

Midland Counties Chess Union

Newsletter

June 1994



Midland Counties Chess Union Individual Chess Championships

Report from Neil Graham

A record 236 competitors contested the Midland Individual Chess Championships over the weekend 18th-20th March 1994. Tournament favourite Mark Hebden regained the Championship he last won in 1991 with impressive ease scoring 5½ points from his six games. His attacking style enabled the Leicester Grandmaster to win his first five games outright and a hard fought last round draw against Stafford's Lawrence Cooper gave Mark another title victory. Lawrence, who was second with 4½/6, becomes the Midlands nominee to the 1994 British Championships as Mark is already qualified. Five players tied for third place.

The Midland Major ended in a triple tie between Chris Cantrill and Mike Lambert of Nottinghamshire and Alex Warren of Leicester University. The Midland Minor produced the largest entry of 133 and the only 100% score. The winner with six wins from six games was Matthew Reilly of Lichfield.

The Tournament was rated by the International Chess Federation for the first time and Chris Archer-Lock (Nottingham), Lee Grinsell (Bushbury) and Nigel McSheehy (Birmingham) all attained part ratings.

Midland Individual (40 entries, six rounds)

| | | |
|------|--|----|
| 1st | Mark Hebden (Leicester) | 5½ |
| 2nd | Lawrence Cooper (Stafford) | 4½ |
| 3rd= | Andrew Ledger, David Ledger and Steve Ledger (all Bedford), Alan Edwards (Leicester), Mike Alcock (Ravenshead) | 4 |
| | Junior Champion: Jonathan Walton (Manchester) | 3 |
| | The Grading Prize was shared by Ray Gamble (Derby), Tom Rose (Cheddleton), Tony Brown (Solihull), Lee Grinsell (Bushbury) and Roy Fisher (Ashton). | |

Midland Major (63 entries, six rounds)

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| 1st | Chris Cantrill (Mansfield), Mike Lambert (Stapleford), Alex Warren (Leicester University) | 5 |
| 4th= | Richard Tomlinson (Altrincham), Phil Briggs (Tamworth), Glen Davies (Solihull), Matthew Tailby (Nottingham), Shaun Sheahan (Coalville) | 4½ |
| U-155 | David Williams (Mickleover) | 4 |
| U-140 | Peter Szabo (Metropolitan) | 4 |

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In the last Newsletter I did little more than mention the death of Stephen Joseph. In other publications various people have written of the way in which Stephen made the most of his short life. One of these writers was Keith Arkell, whose obituary of Stephen appeared in the May issue of the magazine *Chess*. Keith finished his obituary of Stephen by noting that the family and friends of Stephen are collecting in aid of Cystic Fibrosis, the illness from which Stephen died, possibly with a view to providing medical equipment for Winifred 2 Ward at Nottingham City Hospital. Anyone wishing to help may do so by contacting Dorothy Blampied, 63 Tavistock Court, Mansfield, Nottingham NG5 2EG, telephone (0602) 622245.

Midland Counties Chess Union Inter-Counties Championships 1993-94

Report from Neil Beasley

Open Championship

West Zone

| | A | B | C | D | E | Pts | Pos | % score |
|----------------------|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| A Greater Manchester | * | 11 | 9½ | 8 | 12½ | 7 | 2nd | 66.0 |
| B Shropshire | 5 | * | 6 | 3½ | 8 | 1 | 5th | 30.2 |
| C Staffordshire | 6½ | 10 | * | 4½ | 13 | 4 | 3rd | |
| D Warwickshire | 8 | 12½ | 11½ | * | 10½ | 7 | 1st | 69.0 |
| E Worcestershire | 5½ | 8 | 5 | 7½ | * | 1 | 4th | 33.3 |

East Zone

| | A | B | C | D | E | Pts | Pos |
|--------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A Derbyshire | * | 6 | 7½ | 10 | 6 | 2 | 4th |
| B Leicestershire | 10 | * | 11½ | 8½ | 10½ | 8 | 1st |
| C Lincolnshire | 8½ | 11½ | * | 8½ | 7 | 4 | 3rd |
| D Northamptonshire | 6 | 7½ | 7½ | * | 4½ | 0 | 5th |
| E Nottinghamshire | 10 | 5½ | 9 | 11½ | * | 6 | 2nd |

Major Semi-Finals

MCCU 1 Leicestershire 8 8 Greater Manchester
Leicestershire win on board count.

MCCU 2 Warwickshire 14½ 5½ Nottinghamshire

Major Final

Leicestershire 7½ 10½ Warwickshire

Minor Semi-Finals

MCCU 1 Lincolnshire 11½ 4½ Shropshire
MCCU 2 Worcestershire 7 9 Derbyshire

Under-175 Championship

| | A | B | C | D | E | Pts | Pos | % score |
|----------------------|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|------|---------|
| A Greater Manchester | * | 9½ | 5 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 2nd | 48.96 |
| B Leicestershire | 6½ | * | 9 | 8½ | 7½ | 4 | 3rd= | |
| C Nottinghamshire | 11 | 7 | * | 9½ | 5½ | 4 | 3rd= | |
| D Staffordshire | 7 | 6½ | 6½ | * | 8½ | 2 | 5th | |
| E Warwickshire | 8 | 8½ | 10½ | 7½ | * | 5 | 1st | 55.21 |

B.C.F. qualifiers: MCCU 1 Warwickshire. MCCU 2 Greater Manchester.

Under-150 Championship

West Zone

| | A | B | C | D | E | Pts | Pos |
|----------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A Greater Manchester | * | 10 | 11 | 13½ | 12 | 8 | 1st |
| B Shropshire | 6 | * | 5 | 16 | 6 | 2 | 4th |
| C Staffordshire | 5 | 11 | * | 16 | 8½ | 6 | 2nd |
| D Warwickshire | 2½ | Def | Def | * | Def | 0 | 5th |
| E Worcestershire | 4 | 10 | 7½ | 16 | * | 4 | 3rd |

East Zone

| | A | B | C | D | E | Pts | Pos |
|--------------------|-----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| A Derbyshire | * | 6 | 9½ | 4½ | 3 | 2 | 4th |
| B Leicestershire A | 10 | * | 9 | 8½ | 9 | 8 | 1st |
| C Leicestershire B | 6½ | 5 | * | 5 | 2 | 0 | 5th |
| D Northamptonshire | 11½ | 7½ | 11 | * | Def | 4 | 3rd |
| E Nottinghamshire | 13 | 7 | 14 | 16 | * | 6 | 2nd |

Semi-Finals

| | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|-----|----|-----------------|
| MCCU 1 | Leicestershire | 11½ | 4½ | Staffordshire |
| MCCU 2 | Greater Manchester | 8½ | 7½ | Nottinghamshire |

Under-125 Championship**West Zone**

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | Pts | Pos |
|---|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| A | Derbyshire North | * | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7½ | 5 | 7 |
| B | Derbyshire South | 6 | * | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3½ | 2 |
| C | Greater Manchester | 5 | 6 | * | 8 | 3½ | 2 | 3 |
| D | Shropshire | 4 | 8 | 4 | * | 4½ | 5 | 2 |
| E | Staffordshire | 4½ | 9 | 8½ | 7½ | * | 5 | 6 |
| F | Warwickshire | 7 | 8½ | 10 | 7 | 7 | * | 10 |

East Zone

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | Pts | Pos |
|---|-------------------|----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| A | Leicestershire A | * | 9 | 12 | 3 | 5½ | 6 | 5 |
| B | Leicestershire B | 5 | * | 12 | 3½ | 4 | 4½ | 2 |
| C | Leicestershire C | 6 | 6 | * | 3½ | 1½ | 7 | 2 |
| D | Lincolnshire | 9 | 8½ | 8½ | * | 7½ | 12 | 10 |
| E | Nottinghamshire A | 6½ | 8 | 10½ | 4½ | * | 10 | 8 |
| F | Nottinghamshire B | 6 | 7½ | 5 | Def | 2 | * | 3 |

Semi-Finals

| | | | | |
|--------|--------------|---|---|-------------------|
| MCCU 1 | Lincolnshire | 7 | 5 | Derbyshire North |
| MCCU 2 | Warwickshire | 6 | 6 | Nottinghamshire A |

Warwickshire won on board count.

| | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---|---|--------------|
| Final | Lincolnshire | 5 | 7 | Warwickshire |
|--------------|--------------|---|---|--------------|

Fourth Walsall Kipping One-Day Quickplay Tournament
 Held at the Alumwell School and Community Centre, 30th April 1994

Results from Bill Withnall**Open (Six Rounds)**

| | | |
|---------------------|---|----|
| 1st= | G.Lawton (Birmingham), K.Arkell (St. James Birmingham) | 5 |
| 3rd= | M.R.Peacock (Preston), D.Curnow (Gloucester) | 4½ |
| U161 Grading Prize: | E.M.White (Bristol) | 4 |
| U141 Grading Prize: | C.Styles (Rushall) | 3 |
| U-18 Prize: | M.Denny (Walsall) and I.Ward (Loughborough) | 3 |

Minor (Six Rounds)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|----|
| 1st | L.Daniels (Wolverhampton) | 5½ |
| 2nd= | D.Friend (Walsall Kipping), A.B.Grant (Lichfield), B.Carroll (Solihull) | 5 |
| U111 Grading Prize: | M.Polovina (Charnwood Knights) | 4½ |
| U-91 Grading Prize: | P.Baker (Gloucester) | 4½ |
| U-18 Prize: | C.Bell (Rushall) | 4½ |
| Ungraded Prize: | S.Smyth (Albrighton) | 4½ |

Geoff Lawton and Keith Arkell share the Harry Baines Trophy.

This was a very successful event and will again be held on the Saturday of the May Day Bank Holiday weekend in 1995.

The event was sponsored by Walsall Sports Council.

B.C.F. Report

Personalia

In view of the resignation of James Edmans after a year the post of Finance Director was advertised. Roy Clark was elected at Council. The post of Game Fee Director remains vacant for the time being. Again there is currently no Publicity Director.

Finance

The Levy was finally abolished and the full game fee scheme will take full effect from 1st May 1994. There are registrations for 255,000 grading results; 24,000 of these are for rapid play games.

The budget was amended slightly and the end result is a budgeted loss of £118. The budget was then accepted.

A legacy of £10,000 has been received from the estate of Paul Griffiths.

A proposal to use the Legacy Fund for the following was passed:

Up to £2,000 to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Vera Menchik, any balance to be used in developing regional chess activity.

From Ron Drury

Up to £1,000 to improve communication with the grass roots.

Again up to £1,000 to encourage schoolchildren to play chess.

For 1993-94 a budget surplus is expected; the most recent forecast is £2,102.

Direct Membership subscriptions have been raised.

Constitution

The draft Constitution has been circulated. Amendments need to be formal amendments in writing to be forwarded to the B.C.F. office by 3rd June 1994.

Miscellaneous

A new charitable trust is to be set up for the development of junior chess in England.

Due to the good offices of Mr. Graham the entry fee for the Counties Championship was reduced to £10 for the 1994-95 series, in view of the game fee payment.

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Midland Minor (133 entries, six rounds)

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| 1st | Matthew Reilly (Lichfield) | 6 |
| 2nd= | Greg Adcock (Loughborough), John Brief (Barnet Knights), Keith Smith (Long Eaton), Phillip Ellis (Eccleshall), Michael Stanners (Athenaeum) | 5 |
| U-110 | John Mainwaring (Scunthorpe) | 5 |
| U-90 | Andrew Cockburn (Nottingham Univ'ty) | 5 |
| Ungraded: | Alan Chancellor (Mickleover), David Brown (Tamworth) | 4 |
| Slow Starter: | William Berriffe (Chester) | 4 |

A couple of games from the Championship Section:

Round Four: M.L.Hebden v G.M.Cohen

1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Be3 0-0
6 Qd2 Bg4 7 Ng5 Nc6 8 h3 Bd7 9 0-0-0 e5
10 dxe5 Nxe5 11 f4 Nc6 12 g4 b5 13 Bxb5 Qb8
14 Rhe1 h6 15 e5 dxe5 16 Bxc6 Bxc6 17 fxe5
Nd7 18 Nxf7 Rxf7 19 e6 Re7 20 exd7 Rxd7 21
Qe2 Rxd1+ 22 Rxd1 Kh7 23 Bd4 Qe8 24 Bxg7
Qxe2 25 Nxe2 Kxg7 26 Rd4 Bb5 27 c4 Bc6 28
Kd2 Kf6 29 Nf4 Kg5 30 Ne6+ Kh4 31 g5+ Kxh3
32 gxh6 Rh8 33 h7 Kg3 Ng5 a5 35 b3; 1-0.

Round Five: L.Cooper v D.Ledger

1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 d5 3 Bxf6 gxf6 4 e3 Bf5 5 c4 c6
6 Nc3 e6 7 Nf3 Nd7 8 h3 Bd6 9 Bd3 Bg6 10
0-0 f5 11 Rc1 Bh5 12 cxd5 cxd5 13 Be2 a6 14
Qb3 Rb8 15 Rc2 Rg8 16 Rfc1 Nf6 17 Ne5 Bxe2
18 Nxe2 Ne4 19 Nf4 Qh4 20 Rc8+ Ke7 21 Rxc8
Bxe5 22 dxe5 Qxf2+ 23 Kh2 Rxc8 24 Qxb7+ Kf8
25 Nxe6+ fxe6 26 Rc8 mate.