



FOUR NATIONS CHESS LEAGUE

Division 3 Round 7 report by Matt Lunn

It was good to see the division 3 teams compete alongside divisions 1 and 2 at Hinckley Island on this competitively fought and interesting 4NCL weekend.



White Rose 2 vs AMCA Dragons (3.0-3.0)

The Andrew Martin Chess Academy has made a real push this year to get their alpha team promoted – despite this blip in round seven one cannot help but feel that their chances are exceptionally high! Strength in depth is a necessity for any ambitious team, the ambition of these two aspiring teams led to a tense match where the results did not disappoint. Admittedly the board one clash was a bit of an anticlimax, the Dragons FM offering a draw after just 18 moves of play. This and the equally uninspiring board 2 match were very much the exception however. Shaw – Purdon is definitely worth a look, especially the final position which could be considered a perfect example of a drawn opposite coloured bishop ending despite the material disparity. Equally compelling was Webb – Hart, with the Dragons player (a new boy to the 4ncl, and captain of my University team!) reaching an advantageous ending that he was unable to convert. The middlegame was of particular interest, illustrating how difficult it can sometimes be to win positions even when you are a pawn up! Elsewhere we were treated to a bizarre game on bottom board – Noel McLaughlin unnecessarily sacrificing his knight before picking up a free pawn on c5. Presumably he overestimated black's chances of trapping this piece, sadly the oversight cost him the game. This leaves Duvall – Lewyk, where the White Rose player's lack of space invoked a blunder shortly after the time control, all credit to Ian Duvall for his tenacity. All in all it was a very closely fought fixture that yielded many points of interest!

RD 7		WHITE ROSE 2	2089	v	AMCA DRAGONS	2101
1	w	Arnett, Jonathan W	2117	½ - ½	Webb, Richard M	2266
2	b	Archer, Richard	2120	½ - ½	Bonafont, Philip	2140
3	w	Shaw, Peter	2123	½ - ½	Purdon, Colin	2097
4	b	Lewyk, Ihor	2146	0 - 1	Duvall, Ian	2047
5	w	Webb, Matthew	2035	½ - ½	Hart, David	2029
6	b	Whitaker, Thomas R	1995	1 - 0	McLaughlin, Noel	2025
				3 - 3		

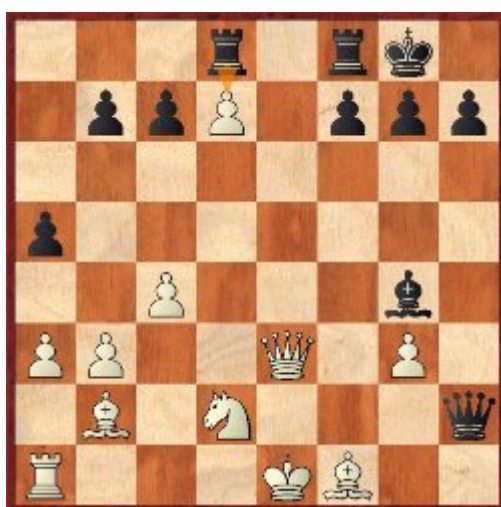
Poisoned Pawns 2 vs Metropolitan (5.0-1.0)

It is rare to see a team get completely crushed at this end of the league table, but it simply wasn't Metropolitan's day as they allowed themselves to be massacred by a team on similar points! It will however come as no surprise when I tell you that the final result doesn't tell the whole story (inevitable in this division!) – for the most part the games were very tense, the advantage fluctuating as they progressed. A couple of particularly cogent examples spring to mind:



This position was reached in Cooke vs McMahon, the black player having just made a rather dodgy piece sac in a Budapest Gambit. At this juncture Cooke played 13.Qd3, and we are treated to a series of unfortunate events that culminates in a white loss. Firstly in the above position black can probably resign after 13.Qd5! where he is going to end up a piece down for absolutely no compensation.

13...Qxh1 14.Qxe3 0-0 15.Nd2 Qxh2 16.exd6 Bg4 17.d7 Rad8. Now this crops up...



We see if 18.Bxg7 is viable? Obviously 18.Kxg7 loses to Qg5+, but does black have an alternative? McMahon played his only move, 18.Rxd7, where the position is very unbalanced indeed! The obvious 19.Bxf8 Kxf8 is probably a little better for black due to white's draughty king, so Cooke played 19.Bf6. The game continued 19. h6 20.Ra2??

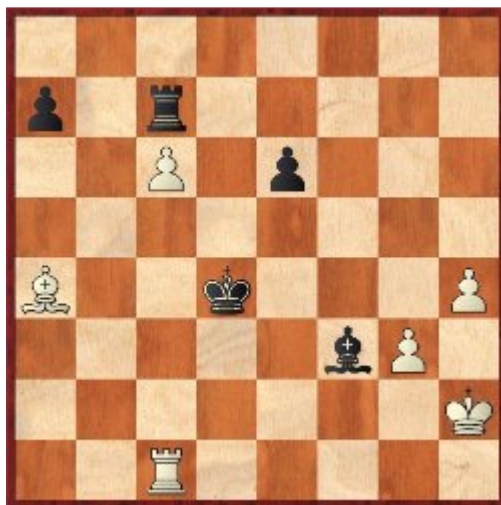
Having been better for most of the game, Cooke is lost after 20.Rd6! The threat of Re6 is decisive, and it is now impossible to meet all of black's threats. The game concluded swiftly, 21.Nf3 Qxa2 22. Qxh6 Re8+ 0 – 1

Elsewhere Hans Richter continued an excellent season by beating George Dickson, the British Senior Champion unable to regroup after an opening error. Petr Vachtfeidl followed two near-perfect endgames from the previous weekend with a disaster against Stefan Doci, losing an ending that should have been drawn. Windfridsson and Bailey grabbed a couple of hot pawns in their respective games, it paid off for both of them but the advantage slipped a bit – those two games proved to be the most interesting of the fixture and are well worth a look. Metropolitan’s only consolation was Ian Calvert’s victory over David Jarvis, white pressed far too hard in an equal position and ultimately he paid the price.

RD		POISONED PAWNS 2	2098	v	METROPOLITAN	2030
1	w	Richter, Hans	2149	1 - 0	Dickson, George	2103
2	b	Winfridsson, Ola	2127	1 - 0	Fegan, Chris	2091
3	w	Jarvis, David	2160	0 - 1	Calvert, D Ian	2051
4	b	Doci, Stefan	2052	1 - 0	Vachtfeidl, Petr	2005
5	w	Bailey, Kevin	2056	1 - 0	Murphy, Kieran	2048
6	b	McMahon, Paul	2045	1 - 0	Cooke, Charlie	1880
				5 - 1		

Gloucestershire Gambits vs Guildford-A&DC 4 (1.5-4.5)

A disappointing outing for the Gloucestershire side, losing convincingly to a team lower rated than themselves. This can be attributed to a number of individual disasters:



White was clearly better in Hosken – Punnett, and I suspect would have good winning chances after 40.Kg1 followed by Kf2, harassing the light squared bishop. But the ‘move 40 blunder’ asserted itself here, with Hosken playing the dubious 40.Bd1? After 40.Rxc6 41.Rxc6 Bxc6 white’s winning chances had dissipated, and Hosken had to settle for a draw.

But this was one of many misfortunes, I recommend analyzing Waterfield – McCullough, notable in that white lost despite reaching a middlegame with symmetrical pawns and the bishop pair! Waterfield sacrificed a pawn to get his rook active (in a position where simply defending it would have guaranteed a draw) and McCullough managed to give it back in order to give him a superior set of passed pawns. Boards 2 and 4 were both relatively clear-cut draws, and material blunders decided boards 3 and 6 in Guildford’s favour. Phil Dodwell offered the Gambits their final misfortune, offering an exchange of

queens in a roughly equal position around move 50. This led to white obtaining a significant advantage, he passed a pawn allowing him free reign over the board.

RD		GLOUCESTERSHIRE GAMBITS	2027	v	GUILDFORD-A&DC 4	2009
1	w	Hosken, Nigel	2057	½ - ½	Punnett, Alan K	2102
2	b	Lambourne, Daniel M	2003	½ - ½	Stimpson, Philip M	2077
3	w	Meade, Philip J	2055	0 - 1	Hill, David F	2064
4	b	Taylor, Geoffrey P	2019	½ - ½	Higgs, Anthony	1995
5	w	Waterfield, John	2023	0 - 1	McCullough, Simon L	1896
6	b	Dodwell, Phil	2005	0 - 1	Bryant, Richard	1920
				1½-4½		

Warwickshire Select 2 vs Braille Chess Association (4.0-2.0)

I touted Braille Chess Association as a serious promotion contender in an earlier report, but having failed to win for three games in a row this seems less and less likely. Lacking strength on the bottom boards proved to be a little problematic; Jeremy Fallowfield took advantage of inferior opening play to win on board 5 (it was a bit passive and pieces tended to get in the way of one another – 4.a6 is perhaps just a duff move?!) whilst David Ross made an unfortunate blunder on board 6:



Black is a bit better, but white has quite good drawing chances if he puts his knight on g4 and his pawn on f6. Unfortunately Ross played 28.g4?? and after 28.e3! it proves impossible for white to stop the passer without giving up his knight for it.

Board 4 was always looking drawn, black declining his opponent's Blackmar-Diemar Gambit in order to create a position where neither side had practical winning chances. Kaiser Malik essayed the Chigorin defence against Chris Ross but found himself in all sorts of trouble, 3.Bf5 the likely cause of his passive position. On board 3 Malcolm Hunt infiltrated Graham Lilley's king with decisive effect – Lilley made a one move blunder that allowed white to maximize the potential of his queen and dark-squared bishop.

This leaves the clash on board 1, where the unrated Dani Malik (admittedly, an ECF grade of 175 isn't bad for this division!) drew with the experienced IM Colin Crouch! Crouch was on the back foot for most of the game, but eventually Malik's attacking opportunities ran out and he had to settle for a perpetual. It is well worth a look – especially the analysis stemming from the ending Malik could have forced with 36.Qf3.



RD		WARWICKSHIRE SELECT 2	2056	v	BRILLE CHESS ASSOCIATION	2060
1	w	Malik, Dani	2125	½ - ½	Crouch, Colin	2365
2	b	Malik, Kaiser	2075	0 - 1	Ross, Chris	2197
3	w	Hunt, Malcolm A	2080	1 - 0	Lilley, Graham	2097
4	b	Cooper, David M	2085	½ - ½	Cole, Tristram C	1970
5	w	Fallowfield, Jeremy	2022	1 - 0	Whittle, Les *	1885
6	b	Weaving, Richard	1950	1 - 0	Ross, David J *	1845
				4 - 2		

Littlethorpe 1 vs Hackney (4.0-2.0)

Is it me or is John Sugden getting really, really good all of a sudden? I watched him come astonishingly close to beating GM Gormally at Hastings this year, and was privy to his trouncing of the competition at this year's Major Open – judging by 4ncl results as well it seems that he has taken real strides with his chess this year! His win against Jonathan Benjunes was a particular highlight of this fixture, winning two pawns and a rook for two minor pieces (not always good as I'm sure you'll agree!) and ensuring that his pawns dominated the centre. Eventually Benjunes was pushed further and further back until his position was unmanageable.

Byron vs Chin was peacefully concluded early on, whilst Alistair Compton took a perpetual in what was a completely winning position! (after 33.h6 black can probably resign) Christopher Gibson continued a bad run in the 4ncl with another loss, Hughes won a pawn shortly after the time control and black's position fell apart. The results on the bottom two boards never really looked in doubt, both Hackney players got the worst of the opening and suffered material deficit before being mercilessly beaten down. All in all a good result for Littlethorpe against a weakened Hackney side.

RD		LITTLETHORPE 1	2064	v	HACKNEY	1938
1	w	Byron, Alan M	2162	½ - ½	Chin, Francis	2236
2	b	Sugden, John N	2184	1 - 0	Benjunes, Jonathan	2075
3	w	Compton, Alistair	2079	½ - ½	Lee, Martin	2050
4	b	Gibson, Christopher A	1964	0 - 1	Hughes, Charles *	2025
5	w	Ireland, David J	1997	1 - 0	Tracey, Shaun *	1740
6	b	Hewitt, Sean D	1995	1 - 0	Gonzales, Maria *	1500
				4 - 2		

Sussex Smart Controls vs Cambridge University 2 (2.5-3.5)

This was a clash of two of the darker horses chasing towards promotion, and it may surprise you to hear that rather than say the games were ‘unbalanced’ (or some variant, as I am prone to suggest) I will conclude that most of the games were decided by blunders. Oliver Cooley dropped pawn after pawn against George Salimbeni, his open files counting for nothing as the Sussex lad invaded his position. At the other end, Tim Woods threw his g and f pawns up the board and Kourtseva simply couldn’t cope – she had to give up an exchange as her kingside was gradually squashed. Andrew Tucker blundered a rook after being positionally better throughout, and Matthew Payne conceded a Bishop for nothing in a completely equal ending. On board 2 Robertson managed to hold on to Fryer’s sacrificed pawn and slowly eke out a decisive advantage – a particularly interesting game. Perhaps the most bitterly disappointing result for Sussex was Grant Bucher’s inability to convert a game where he was always positionally better; perhaps swapping off rooks was (bizarrely) the decisive error? Not one dull game – both sides can be proud of the entertainment this fixture produced!

RD		SUSSEX SMART CONTROLS	1985	v	CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY 2	1995
1	w	Salimbeni, George	2100	1 - 0	Cooley, Oliver	2128
2	b	Fryer, David W	2080	0 - 1	Robertson, J Stuart	2050
3	w	Bucher, Grant W	1993	½ - ½	Gooding, Ian	2009
4	b	Tucker, Andrew L	1972	0 - 1	Campbell, Mark	1984
5	w	Payne, Matthew	1865	0 - 1	Lee, Richard	1985
6	b	Woods, Tim	1900	1 - 0	Kourtseva, Julie (F)	1815
				2½-3½		

KJCA Kings vs The Full Ponty (4.0-2.0)

(pictured, your 4ncl reporter Matt Lunn)

KJCA Kings made it 3 wins in a row with this victory, beating a side that outrated them by an average of nearly 100 points. The dullest game was undoubtedly board 4 (yes folks, me again), which was reasonably typical of the 2.d5 variation of the c3 Sicilian. There is however no question I should have played on in the final position, I had a definite edge and white lacked counterplay to compensate for it, I just erroneously concluded that there was no way of breaking through. Below me we were getting crushed; Robert Maguire was significantly worse by move 9, and Jasdeep Gahir lost whilst still in the opening. By move 25 Robert managed to claw some credibility back into his position, and won a key pawn that eventually won the day for him. Board 3 was a strange match, Lee Davis lost a pawn (I say lost, he got some open lines for it so it could feasibly have been a sacrifice, albeit not a sound one!) early on but managed to exert quite a bit of pressure against the white king, eventually grabbing the pawn back, to which Bayliss responded with the natural 26.Rd3.





What could be more obvious than an attacking move against the black queen – it’s not like there are any checks! Davis played 26.Qe2, and the game was agreed a draw 7 moves later. However both players missed the stunning 26.Nf2!! White must take the queen, but after 27.Nxd1+ 28.Kb1 Nxe3 29.Bd3 Nxe2 black is clearly better, with two active rooks and a pawn for white’s inert queen.

Whilst we were a bit lucky on 3 and 6, there is no question that the Jones brothers thoroughly deserved their respective victories.

Both played extremely well against higher rated opponents, maintaining a comfortable middlegame edge before their advantage became clear cut. Jones vs Sully and Bayliss vs Davis are the matches I would most recommend analyzing.

RD		KJCA KINGS	1908	v	THE FULL PONTY	1994
1	w	Jones, William	2030	1 - 0	Sully, David	2135
2	b	Jones, Victor	1993	1 - 0	Adams, Mark A	2033
3	w	Bayliss, Lyall C P	1971	½ - ½	Davis, Lee	1954
4	b	Lunn, Matt	1882	½ - ½	Robinson, David	1987
5	w	Gahir, Jasdeep	1872	0 - 1	Perrett, David	1960
6	b	Maguire, Robert	1702	1 - 0	Gilbert, Colin	1893
				4 - 2		

Bristol 2 vs FCA Solutions 2 (3.0-3.0)

This fixture is perhaps most notable for the one of the most bizarre piece sacrifices I have seen in my reporting, Graham Borrowdale getting rid of a bishop for no compensation (he had a pretty good position before!) – kudos to him for managing to draw after that oversight.

Board 2 is an interesting example of how grabbing material is often objectively best, even if it seems instinctively wrong! Black grabbed a ‘hot’ (his words) pawn quite early on but white never managed to make his lead in development count - Infact Jerry could have forced the win of an exchange towards the end but chose to activate his rook instead – this provoked a blunder whereby black was able to end white’s chances once and for all.

John Bass made a very unusual material blunder on board 3 - (aesthetically it is quite unusual!) but there the excitement ended – 3 quiet draws on the bottom boards allowed the teams to split the points, all in all a pretty fair result!

RD		BRISTOL 2	2024	v	FCA SOLUTIONS 2	1980
1	w	Bennett, Dominic *	2040	½ - ½	Borrowdale, Graham	2035
2	b	Humphreys, Jerry	2076	1 - 0	Valentine, Brian J	1997
3	w	Bass, John W	2101	0 - 1	Elwin, Adrian G	2009
4	b	Hardy, Roger	2024	½ - ½	Adebajo, Femi	2019
5	w	White, Martin	1980	½ - ½	Matthews, Adrian	1924
6	b	May, Michael	1920	½ - ½	Shaw, John S	1895
				3 - 3		

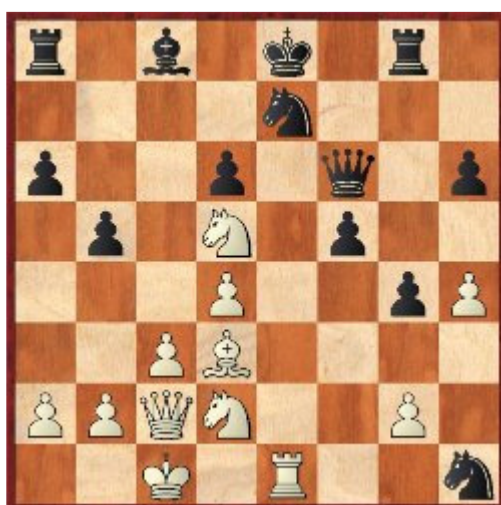
Nottinghamshire vs Mind Sports (4.5-1.5)

Mind Sports were always going to have a tough time in this fixture, they were outrated heavily and results reflected the rating.



Robert Richmond (pictured left) scored a very nice win against Peter Ackley, prettily netting the exchange before Ackley decided to call it a day. Michael Hardman's KIA yielded him little opening advantage in a game where the initiative fluctuated, eventually petering out to a draw. Board 3 is worth a bit of analysis; Nick Hawkins made a very dubious endgame decision, deciding to swap off his two rooks for a queen resulting in an ending where white's passed a pawn (in conjunction with the two rooks)

would have little trouble keeping the queen at bay. He was extremely fortunate that Andrew Walker accepted his draw offer. David Levens (pictured right) played some pretty bizarre moves on board 4, but handled the middlegame well in order to secure victory against Neville Twitchell. Ian Kingston outplayed Susan Chadwick on bottom board, but of all the games in this fixture it was Truman – Barr that provided the most interest:



Truman has just played 22.Nd5, ensuring the win of the knight on e7. But is he really better? After the natural 22.Qxh4 white played 23.Rxe7+ At this point I think Barr must have gone into shock, fearing for the safety of his King he took on e7, allowing for white to build up a nice advantage before he agreed to Barr's draw offer (bottling out of these positions is a common problem for sub-2200 players – I should know...). But after 23.Kd8! black is doing very well!

A possible continuation could be 24.Bxf5 Nf2 (not Ng3 which is probably a draw after 25. Bxc8 Qh1+ 26.Qd1 Qxd1 27. Kxd1 Rxc8 28. Re6 – white’s active rook providing him enough compensation for the exchange) 25. Nf1 (forced) Qh5 26.Qxf2 Qxf5 black gets a better version of the 24.Ng3 line – with some small chances for a win. After the game continuation black was very lucky to get away with a draw!

RD		NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 1	2080	v	MIND SPORTS	1943
7						
1	w	Richmond, Robert J	2223	1 - 0	Ackley, Peter	2101
2	b	Walker, Tim *	2125	½ - ½	Hardman, Michael J	2087
3	w	Walker, Andrew N	2070	½ - ½	Hawkins, Nick	2031
4	b	Levens, David	2009	1 - 0	Twitchell, Neville H	1976
5	w	Truman, Richard G	2028	½ - ½	Barr, Gabriel	1820
6	b	Kingston, Ian	2023	1 - 0	Chadwick, Susan E (F)	1640
				4½-1½		

Iceni vs Littlethorpe 2 (3.0-3.0)

Littlethorpe 2 were always going to have a tough time in this fixture... with this in mind they did exceptionally well to get a draw out of it! One of the big shocks of the round was the result in Reynolds vs Bingham – white obtained a nice opening advantage but Bingham equalized after a miscalculation. Then this happened:



It looks a bit as if white is struggling for good moves, but I suspect he’s doing OK after the aggressive 17.Qc4, letting the dark squared bishop drop in exchange for the knight on d5. Instead Reynolds played the horrible 17.O-O-O!? allowing the simple 17.Nxc3! After 18.Qc4+ d5 19.Qxc3 Qxa2 white is in quite a mess, and he eventually went on to lose.

This turned out to not be the only decisive blunder of the fixture! Paul Deacon chucked his queen against Steven Ruthen, and Phil Watkinson gave away two pieces for a rook against John Feavyour. Strangely it was Graham Booley that made the first material blunder on board 4 (losing a pawn to a tactic), but Donaghay went one further and got rid of his knight! Ironically it was only the bottom two boards that remained free of material blunders! In both cases white managed to convert after exploiting a space advantage.

RD		ICENI	2030	v	LITTLETHORPE 2	1908
1	w	Reynolds, D Ian	2108	0 - 1	Bingham, James T	1945
2	b	Ruthen, Steven	2050	1 - 0	Deacon, Paul	1930
3	w	Feavyour, John	2073	1 - 0	Watkinson, Phil K	1950
4	b	Donaghay, Richard	1969	0 - 1	Booley, Graham	1885
5	w	Szymanski, Mark	1985	1 - 0	Turvey, Steven	1915
6	b	Downham, Alan	1995	0 - 1	van der Westhuizen, Charles	1824
				3 - 3		

Oxford 2 vs Littlethorpe 3 (6.0-0.0)

Never likely to be the closest of fixtures, Oxford 2 exploited their extra two players and gargantuan rating advantage with ease. However with the exception of board 3 they were all quite close affairs (Harrison got his bishop trapped against Ed Stembridge). Admittedly neither Farrall or Jones were ever really 'better' against their experienced opponents, but they played fairly well throughout – the problem with playing someone so much more experienced than oneself is that they are often better prepared to exploit their positional advantages! David Ricketts was a bit better at one point on board 4, Duggan made an interesting piece sacrifice and had white handled it better he might have been able to make something of his material advantage. As it was black's rooks invaded and that was that.

RD		OXFORD 2	2075	v	LITTLETHORPE 3	1847
1	w	Dickinson, Timothy R	2160	1 - 0	Farrall, David J	1915
2	b	Starkie, Ray	2125	1 - 0	Jones, Michael	1824
3	w	Stembridge, Ed	2062	1 - 0	Harrison, Peter K	1812
4	b	Duggan, Chris	2044	1 - 0	Ricketts, David	1835
5	w	Rawlinson, Chris	2047	1 - 0	default	
6	b	Ludbrook, Matt	2011	1 - 0	default	
				6 - 0		

Celtic Tigers 2 vs AMCA Rhinos (2.5-3.5)

If someone wanted to write a definitive dictionary of chess terminology (with illustrations, that is essential for my analogy) and they wanted a diagram of a 'closed position' then they would be advised to include the final position of Tunstall – Fathallah, about as definitive as it gets! Oddly enough a similar position was agreed drawn on top board, but if you have a look it might become clear that white has reason to play on.



I leave O'Grady – Andreev to last because I thought it was worth complimenting the young AMCA player for actually winning with the Hippo in a 4ncl game (a staple of the Andrew Martin Chess Academy – Martin's win against Shaw in that line was

very well publicized – despite one significant opening mistake it was a good victory) Peter Andreev is certainly worth watching, he seems to be improving every year and will surely reach great heights after the increase in k factor.

RD		CELTIC TIGERS 2	1878	v	AMCA RHINOS	1860
1	w	Evans, Craig	2030	½ - ½	Sparkes, Daniel A	2000
2	b	Fathallah, Joe	1962	½ - ½	Tunstall, George	2014
3	w	O'Grady, Gary	1926	0 - 1	Andreev, Peter	1861
4	b	Larter, Nick	1807	0 - 1	Marley, Andrew	1805
5	w	Wagner, Guy	1830	1 - 0	Periasamymanjula, Mani.	1718
6	b	Buttall, David	1714	½ - ½	Ward, Matthew J	1760
				2½-3½		

Guildford-A&DC 5 vs Nottinghamshire 2 (5.5-0.5)

Along with Peter Andreev I suspect that Joseph Quinn is another one to watch for the future. Although his rating hadn't really improved during 2008, his increase of 46 in the latest list suggests that he has a lot of potential, his demolition of Neil Graham's Blackmar-Diemar attests to that. Elsewhere Lalic and Waldock racked up convincing wins against Cranmer and Taylor respectively, whilst Ian Deswarte won in a bizarre Morra Gambit

RD		GUILDFORD-A&DC 5	1897	v	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 2	1926
1	w	Shaw, Matthew	1925	1 - 0	Combie, Alexander	1950
2	b	Deswarte, Ian	1950	1 - 0	Place, William	1965
3	w	Waldock, Adrian	1925	1 - 0	Taylor, Robert P	1956
4	b	Quinn, Joseph	1835	1 - 0	Graham, Neil	1925
5	w	Lalic, Peter	1905	1 - 0	Cranmer, Stan	1890
6	b	Albrecht, Theo	1840	½ - ½	Hill, Maurice J	1870
				5½-½		

SCS vs Halesowen (1.5-4.5)

Sadly SCS have been unable to bring out many of their big names in the recent weekends, the depleted squad has struggled in many fixtures and this was no exception. They have however seen a recent burst in form of Arnold Lutton, who outplayed me the previous weekend (a generous draw, I was just awful). In round 7 he managed to win a pawn on the black side of an exchange French, and although his opponent looked like he had some play for it Lutton found a nice tactic to win an exchange. Baptie – Brockbank was a sedate draw, whilst one below Fonseca's inaccurate opening play allowed Glyn Pugh to slowly build up a steady advantage. Darren Lee managed the same against Sagara Bogoda, whose king was so overcome with the black army that he was forced to drop an exchange – it was impossible to recover after that. Windsor Peck's win may be

worth a glance, a nice illustration of the power of queenside passers in the Semi-Slav Defence.

RD		SCS	1786	v	HALESOWEN	1945
1	w	Baptie, Justin P	2101	½ - ½	Brockbank, Henry	2103
2	b	Fonseca, Antonio	1875	0 - 1	Pugh, Glyn D	2045
3	w	Bogoda, Sagara T	1870	0 - 1	Lee, Darren	1950
4	b	Lutton, J Arnold	1847	1 - 0	Bull, Philip	1945
5	w	Bogoda, Nathasha (F)	1595	0 - 1	Peck, Windsor W	1845
6	b	default	1425	0 - 1	Pitt, Christopher	1780
				1½-4½		

Oxford 3 vs Conquistadors (5.5-0.5)

This particular fixture went exactly according to rating, the Oxford side notching up a very convincing victory. James Foster's queen blunder set the tone for a miserable outing for the Conquistadors, Dominic Gibbs was the only player who ever looked like winning and he only managed a draw. The bottom Fosters went down fairly quickly in openings that their opponents clearly had more experience in. James Holland lost a piece after 16 moves of a Tarrasch and Barnaby Paul blundered an ending that could easily have been drawn. No doubt the Conquistadors will endeavor not to repeat such an experience in the final weekend!

RD		OXFORD 3	1927	v	CONQUISTADORS	1825
1	w	Hadi, Justin	2015	1 - 0	Foster, James C	1995
2	b	Neatherway, Philip	1960	½ - ½	Gibbs, Dominic	1995
3	w	Jeffries, Majid	1997	1 - 0	Holland, James	1920
4	b	Levicki, Jeffrey	1924	1 - 0	Paul, Barnaby	1750
5	w	Terry, Sean	1870	1 - 0	Foster, Caroline (F)	1610
6	b	Henbest, Kevin B	1795	1 - 0	Foster, Ray Ryan	1680
				5½-1½		

AMCA Hippos vs Wales Old Boys (1.0-5.0)

Despite an exceptionally strong A team, the AMCA's third side is undoubtedly one of the weakest (on rating) in the league – although their team of juniors has been known to produce upsets on occasions. This however was not one of them, the experienced side walking away with the victory. Tarun Malhotra was gradually outplayed in a Scandanavianesque Caro – Kann (2.Qxd5 can't really be good), Kanike's superior endgame technique proving the decisive factor. Gareth Harley-Yeo manoeuvred a great deal before winning an exchange, Meechan never really managing to invade the Welshman's position. Yao Yao Zhu's pawn sacrifice left a little to be desired on board 3, but she escaped with a draw (game is probably worth a look), whilst the draw on 5 was very different; a London System where all the pieces were swapped off before move 30, resulting in a dead equal rook and pawn ending. I would recommend looking at Davies vs

Pritchard for it is a very, very off-beat King's Indian! It takes so many different lines and mixes them up... Davies played perfectly well but as a KID devotee it seems quite quirky, certainly worth a look (Davies won a rook, but up until then it was interesting!)

RD		AMCA HIPPOS	1670	v	WALES OLD BOYS	1885
1	w	Malhotra, Tarun	1730	0 - 1	Kanike, Uday Kumar *	2050
2	b	Meechan, Catriona (F)	1780	0 - 1	Harley-Yeo, Gareth	2044
3	w	Jerzynek, Neil	1760	½ - ½	Zhu, Yao Yao (F)	1997
4	b	Pritchard, Abigail (F)	1590	0 - 1	Davies, Matthew	1943
5	w	Coates, Christine (F)	1490	½ - ½	Jones, Jeremy J *	1635
6	b	default		0 - 1	Smith, Steve	1638
				1 - 5		

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

PGN http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809_div3-07.pgn

Game viewer http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809_div3-07viewer.htm

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