

4NCL Online Chess, April – June 2020

'Broken Herts' Results

Our 3 teams finished as follows:

Broken Herts 1 – 29th (25) with 9 points

Broken Herts 2 – 38th (32) with 8 points

Broken Herts 3 – 43rd (43) with 7 points

Our seedings, in brackets, don't mean much as only 43 teams were originally shown although 56 teams finished.

Special mention then to our top performers (by results)

Derek Simpson 5.5/6

Graham Williams 5.5/8

Steve Zsibrita and Theo Berkhout 5/8

Name	username	Grade	Played	Score	%
Simpson, Derek	<i>ds97813</i>	130	6	5.5	92%
Price, Derick	<i>asonofrhymney</i>	126	0	0	0%
Hutton, Allan	<i>shutuplegs</i>	120	6	1	17%
Pearson, Richard	<i>Jibbering_Wreck</i>	116	2	0	0%
Elder, Kidge	<i>egdik</i>	114	8	4.5	56%
Mead-Herbert, Bradley	<i>Bradley_Levla</i>	114	2	1	50%
Kapur, Gul	<i>guloo</i>	108	8	3.5	44%
Zsibrita, Steve	<i>SteveJZ</i>	106	8	5	63%
Humeniuk, Michael	<i>mhoramuk</i>	104	8	3.5	44%
Butina, Darko	<i>darkobModern</i>	102	8	3	38%
Lynch, Mark	<i>krampudu</i>	103	8	2.5	31%
Williams, Graham	<i>Repairedhope</i>	98	8	5.5	69%
Huhn, Robert M	<i>Trilobite44</i>	95	8	4	50%
Gilmour, Ian	<i>IGilmour28</i>	93	9	3.5	39%
Brewis, Alan	<i>Ospray</i>	90	8	1	13%
Dometakis, Lakis	<i>Lakischess</i>	82	8	2	25%
Cooper, John L	<i>JOHN1918</i>	73	7	4	57%
Berkhout, Theo	<i>Doorzette</i>	49	8	5	63%

It was quite obvious from the start the grades of our opposition would be all over the place, there being such a wide mix of strengths in our division 5. Not a murmur of complaint was heard from anyone and, if anything, I think most players relished the challenge.

The two tables that follow overleaf give the opposition ECF Online Grade average by board and then by player respectively. It is much as you might expect save for board 1 where it's in reverse order with BH 3 board 1 having the strongest opponents.

	Board	Ave
BH 1	1	1585
	2	1524
	3	1467
	4	1293
BH 2	1	1610
	2	1431
	3	1364
	4	1255
BH 3	1	1627
	2	1409
	3	1322
	4	1136

3/1	Brewis, Alan	1644
1/2	Hutton, Allan	1606
2/1	Humeniuk, Michael	1578
1/3	Elder, Kidge	1522
1/1	Simpson, Derek	1502
2/2	Butina, Darko	1496
2/3	Lynch, Mark	1482
1/4	Kapur, Gul	1475
3/2	Gilmour, Ian	1427
3/3	Dometakis, Lakis	1324
2/4	Williams, Graham	1304
3/4	Cooper, John L	1302
1/4	Zsibrita, Steve	1270
2/4	Huhn, Robert M	1233
3/4	Berkhout, Theo	1156

I don't have time to look through the games to highlight positions of interest, etc. As a pale substitute I have attached a pgn file of our games for you to examine at your leisure.

4NCL Organisation

I only discovered the competition by accident when visiting the 4NCL website a few days before the deadline for entry. A circular to club secretaries did not appear to result in any interest. I wonder sometimes if some secretaries fail to pass on such information to their players. Watford and St Albans had already got wind of the event and entered several teams and my own club, Hertford, quickly rustled one up (and went on to win division 5).

Fortunately, I had a contact list of mainly U120 strength players and the good response from them resulted in our entry of 3 teams. (These teams were not grade limited though). Squads could have up to 8 players but 3 teams with 5 players each seemed the way to go forward.

This provided regular Tuesday evening chess with just one player per team as reserve. It appeared to work well although two players left the first team after just two matches.

Another appeal for players resulted in Derek Simpson and Allan Hutton taking their places. In anticipation of another player dropping out, Derick Price was available to play and I much regret he did not get a game. Thanks to these three for coming forward.

The 4NCL did a superb job, in my opinion. Their website was informative and responsive, and their handling of the logistics in combination with lichess was excellent. Particularly impressive to me was the speed the results were displayed – within minutes virtually of each round finishing. This was not achieved automatically by a link between lichess and 4NCL. Behind the scenes the 4NCL had a separate website for entering the results so the team managers and captains were all responding to the standard set by the 4NCL. Let's see the HCA try and match this in future for their competitions.

The Future

The 4NCL are next offering a 5 round congress, Friday 10th – Sunday 12th July. Details and entry form on their website. This doesn't work for me though. Playing at home over most of a weekend has nothing of the appeal of, say, a weekend in Broadstairs attending an OTB congress. Some of you will differ.

I'm quite sure the 4NCL will acknowledge the success of their first online competition by holding another one. Whether over summer or in the autumn we have yet to discover.

I believe the best way to participate is for clubs to enter and I recommend you ensure your club officials are up to speed on this. The HCA can sweep up any players short of a team though. I expect to be available to help with the admin but not necessarily as a manager and even less so as a captain. However, the work involved is not demanding.

Finally, can I thank you all for participating and for the comments and feedback most of you provided. Do add to this if you have something to say. I feel that I got to know many of you a lot better and look forward to meeting again, whether online or Over The Board.

Alan Brewis

16th June 2020