



B.S.C.C.

The Bishop's Stortford Chess Club



Secretary's Report 2019

A departure from the standard format – this year I will focus on the clubs overview and highlight some of the stories and individual achievements that don't usually get told at these meetings.

A much more settled year for the club. Our second year in new digs and, for the most part, visiting players now know where to locate us and most games would get off without a hitch! Some have even found their way to the better drinking holes available around us.

We continue to battle on many different fronts and completed our second year of the Juniors Chess Club. We have been able to ~~ensnare, abduct, kidnap~~, attract several new members over the year and continue to do so. 9 new names have been added to our membership group in some capacity. A healthy club must keep attracting new members in order to exist and indeed grow. It is the responsibility of all members to look to make new people want to join. We can be good at this and I have enjoyed seeing old hands like Laurie & Lara (and others) all interacting with new people. The change in membership price structure has been well received and helped us to make the club a more attractive prospect.

Internal Competitions & Days/Nights

The club continued to run both season long competitions in form of the 'Club Championship' and The 'Hewitt' Competition. The organisers will have more on these but a note of thanks to leuan & Charles for 2 well run competitions.

The club also hosted a Simultaneous match against leuan, a Blitz competition and a Rapid Play tournament – Reports to follow.

It's worth noting that only Watford record a larger number of graded games from internal competitions (and this is from their rapid-play only) For full games we are worlds apart from the rest of Herts clubs. Kudos to our grading officer for making it so (hence the mention in the HCA AGM!)

League / Knock Out / H&D County Matches

Again, I will leave the reporting of each team to the captains of each.

Instead, I would like to bundle them all up and look at them as a whole.

We were quite successful; of the 257 games played we gained a total of 138 points for the club – approximately a 54% return in our favour.

There are some individual highlights here worth mentioning:

- Firstly Greg's 100% success rate; yes there were only 2 matches but they all count. The number 2 looks to be synonymous with Greg as it seemed to be the number of minutes he would use up in a match compared to his opponents 1 hour long musings! Also, his average performance grade was +41 so not easy prey to play against either.
- Lara and Kevin should also be applauded with both having had very good seasons – Lara scoring 12 points from 16 games and Kevin achieving 7.5 from 9, and when you consider Kevin only rejoined after Christmas, these games and points made a huge impact on both Team 1+2 – so much so that I am pleased to announce that Kevin has now clawed his way back to the esteemed & lofty position of 'Second best player in the club'.
- I should also like to highlight the 28 games Mark has played this season. This is more than any other player in the club. And this is not a one off; he consistently plays a large percentage of all matches. It is rare for him to

miss any and will often be the first to 'play up' for higher teams to the full. Judith is not far behind on her stats - between them both the Heffers have covered around 20% of all BSCC matches for the last 6/7 years. With stats like that, they will both be sorely missed when they bugger off to pastures new. I would like to stop and take this opportunity to thank them both for their contributions to the club.

Acknowledgement is due, however, getting back to this year – 15 point from 28 matches??? You're B4, T3 in Div. 5! (Lazy oik ☺).

All Time Points List

I would also like to take the opportunity to bring to your attention to a document kept on the website, the 'All Time Points List'.

This is a list of every player, past and present who has represented our club at any level in league, knock out or H&D matches. Current members are moved yearly based on their numbers at the end of the season. At the very highest peak of this table lies the fabled alumni that make up the '100 Club'. This is reserved for those esteemed colleagues who have attained 100 points or more for the club during their membership.

I would like to take the opportunity to point out some interesting facts on some of a current members:

- This season saw 5 new members join the list making the total in the clubs history 112 different members;
- Andrew Cowlin. Joined after Christmas and was that good we played him in 7 matches before the end of the season. He accrued 5 points from those 7 and moved straight into 73rd place!
- This season also saw the baptism of the newest and 9th ever member of the Hundred club – We have 6 current members part of the 100 Club and I think today would be a great opportunity to celebrate such high achievement by such a select group and hope it inspires others to emulate them. So – please stand up and take a bow if I call your name - and with a musical background – I give you the members of the BSCC 100 Club!

Judith Heffer	New in at number 9, having added another 24 games, totalling 202 & on the right side of the 50% mark with 101½ points, the 100 club welcomes its newest member!
Paul Kenning	Sitting pretty with 109 points and a 59% success rate. This member is set to stay at number 8
Jon Spencer Max Ashley	At 7 is JS with 110½ points And Mr Max Ashley at 6 with 113.5 points
Laurie Mercer	A whopping 119 points from a total of 231 games means there must have been some wins amongst the many, many, many draws I have witnessed when watching his games. Down 1 but steadfast at number 5 in our countdown.
Nigel Kerby	127 points won at the speed of sound (probably) over 217 matches giving him an enviable 59% success rate; down 1 but sitting pretty at number 4 in the all time points list, its...
Mark Heffer	Moving up 3 to number 3. With 128 points from 235 matches in just 9 years. Going out with a bang, its...
Sid Capsey	Next, a stalwart of the club. For a long time the Everest for all members – its going to be hard to move him from his number 2 slot with a grand total of 138.5 points.
Charles Willbe	And lastly, the Kaiser himself. No-one has played more games at 305 and counting. No-one has accrued more points at 164½ and he still has many more games (if not points (based on his recent T3 record)) in him and still our Number 1, its... Mr Charles Willbe!!!

In Conclusion

Another jam-packed season. The club was open all through the summer with many members availing themselves of the club and games continued to flow. Onwards to the next season.

Adam Hirst

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Club Secretary