

4NCL Online League – Season 8 – Round 3 report

Season 8 of the 4NCL Online League moved into round 3 on 10th October 2023 with our eight Wessex teams going into battle across all five divisions. With three rounds of seven now completed the league tables are looking a lot clearer so I'll include some comments on how we are doing

So to the round 3 matches....

We played on 31 boards, as, sadly, Ed Blanden had a default win.

From the 31 games played, we scored 13 x wins, 8 x draws and 10 x losses. Along with the default win this then translated in match terms into 4 wins and 4 losses.

5 of the matches were decided 2.5 – 1.5 which showed how hard fought the matches were and some went “to the wire” with the final game result being the match result!

Division 1

Our A team faced a relatively low graded Oxford 2 team and duly won with wins from Gavin & Rolandas and draws from Oscar & David.

Oscar was (like myself) baffled why his opponent offered a draw in an overwhelmingly winning position – however, like myself, he was grateful for the bonus free half point !

Our A team are now top of their group, although having already played the bottom 3 sides will face tougher opposition over the remaining rounds

Wessex Some Stars A		2179	Oxford 2		1894	
111	w	Lock, Gavin R	2224 e	1 - 0	Rudny, Tomasz	1952 e
112	b	Garcia Hernandez, Oscar	2208 e	½ - ½	Staples, Neil	1951 e
113	w	Pye, David E	2163 e	½ - ½	Cole, Graham	1833 e
114	b	Lukosius, Rolandas	2122 e	1 - 0	Hariharan, Shambavi	1840 e
				3 - 1		

Our B team match saw us face a strong Farnham team and we were edged out 2.5 – 1.5

Our consolation win came from Jaimie after the match was already decided, plus an earlier draw from Mark.

Jaimie (as always) was very modest and commented that he was “Very lucky - played poorly but my opponent forgot to play Bxe4 before playing Rb1. Even after that, the win wasn't trivial”

Our B team currently lie in 7th place of 8 (relegation zone) although only one point separates the teams from 3rd place through to 8th place so a lot could happen over coming rounds.

Farnham A		2084	Wessex Some Stars B		2071	
171	w	Frostick, Clive A	2178 e	0 - 1	Wilson, Jaimie	2119 e
172	b	Hasson, Peter	2073 e	½ - ½	Cleary, Mark	2082 e
173	w	Kumar, Soham	2064 e	1 - 0	Pleasants, Allan J	2047 e
174	b	Garwood, Colin	2023 c	1 - 0	Allis, Richard	2038 e
				2½ - 1½		

Division 2

Our C team were up against a higher graded Stroud Youngies and succumbed 2.5 – 1.5 with our initial quick win from Roger and draw from Mircea being slowly overhauled as we lost the other two games – Raj was giving away 300+ grading points but put up a great fight with the black pieces. His opponent achieved an impressive 95% accuracy in his moves and is clearly a Div 1 player (for context, Gavin scored 94% and Rolandas scored 96%)

Our C team currently lie in 5th place of 8 – having already played 2 of the top 3 teams we may have a strong finish over the remaining rounds

Stroud Youngies		2013	Wessex Some Stars C		1929	
221	w	Dicks, Duncan	2297 c	1 - 0	Pentakota, Rajasekhar	1977 e
222	b	Jenkins, John	2067 c	½ - ½	Mesanan, Mircea-Marius	1930 e
223	w	Carey, Alex	1850 c	1 - 0	Krawczuk, Michael J	1908 e
224	b	Davison, Harry	1840 c	0 - 1	Marsh, Roger D W	1902 e
				2½ - 1½		

Division 3

Our D team came up against a far weaker Guildford 2 team and duly overwhelmed them 3.5 – 0.5 with wins from Ted, Jamie & Hugo plus a draw from Bill. Bills game was an up & downer – interestingly both came in at 86% move accuracy.

Our D team are sweeping all before them in Div 3 with 3 wins from 3, now tied equal first with Heffalump Hunters – the match with them will be a “double-pointer” and likely decide who wins the section.

Wessex Some Stars D		1830	Guildford 2		1465	
351	w	Paul, Ted	1855 c	1 - 0	Driver, Nicholas P	1702 c
352	b	Adaway, William	1836 e	½ - ½	Jones, H Trevor	1713 c
353	w	Doyle, Jamie	1831 e	1 - 0	Garrod, Anthony	1550 c
354	b	Melling, Hugo	1800 u	1 - 0	Kelly, Adam	896 o
				3½ - ½		

Our E team also faced lower graded opposition and won even more comfortably than the D team as they started off with a default win when Ed’s opponent was “held up late at school and forgot about the match”!

Chris & Phil both won to clinch the match by 20:43. Rob has a long hard battle on board 1 where he was winning for most of it before resilient defence from his opponent saw him prevail.

Our E team have also swept aside all opponent so far to tie first and likely face a double pointer with Hebden Bridge 2

Wessex Some Stars E		1703	Watford		1202	
331	w	Davenport, Robert	1725 c	0 - 1	Shaw, David K	1549 c
332	b	Leeson, Chris J P	1712 c	1 - 0	Hylands, Keith	1417 e
333	w	Pinto, Phil B	1706 e	1 - 0	McKechnie, Joel	1048 c
334	b	Blanden, Edward	1670 c	1 - d	Balakrishnan, Akshata	794 c
				-½		
				3 - ½		

Division 4

Our F team had the closest match of the night in terms of almost identical team grade averages and did well to edge it 2.5 – 1.5 with wins from Doug & Andrea plus a draw from Robert. With 4 points from 6 we are in 2nd place – having already played the top team we have a real chance of promotion.

Wessex Some Stars F		1590	Calstock Killers		1588	
451	w	Halse, Robert	1639 c	½ - ½	Trudeau, Gary	1691 c
452	b	Hillman, Graham	1608 c	0 - 1	Henderson, Jason	1653 u
453	w	Blythe, Douglas	1595 c	1 - 0	Jenkins, Simon	1515 u
454	b	Bucchi, Andrea	1521 c	1 - 0	Young, Andy	1495 c
				2½ - 1½		

Division 5

Our G team were out graded on 3 of the 4 boards and lost a tight match 2.5 – 1.5

Good results were a win from Manuel and a draw from Chris, both playing stronger graded opponents.

With 3 points from 6 and lying 10th of 31 teams I'm guessing we will finish in mid-table territory.

Wessex Some Stars G		1440	Witney		1457	
531	w	Peacock, Christopher	1496 e	½ - ½	Gilders, Ian	1670 c
532	b	Herrera, Manuel	1456 u	1 - 0	Turner, Roger N	1538 c
533	w	Le Fevre, Stephen D	1414 e	0 - 1	King, Rhys	1522 u
534	b	Huntley, Kevin	1395 e	0 - 1	Gardiner, Jonathan	1100 u
				1½ - 2½		

Our H team faced a much higher-rated team (as per round 1) and played well to hold them to narrowly go down 2.5 – 1.5 – a great debut win from Nathaniel and a draw from George kept it tight. I really felt for Florence who bravely took the fight to her much higher rated opponent (648 higher) with a Benoni gambit before going down.

Similar to our G team, our H team have 3 points from 6 and lie in 15th place – again, a mid-table place looks likely

Atticus		1654	Wessex Some Stars H		1196	
541	w	Griffin, Michael	2025 c	1 - 0	Spirling, Florence	1377 e
542	b	Gillett, John	1697 c	1 - 0	McCullagh, Tim	1335 e
543	w	Wilson, B	1467 c	½ - ½	Wright, George A	1148 e
544	b	Pickering, John	1428 c	0 - 1	Pua, Nathaniel	924 u
				2½ - 1½		

#stats time

With 3 rounds now played our 100% club has shrunk a little

Our 3/3 players are

Rolandas Lukosius, Andrea Bucchi and Ted Paul (who is having a great season debut)

Close behind with 2.5 / 3 are

⇒ Jamie Doyle, Roger Marsh, Rob Halse, Gavin Lock, Manuel Herrera

In terms of grading performance 3 players are way out on their own at present

Rolandas Lukosius – 2342, Gavin Lock – 2337, Ted Paul - 2126

Keith Gregory, Wessex captain - 13th October 2023