



FOUR NATIONS CHESS LEAGUE

Division 1 Round 4 report by Elliott Auckland and Claire Summerscale

Pool A

Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 1 vs Pride & Prejudice (4.0-4.0)

As the WGHK manager Brian Smith commented “It was an extremely tough match on Sunday for the two highest-rated teams which was ultimately decided almost on the 7th hour.” A match of the heavy-weights that produced a classic.



In response to Hammer’s quick victory over Haslinger, Pride & Prejudice hit back, taking the lead after Hunt superbly crushed Arakhamia, and Adams took advantage of some loose time-trouble play by Bacrot to give P&P the lead. It was quite clear, however, that the lead was not going to last (*as Elliot and I watched and analysed the internet games from the lobby, Claire*) with Pert and Baburin both in strong positions and after Pert won, WGHK1 seemed destined for victory (*and our long car journey home full of P&P players seemed destined for silent depression, Claire*).

But an amazing display between Hebden and Baburin, which went right down to the wire, produced a draw that keeps the title race very open, in what was a thrilling 4-4 draw.

Hebden, Mark L (2503)



Baburin, Alexander (2552)



1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.e3 c6 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.Rc1 h6 [7...Ne4 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Bd3 f5 10.0-0 0-0 11.Ne5 Ndf6 12.f4 Bd7 13.Bxe4 fxe4 14.Nb3 Be8 15.Na5 Bh5 16.Qd2 Nd7 17.Nxd7 Qxd7 18.b4 b6 19.Nb3 Rf6 20.a4 Rb8 21.c5 b5 22.Ra1 h6 23.axb5 Rxb5 24.Ra6 Qb7 25.Ra4 Qb8 26.Na1 g5 27.Nc2 Rb7 28.Raa1 Rbf7 29.fxc5 Rxf1+ 30.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 31.Kxf1 Qxh2 32.gxh6 Kh7 33.b5 cxb5 34.Qa5 Qh1+ 35.Kf2 Qd1 36.Qc7+ Kxh6 37.Qf4+ Kh7 38.Qc7+ Kg6 39.Qg3+ Kh7 ½-½ Hebden,M-Quinn,M/Cork 2005/CBM 105 ext' 40.Qc7+ Kg6 41.Qg3+ Kh7 ½-½ Hebden,M-Quinn,M/Cork 2005/CBM 105 ext]



8.Bf4 0-0 9.Bd3 c5 10.0-0 b6 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Bg3 Bb7 13.a3 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Rc8 15.Qe2 [15.Nc4 Nc5 16.Bb1 Nf6 17.f3 Bd5 18.Qe2 'White has a comfortable position, with pieces well co-ordinated.'] **15...Rxc1 16.Rxc1 Qa8 17.e4 N5f6 18.e5 Nd5**

19.Qg4?! 'natural but slightly in accurate move.' [19.Nc4 Rc8 20.Rc2 Nc5 21.Nd6 Bxd6 22.exd6 Nxd3 23.Qxd3 Rxc2 24.Qxc2 Only white will win this position, black is under some pressure but with best play should draw.]

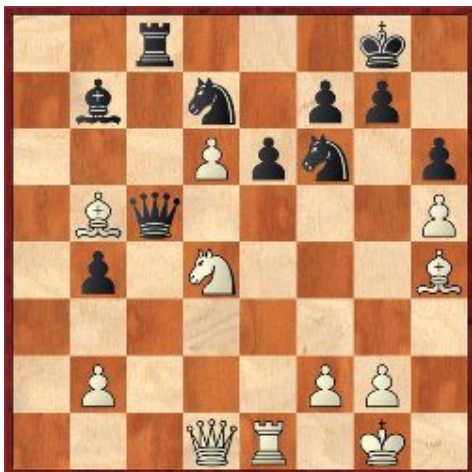
19...Nc5 20.Bb1 Rc8 21.Re1 [21.Nc4 with the same idea as previously, to try to utilise the d6 outpost. 21...Rd8

22.b4 Nd7 now black's pieces begin to get in a muddle 23.Be4 Nf8 24.Qf3 Rd7 25.h3 a6 26.Rc2 b5 27.Na5 Bd8 28.Nxb7 Qxb7 29.Nc6±]

21...a5 22.h4?! to me this move appears a bit rash, but is played to control the g5 square [22.Nb5 The Black bishop can now never get to g5 because of the threat of the Knights invasion on d6. 22...Bc6 23.Qc4 Bxb5 24.Qxb5 Qc6 25.Qxc6 Rxc6 26.Nc4 Nb3 27.Bd3 Nc5 28.Bb1=]

22...Qa6 23.Ne4 b5?! [23...Rd8] **24.h5** [24.Nd6 Bxd6 25.exd6 Nf6 26.Qe2 b4 27.axb4 Qxe2 28.Nxe2 axb4 29.Rc1² White has some pressure going into the endgame, but most likely drawn.]

24...b4 25.axb4 axb4 26.Nd6 Bxd6 27.exd6 Nf6 28.Qd1 Ncd7 29.Bd3 Qb6 30.Bb5 Qc5 31.Bh4?! [31.Be2]



31...Qd5 black has a firm advantage now **32.f3 Qxh5 33.Bxd7 Nxd7 34.Bf2 Qd5 35.Nb3 Kf8 36.Qxd5 Bxd5 37.Nd4?!** [37.Nc5! Nxc5 38.Rc1 Ke8 39.Rxc5 and white should hold the endgame.]

37...g6 38.Ra1 e5 39.Nb5 [39.Ra7 Ke8 40.Nb5 Rc1+ 41.Kh2 Kd8 42.Nc7 Bc6 43.Na6 Rd1 44.Nxb4 Rxd6³] **39...Rc2 40.Ra7 Bc6 41.Rc7 Rxf2 42.Na7** [42.Kxf2 Bxb5 43.Rb7 Ba4 44.Ra7 (44.Rxb4 Bc2 45.Rb7) 44...Bb5 45.Rb7=]

42...Rd2? 43.Nxc6 Rxd6 44.Nxb4 Nf6 45.Nc6 Rd1+ 46.Kh2 Rc1 47.b4 Nd5 48.Rc8+ Kg7 49.b5 Rb1



50.Rb8 [50.Nxe5 White could take the endgame which with accurate play should be drawn, but still requires a lot of accuracy.] **50...Kf6 51.Rb7 Rb2 52.Nd8 Nf4 53.Nxf7** [53.b6 Rxc2+ 54.Kh1 Rb2 55.Nxf7 Rb1+ 56.Kh2 h5 57.Nd6 Rb2+ 58.Kh1 Ke6 59.Ne4 Rb5 60.Nc3 Rb4 61.Ne4=] **53...h5 54.Nd6** [54.b6 Nxc2 55.Nd6 Ne3+ 56.Kg1 Kg5 57.Ne4+ Kh4 58.Rb8 Kh3 59.b7 Nf5 60.Rg8 Rxb7 61.Rxc6 Nd4 62.Nf2+ Kh4 63.Kg2=]

54...Rxb2+ 55.Kh1 Kg5 56.Ne4+ Kh4 57.Re7 Rb2 58.Rxe5 Kh3 59.Rg5 Rb1+ 60.Rg1 Rxb5 61.Nf2+ Kh4 62.Ne4 Rb2 63.Rf1 Nh3 64.Nf6 [64.Re1 Ng5 65.Re3 Nxe4 66.fxe4 Kg4 67.e5 Kf4 68.Re1 Rb7 69.Kg2 g5 70.Kh2 g4 71.Kg1 h4 72.e6 Re7 73.Kg2 Kf5 74.Rf1+ Kxe6 75.Rf4 h3+ 76.Kh2 Rg7 77.Kg3 Rh7 78.Rf1 h2 79.Rh1 Kf5 80.Rxb2 Rxb2 81.Kxb2 with best chances for a draw, with best play black should probably score the win anyway.]



64...Kg3 65.Ne4+ Kf4 66.Nf6 (black is at this point under immense time pressure) 66...Nf2+ 67.Kg1 Nd3 68.Kh1 Ne5 69.Nd5+ Kg3 70.Nf6 Nxf3 71.Ne4+ Kf4 72.Nf2 Rd2 73.Kg2 g5 74.Ra1 g4 75.Ra4+ Kf5 76.Ra8 Kg5 77.Ra1 Ne5 78.Kf1 Kf5 79.Ra8 Rb2 80.Rf8+ [80.Rh8 Kg5 81.Ne4+ Kf4 82.Nc3 h4 83.Rxb4 Rc2 84.Ne2+ Ke3 85.Rh5 Nc4+] 80...Kg5 81.Ne4+ Kh4 82.Rf5 Nf3 83.Nf2 Ng5 [83...Rb1+ 84.Ke2 (84.Kg2 Rg1#) 84...Nd4+] 84.Nd3 Ra2 85.Nf4 g3

Draw agreed, with Black's clock showing approximately 1 minute and White's 5 minutes.

(A display of grit and determination such as we've come to expect from Mark Hebden, although I may be slightly biased. Claire)

RD 4		WOOD GREEN HILSMARK KINGFISHER 1	2570	v	PRIDE AND PREJUDICE	2519
1	w	Bacrot, Ettienn *	2709	0 - 1	Adams, Michael	2682
2	b	Hammer, Jon-Ludvig	2585	1 - 0	Haslinger, Stewart G	2529
3	w	McShane, Luke J	2615	½ - ½	Rowson, Jonathan W	2579
4	b	Baburin, Alexander	2552	½ - ½	Hebden, Mark L	2503
5	w	Gordon, Stephen J	2535	½ - ½	Flear, Glenn C	2497
6	b	Speelman, Jon S	2525	½ - ½	Emms, John M	2484
7	w	Pert, Nicholas	2541	1 - 0	Grafl, Florian	2426
8	b	Arakhamia-Grant, Ketevan E (F)	2499	0 - 1	Hunt, Harriet V (F)	2452
				4 - 4		

The Ads vs Guildford A&DC2 (3.5-4.5)

Guildford did extremely well to win in this closely fought match, especially as they started with a default on their bottom board.

RD 4		THE ADS	2137	v	GUILDFORD-A&DC 2	2183
1	w	Richardson, John R	2298	0 - 1	Thompson, Ian D	2266
2	b	Swindells, Jonathan E	2170	½ - ½	Anderton, Matthew N	2232
3	w	Wheeler, Darren P	2240	½ - ½	Granat, Russell G	2250
4	b	Snape, Ian L	2189	½ - ½	Jackson, Adrian	2216
5	w	Anderton, David W	2211	½ - ½	Allinson, Julian RJ	2135
6	b	Bellin, Jana (F)	2151	½ - ½	Punnett, Alan K	2094
7	w	Patel, Ravi *	1698	0 - 1	Simpson, Philip M	2085
8	b	Anderton, Doreen *	2141	1 - 0	default	
				3½-4½		

Oxford 1 vs Cambridge University 1 (2.5-5.5)

In this varsity match, ratings suggest that the score-line should have been closer, however Cambridge triumphed on the day thanks to their titled players.

Ben was Savaged by Gabor Pintor's Scotch opening! Here Black had probably overlooked 19. fxe5! Qxa3 20. Bxf7+ Ke7 21. Rad1! when all roads lead to mate.



RD 4		OXFORD 1	2201	v	CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY 1	2268
1	w	Rose, Matthew	2282	0 - 1	Dearing, Edward J	2406
2	b	Savage, Ben DM	2296	0 - 1	Pinter, Gabor	2349
3	w	White, Michael JR	2227	½ - ½	Mah, Karl CC	2417
4	b	Rawlinson, Aidan M	2207	0 - 1	Bisby, Daniel L	2297
5	w	Milovanovic, Aleksander	2246	½ - ½	Moskovic, David M	2307
6	b	Dickinson, Tim R	2151	½ - ½	Churm, Rohan M	2167
7	w	Tidman, Sophie E (F)	2110	½ - ½	Spencer, Carl J	2136
8	b	Nitz, Tomos	2090	½ - ½	Chevannes, Sabrina L (F)	2062
				2½-5½		

Barbican 4NCL 2 vs Jutes of Kent (6.0-2.0)



Jonathan Rogers comments:

Jutes of Kent played very enterprising chess on both top boards. Simon Williams played in his virtuoso style and it is not obvious what Graham Morrison had done wrong, whilst Alexis Harakis played a strong attack from the opening against Matthew Piper. He deserved better (it seemed in the post mortem that Nf4! instead of Qxe4? would have been virtually overwhelming). However when it became clear that Alexis had misplayed it, the match was effectively over, since Barbican 2 were mostly looking remorseless on the remaining boards.

Incidentally this is the first time that both Barbican teams won all four matches in the top division in a weekend. Indeed it was 6/6 for the Club, since our youth team won both their matches in division two as well.

RD 4		BARBICAN 4NCL 2	2265	v	JUTES OF KENT	2204
1	w	Morrison, Graham	2353	0 - 1	Williams, Simon K	2545
2	b	Piper, Matthew S	2304	1 - 0	Harakis, Alexis M	2263
3	w	Berry, Neil	2301	1 - 0	Mack, Andrew L	2237
4	b	Rogers, Jonathan W	2329	1 - 0	Naylor, John	2189
5	w	Chapman, Terry PD	2222	½ - ½	Rich, Mark C	2151
6	b	Coleman, David J	2244	1 - 0	Wilson, Alexandra (F)	2083
7	w	Ynojosa, Felix Jose	2197	1 - 0	Rice, Chris B	2103
8	b	Regan, Natasha K (F)	2170	½ - ½	Donovan, Nigel P	2059
				6 - 2		

Pool A positions so far:

	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	GP	MP
1	Pride and Prejudice	xxx	4		6½		7½	7		25	7
2	WGHK 1	4	xxx		7½	5½		6		23	7
3	Barbican 4NCL 2			xxx		4	6	3½	6	19½	5
4	Cambridge Univ. 1	1½	½		xxx			5½	5½	13	4
5	The ADS		2½	4		xxx	3½		4½	14½	3
6	Guildford-A&DC 2	½		2		4½	xxx		4	11	3
7	Oxford 1	1	2	4½	2½			xxx		10	2
8	Jutes of Kent			2	2½	3½	4		xxx	12	1

Pool B

Barbican 4ncl 1 vs Guildford A&DC1 (5.5-2.5)

Jonathan Rogers comments:

Barbican 4NCL's first win over Guildford 1 since October 2002, after six consecutive defeats. This was the first time since March 1998 that Barbican 1 actually started as rating favourites, but the pattern of results was a little unexpected. Barbican 1 lost on boards six and seven, where it normally expects to cash in on its strength and depth, but made 4/5 at the top - easily its best haul against 3 GMs and 2 IMs. The rampage started in Berzinsh v Collins, which was by no means the first 4NCL game in which Berzinsh has not even survived the opening as White. However, all of Barbican's wins on the top boards were convincing. The curiosity of the match was that "Kopec system" against the Sicilian (involving 3.c3, 4. Bd3) appeared on adjacent boards, in King v d'Costa and Turner v Conquest!

On the assumption that Pride and Prejudice and WGHK1 will occupy the top two places in one order or another by the end of the season, the results in Barbican 1 v Guildford 1 and Wood Green 2 v White Rose have blown the race for third place wide open.

RD 4		BARBICAN 4NCL 1	2402	v	GUILDFORD-A&DC 1	2390
1	w	Parker, Jonathan F	2523	1 - 0	Kosten, Anthony C	2497
2	b	D'Costa, Lorin AR	2479	½ - ½	King, Daniel J	2494
3	w	Turner, Matthew J	2508	1 - 0	Conquest, Stuart C *	2563
4	b	Collins, Sam E	2431	1 - 0	Berzinsh, Roland	2424
5	w	Cox, John J	2378	1 - 0	Buckley, Graeme N	2388
6	b	Devereaux, Maxim L	2387	0 - 1	Povah, Nigel E	2336
7	w	Knott, Simon JB	2348	0 - 1	Wall, Gavin	2296
8	b	Lauterbach, Ingrid (F)	2163	1 - 0	Grigoryan, Meri (F)	2122
				5½-2½		

White Rose 1 vs Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2 (1.0-7.0)

WGHK2 continued their form from Saturday by crushing White Rose, when the ratings suggest the match should have been much closer.

Andrew Greet defended coolly after snatching a pawn early on in the Catalan. Wells threw the kitchen sink at Greet's king but to no avail.



RD 4		WHITE ROSE 1	2332	v	WOOD GREEN HILSMARK KINGFISHER 2	2404
1	w	Wells, Peter K	2489	0 - 1	Greet, Andrew N	2433
2	b	McNab, Colin A	2466	½ - ½	Houska, Jovanka (F)	2381
3	w	Palliser, Richard JD	2435	0 - 1	Hanley, Craig A	2429
4	b	Van de Griendt, Jan W	2352	0 - 1	Pert, Richard G	2457
5	w	Buckley, Simon T	2348	½ - ½	Martin, Andrew D	2423
6	b	Barrett, Stephen J	2212	0 - 1	McDonald, Neil	2412
7	w	Gayson, Peter M	2240	0 - 1	Sowray, Peter J	2318
8	b	Fidalgo Fernandez, Lucia (F)	2115	0 - 1	Tiller, Bjorn	2378
				1 - 7		

Betsson.com vs Pandora's Box Grantham (6.0-2.0)

Slaby completed an excellent weekend by grinding down Hunt in a queen and pawn ending. Otherwise the Betsson.com team were simply too strong for Pandora's Box.

RD 4		BETSSON.COM	2271	v	PANDORA'S BOX GRANTHAM	2152
1	w	Hunt, Adam C	2422	0 - 1	Slaby, Jerzy	2463
2	b	Ledger, Andrew J	2431	½ - ½	Slavin, Alexei	2331
3	w	Ansell, Simon T	2380	1 - 0	Walton, Alan J	2147
4	b	Baker, Chris W	2357	1 - 0	Birtwistle, Nigel	2179
5	w	Ledger, Dave J	2245	1 - 0	Cumbers, Paul	2218
6	b	Nelson, Jonathan P	2245	1 - 0	McCarthy, Kevin C	2106
7	w	Ledger, Stephen C	2106	½ - ½	Burrows, Martin P	2172
8	b	Yurenok, Maria S (F)	1981	1 - 0	Milson, Amy F (F)	1602
				6 - 2		

Poisoned Pawns 1 vs South Wales Dragons (2.0-6.0)

A match in which only the board 7 result went against rating expectations and the quick draws on boards 1 and 3 only added to the inevitability of this result.

RD 4		POISONED PAWNS 1	2137	v	SOUTH WALES DRAGONS	2210
1	w	Harley, Andrew D	2204	½ - ½	Cobb, James E	2415
2	b	Posazhennikov, Alex	2252	0 - 1	Cooper, John G	2346
3	w	Swanson, Stephen	2263	½ - ½	Rees, Ioan	2336
4	b	Dunn, Andrew	2220	0 - 1	Zeidler, Sven P	2221
5	w	Richter, Hans S	2180	0 - 1	Redmond, John P	2196
6	b	Borman, Philip J	2218	1 - 0	O'Neill, Paul	2163
7	w	Byway, Paul V	2158	0 - 1	James, David J	2110
8	b	Mountford, Corinne (F)	1602	0 - 1	Wilson, Julie C (F)	1890
				2 - 6		

Pool B positions so far:

	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	GP	MP
1	WGHK 2	xxx	2		7		5		8	22	6
2	Guildford-A&DC 1	6	xxx	2½		5		7½		21	6
3	Barbican 4NCL 1		5½	xxx	3	6		5½		20	6
4	White Rose 1	1		5	xxx		4½		5	15½	6
5	Betsson.com		3	2		xxx		6	6	17	4
6	S. Wales Dragons	3			3½		xxx	2½	6	15	2
7	Pandora's Box Grantham		½	2½		2	5½	xxx		10½	2
8	Poisoned Pawns 1	0			3	2	2		xxx	7	0

You can find all of the games from this round here:

PGN http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0910_div1-04.pgn

Game viewer http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0910_div1-04viewer.htm

And view results and information about the 4ncl here: <http://www.4ncl.co.uk/>