

4NCL Online League – Season 8 – Round 6 report

Season 8 of the 4NCL Online League continued with Round 6 on 21st November 2023. As usual, our eight Wessex teams went into battle across all five divisions.

We had a messy start with two no-shows which turned into two default wins.

And so to the round 6 matches....

From the 30 games played, we scored 10 x wins, 11 x draws and 9 x losses – with the 2 default wins this translated into 4 match wins, 1 match draw and 3 match losses so an OK evening at the office.

Division 1

Our A team faced a useful looking Spirit of Atticus team and won comfortably 3-1 with wins from Oscar & David plus solid draws from Gavin & Jaimie.

Our A team remain equal 2nd in their group so still in with a shout of going into the play-offs for the Div 1 title (top 2 will qualify).

Wessex Some Stars A		2178	Spirit of Atticus		1975	
131	w	Lock, Gavin R	2224 e	½ - ½	Ellames, Roy	2030 e
132	b	Garcia Hernandez, Oscar	2208 e	1 - 0	Hall, John	1996 e
133	w	Pye, David E	2163 e	1 - 0	Bimpson, Tom	1914 e
134	b	Wilson, Jaimie	2119 e	½ - ½	McLean, Ian	1960 u
				3 - 1		

Our B team match came up against a top heavy Guildford 1 team who fielded Nigel Povah, a very experienced IM, on board 1, then dropped away to 1713 on board 4.

Our B team currently lie in 8th place of 8 (relegation zone) so will need a minor miracle in round 8 to stay up.

Guildford 1		1967	Wessex Some Stars B		2036	
151	w	Povah, Nigel E	2271 e	1 - 0	Cleary, Mark	2082 e
152	b	Punnett, Alan K	2047 e	1 - 0	Pleasants, Allan J	2047 e
153	w	Shepley, Julien M	1838 e	½ - ½	Allis, Richard	2038 e
154	b	Jones, H Trevor	1713 c	0 - 1	Pentakota, Rajasekhar	1977 e
				2½ - 1½		

Division 2

Our C team were up against the lower graded East Kilbride A team. Roger won by default and then sportingly played, and beat, his very late opponent. Another win from John & draws from Mircea & Mike gave us a comfortable 3-1 victory.

Our C team currently lie in 3rd place with a possible play-off place if we get the right results in the final round.

		Wessex Some Stars C	1903		East Kilbride A	1564
221	w	Mesesan, Mircea-Marius	1930 e	½ - ½	Smith, Robert	1708 c
222	b	Krawczuk, Michael J	1908 e	½ - ½	Stewart, Alastair G	1576 o
223	w	Marsh, Roger D W	1902 e	1 - d	Roul, Tushar	1548 e
224	b	Weatherlake, John P	1874 e	1 - 0	Robertson, Jim	1425 e
				-½		
				3 - ½		

Division 3

Our D team came up against a strong Heffalump Hunters team and lost a narrow match 2.5 – 1.5, despite an excellent win from Ted against a higher graded FM and a draw from Bill Adaway.

This was a double-pointer so our D team now drop to 2nd place for the first time – barring a major disaster we will finish 2nd and move into the play-offs after round 7.

		Wessex Some Stars D	1824		Heffalump Hunters	1877
371	w	Paul, Ted	1855 c	1 - 0	Kokol, Peter	f 1946 e
372	b	Adaway, William	1836 e	½ - ½	Green, Michael	2035 e
373	w	Clancy, Martin J	1808 e	0 - 1	Carpentier, Jannes	1825 e
374	b	Melling, Hugo	1800 u	0 - 1	Vanden Bussche, Steven	1704 e
				1½ - 2½		

Our E team came up against a useful Well Globetrotters team and wins from Stephen (making an excellent debut) and Rob, together with a draw from Chris, let us edge it 2.5 – 1.5. Our E team remain equal 1st with 10 points from 12 and face co-leader Hebden Bridge 2 in the final round to decide who takes first place. The 3rd team have 9 points from 12 so the top 3 places are all up for grabs in round 7

Wells Globetrotters 1		1753	Wessex Some Stars E		1740	
341	w	Waterfield, John W	1957 e	1 - 0	Chilton, James I	1794 e
342	b	Eales, Robert	1700 o	0 - 1	Nelson-Smith, Stephen	1731 u
343	w	Goatcher, Matthew W	1712 c	0 - 1	Davenport, Robert	1725 c
344	b	Johnson, RN Phil	1644 c	½ - ½	Leeson, Chris J P	1712 c
				1½ - 2½		

Division 4

Our F team were out graded on every board and turned in a great performance to draw the match 2-2 with a win from Doug and draws from Ed & Andrea.

With 9 points from 12 we have secured 2nd place so will be in the play-offs – 1st place is looking unlikely although mathematically possible.

Wessex Some Stars F		1569	Worcestershire Wolfpack B		1628	
471	w	Blanden, Edward	1670 c	½ - ½	Austin, Phillip N	1691 c
472	b	Blythe, Douglas	1595 c	1 - 0	Shaw, Tony	1660 c
473	w	Bucchi, Andrea	1521 c	½ - ½	Hayles, Robin	1595 c
474	b	Syed, Ashraf	1490 c	0 - 1	Jordan, Matthew	1567 c
				2 - 2		

Division 5

Our G team faced a higher graded strong Crowthorne A team and lost a close match 2.5 – 1.5, despite a great debut win from Karen and a draw from Manuel.

With 5 points from 12 and lying 19th of 31 teams I'm guessing we will finish mid-table.

Crowthorne A		1647	Wessex Some Stars G		1351	
571	w	Johnson, Derek R	001 e	1 - 0	Charles, Steven	1464 e
572	b	Taylor, Mark V	1837 e	½ - ½	Herrera, Manuel	1456 u
573	w	Green, George D A	1825 e	1 - 0	McCullagh, Tim	1335 e
574	b	Smyth, Ethan	926 u	0 - 1	Charles, Karen	1150 u
				2½ - 1½		

Our H team faced a higher-rated team and won, helped by a default win on board 1, a draw from Steve and a win from Nathaniel.

Our H team now have 6 points from 12 and lie in 15th place, with a real chance of finishing above our G team !

Wessex Some Stars H		1022	Chess Challengers C		1168	
601	w	Wright, George A	1148 e	1 - d	Surisetty, Abhinav Ram	1307 u
602	b	Saunders, Steve	1056 c	½ - ½	Singh, Prabhansh	1287 u
603	w	Saunders, Rose	963 c	0 - 1	Arishanapalli, Darsh	1000 u
604	b	Pua, Nathaniel	924 u	1 - 0	Mathur, Shubh	1078 u
				-½		
				2½ - 1		

Stats time

So far this season 52 different players have played for Wessex – of these, 8 have played all 6 games and a further 13 have played in 5 games – this level of support has made my job of filling 32 boards so much easier and is very much appreciated 😊

With 6 rounds now played we have lost our 100% club with Andrea finally conceding a draw

This leaves the “golden pawn” contest wide open:

5.5 – Andrea Bucchi, Roger Marsh

4.5 – Ted Paul

A special mention to John Weatherlake & Doug Blythe with 4/4

In terms of grading performance several players are tracking @ 2100+

Oscar Garcia – 2221

Gavin Lock – 2213

Rolandas Lukosius – 2158

I’m sure we will have a team or three in the play-offs so round 7 on Dec 7th will confirm who these are.

Keith Gregory, Wessex captain – 23rd November, 2023