanks also to those of you who provided email addresses for receipt of the newsletter instead of hard copy.

Letters & emails for inclusion in a letters section have been a little thin on the ground. Chess players are not normally noted for being shy, so please let's have a few more of you putting pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard. A couple of people have responded to the County teams' item in issue one -

On County teams

Having moved to the Midlands 3.5 seasons ago, I have been struck by the seeming apathy towards County chess - relative to my previous abode in East Anglia. Okay, so EA is not the centre of the Universe, but since coming to the Midlands, I have never, neither as an individual nor as a club secretary, been approached to play for Warks (or anyone else!). Is this because:

- a) no-one knows to which counties the different BDCL clubs belong?
- b) the county captains are indifferent? – hard to believe.
- c) the clubs are generally unco-operative? – not to my knowledge
- d) players / club members are apathetic? Remind

me - why do we continue to play?... for the money!!?eh!

- e) things are so static here that, (oh-oh! - I think I need to be anonymous at this point)

Having established members' availability in 1979, and again in 1989, all the captains KNOW who is available and who is not? HELLO - NEWBLOOD!! Over here...!!!!

For the record, I have played with varying degrees of lack of success, for Hunts & Peterborough U125 & U150 both home & away. This involving some stupidly long journeys over boring flat featureless countryside, and am similarly inclined to play for Warks, should I ever be able to establish who the relevant captain is!

In all seriousness, I do feel that the County Championships & Matches have been horrendously under-promoted to date, and welcome your Newsletter with relish!

It is with some regret that I have to say that the EACU seems to be experiencing problems with reductions in numbers & teams not fulfilling fixtures – however, the above writer raises some interesting points which someone might like to respond to - Ed

Re county team captains:

I think that the situation with volunteer county captains may be part of a bigger one that also involves volunteers for the roles of league team captain and club secretary: Some players see such a vacancy, think "how difficult can it be", and put their hand up to give it a go. The ones who do that and like what they find, make the role their own, and effectively become part of the furniture. The problem is of course that when the vacancy does come up, there isn't always a keen volunteer around to give it a try. As to whether there is a solution other than to keep asking players until the right person does give it a try ...

Many thanks for a Nice newsletter, Your efforts are appreciated.

Andrew Davies – Breewood Chess Club

Following on from this letter – please see the Situations Vacant item later in this issue.

BCF AGM Oct 2002

Many thanks for Issue 1 of ' The Middle Game ' which I found to be valuable and informative. The MCCU has needed such a publication for some time and I hope it continues into the future.

I would however like to make a few points about the article entitled ' Shock Resignations at the BCF AGM' This article, in my opinion, is clearly expressing a preference in favour of one point of view - namely that the resignations of Susan Richards and Robert McFarland from their BCF posts was a good thing.

Now this is a perfectly valid point of view, but is it the view of the MCCU?

Opinion and comment should be encouraged, but it should be described as such.

Also the author of the piece was clearly present at the meeting. I quote ' The announcements from Mrs. Richards & Mr. McFarland led to almost audible sighs of relief '.

As it is my understanding that the Editor was not present at the meeting perhaps the author of this assertion could be identified.

Colin Green Warks

It is inevitable that different people will have different interpretations concerning events at meetings, and reports on them. With this in mind, the report was a composite of information obtained by me from several sources, and thus not attributed to a particular person. I do not feel that the article clearly expresses the view that the resignations concerned were a good thing.

With regard to what is, or is not, the view of the MCCU, I prepared the first newsletter, and am preparing this and subsequent issues, on the assumption that only quotes from minutes from MCCU meetings will/would be taken as expressing MCCU views. Such meetings are the only forum for the organization to formulate policy or views.

Editor



to the organizer, this will be free of charge. Some research will be undertaken to gauge the percentage of events currently appearing on the diary and all events will be encouraged to take advantage of inclusion in the diary.

It was decided that a number of services would be limited to BCF members. FIDE only deals with Federations, this means that the Office acts as an intermediary regarding FIDE rating matters. It will only do so where the player concerned is a BCF member. In the 2003 British Championships FIDE rated events will only be open to BCF members. (This follows on from a similar policy at Hastings 2003, which proved successful).

There was discussion about the decrease in level of chess activity. It was recognized that whilst the BCF needs to be proactive in supporting grass roots chess, much of what goes on does so, and would continue to do so, with or without the existence of the BCF.

Following on from the October AGM 3 Senior posts in the BCF were vacant. There had been no applications for the Chief Executive or Finance posts. It was agreed to continue with the existing arrangements for covering these until April. David Levens was appointed to the Marketing post. The Home Chess Director will deal with Internet chess. A meeting is due shortly with Games Palour, who provide the current BCF facilities, to discuss future plans. The pricing and fees structure will be reviewed, and it is hoped that BCF and Games Palour members will benefit from lower charges than non-members. Games Palour has a number of facilities, which to date few have taken up. Gerry Walsh particularly recommends the coaching section.

There was some discussion regarding qualifications for chess organizers, controllers and their assistants. The possibility of having match referee and chess organizer categories, along similar lines to qualified arbiters, but obviously with different requirements, will be looked at.

Promotion to Senior Arbiter status had been requested for 4 experienced arbiters, these requests were heartily endorsed. Special congratulations are in order for Midlands based Dave Thomas and John Robinson who were 2 of the 4; the awards for Geoff Jones and John Turnock were no less deserved.

41ST NUNEATON ONE-DAYCHESS CONGRESS

Played at the Pingles Leisure Centre, 8th.December 2002

OPEN

- 1st. Mark Hebden (Leicester)
2nd. Laurence Cooper (Stafford)
3rd.= L. A. Edwards (Wigston) Don Mason (Shirley) Li
Wu (Nuneaton)N. Hosken (Wigston)

Under 180 Grading Prize:-

Malcolm Armstrong, Martin Burrows and Andrew Talbot

Under 160

- 1st. A. Meek (B'ham Uni)
2nd. N Young (Northampton)
3rd.= C. Pickering (Kenilworth) D. Jarvis (Breadsall)

Grading Prize B. Gerewal (Stapelford)

Under 120

- 1st. J Wagenbach (Mansfield)
2nd.= C. Gordon (Chechmate) J. Cox (Rugby) J. Stewart
(Warwick Uni)

Grading Prize I. M. Harris (Stapleford), P. Panakar
(Birstall), J. Fallowfield and L. Graham (Shrewsbury)

Under 80

- 1st. I. Farquharson (Oakham)
2nd.= P. Prole (Newark A. Sykes (Kenilworth))
4th.= P. Trevis (Stourbridge) J. Curry (Halesowen)F. H.
Oldaker (Nuneaton) G. Bankevs (Bell Green) M.
Patterson (Newport Mon.)

BIRMINGHAM WINTER CONGRESS

January 4/5th 2003 Plough & Harrow Hotel Edgbaston

Open

- 1st Michael J Franklin – Richmond 4/5
2nd = John Emanuel – Checkmate Junior,
Paul Wallace – Lichfield
4th = David Bareham – Wiltshire, Martin Burrows –
Wigston, Tristan Cox- Sutton Coldfield, Anthony
Hickey- Kynock, Majid Jefferies – Maidenhead,
Sophie Tidman- South Birmingham

Major

- 1st Martin Cutmore – Ashford
2nd= Russell Baker – Birstall, David Cutmore – Wood
Green

Minor

- 1st Derek Stockhall – South Birmingham
2nd= Gordon Brown – Reading, Kenneth Smith – Sidcup
4th Robbie Dams, Joseph Farrell – Metropolitan

Challengers

- 1st Lewis Martin – Brown Jack
2nd = Gabor Csepregi – Shirley, Collin Dandy – Sutton
Coldfield, David Dunne – Bunkers Hill, Mark Lam
6th= Gunars Bankavs – Coventry Transport, Simon
Cains – Hanham, Nicola Thomas – Thamesdown
Juniors, Philip Trevis – Stourbridge

WREKIN CONGRESS

January 4/5th 2003 The Court Hotel

Under 206

- 1st Mike Surtees – Bolton
2nd David Costello – Shifnal & Telford
3rd= Andrew McCumiskey – Solihull, David Anderton –
Wallsall Kipping, Don Mason – Shirley, John Cox
– Shropshire, Nick Rutter – Newport

U170 Grading prize – Aidan Rawlinson – Bath

Under 150

- 1st Richard Westwood – Cannock
2nd= John Parrott – Shrewsbury, Grian Davies –
Wrexham, John Bashall – Telepost, Colin Roberts-
Shifnal & Telford, Steve Jukes – Stourbridge, Paul
Stephenson – Liverpool.

U140 Grading prize – Molly Moruzzi – Cheddleston &
Leek, Glyn Randle – Shifnal & Telford, Julie
Wilson – Stourbridge

Under 120

- 1st Don Curry – Halesowen
2nd= Gary White – Coddon, Jon Blackburn – Holmes
Chapel, Gavyn Cooper – Newport

U100 Grading prize – John Westhead – Telepost

Under 90

- 1st Adrian Somerfield – Stourbridge
2nd= Ben Curry – Halesowen, John Hughes – Chorley
U75 Grading prize – Jim McPhillips – Wrexham, Keith
Fowler – Coddon, Craig Whitfield – Cheddleton

Cont next page

WREKIN CONGRESS cont.

Junior Prize Adrian Somerfield – Stourbridge, Richard Westwood – Cannock, Tom Pym – Newport

Senior Prize John Hughes – Chorley

Graham Shepherd reports that 128 players took part, an increase on last year. 55 players were registered in Shropshire, which considering the county has less than 200 active players were quite good.

The best performance was by David Costello who has a current 168 grading. In gaining runner up spot in the U206 section, he defeated players graded 184 & 205 & drew with opponents graded 195 & 184.

2 junior players scored 100% in their sections, Richard Westwood in the U150 & Adrian Somerfield in the U90.

There was a good cross section of players including 17 juniors & 12 female – the highest number of ladies to attend a Shropshire Congress.

SITUATIONS VACANT

The following MCCU posts need filling–

Correspondence Team Competition Controller

Urgently required to organize the 2003 event, which should start in June. J M Robinson has run this event for several years but is standing down.

Events Director

To co-ordinate MCCU run congresses and similar events. The post has been vacant for a couple of years and cannot be covered on an ad hoc basis forever.

Non-Executive Director

To oversee Management Board activities and protect the interests of MCCU members.

If anyone requires further information concerning any of these posts, or wishes to express an interest in filling a vacancy, please contact Lee Collier.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOTTINGHAM RAPIDPLAY

RUSHCLIFFE LEISURE CENTRE WEST BRIDGEFORD NOTTINGHAM
23RD FEBRUARY 2003

CONTACT G GIBSON 0115 972 9258

LEICESTERSHIRE RAPIDPLAY

CHURCH HALL LOWER CHURCH ST SYSTON
8TH MARCH 2003

CONTACT C JOHNSON 0116 260 9012

STAFFORSHIRE CONGRESS

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CENTRE SOCIAL CLUB HALLCOURT RD CANNOCK
23RD MARCH 2003

CONTACT G HUMPHRIES 01384 571486 (BEFORE 9PM)

NOTTINGHAM CONGRESS (INC MIDLAND IND CHAMPS)

RUSHCLIFFE LEISURE CENTRE WEST BRIDGEFORD NOTTINGHAM
25-27 APRIL 2003

CONTACT G GIBSON 0115 972 9258

MCCU Open

This year's MCCU Open will take place at the same venue as the 2002 event. Several of those who took part last year said that the hotel was an excellent congress venue, a view echoed by this years' Congress Secretary Cyril Johnson. He agreed to take on the secretarial role at the last MCCU meeting and recently visited the hotel to finalize arrangements. He was impressed by their attention to detail with the arrangements. Entry forms will be available nearer the event, but players will be able to enter by phone or email in addition to completion of the paper forms. The event will be held at the Macdonald de Montfort Hotel Kenilworth on 20-22 June 2003 Tel for further details/entries 0116 260 9012

MCCU Website

The MCCU has registered its own domain name; its website address is midlandcountieschessunion.co.uk. Many thanks to Neil Beasley for providing space on his own website for MCCU use for several months. He will be the webmaster for the new site, which should be up and running shortly.

Leicestershire & Rutland Website

The Leicestershire & Rutland Chess Association has also registered its own domain name, its website address is leicestershireandrutlandchessassoc.co.uk. Neil Beasley is also acting as webmaster for this site, which should also be operational soon.

COMBINED SERVICES v MCCU 14th December 2002 at RAF Cosford

Combined Services				MCCU				
1	w	111979F	Hammond, Andrew JC	193	½ - ½	194	Anderton, David W.	105731F
2	b	120398J	Thurlow, Kevin J	187	1 - 0	168	Hibbard, Carl P.	112595D
3	w	107944L	Canham, E John	152	½ - ½	163	Gibbs, Peter C.	111190F
4	b	100059H	McInnes, Neil A	147	1 - 0	158	Gee, G Jim	111133E
5	w	07/07/65	Field, Simon		0 - 1	149	Fox, Mike B.	110832D
6	b	192352D	Smith, Brian	100	0 - 1	140	Westwood, Richard D.	191000A
7	w	115129A	May, Martin	146	1 - 0	133	Pready, D Alex	171034F
8	b	210818F	Gardiner, CA	118	0 - 1	132	Hopkins, Brian D.	112967D
9	w	210820D	Ross, DC	103	½ - ½	126	Sawiak, John	188550A
10	b	116358K	O'Byrne, Daniel	118	½ - ½	123	Nailard, Mike J.	116053K
11	w	154720D	Morrison, Munroe L	130	½ - ½	122	Taylor, Marcel V.	120150F
12	b	230969F	Payne, Nigel	125	0 - 1	121	Varley, Ed	144531F
13	w	127501L	Kermeen, Robert W	139	½ - ½	117	Daniels, Bob	109299G
14	b	129994D	Nelder, Alan J	143	0 - 1	103	Hill, John	187470G
15	w	150268C	Denner, Phil	114	½ - ½	*100	Carter, Bill	221478H
16	b	163947L	Johnston, Darren	*113	0 - 1	98	Morgan, Wilf	183321B
17	w		Carbin, Marvin		0 - 1	97	Gordon, Callum J.	230938F
18	b	180873E	Wilson, L	46	0 - 1	*100	Karim, Ammar	233692D
19	w	186567F	Bainbridge, Ian	*70	½ - ½	92	Saunders, Nigel A.	172175G
20	b	231097B	Denner, Peter	*44	0 - 1	85	Dolan, Ray	157184K

7 - 13

Combined Services vs. MCCU match report.

"A resounding success" was the verdict of the first ever friendly match between the Combined Services and the Midland Counties Chess Union, held at RAF Cosford on 14 December 2002. The MCCU won 13-7, but the Combined Services provided tough opposition, especially on the top boards.

The omens were good for the MCCU when Ray Dolan opened the scoring with a Qf3-a8 checkmate against the opponent's Kc8 on board 20.

The Midland team swiftly moved to a 7-2 lead. Our junior players, Ammar Karim, Richard Westwood and Callum Gordon all won in impressive fashion, with the latter's win securing the team victory by moving the score onto 11-5.

The last game to finish was the board one encounter, a high standard 60-move draw over 4 hours with some intricate double bishop play by former England

captain David Anderton against NATO champion Sgt. Andy Hammond. Andy led the Services' side, whilst former RAF member, Bob Daniels of the Birmingham Chess Club, captained the MCCU team. FIDE Arbiter, John Robinson, expertly officiated at the match, which was played in a friendly spirit.

The encounter is expected to be repeated in 2003, with the MCCU wishing to emulate the high level of hospitality.

Board 2, Carl Hibbard-Kevin Thurlow, Sicilian Defence.

1 e4 c5.2 c3 g6. 3 d4 cd4. 4 cd4 d5. 5 e5 Nc6. 6 Nc3 Bg7. 7 Be3 a6. 8 Qb3 e6. 9 Bd3 Nge7. 10 Nge2 00. 11 00 f6. 12 f4 b5. 13 a4 Na5. 14 Qa3 Nc4. 15 Bc4 bc4. 16 b4 (16 b3 better) Nf5. 17 Bf2 fe5. 18 de5 Bd7 (or 18...d4). 19 Nd4 g5! 20 g3 Nd4. 21 Bd4 gf4. 22 gf4 Qh4 (22...Rf4?!) 23 Ne2 Qg4'. 24 Ng3 Rf4. 25 Rf4 Qf4. 26 Qc3 Rf8. 27 Rf1 Qg4. 28 Rf8' Bf8. 29 a5 h5. White resigns, 0-1.

Cont inued on page 8

COMIC CUTS

Some more amusing and oddball items gleaned from various sources. More of an international flavour to this selection.

What? Eh?

I think we've all bought that gadget with the instruction leaflet in several languages and found the English version to be a little difficult to follow – Lee Collier found that the same can be true of multi-lingual chess websites when he clicked onto the English translation

World championship William Steinitz - Mikhail Chigorin of 20-January to 24.Februar 1889 in Havanna (20 portions)

Passionately the two fenced their fundamental dispute around the correct methods of the guidance of a game of chess theoretically und in the practical play out. At the beginning of the fight Chigorin was presented shining and went to the sieved portion with 4 - 3 into guidance. But then Steinitz ahaving trick succeeded. It again with conditions of 7 - 6, repeated same.

After 16 of the fight it stood thereby for 10 - 6 for the world champion, seton 20 portions. In the 17. Portion secured itself the champion by skillful defense after 70 courses the still which is missing half point to the match - victory.

(Steinitz beat Chigorin 10.5 - 6.5, with only the final game being drawn!)

It brought back memories of a news report regarding Kasparov nearly 20 years ago when his English was poor. "Kasparov was on a verbal freefall, which had a semblance of meaning".

Chess Manners

Don't chatter, don't read,

Don't smoke a cheap "weed",

Reckon singing and humming a sin,

Don't titter, don't frown,

Don't bang a piece down,

And never exult when you win.

Both this & Chess Mathematics opposite, are poems by Jules Lazard, "Quatrains éé,"
English translations by D. Castello.

GOTTA GOTTA GET THERE – ANYWAY I CAN

We've all heard of people going through hell and high water to get from A to B for some special reason, but for the sake of chess? This true tale was spotted on the "chesscity" site.

Nils Gustav "Mad Dog" Renman rushed to catch his train to get to the 1984 Berlin Summer Open, he leapt on board and the train pulled out of the station, unfortunately he found himself on the wrong train, headed in the wrong direction. He needed to get back to Stockholm to catch another train to get him to Berlin in time for the start of the event. However, the train had no scheduled stops that would allow him to do so. He decided there was no alternative but to leap from the moving train, with luggage in hand. He did make it to Berlin, several days after the start of the event, and complete with a plaster cast on one arm! As a chess player he should have known that it isn't all down to the planning, the execution counts as well!

The article didn't say whether this stunt was what earned the player his "Mad Dog" title!

Chess Too Rude

In a local community, chess has been banned on various accounts of it not meeting community moral standards. Some citizens brought forth complaints after hearing chess-players discussing various variations, binds, pins, advances, openings, counterthrusts, etc. A town meeting was called.

Before the chess proponents could explain the real meanings of such terms as the horny defence (1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 g5 4 h4 g5 5 Ng5 h6 6 Nxf7 Kxf7 7 Qxg4 Nf6 8 Qxf4 Bd6), the corkscrew countergambit (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f5 3 Nxe5 Nf6 4 Bc4 fxe4 5 Nf7 Qe7 6 Nxe8 d5), and the fingerslip variation (1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Bd2) ... one of the aldermen began quoting from Fine's *Psychology of the Chess Player* and it was all over. Chess and the discussion of chess was ruled to be lewd and below community moral standards. The chess players have been driven underground.

Source: Craig Jefferies, rec.games.chess

Chess Mathematics

Let "S" be the strength that a player professes,
And "s" represent what in fact he possesses,
From a small calculation we reach the conclusion
That "S" minus "s" must equal Illusion.

Also from CS v MCCU

Board 6, Richard Westwood-Brian Smith, Sicilian Defence.

1 e4 c5. 2 c3 d6. 3 f4 Nf6. 4 Bd3 Bg4. 5 Nf3 Nc6. 6 h3 Bf3. 7 Qf3 e6. 8 00 Be7. 9 Bc2 00. 10 g4 e5. 11 f5 h6. 12 d3 Nh7. 13 Qg2 Bg5. 14 Nd2 b5. 15 Nf3 Bc1. 16 Rac1 Ng5. 17 Nh2 Nh7. 18 Qg3 Kh8. 19 Nf3 g5. 20 Kg2 f6. 21 Rh1 Kg7. 22 h4 Rh8. 23 hg5 hg5. 24 Rh5 Qg8. 25 Bb3 c4. 26 dc4 bc4. 27 Ba4 Na5? 28 Rch1 Rb8. 29 Qf2 Rb7. 30 Kg3 Rf7. 31 Qh2 Rc7. 32 Rh6 Kf8. 33 Rg6 Rg7. 34 Qh6 Nb7. 35 Rf6! Nf6. 36 Qf6 Qf7. 37 Rh8 Rg8. 38 Rg8' Kg8. 39 Qf7' Kf7. 40 Ng5' Kf8. 41 Ne6' Ke7. 42 g5 Nd8. 43 Nd8 Kd8. 44 f6. Black resigns, 1-0.

Report from

Lee Collier,
MCCU Chief Executive,

P C Gibbs Trophy

The destination of the 2002 title has now been settled, with the outcome of the outstanding adjudication reported in the first issue of The Middle Game, resulting in a shared first place. The final table for the event is published below.

The 2003 event has with a record field of eleven players with 3 playing for the first time, Chris Proffitt of Greater Manchester, Kevin Shutt of Lincs and John Carleton of Warwickshire. With the tie for the 2002 Championship, both current champions Brian Briscoe and Phil Adams were entitled "ex officio" to a place, with their county still retaining the right to nominate a representative. Phil, having now won on four occasions, has decided to sit this year out. With the exception of Phil and Peter Sherlock, the rest of last year's protagonists are competing this year.

Thanks to Controller John Robinson for these details

PC Gibbs Trophy 2002

(MCCU Individual Counties' Correspondence Championship)

Final Table

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
1	P Adams	Gr. Man.	•	1	½	1	½	1	½	½	1	1	7
2	B J Briscoe	Warwicks.	0	•	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
3	N Rutter	Shrops.	½	½	•	½	½	1	1	1	1	½	6½
4	D W Anderton	Staffs.	0	½	½	•	1	½	1	½	1	1	6
5	K W McLaughlin	Leics.	½	0	½	0	•	1	1	1	1	1	6
6	J Heath	Worcs.	0	0	0	½	0	•	1	½	1	1	4
7	P Sherlock	Lincs.	½	0	0	0	0	0	•	1	1	1	3½
8	P J Beckett	Notts.	½	0	0	½	0	½	0	•	½	½	2½
9	P H Tibbert	Northants.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	•	1	1½
10	J Wagenbach	Derbys.	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	½	0	•	1

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW THE RULES?

In this issue we follow the lead provided by John Robinson and look at claiming draws in a Quickplay finish. This explanation comes from the National Counties & Clubs Tournament Controller Cyril Johnson – whose penance of providing copy for the Middle Game continues.

You have made 36 moves in 90 minutes, reached an interesting position in the middle game, the clocks are turned back and suddenly, you are down to your last 5 minutes with the sword of Damocles hanging over you and your opponent. You no longer need to write your moves down, blessed relief, and the flag inexorably rises. Panic! What you regarded as in all probability as a win now seems to be a minefield with traps on all 64 squares. Where lies your salvation?

Your best hope is that your friendly arbiter has noticed the time situation, and has been writing down the moves since you ceased, or he appointed a deputy. If it is your move, and you have less than 2 minutes remaining, (not 45 as one young man did at Syston once), you may indulge in that forbidden activity akin to pulling the communication cord, stop the clock, raise your hand and wait. Then you realise that the man who has been watching your game, and who you dismissed as a mere spectator becomes your best friend, the arbiter. When he or she approaches, he will check the time situation. If you have less than 2 minutes, you must make a statement, which includes the words, claim, I and draw. But why, because you need to prove that the opponent is making no effort to win the game by normal means, or that it is not possible to win by normal means.

Let us deal with the second clause first.

Well known drawn positions, such as B and RP of the wrong colour, or positions where the pawn up is blocked by the king will result in a quick agreement. What does not trying to win by normal means entail? The arbiter will have been watching and should have some idea of the way the game has been progressing. If he or she feels that your opponent's best winning idea has been to run your clock down, they might decide to prolong the agony. Allowing the game to progress, they might refuse your claim, in which case your opponent gets extra time or they might become your best friend by granting your

claim. Either way, there is no appeal against the decision, so accept it with good grace, they are the one person in a congress who cannot win any money.

Now that's all well and good you might be saying, but what about my league matches with a quickplay finish. The league secretary can't very well split him or herself into umpteen pieces to be at every league match. Well, surprising though it may seem, this problem didn't escape the rule makers, who have provided written guidance for just this sort of situation. As I can't really put it any better than they have I'll confine myself to just quoting the section concerned. (Hopefully your league, or any other competition where arbiters tend not to be present will have included this guidance in their rules and perhaps even supplemented it.)

D. Quickplay finishes where no arbiter is present in the venue.

D1. Where games are played as in Article 10, a player may claim a draw when he has less than two minutes left on his clock and before his flag falls. This concludes the game. He may claim on the basis that his opponent cannot win by normal means, or that his opponent has been making no effort to win by normal means.

In (a) the player must write down the final position and his opponent verify it.

In (b) the player must write down the final position and submit an up-to-date scoresheet, which must be completed before play has ceased. The opponent shall verify both the scoresheet and the final position.

The claim shall be referred to an arbiter whose decision shall be the final one.

And here is the text of the actual Quickplay finish rules.

Article 10: Quickplay Finish

10.1 A 'quickplay finish' is the last phase of a game, when all the remaining moves must be made in a limited time.

10.2 If the player, having the move, has less than two minutes left on his clock, he may claim a draw before his flag falls. He shall stop the clocks and summon the arbiter.

If the arbiter agrees the opponent is making no effort to win the game by normal means, or that it is not possible to win by normal means, then he shall declare the game drawn.

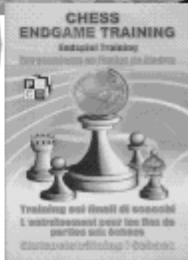
Otherwise he shall postpone his decision or reject the claim.

If the arbiter postpones his decision, the opponent may be awarded two extra minutes thinking time and the game shall continue in the presence of an arbiter, if possible. The arbiter shall declare the final result after a flag has fallen.



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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Let me put **your** club under the spot-light. And no I don't just mean clubs who keep picking up the trophies. Tell me about its history, what is it doing now. Tell me about the star players, the characters, what the club does within the local community, what you have to offer new players, or those moving into your area. Let me have details of your triumphs and your disasters. Give me the basics

- a) how many members you have
- b) where you meet and when
- c) how many teams you run and in what competitions
- d) who the club secretary is

It doesn't matter if the details are not a finished piece, if they are great, I'll just drop the article straight into the Newsletter, if not, I'll work the raw information into an article. This is your chance to advertise your club free of charge and possibly attract new members.

COUNTY CHESS

THE STORIES BEHIND THE SCORES

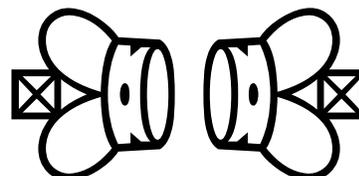
The county chess results supplement and the tables give the raw results, but many matches have stories behind them. They are like football matches where the score doesn't tell of all the missed opportunities, defeat snapped from the jaws of victory, or vice-versa. So county captains out there I'm giving you, or indeed a member of your team, the chance to give me the story behind the score. If you can provide me with a match report or the bones of one to work with, I'll print whatever I have room for. If you don't feel up to putting pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard, pick up the phone and tell me the story. If you have a sparkling game you feel merits inclusion give me the moves – I can even produce diagrams from your details. Don't forget to include those non-playing incidents, the car that went to the wrong venue, the board 1 that broke his leg the night before the big match. So long as the content is "clean" and not libelous I'll consider its inclusion.



OBITUARY

GREG HUTCHINSON

Leicestershire players and Midlands Congress regulars will be sorry to hear of the sudden death over Christmas of Greg Hutchinson at only 51. The gamblers style which characterized Greg's play may well have had something to do with the fact that he worked in a Bookmakers. He played his league chess for the works team of the dairy Kirby & West, before moving on to Thurnby and following a break from chess he joined Birstall. At its height his grading reached the 190s. Over the years he turned out for Leicestershire county sides whenever he was available. Many chess players will also remember him as a rotund, cheerful individual who was full of fun. He enjoyed his chess win, lose or draw, and was always ready to congratulate his opponent in defeat.



MCCU COUNTY COMPETITION RESULTS SUPPLEMENT

MATCH - Shropshire v. Worcestershire

SECTION - Under 125

DATE - 30 November 2002

Bd	Shropshire	Grade (est)	Score	Score	Worcestershire	Grade (est)
1	Norman O'Connor	124	1	0	Ian Truscott	122
2	Steve Tarr	124	0	1	Clive Dent	121
3	Richard G. Thompson	122	0	1	Bill Watson	121
4	Peter Crean	119	0.5	0.5	Jason Cole	113
5	Robert Simpson	118	1	0	Dave Scriven	111
6	Alan Silver	114	1	0	Roy Branford	110
7	Mark Billington	112	1	0	Mark Podlesak	110
8	Eugene Raby	110	0	1	Arnold Kirkland	109
9	George Visokai	106	1	0	Don Curry	109
10	Garry White	104	1	0	Giles Stanton	108
11	Chris Bayliss	99	0.5	0.5	Clive Billinge	108
12	John Westhead	96	0	1	Terry Pountney	106
13	Craig Murray	96	0.5	0.5	Gary Jackson	105
14	Andy Jones	95	0	1	Peter Banks	102
15	Roger R. Brown	91	0	1	Ian Clack	102
16	H O Harney	88	0	1	Mark Hore	95
TOTALS			7.5	8.5		

MATCH - Staffordshire v. Warwickshire

SECTION - Under 125

DATE - 30 November 2002

Bd	Staffordshire	Grade (est)	Score	Score	Warwickshire	Grade (est)
1	Jon SADLER	123	0.5	0.5	Frank JIMENEZ	122
2	Mark MAY	122	1	0	John FAHY	119
3	Geoff ROSSER	121	1	0	Nigel MALKO	119
4	Frank WOOD	120	1	0	John ASBURY	118
5	Robin LEWIS	119	1	0	Bob DANIELS	117
6	Dominic CARTER	119	1	0	Dennis HORSLEY	117
7	Charlotte WILCOX	116	0	1	Chris EVANS	114
8	Peter BROOMHALL	116	0	1	Warren ARCHIBALD	113
9	Robert FELL	113	1	0	Louis RAWSON	113
10	John PHILLIPS	113	0.5	0.5	Mike WALKER	111
11	Richard WILKINSON	108	0.5	0.5	Kim GILBERT	110
12	John BLACKBURN	108	0.5	0.5	Wendell RAWLINS	108
13	Ray GOGERTY	108	0	1	Chris PITT	102
14	Michael PAGE	105	1	0	John PAKENHAM	89
15	Darren BELL	101	1	0	Pauline WOODWARD	83
16	Robert BRODIE	96	1	0	David ROWE	81
TOTALS			11.0	5.0		

MATCH - Derbyshire v. Nottinghamshire

SECTION - Under 125

DATE - 30 November

Bd	Derbyshire	Grade (est)	Score	Score	Nottinghamshire	Grade (est)
1	O'Flanagan Paul H	120	1	0	Jackson Malcolm	124
2	Woods Roy	116	1	0	Severn Tim	124
3	Walker Roger W	118	0	1	Lavelle Terry W T	123
4	Archer Barry	109	0.5	0.5	Nailard Michael J	123
5	Hoddy David	109	0.5	0.5	Taylor Marcel V	122
6	Carter Mark AK	100	0.5	0.5	Herbert Mike	119
7	Harrison Ronald S	104	0.5	0.5	Hobson Benjamin	116
8	Bramley Douglas	103	0	1	Harper Michael J	114
9	Pace Graham J	101	0	1	Fidler A David	113
10	Ratner Harry AJ	92	0	1	Clark Michael	108
11	Brackbury Howard	88	0.5	0.5	Herring P	
12	Shelden Phillip	84	0.5	0.5	Gibson Graham J	105
13	James Michael	83	1	0	Khandelwal Ankusha	101
14	Smith phil	77	0	1	Henning D	
15	Pete Ellis	70	1	0	Morrell L	
16	Stan Mould	88	1	0	Default	
TOTALS			8.0	8.0		

MATCH - Staffordshire v. Shropshire

SECTION - UNDER 100

DATE - 23 November 2002

Bd	Staffordshire	Grade (est)	Score	Score	Shropshire	Grade (est)
1	A Collabella	93	1	0	L Graham	95
2	P Allan	89	0.5	0.5	J Westhead	96
3	P Evans	88	0	1	C Murray	96
4	B Hall	87	0	1	R Brown	91
5	R Dolan	85	1	0	R O'Harney	88
6	S Heath	85	0	1	M Patterson	88
7	D Buckley	84	0	1	D Powell	87
8	D Lynk	87	0	1	G Cooper	88e
9	L Greaves	80	0	1	A Lewis	79
10	R Moss	72	0	1	P Broderick	78
11	K Moore	66	0	1	A Pickles	76
12	A Lynk	54	0.5	0.5	S Cooper	50e
13						
14						
15						
16						
TOTALS			3.0	9.0		

MATCH - LEICS A v LEICS B

SECTION - UNDER 100

DATE - 11th January 2003

Bd	Leics A	grade	score	score	Leics B	grade
1	Dave Crane	99	1	0	Gavin Hart	u/g
2	George Winteron	91	1	0	James Corby	u/g
3	Terry Clay	91	1	0	Parag Kolecha	u/g
4	Jay Ganatra	91	1	0	Nathan Brown	u/g
5	Don Lockton	u/g	0	1	G S Hewitt	u/g
6	R H Price	u/g	1	0	Francesca Brown	u/g
7	John Creasey	85	0	1	Stephen Lacey	71
8	Ron King	u/g	1	0	Chris Hayden	u/g
9	Bob Veitch	93	1	0	Jacob Brown	u/g
10	Dave Morling	u/g	1	0	Aiden Brown	u/g
11	Ray Walker	76	1	0	Amanda Seavers	u/g
12	Richard Morgan	u/g	1	0	Rebecca Seavers	u/g
13	Martin Ashworth	u/g	1	0	Roland Birchall	62
14	L Wilson	u/g	1	0	Steven Tallow	u/g
15	Miss A Crosby	u/g	0	1	S Paul	u/g
16						
TOTALS			12.0	3.0		

MATCH - NOTTS v LEICS B

SECTION - UNDER 100

DATE - 25th January 2003

Bd	Notts	grade	score	score	Leics B	grade
1	David Dunne	97	1	0	Parag Kolecha	u/g
2	Daniel Wells	97	1	0	Gavin Hart	u/g
3	Len Darby	91	1	0	James Corby	u/g
4	Derek Cronshaw	88	1	0	George Brown	u/g
5	Ebrahim Fredericks	88	1	0	Aiden Brown	u/g
6	Ian Fillingham	89	1	0	Nathan Brown	u/g
7	Peter Smith	87	1	0	Francesca Brown	u/g
8	Denys Britten	82	1	0	Stephen Tallow	u/g
9	Dorothy Blampied	69	1	0	Jacob Brown	u/g
10	Ken Heath	68	1	0	Default	
11	Stephen Ivs	74	1	0	Default	
12	Ronnie Watson	u/g	1	0	Default	
13						
14						
15						
16						
TOTALS			12.0	0.0		

MATCH - Worcestershire v. Staffordshire

SECTION - OPEN

DATE - 7 December 2002

Bd	Worcestershire	Grade (est)	Score	Score	Staffordshire	Grade (est)
1	P. Kison	182	0	1	J. Blackburn	199
2	A. Crombleholme	177	0.5	0.5	D. Anderton	194
3	G. Boyce	176	1	0	P. Wallace	189
4	E. Myers	174	0	1	D. Wheeler	186
5	J. Wrench	155	0	1	J. Mangwengwende	186e
6	M. Bethel	152	0.5	0.5	R. Allen	179
7	G. Herbert	152	0.5	0.5	A. Richardson	178
8	M. Bissell	151	0	1	G. Acey	178
9	R. Collett	125	0	1	L. Grinsell	172
10	S. Jukes	144	0	1	M. Armstrong	165
11	D. Jackson	144	0	1	D. Pritchard	146
12	A. Wiggins	140	0	1	J. Stanforth	145
13	E. Howill	136	0	1	M. Gregg	143
14	M. Hadley	131	0	1	R. Westwood	142
15	M. Riley	131	0.5	0.5	S. Blackburn	140
16	Default		0	1	S. Peddar	136
TOTALS			3.0	13.0		

MATCH - Staffordshire v. Warwickshire

SECTION - OPEN

DATE - 11 January 2003

Bd	Staffordshire	Grade	Score	Score	Warwickshire	Grade
1	L. Cooper	216	0.5	0.5	Nick Thomas	203
2	JLB Blackburn	199	0.5	0.5	Tony Hynes	202
3	D. Anderton	194	0	1	Don Mason	191
4	J. Bellin	188	1	0	Russell James	189
5	D. Wheeler	186	0.5	0.5	Andrew McCumiskey	184
6	J. Mangwengwende	186e	0.5	0.5	Andrew Baruch	183
7	R. Allen	179	0	1	David Buckley	183
8	A. Richardson	178	1	0	Philip Holt	181
9	G. Acey	178	0.5	0.5	Keith Ingram	177
10	C. Hibbard	168	1	0	Richard Millward	173
11	P. Collins	167	0	1	Ian Galloway	171
12	M. Armstrong	165	0.5	0.5	Keith E. Scott	171
13	C. Tayer	158	0.5	0.5	Malcolm Hunt	170
14	D. Pritchard	146	0.5	0.5	David Cooper	160
15	R. Westwood	142	0	1	Matthew Fletcher	161
16	S. Blackburn	140	1	0	Ann-Marie Ashby	156
TOTALS			8.0	8.0		

MATCH - Shropshire v. Warwickshire

SECTION - OPEN

DATE - 7 December 2002

Bd	Shropshire	Grade (est)	Score	Score	Warwickshire	Grade (est)
1	Jamie Hopkins	179	0.5	0.5	Nick Thomas	203
2	Nick Rutter	182	0.5	0.5	Tony Hynes	202
3	Nigel Ferrington	173	0	1	Russell James	189
4	David Goskelow	168	0	1	Andy McCumiskey	184
5	Toby Neal	161	0	1	David Buckley	183
6	Simon Fowler	158	1	0	Keith Ingram	177
7	Richard Bryant	154	1	0	Ian Galloway	171
8	Phil Cameron	151	0	1	Keith Escott	171
9	Dave Bryan	149	0	1	Richard Millward	173
10	Steve Rawlins	148	0	1	David Cooper	160
11	Glyn Pugh	145	1	0	Rob Walker	158
12	Windsor Peck	143	1	0	Bob Wildiq	169
13	John Whittaker	142	0	1	Colin Searle	160
14	Thomas Pym	141	0.5	0.5	Ian Emery	155e
15	Colin Roberts	141	0.5	0.5	Paul Lam	154
16	Steve Tarr	124	1	0	Jonathon Cox	128
TOTALS			7.0	9.0		

MATCH - Nottinghamshire v. Derbyshire

SECTION - OPEN

DATE - 11 January 2003

Bd	Nottinghamshire	Grade	Score	Score	Derbyshire	Grade
1	A.R. Collinson	217	0.5	0.5	P. Madden	185
2	J.A. Tait	199	0	1	S.N. Gilmore	180
3	A. Posazhennikov	195e	1	0	M.W. Alcock	177
4	A.N. Walker	175	0.5	0.5	M. Alderson	173
5	R.G. Truman	172	0.5	0.5	A.J. Toothill	162
6	P.D. Merce	172	1	0	M. Johnson	162
7	J. Harrison	162	0.5	0.5	R. Gamble	157
8	R.J. Webster	158	0	1	R. Forey	158
9	G.T. Gibson	157	1	0	S. May	151
10	C. Cantill	156	0.5	0.5	D. Pickering	152
11	B. Thompson	156	1	0	J.D. Hoddy	151
12	Jason Cast	155	0.5	0.5	M.J. Hill	135
13	K. Brameld	154	0	1	D.J. Brown	147
14	B.M. Hayward	150	0	1	P.L. Moore	146
15	A.J. Wright	141	1	0	D. Williams	125
16	D. Flynn	136	1	0	J.J. Wagenbach	138
TOTALS			9.0	7.0		

MATCH - Leicestershire v. Lincolnshire

SECTION - OPEN

DATE - 11 January 2003

Bd	Leicestershire	Grade	Score	Score	Lincolnshire	Grade
1	M. Hebden	245	1	0	Nigel Birtwistle	176
2	G. Lee	211	0	1	Jason Dille	178
3	M. Burrows	180	0	1	Ayman Hammam	165
4	R. Burgess	181	1	0	Keith Palmer	167
5	E. Player	174	1	0	Francis Bowers	162
6	G. Sharpe	169	0	1	Kevin Shutt	156
7	P. Clarke	170e	1	0	Jan vanGemeren	155
8	L.A. Edwards	171	0.5	0.5	Dan Robinson	143
9	P. Gibbs	167	0	1	Graham Ladds	145
10	J. Mitchell	161	1	0	Geoff Collyer	137
11	J. Robinson	164	0.5	0.5	Ross Blake	137
12	J. Miller	155	0	1	Denis Georgiou	134
13	J. Glover	146	0	1	Rick Wilson	130
14	A. Combe	145	1	0	Bernard Pratten	125
15	G. Botteley	141	0.5	0.5	David Coates	113
16	G. Bookley	135	1	0	Peter Sherlock	107
TOTALS			8.5	7.5		

MATCH - Greater Manchester v. Shropshire

SECTION - OPEN

DATE - 11 January 2003

Bd	Gtr Manchester	Grade	Score	Score	Shropshire	Grade
1	Stephen Gordon	188	1	0	Jamie Hopkins	179
2	Alan Juanbody	199	1	0	Nick Rutter	192
3	Adam Ashton	190	1	0	Nigel Ferrington	173
4	David Hulmes	192	0	1	Simon Fowler	158
5	Shaver Napira	190e	1	0	Dave Bryan	149
6	Stephen Pickles	189	1	0	Glyn Pugh	145
7	Alex Longson	187	1	0	Windsor Peck	143
8	Dale James	191	1	0	Gerald Link	142
9	Mike Surtees	184	1	0	John Whittaker	142
10	Richard Beech	182	1	0	Thomas Pym	141
11	Graham Burton	182	1	0	Ian Wilson	138
12	Harry Lamb	177	1	0	Graham Shepherd	133
13	Alan Walton	180	1	0	Steve Tarr	124
14	John Beniley	183	1	0	Richard Thompson	122
15	Adam Tyton	162	0.5	0.5	John Westhead	96
16	Matthew Pollard	135	1	0	Keith Fowler	55
TOTALS			7.5	8.5		

COUNTY TABLES TO DATE

OPEN

WEST ZONE	G MAN	SHROP	STAFFS	WARKS	WORCS	PTS	POS
GTR MANCHESTER		14.5-1.5			15 - 1	4	
SHROPSHIRE	1.5-14.5		6 - 10	7 - 9		0	
STAFFORDSHIRE		10 - 6		8 - 8	13 - 3	5	
WARWICKSHIRE		9 - 7	8 - 8		13.5-2.5	5	
WORCESTERSHIRE	1 - 15		3 - 13	2.5-13.5		0	

EAST ZONE	DERBY	LEICS	LINCS	NOTTS	PTS	POS
LEICESTERSHIRE	8.5-7.5		8.5-7.5	10.5-5.5	6	1st
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	8.5-7.5	5.5-10.5	11.5-4.5		4	2nd
DERBYSHIRE		7.5-8.5	12.5-3.5	7.5-8.5	2	3rd
LINCOLNSHIRE	3.5-12.5	7.5-8.5		4.5-11.5	0	4th

U175

	NORTHS	WARKS	PTS	POS
WARWICKSHIRE	11.5-4.5		2	1st
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE		4.5-11.5	0	2

B.C.F. QUALIFIER Warwickshire

U150

WEST ZONE	GMAN	SHROP	STAFFS	WARKS	PTS	POS
GTR MANCHESTER		16-0wo	7.5-8.5	8.5-7.5	4	
SHROPSHIRE	0-16def			4.5-10.5	0	
STAFFORDSHIRE	8.5-7.5			0-16def	2	
WARWICKSHIRE	7.5-8.5	10.5-4.5	16-0wo		4	

EAST ZONE	LEICSA	LEICSB	NOTTS	PTS	POS
LEICESTERSHIRE A		14-2	8.5-7.5	4	1st
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	7.5-8.5	16-0		2	2nd
LEICESTERSHIRE B	0-16		2-14	0	3rd

U125

WEST ZONE	SHROP	STAFFS	WARKS	WORCS	PTS	POS
SHROPSHIRE			8.5-7.5	7.5-8.5	2	
STAFFORDSHIRE			11 - 5	7.5-8.5	2	
WARWICKSHIRE	7.5-8.5	5 - 11			0	
WORCESTERSHIRE	8.5-7.5	8.5-7.5			4	

EAST ZONE	DERBY	LEICS	NOTTS	PTS	POS
DERBYSHIRE		0-16Def	8 - 8	1	
LEICESTERSHIRE	16 - 0wo			2	
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	8 - 8			1	

U100

WEST ZONE	SHROP	STAFFS	WARKS	PTS	POS
SHROPSHIRE		9 - 3	6.5-5.5	4	1st
WARWICKSHIRE	5.5-6.5	6.5-5.5		2	2nd
STAFFORDSHIRE	3 - 9		5.5-6.5	0	3rd

EAST ZONE	LEICSA	LEICSB	NORTHS	NOTTS	PTS	POS
LEICESTERSHIRE A		12-3	W/D	7.5-4.5	4	1st
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	4.5-7.5	12-0	W/D		2	2nd
LEICESTERSHIRE B	3-12		W/D	0-12	0	3rd
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	W/D	W/D		W/D	0	-

Semi-finals Leics A v Warks
 Shrops v Notts