

Correspondence Chess Conductor's Report

County and District Correspondence Chess Championships

Division 1 Ward-Higgs: -

Hertfordshire 'A' Team: - Score as at 11/06/2019 3.5/10. Rather a slow start, but it is the top Division and we are up against some of the top county teams in the country. SIM Keith Kitson is holding his own against GM Ian S. Brooks top board for Yorkshire 'A'. I have already drawn both games against IM Tony Balshaw top board for East Wales 'A'. We have no wins yet, but I am hopeful for at least four points from our remaining six games. Whether this will be enough for us to stay in Division 1 remains to be seen! Our average ICCF rating is 2180 and our opponents is 2244.

Division 3 Butler Thomas: -

Hertfordshire 'B' Team: - Score as at 11/06/2019 4/10. A slow start too and with the top two boards also against much higher rated opponents. Pete Dunks managed a draw against IM David Anderton Staffordshire some 400 grading points higher, whilst David Edney managed to win both his games against Roy Hadfield Warwickshire 'C' also graded some 400 points higher! Excellent results by both players. Our Ian Brooks won a game against Andrew Zigmond Yorkshire 'D'. I think we can gain another couple of points from our six remaining games. Our average rating is 1745 and our opponents is 1923.

You can view the games by going to the iccf.com website and selecting 'Tables and Results', 'National Tournaments', 'England' and 'British Team-Championships', then selecting the appropriate tournament. Play started on 14/01/2019 and finishes on 14/11/2019.

British Correspondence Chess League

Division 1: -

Eight of Hearts Team: - Final score 13/16. Double wins by SIM Keith Kitson, myself, CCE Peter Rice, Michael Dyer, Steve Law and Simon Cage. Draws from Arthur Reed. A great result which has us leading at the moment (11/06/2019) but, I am sure that Social CCA, currently with 10.5/12, will probably overtake us. It is also possible that CS Bureaucrats could also catch us as they have 12/15 at the moment. Whatever happens we are sure of a podium finish! Our average rating is 2036 and our opponents is 1745.

Division 2: -

Eight of Hearts 'B' Team: - Score as at 11/06/2019 10.5/11. Double wins from Ross Brennan, Pete Dunks, Jonathan Tymms and Alan Prince. Win and draw by Steve Johnson and win by Mark Duggin. Another great score which makes us currently in second place, although we had been leading for a while! I am hoping for another point from our remaining four games and it is now certain that we will finish in second position. Warrington currently have 11/12 and are likely to score another two points

from their remaining four games. Our average rating is 1863 and our opponents is 1643.

You can view the games by going to the iccf.com website and selecting 'Tables and Results', 'National Tournaments', 'England' and 'BCCA Events', then selecting either 'BCCL Division 1 2018/19' or 'BCCL Division 2 2018/19'. Play started on 21/01/2019 and finishes on 21/11/2019.

5th British Webserver Team Tournament, Division 3: -

Herts & Minds Team: - Play started on 01/07/2018 and officially finishes on 02/01/2020. Our final score is 19.5/28 and we currently lead. Our team consists of four players, Board 1 SIM Keith Kitson 4.5/7 1st Place in Group; Board 2 CCE Peter Rice 4/7 Joint 4th Place in Group; Board 3 Arthur Reed 5.5/7 1st Place in Group; Board 4 Ross Brennan 5.5/7 2nd Place in Group. There are only two teams, Schach Dragons and BCCA Rooks, who can catch us. Our average rating is 2234.

You can view this tournament by going to the iccf.com website and selecting 'National Tournaments', 'Wales' and 'GB – British Webserver Team Tournament' then selecting '5th British WS Tournament – Division 3'.

States and Regions CCC 2019, Division 2: -

Herts and Minds (Hertfordshire) Team: - I was invited by Austin Lockwood to field a team from Hertfordshire, so I decided to ask our current Herts and Minds Team if they would like to play. They agreed and I have sponsored the team. In Division 2 there are fifteen teams of four players from various regions around the world. We have so far (11/06/2019) scored 7.5/12 being 62% as follows: - Keith 1/4, Peter 2/3, Arthur 1/1 and Ross 3.5/4. There is a long way to go as each player has 15 games. Play started on 01/05/2019 and finishes on 15/04/2020 using the Triple Block time system. Our average rating is 2277 and there are opportunities to gain norms for some players.

You can view this tournament by going to the iccf.com website and selecting 'National Tournaments', 'Wales' and 'Wales – States and Regions CCC', then selecting 'States and Regions CCC 2019 Division Two'.

I have enjoyed my second year as Correspondence Chess Conductor. This year we were still able to enter four teams of eight into the main British team tournaments, although we only just had enough willing players. In addition to this I have sponsored two teams of four into other tournaments, one of which offers the opportunity to gain master norms.

It is good to see Hertfordshire players in other events too. In the 136 Board Friendly Match England v Rest of Europe which started on 01/11/2018 we have four players. In the 1st English Championship Final one player finished in third place. In the 1st

Veterans Championship Final we have two players. In the 2nd English Final we have one player and two others in the Semi-Finals. There are several players in the various British Championship sections too.

On a personal note, I was elected as General Secretary of the English Federation for Correspondence Chess at their AGM in Milton Keynes in March 2019 taking over from Neil Limbert.

John Rhodes

Correspondence Chess Conductor

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