

4NCL Online League – Season 8 – Round 2 report

Season 8 of the 4NCL Online League moved into round 2 on 26th September 2023 with our eight Wessex teams going into battle across all five divisions. With two rounds of seven now completed the league tables are starting to take shape

So to the round 2 matches....

We played on 31 boards, as, sadly, John Weatherlake had a default win.

From the 31 games played, we scored 14 x wins, 8 x draws and 9 x losses. Along with the default win this then translated in match terms into 5 wins, 2 draws and just 1 loss, so another good evening at the office.

Division 1

Our A team faced a very strong Dundee City A (including a 2361 IM and a 2300 board 2) -they rose to the occasion and turned in some great individual performances to tie the match 2-2. I was particularly impressed by Gavin, playing black, effortlessly holding a 2361 IM to a draw, whilst Oscar took a quick draw against the 2300 and Roland relentless ground down a 2190 – well done all.

Dundee City A			2280			Wessex Some Stars A			2179		
141	w	Polaczek, Richard	2361 e	1/2 - 1/2	Lock, Gavin R	2224 e					
142	b	Shafi, Declan	2300 e	1/2 - 1/2	Garcia Hernandez, Oscar	2208 e					
143	w	Vijayakumar, Rishi	2269 e	1 - 0	Pye, David E	2163 e					
144	b	Findlay, David John	2190 e	0 - 1	Lukosius, Rolandas	2122 e					
				2 - 2							

Our B team match saw us face another strong Dundee City team although this time we out graded them on 3 boards. A powerful win by Allan and draws from Jaimie & Mark saw us draw 2-2.

Wessex B			2073			Dundee City B			2042		
171	w	Hany Kamal, Mohamed	2044	0 - 1	Spencer, Edwin A	2130 e					
172	b	Wilson, Jaimie	2119 e	1/2 - 1/2	Wright, Andrew G	2097					
173	w	Cleary, Mark	2082 e	1/2 - 1/2	Hogg, Stephen William	2034 e					
174	b	Pleasants, Allan J	2047 e	1 - 0	Borwell, Alan P	1909 e					
				2 - 2							

Division 2

Our C team, having lost to the top seeds in round 1 came up against a lower graded team and won comfortably with wins from Richard (after just 30 mins!) and Roger (a more leisurely 90 mins) plus a draw from Mircea.

Wessex Some Stars C			1961			Trelawny's Army			1746		
241	w	Allis, Richard	2038 e	1 - 0	Retallick, Lloyd	1907 e					
242	b	Pentakota, Rajasekhar	1977 e	0 - 1	Hassall, Mark I	1876 e					
243	w	Mesanan, Mircea Marius	1930 e	1/2 - 1/2	Morgan, Jamie	1795 e					
244	b	Marsh, Roger D W	1902 e	1 - 0	Renshaw, Ian	1409 c					
				2 1/2 - 1 1/2							

Division 3

Our D team came up against a similar strength side – the match had a strange start when John discovered his opponent’s L1Chess account had been revoked for breaching L1Chess terms of service so he was “offline” – a new one for me in these matches. After a little digging around, we got an apology from their captain and a default win. Ted then won his game to tie the match 2-2 and the oppositions default penalty meant that we won the match.

Sheffield University Graduates		1846	Wessex Some Stars D		1856	
381	w	Beckett, Phill	2016 c	d - 1	Weatherlake, John P	1874 e
382	b	Taylor, Robert K	1976 e	1 - 0	Du Toit, Reenen J	1861 e
383	w	McSheehy, Chris J	1733 c	0 - 1	Paul, Ted	1855 c
384	b	Moore, Brian	1659 u	1 - 0	Adaway, William	1836 e
				-1/2		
				1 1/2 - 2		

Our E team faced a similar graded team and won with wins from Tim & Joe plus a draw from Jamie. Hugo had a strange start to his game when his opponent, James Fox, could not be found online – James had changed his L1Chess ID and the pairings reflected the old / wrong one. Whilst this was eventually sorted out and Hugo lost the very delayed game played using the new L1Chess ID provided, the 4NCL arbiter declared it as a win for Wessex.

Streatham B		1720	Wessex Some Stars E		1783	
321	w	Ponting, Andrew	1909 e	1/2 - 1/2	Doyle, Jamie	1831 e
322	b	Fox, James	1778 c	d - 1	Melling, Hugo	1800 u
323	w	Jenner, Brodie	1697 u	0 - 1	Jones, Tim	1774 c
324	b	Adatia, Amar	1499 c	0 - 1	Coburn, Joseph A	1730 e
				-1/2		
				0 - 3 1/2		

Division 4

Our F team looked to be in with a good chance on paper however our opponents prevailed and a win from Ed plus a draw from Robert still saw us succumb 2.5 – 1.5

Dundee City E		1615	Wessex Some Stars F		1703	
481	w	Anderson, James	1617 e	1/2 - 1/2	Davenport, Robert	1725 c
482	b	Hackney, Leyton	1644 e	1 - 0	Leeson, Chris J P	1712 c
483	w	Harley, Trevor	1586 u	1 - 0	Pinto, Phil B	1706 e
484	b	Bobak, Cosmo	1616 u	0 - 1	Blanden, Edward	1670 c
				2 1/2 - 1 1/2		

Division 5

Our G team heavily out-graded their opponents and won comfortably, 4-0, with Robert, Graham, Doug & Andrea all winning – Robert took all of 3 minutes to wrap up his game – possibly a Wessex 4NCL online record for a quick finish !

Dundee City H		1133	Wessex Some Stars G		1590	
571	w	Seijas Otero, Ana Belen	1369	0 - 1	Halse, Robert	1639 c
572	b	Moore, Chris	1200 u	0 - 1	Hillman, Graham	1608 c
573	w	Devisme, Leo	1144 u	0 - 1	Blythe, Douglas	1595 c
574	b	Ewing, David	822 u	0 - 1	Bucchi, Andrea	1521 c
				0 - 4		

Our H team faced a much higher-rated team (as per round 1) and played some great chess to win 2.5 – 1.5 with wins from Florence & Tim and a draw from Manuel.

Wessex Some Stars H		1390	North Norfolk Dolphins		1649	
561	w	Herrera, Manuel	1456 u	½ - ½	Pigott, Darrell N	1820 e
562	b	Huntley, Kevin	1395 e	0 - 1	Clough, Peter WL	1727 c
563	w	Spirling, Florence	1377 e	1 - 0	Keen, James	1588 u
564	b	McCullagh, Tim	1335 e	1 - 0	Foster, Neal	1464 u
				2½ - 1½		

So, a great evening result-wise as we look forward to round 3 on 10th October 😊

#stats time

We still have 7 players on 100% i.e. 2 / 2

⇒ Rob Halse, Andrea Bucchi, Rolandas Lukosius, Ted Paul, Tim Jones, Richard Allis & Joe Coburn

I've estimated our top performers (on a very small sample of 2 games!) as

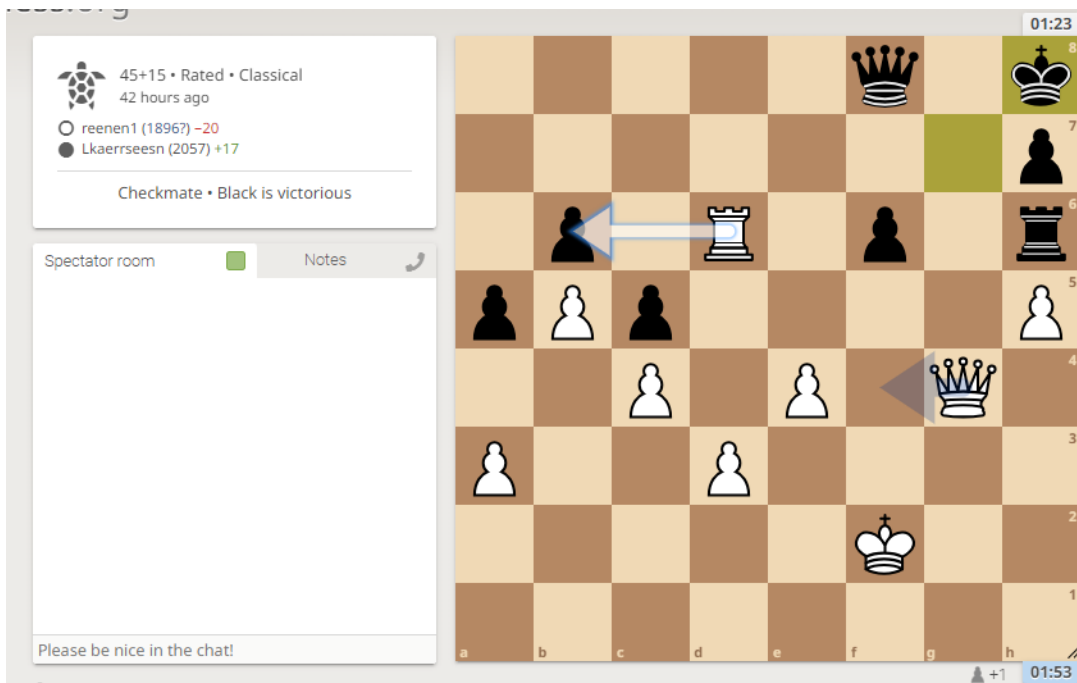
- Rolandas Lukosius – 2394
- Gavin Lock – 2329
- Richard Allis – 2224
- Ted Paul – 2138

Bonus material

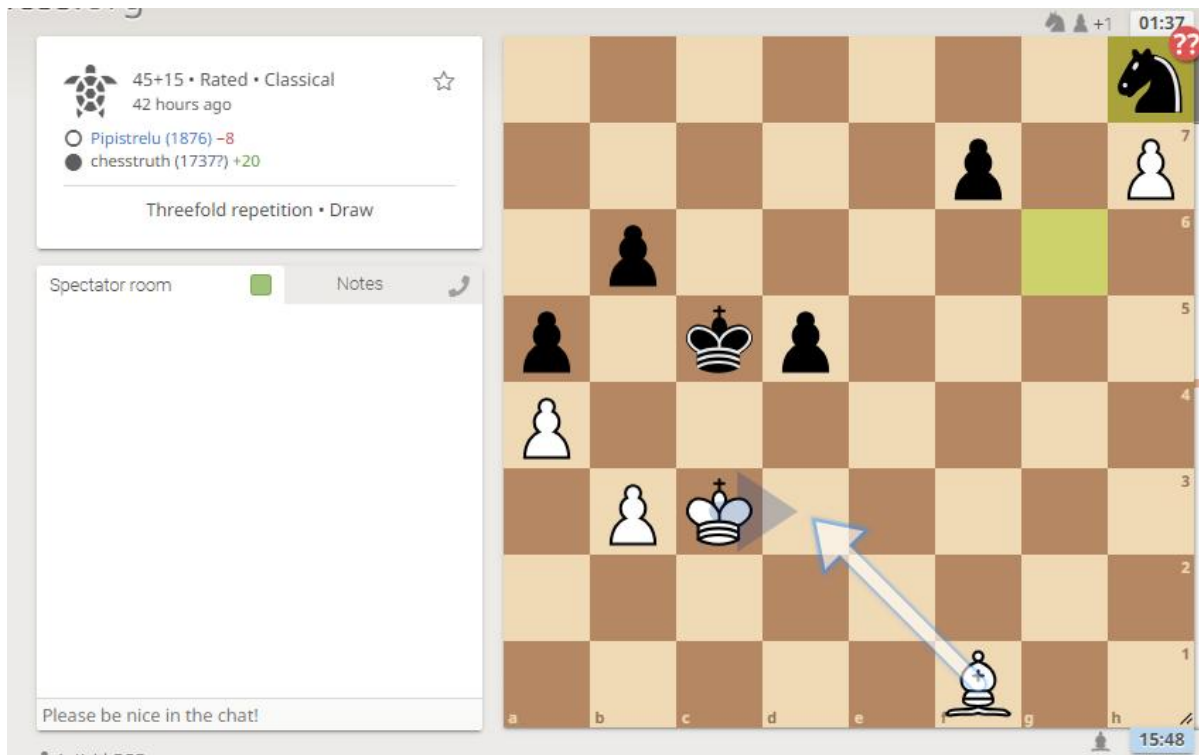
A few players have kindly offered up some key positions etc. from their games.



There was a request to see how Robert Halse won **in 3 minutes!!** The final position is shown above. As you can see they both played at a blistering speed and each had more than their initial 45 mins when White resigned after B(on d6) x h2+ winning the queen



Reenen had his opponent staked out and was cruising to win when he overlooked a tactic which pretty much ended the game ☹️ As he commented – “an eye-opener for the coming league – need to be more vigilant”. With both players getting short on time Reenen scooped up the b6 Pawn allowing f5 threatening both the loose rook on b6 and queen on g4. Instead, amazingly Rc6 (with threat of Rc8) was + 10.2 whereas Rxb6 as played was -2.9 and black won quickly after this.



And finally, Manuel had an interesting endgame where with white, he was a pawn down yet with a pawn on h7 and bishop v knight it was evaluated as +5.2 ! Remarkably the natural bd3 move he played was not as strong as the counter-intuitive kd3, giving up the b pawn, then defending the a-pawn with a bishop on b5 then walking the king up to g7 via the d and f pawns ! Trivial for a computer – headache for mere mortals....this position is worthy of further study !

Keith Gregory, 28th September 2023