

Correspondence Chess Conductor's Report Hertfordshire Chess Association AGM, Tuesday 24/07/2018

County and District Correspondence Chess Championships, Division 2 Sinclair: -

Hertfordshire 'A' Team: - Score so far 9 / 15 with one remaining game which could be drawn. Wins by: - myself (double) Board 3; Peter Rice (double) Board 5; Arthur Reed Board 6; Ross Brennan Board 7. Unfortunately, one level game was lost on time due to personal reasons, which may prevent us from challenging for second place and possible promotion back to Division 1 Ward-Higgs. However, we are still likely to get a good result with only one point separating the top four counties, Essex B, Surrey B, Lancashire and ourselves. We have a 134 rating point advantage over our opponents.

Hertfordshire 'B' Team: - Final score 2 / 16. Fortunately, we were saved from a zero score by David Edney who scored two wins on Board 2. Of course, it did not help that their Board 3 were paired against myself on Board 3 for our A Team! Some of our games ended with obvious blunders which lost instantly, and I suspect some of our opponents were relying heavily on computer assistance which, of course, is allowed. The team will be relegated to Division 3 Butler-Thomas with, possibly, West Wales B. Our opponents have a 153 rating point advantage over us.

You can view the Championships by going to the iccf.com website and selecting 'Tables and Results', 'National Tournaments', 'England' and 'British Team-Championships', then selecting 'C & DCCC 2017/18 Division 2 – Sinclair'. Play finishes on 31/08/2018.

British Correspondence Chess League: -

Championship Division

Eight of Hearts Team: - Score so far 2 / 7. A win by SIM Keith Kitson on Board 1. I only expect another 2.5 points from the remaining 9 games. Overall, a disappointing performance so far. Our opponents have a 160 rating point advantage over us.

Division 2

Eight of Hearts 'B' Team: - Score so far 8.5 / 16. Wins by myself (double) Board 1; Peter Dunks Board 3; Colin Kidd (double) Board 4; Ian Brooks (double) Board 6; Alan Prince Board 7. Unfortunately, a loss on time and a default by one player does not help our chances. Although we are currently in second place, I expect Insurance A to overtake us by half a point. Overall, some good performances. We have a 263 rating point advantage over our opponents.

You can view each Division by going to the iccf.com website and selecting 'Tables and Results', 'National Tournaments', 'England' and 'BCCA Events' (scroll to bottom of right hand list) then selecting 'BCCA Championship 2017/18' or 'BCCA Division 2 2017/18'. Play finishes 30/09/2018.

5th British Webserver Team Tournament, Division 3: -

Herts & Minds Team: - Play started on 01/07/2018. Board 1 SIM Keith Kitson; Board 2 Peter Rice; Board 3 Arthur Reed; Board 4 Ross Brennan. I have sponsored this team of Hertfordshire players. We welcome Ross to the team and thank Steve Law for his past services. You can view the 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'. Play finishes 02/01/2020.

I have enjoyed my first year as Correspondence Chess Conductor. I was pleased to have been able to enter four teams of eight players into the main English team tournaments, although it was hard work at times to find enough players. I fear that next season we will not have quite enough players to be able to run four teams.

I would have liked some better results overall, of course, but, hopefully, most players will have enjoyed their games whatever their individual results. There are three players who qualify for the Hertfordshire County Award, i.e. Arthur James, Peter Dunks and myself.

It is good to see that many Hertfordshire players have entered English correspondence chess events. We have four players in the England v Cuba Match which started in May 2018. There is one player in the 1st English Championship Final and four in the qualifying tournaments. One player is in the 2017 British Championship Final with two in the qualifying tournaments. There are two players in the 1st Veterans Championship Final. These are just a few as there are too many events to list!

On a personal note, I am now serving on the Executive Committee of the English Federation for Correspondence Chess.

John Rhodes Correspondence Chess Conductor (Results to 09/07/2018)