



## EDITORIAL

With a publication backlog now stretching back a year, something drastic is called for!

The strategy being adopted is to attack the problem from both ends. Beginning with this issue, we will publish up to date information – “news” to you and me – with an “archive” section reporting the backlog of unpublished material.

All material will be published on the website as soon as written, so that regular website visitors will see each issue as it builds. Postal subscribers who only receive a paper version will receive their copies when a complete “issue” is finished, which will normally be 10 pages.

For now, the dual numbering system is being retained; e.g. this issue is *Chessex* Vol. 11 Issue 6 and ‘Chessexonline’ No. 005. The *Chessex* numbering will cease when the last subscriptions which started under that number series have expired.

The format of this issue is a pdf document. I had envisaged being able to build ‘Chessexonline’ as a normal web page, but configured in A4 page sizes so that it could just be printed for postal subscribers. However, there are techni-



PHOTO: IAN HUNNABLE

**Essex v Devon, ECF U175 ¼f (see P3). Justin Baptie (near right) on board 1, against Brian Hewson, has just played 13 O-O-O+. To castle with check is relatively rare, so to capture such an event “on film” must be even more unusual!**

cal issues with text-flow and font-embedding which make this difficult.

So, we can but pick things up with the story so far. The **2007–08** season was reasonably successful for the County’s teams with two of the five winning though to the national stages of the ECF County Championship. You can catch up with the U150s’ quarter-final and the U175s’ semi-final (featured in the cover photo above) on pages 2 and 3, respectively.

*Ian Hunnable*

## Chessexonline

### Volume 11 Issue 6

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*Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Essex Chess Association. Unattributed contributions are those of the Editor.*

## Essex tied in Notts

### ECF U150 ¼f v Notts

By John Philpott

This U150 quarter final was contested in the pleasant surroundings of the Methodist Church Hall at Sawtry in Cambridgeshire between two teams that were very closely matched on paper.

The proceedings over the board, however, proved to be anything other than close, as Notts took an early lead and steadily stretched the margin, with the first Essex victory, courtesy of Ian Morgan, not arriving until the team was already 2–7 behind. While there were one or two opportunities missed on the Essex side, there was never the slightest doubt as to the outcome of the match, and we wish the impressive Notts team well in the later stages of the competition.

Only a late rally, with Jeff MacWain and Neville Twitchell winning the last two games to finish, imparted the slightest touch of respectability to the scoreline from an Essex perspective.

□ : Neville Twitchell

■ : Tim Lane

Queen's Pawn A41

1 Nf3 d6 2 d4 g6 3 g3 Bg7  
4 Bg2 Nd7 5 0–0 e5 6 Bg5  
Ne7 7 c3 h6 8 Be3 0–0 9

Played 10th May 2008  
at Sawtry, Cambs.

#### Essex

Nayeem Syed 149 (W)  
Ken Clow 147  
Neville Twitchell 144  
Rod Johnson 144  
Paul Barclay 143  
John Philpott 145  
Mark Murrell 139  
Gavin Strachan 139  
David Brock 133  
Charlton Siddo 137  
Malcolm Kingsley 137  
David Smith 134  
Alan Riddoch 135  
Ian Morgan 124  
Tom Winter 123  
Jeff MacWain 117

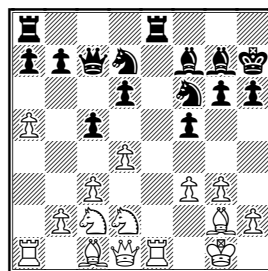
v

#### Nottinghamshire

0–1 Alex Combie 148 (B)  
0–1 Will Place 147  
1–0 Tim Lane 145  
½–½ Kevin Harvey 143  
½–½ Steve Hunter 141  
0–1 Brian Thompson 141  
½–½ Drag Sudar 138  
½–½ Brian Hayward 136  
½–½ Bill Ray 137  
0–1 David Toms 138  
0–1 Stan Cranmer 132  
0–1 Neil Graham 129  
0–1 Jonathan Day 127  
1–0 John Tassi 128  
0–1 Bob Taylor 129  
1–0 Keith Roper 126

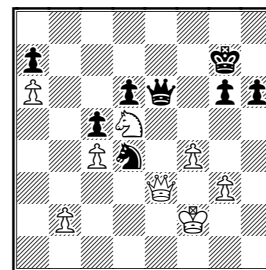
5½–10½

Na3 Kh7 10 Nc2 f5 11 a4  
e4 12 Nd2 Nd5 13 Nb1  
N7b6 14 Bc1 Be6 15 a5  
Nd7 16 f3 N5f6 17 Nd2  
exf3 18 exf3 Re8 19 Nb4  
c5 20 Nc2 Bf7 21 Re1 Qc7



22 a6 Rxe1+ 23 Qxe1 Re8  
24 Qf1 b6 25 Qf2 Nf8 26  
Na3 Re6 27 dxc5 bxc5 28  
Nf1 Qe7 29 Be3 Nd5 30  
Nc2 f4 31 gxf4 Bf6 32 Re1  
Bh4 33 Ng3 Qf6 34 Qd2  
Nxe3 35 Rxe3 Qxf4 36  
Ne2 Qf6 37 f4 Rxe3 38  
Nxe3 Nd7 39 Bd5 Bxd5  
40 Nxd5 Qe6 41 Ng3

Bxg3 42 hxg3 Nb8 43 c4  
Nc6 44 Kf2 Nd4 45 Qe3  
Kg7



46 Qxe6 Nxe6 47 Ke3 Kf7  
48 Ke4 Nd4 49 b4 Ke6 50  
b5 Kd7 51 g4 Ke6 52 b6  
Nc6 53 f5+ gxf5+ 54  
gxf5+ Kf7 55 b7 Nb8 56  
Nc7 Kf6 57 Nb5 Nxa6 58  
Nxa7 Nb8 59 Nc8 h5 60  
Nxd6 h4 61 Kf4 h3 62  
Ne4+ Kf7 63 Kg3 Nc6 64  
Kxh3 Ke8 65 f6 Kd7 66  
f7 Ke7 67 Nd6 Kf8 68  
Kg4 Nb8 69 Kf4 Nd7 70  
Kf5 Nb8 and a few more

### ECF U150 Other matches

#### Quarter-finals

Warks 7–9 Herts;  
Lancs 4½–11½  
Cambs;  
Essex 5½–10½  
Notts;  
Norfolk 7–9 Yorks  
**Semi-Finals**  
Herts 9½–6½  
Cambs  
Yorks 9–7 Notts  
**Final**  
Herts v Yorks

### ECF Other sections

#### Minor Counties

#### Quarter-finals

Norfolk 9–7 Leics.  
Byes: Hants, Salop,  
Cambs.  
**Semi-finals**  
Norfolk 9–7 Hants;  
Salop\* 8–8 Cambs.  
**Final**  
Norfolk v Salop.

U175 - see below

U150 - see above

#### U125

#### Preliminary

Lancs 5–11 Leics;  
**Quarter-finals**  
Warks 8–8 \*Sussex;  
Middx 8–8 \*Hants;  
Cleveland scr w/o  
Worcs;  
Norfolk 9–7 Leics;  
**Semi-finals**  
Norfolk 8½–7½  
Hants;  
Worcs 6–10 Sussex.  
**Final**  
Norfolk v Sussex

(Continued on page 3)

moves, which the players did not record, were played before Black resigned.

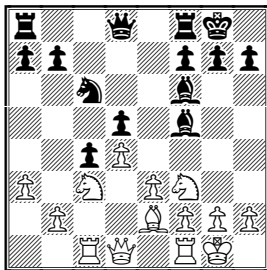
1-0

□ : Keith Roper

■ : Jeff MacWain

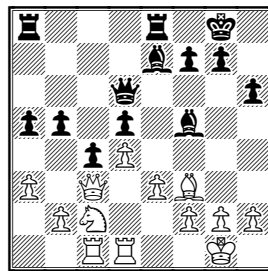
QGD Ragozin Defence D38

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 c4 d5  
4 Nc3 Bb4 5 a3 Be7 6 Bg5  
0-0 7 e3 c5 8 Bxf6 Bxf6 9  
cxd5 exd5 10 Rc1 c4 11  
Be2 Nc6 12 0-0 Bf5



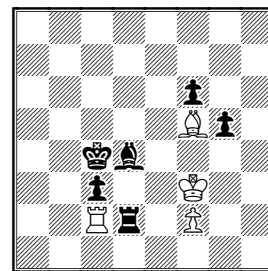
13 Ne1 Re8 14 Bf3 Be6 15  
Nc2 Qd7 16 Na2 b5 17

Ncb4 Nxb4 18 Nxb4 a5 19  
Nc2 Qd6 20 Qd2 Bf5 21  
Rfd1 h6 22 Qc3 Be7



23 b4 Bxc2 24 Rxc2 axb4  
25 axb4 Red8 26 Rb2 Ra4  
27 Rdb1 Qa6 28 g3 Ra3  
29 Qc2 Qa4 30 Qxa4  
Rxa4 31 Bd1 Ra3 32 Bf3  
f6 33 Rc2 Kf7 34 Rcc1  
Ke6 35 Rc2 Rda8 36 Kg2  
R8a4 37 e4 dxe4 38 Bxe4  
c3 39 Bc6 Rxb4 40 Rxb4  
Bxb4 41 Bxb5 Kd5 42  
Kf3 Kxd4 43 Ke2 g5 44  
Bd7 Ra7 45 Bf5 Re7+ 46

Kd1 Re5 47 g4 Ra5 48  
Ke2 Bd6 49 h3 Ra1 50  
Kf3 Rh1 51 Ra2 Rxh3+  
52 Kg2 Rh2+ 53 Kg1 Kc4  
54 Ra6 Be5 55 Rb6 Rh4  
56 Kg2 h5 57 gxh5 Rxh5  
58 Rb1 Rh4 59 Rc1 Rf4  
60 Bc2 Rd4 61 Kf3 Rd2  
62 Bf5 Bd4 63 Rc2



63...Bxf2 64 Rxd2 cxd2 65  
Ke2 Be1 66 Bc2 Kd4 67  
Kf3 Ke5 68 Ke3 f5 69 Kf3  
g4+ 70 Kg2 f4 71 Bd1 f3+  
72 Kf1 Kf4 73 Bc2 Ke3  
74 Bd1 g3 75 Kg1 0-1

(Continued from page 2)

**U100**

**Quarter-finals**

Warks 4½-7½

Herts;

Lancs 4-8 Notts;

Surrey 10½-1½

Norfolk;

Suffolk 7-5 Staffs;

**Semi-finals**

Herts 6½-4½ Suf-

folk (one board de-

clared void);

Surrey 5½-6½

Notts.

**Final**

Herts v Notts

The SCCU has an interest in the Final of each section, with the exception of the Minor Counties.

## We're in the final now, you know!

### ECF U175 ½f v Devon

By John Philpott

One of the attractions of the national stages of the County Championship is the opportunity to meet unfamiliar opposition in unfamiliar places. This has not quite worked out according to plan for the Essex U175 team in recent years as the top two SCCU qualifiers have tended to end up quite unnecessarily in the same half of the draw, with the result that the 2006 campaign consisted of a quarter final bye

Played 14th June, 2008  
at Stratford-sub-Castle, Wilts.

#### Devon

Brian Hewson 169 (B)  
Ken Derrick 169  
Timothy Seymour 164  
Alan Brusey 161  
Mark Ozanne 162  
John Stephens 158  
Trefor Thynne 158  
Ewan Walton 158  
Mark Abbott 154  
William Ingham 153  
Jonathan Underwood 150  
Brian Gosling 150  
Mike Stinton-Brownbridge 146  
Charlie Howard 144  
John Gorodi 138  
Stephen Murray 136

#### v

Justin Baptie 174 (W)  
Kevin White 171  
Robert Parker 169  
Ian Hunnable 169  
Philip Gregory 172  
David Spearman 166  
Larry Marden 164  
Syd Kalinsky 161  
Colin Ramage 163  
Peter Doye 152  
John White 151  
David Millward 158  
Terry Whitton 151  
Terry Donnelly 149  
Ray Purse 153  
Paul Barclay 143  
7-9

#### Essex

### ECF U175 Other matches

#### Quarter-finals

Suffolk scr w/o Surrey (SCCU website reports "As far as we can make out, EACU nominated Suffolk without asking if they wanted to play; and they didn't");

Gtr Manchester 5-11 Devon.

Byes: Yorks, Essex

#### Semi-finals

Yorks 6-10 Surrey

Devon 7-9 Essex

#### Final

Essex v Surrey

followed by a semi-final loss on board count away to Sussex and the 2007 campaign another quarter final bye followed by a semi-final defeat at home to Middlesex.

However, 2008 was to see an encounter with non-SCCU opposition, as the inevitable quarter-final bye was on this occasion followed by a match against Devon, who had reached this stage thanks to a convincing defeat of Greater Manchester.

The paths of the Counties had crossed four times previously at under 175 level, with two of these encounters being in the final. Although Essex managed to win all four of these matches, every one had been tight (none more so than the “McNally final” of 1999), and I have the distinct impression that grading deflation is more marked in the WECU than elsewhere in the country.

The neutral venue decided upon was the Reading Room in the charming Wiltshire village of Stratford-sub-Castle near Salisbury. Exchange of team lists by e-mail on the evening before the match revealed an Essex advantage on paper on all boards, and this remained the case despite the withdrawal on the day of Ivor Smith as a result of his wife’s illness, leading to a rare start for



PHOTO: IAN HUNNABLE

**The Reading Room at Stratford-sub-Castle afforded comfortable accommodation for a 16 board match and proved an excellent place to play chess.**

super-sub Paul Barclay.

For the first part of the afternoon I thought that for once Essex might enjoy a relatively comfortable path to victory. After early solid draws by Paul Barclay and Justin Baptie, Terry Whitton put Essex in front but not without a scare en route. A piece up after the opening, and apparently winning with ease, Terry let his opponent build up a serious kingside attack by the first time control (which, as is normal with Terry, was reached long before any of the other games). However, an error by the Devon player re-established the status quo and allowed Terry to finish him off in short order. When Terry Donnelly’s draw was followed by a convincing win for Larry Marden, all seemed to be

going according to plan.

However, two unexpected defeats in quick succession injected a reality check. Colin Ramage had played the Morra gambit, and although his opponent retained the gambit pawn into the double rook and bishop ending, there did not appear to be any particular danger as the bishops were of opposite colour. However Colin, perhaps frustrated at having two draw offers declined, placed his king in a perilous position and resigned when the only continuation to prevent mate led to the loss of a rook. While Kevin White was having the worse of things in a rook ending as a result of his opponent’s protected passed pawn, I had been expecting him to hold the draw. However, one mo-

## Devonian encounters

**1998**

*BCF semi-final  
Essex 9½–6½ Devon  
at Wootton Bassett.*

**1999**

*BCF Final  
Essex 8½–7½ Devon  
The “McNally”  
final, at Uppingham.*

**2002**

*BCF quarter-final  
Essex 8½–7½ Devon  
at Hook.*

**2004**

*BCF Final  
Essex 10–6 Devon  
at Hinckley.  
This represents our  
largest margin of  
victory over Devon.*

***The McNally Final**  
has gone into Essex  
Chess folklore: the  
scores were level  
with one game left to  
finish. A tied match  
would give Devon  
the U175 crown on  
board count. Essex  
hopes rested on  
George McNally in  
battle against Ieuan  
Ward. The position  
at best, from an Essex  
viewpoint, was  
level and seemingly  
offered little or no  
scope for a winning  
try. George, however,  
responded to this  
‘Mission Impossible’  
with grit and  
determination. Little  
by little he clawed  
his way forward  
and, amid the tension  
and hopes of his  
team-mates in the  
crowd surrounding  
the board, fashioned  
a win to take the  
match. Heroic.*

ment of carelessness by Kevin led to a forced loss as a result of the unfortunate position of his king on h8. Devon now had a favourable board count, a state of affairs that would persist throughout the afternoon.

Although a number of games in the lower half gave Essex grounds for encouragement, the margin for error was slight, especially when Syd Kalinsky, having comprehensively outplayed his opponent and missed at least one clear win, slipped up just after the time control and found himself defending a position with two rooks and bishop against rook and three minor pieces. Fortunately the next game to finish went Essex's way, as David Millward cashed in after his opponent had rather inexplicably given

up a piece. Essex now held a  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  lead, and would remain in front until the end.

Ray Purse's draw inched Essex nearer to the victory target. Philip Gregory's game had degenerated into a massive time scramble coming up to the first time control, in the course of which Philip had lost a piece and had to resign shortly thereafter. However, immediately beforehand Essex had stretched its advantage thanks to David Spearman, whose opponent mishandled his attack. The Essex lead was 6-5 as the match entered its last hour.

Wins were now recorded by Peter Doye and John White in games that had seemed favourable to Essex for most of the afternoon. Peter calmly exploited an ending of two

minor pieces against a rook, while John White's game pursued a more adventurous course, with John winning and then giving back the exchange, before reaching a winning rook and pawn ending. (*Game given overleaf.*)

The board count position meant that a draw was needed out of the three remaining games. Robert Parker was clearly losing, and indeed soon resigned, while Syd Kalinsky's game remained unclear, but there seemed every likelihood that Ian Hunnable would provide the necessary half point. Despite missing a combination to win and declining an earlier draw offer when unaware of the match situation, Ian eventually established a position where White could make no progress and the unavoidable draw was duly agreed. Syd's game was abandoned as a draw soon thereafter, and a score of 9-7 in favour of Essex was the final result.

Our opponents in the final will not be at all unfamiliar, as in the other semi-final played on the following day Surrey beat Yorkshire 10-6. However, the encounter at Moat Community Centre, Leicester on 5 July will represent the first occasion on which Essex and Surrey have met in the national stages at U175 level.

## Club News

### Wanstead & Woodford

*The 2007-08 Club Championship was retained by Ian Hunnable completing a hat trick of wins, 2006, 2007, 2008. This is only the fourth time that a W&WCC hat trick has been done. The previous were: Jack Hawson, 1947, 1948, 1949; Alan Marshall 1973, 1974, 1975; and Karl Mah 1994, 1995 1996, who also won in 1997.*

*Strangely, Roy Wagstaff, whose record of eight Championships is still the mark to beat, never did a hat trick.*

*1st Ian Hunnable,  $6\frac{1}{2}$ /7;  
=2nd Nayeem Syed, John Philpott, 5;  
=4th Terry Whitton, Mark Murrell, Philip Staniland, David Smith, David Rawlings,  $4\frac{1}{2}$   
28 entries, 7 round Swiss. Controller: Laurie Burt.*

□ **Ian Hunnable**  
■ **Terry Whitton**  
*Queen's Indian E12. W&WCC, R7. Notes by Ian Hunnable.*

*Terry had to win to force a play-off.*  
**1 Nf3 Nf6 2 d4 b6 3 c4 e6 4 a3 Bb7 5 Nc3 Ne4 6 Nxe4 Bxe4 7 e3 f5 8 Bd3 Bb7 9 0-0 Be7 10**

*(Continued on page 6)*



PHOTO: IAN HUNNABLE

**Boards 1-8 in play. Syd Kalinsky, nearest the camera, on board 8 was last to finish.**

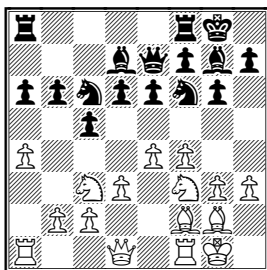
□ : John White

■ : Jonathan Underwood  
Sicilian B25

Notes by John White

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3  
Nf6 4 Bg2 g6 5 d3 Bg7 6  
f4 d6 7 Nf3 0-0 8 0-0 e6 9  
h3 Bd7 10 Be3 Qe7 11  
Bf2 a6 12 a4 b6?!

This pawn becomes a target – I expected 12...Rab8 13 g4 b5±

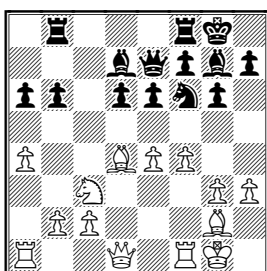


13 d4 cxd4 14 Nxd4  
Nxd4?

14...e5 15 Nxc6 Bxc6 16  
fxe5 dxe5 17 Nd5±

15 Bxd4 Rab8

15...Nh5! 16 Bxg7 Nxb7  
17 Qd4±



16 e5! dxe5 17 Bxe5 Qc5+  
18 Kh2! Rbd8 19 Bd6  
Qc4 20 Bxf8 Kxf8 21  
Qd6+ Ke8 22 Qxb6 h5 23  
Rad1 h4 24 g4 Ke7 25  
Qd6+ Ke8 26 Rfe1

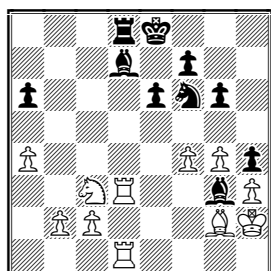
Not 26 Rd4? Qxd4 27  
Qxd4 Nxb7 28 hxg4  
Bxd4±

26...Bf8 27 Qd4 Qxd4 28

Rxd4 Bc5 29 Rd3 Bf2 30  
Red1

Here thought: two bishops  
are sometimes better than  
rook and knight.

Alternatively, 30 Rf1  
Bg3+ 31 Kg1 Rc8 32  
Rd6+–  
30...Bg3+



31 Rxb3

Giving back the exchange  
for a second pawn to get  
rid of Black's KB.

31...h3 32 Kxb3 Rb8  
33 b3 Rc8 34 Rd3

34 Ne4! Nxe4+ 35 Bxe4  
Bc6 36 Bd3+–

34...Bc6 35 Bxc6+ Rxc6  
36 Kf3

The threat was 36...Rxc3  
37 Rxc3 Ne4+ etc.

36...Ke7 37 Ke3 Nd7 38  
Kd2 Nc5 39 Rd4 Nd7 40  
Rd3

I was worried about tricks  
here, e.g. if 40 Nd1 e5 41  
fxe5 Nxe5 42 c3 Nf3+, and  
spent some time on move.  
Fortunately, my opponent  
reminded me that I was  
about to allow a repetition!

40...Nc5 41 Rd4  
41 Re3 Rd6+ 42 Ke2 Rd4  
43 h4 Kf8 (43...Rxf4 44  
Nd5+ +-) 44 Kf3+–

41...Nd7 42 Ne2 e5 43  
fxe5 Nxe5 44 Re4 Kf6 45  
Nd4 Rd6

My opponent nearly didn't  
move the rook!

46 Ke3 Nd7 47 b4!? Nb6  
48 Rf4+?

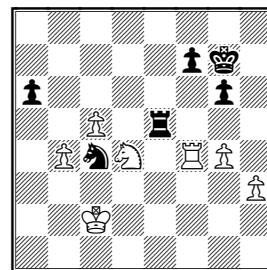
Placing the rook in a posi-  
tion where ...Nd5 poten-  
tially forks rook, king and  
b-pawn.

48...Kg7 49 Kd3 Nxa4?

49...Nd5 was much better  
50 Re4 Nxb4+ 51 Kc4 Nd5  
52 a5+–

50 c4 Rb6 51 Nc2 Nb2+  
52 Kc3 Nd1+ 53 Kd2 Nb2

54 c5 Re6 55 Nd4 Re5 56  
Kc2 Nc4



57 Nf5+!

Simplifying to an easily  
won rook ending.

57...gxf5 58 Rxc4 f4 59  
hxg4 Re7 60 c6 Rc7 61  
Kb3 Kf6 62 Ka4 Ke6 63  
Ka5 Kd5 64 Rc5+ 1-0



PHOTO: JOHN PHILPOTT

The webmaster was privi-  
leged to score the winning  
half.

(Contd. from page 5)

Bd2 0-0 11 Re1 Bf6  
12 Rb1 Nc6 13 b4  
Ne7 14 e4 fxe4 15  
Bxe4 Bxe4 16 Rxe4  
Nf5 17 Qc2 Qc8 18  
Rbe1 Qa6 19 b5 Qb7  
19...Qxa3 20 Bc1  
Qb4 21 Bd2 Qa3 22  
Bc1=

20 Qd3 a6 21 Ne5  
Rad8 22 a4 Nd6 23  
R4e2 axb5 24 axb5  
Nf7 25 Bb4 Nd6  
25...Rfe8 26 Nxf7  
Kxf7 27 Qxh7 Rh8 2  
8 Qd3±

26 Ra2 Rfe8 27  
Rae2 Nf5 28 Bc3  
g6? 29 Ng4 Bg7 30  
d5! Rf8



31 Bxg7 Nxb7 32  
Qc3

Missing 32 Nh6+  
Kh8 33 dxe6 dxe6  
(33... Nxe6 34 Qc3+  
Ng7 35 Re7 +-) 34  
Nf7+ +-  
32...h5

Not 32...exd5 33  
Re7+–

33 dxe6 dxe6 34  
Nf6+ Kf7

If 34...Kh8 35 Qe5

△ Qg5-Qh6# +-

35 Nh7 Kg8 36 Nxf8  
Rxf8 37 Qd3 Kh7 38

Qd7 Qc8 39 Rd2

Kh6 40 Qxc8 Rxc8

41 Rd7 c6 42 Rd6

cxb5 43 cxb5 Rc5 44  
Rxb6 Nf5 45 Rb8

Nd4 46 b6 Rb5 47

b7 Kg5 48 f4+ Kg4

49 Rd8

If 49...Nc6 50 Rc8

wins, or 49...Nc2 50

Rc1 wins.

1-0

## Essex star shines again

### Southend Easter 2008

By Ian Hunnabale

The annual Southend Easter Chess Congress was held on 21st–24th March, with the continued support of Southend Borough Council.

The entry of 125 was two down on last year, which must be a disappointment to the organisers. 56 played in the Open, 16 in the Major (U180), 31 in the Intermediate (U135) and 22 in the Minor (U90).

I wonder whether the balance of these events is right? The Major, Intermediate and Minor are all five round events, whereas the Open is a seven round event. Given that 43 of the competitors in the Open were graded under 180, 22 of these being U150 (with several graded under 100 and a lowest grade of 48), it would seem that more

players desire a seven round event than five rounds and are prepared to play in an Open section to get the games. Perhaps this indicates that the other three sections should also be seven rounds. How many of the 69 competitors in the five round events would have preferred a seven round event but were wary of entering the Open? Undoubtedly some prefer the shorter schedule, so perhaps there is still room for the old-style five round sections in addition to seven round Major, Intermediate and Minor sections? Easy to say; less easy to organise.

The feature event, the **Jack Speigel Memorial Tournament** for eight invited masters, has been a great success and has done Jack proud. It always gives

rise to fighting chess (this year only eight draws out of 28 games) and can claim to be the premier grandmaster event in the country. All the games are available for download in pgn format from the Congress website (*see below*).

This year featured seven English GMs and IM Lawrence Trent. The Essex star usually fares well in this company and this year's event was no exception; in a field where all his opponents were GMs, Lawrence scored 4/7 to come third with a GM-level grading performance of 246 (+20). The event was won by David Howell, in sparkling form, with 6/7 – six wins and a loss to Mark Hebden – 1½ points ahead of Peter Wells 4½/7; an astonishing margin in a seven round event.

Congress website: <http://www.southendchessclub.co.uk/>

### 4th Jack Speigel Memorial 2008

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Perf
1	David Howell	238	①	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	6	267
2	Peter Wells	237	0	②	1	½	½	1	1	½	4½	246
3	Lawrence Trent	226	0	0	③	1	½	1	½	1	4	241
4	Mark Hebden	239	1	½	0	④	½	0	½	1	3½	232
5	James Plaskett	236	0	½	½	½	⑤	0	1	1	3½	232
6	Neil McDonald	226	0	0	0	1	1	⑥	½	1	3½	233
7	John Emms	235	0	0	½	½	0	½	⑦	1	2½	218
8	Chris Ward	223	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	⑧	½	191

### Southend 2008

#### Acknowledgements

The controlling team at Southend 2008 were  
Alan Parsons  
Alan Wilson  
Howard Grist

Cross table and games:  
Southend Easter Congress website  
(*see below left*)

The **Open** was won by Robert Eames with 6/7; =2nd Tryfon Gavriel, David Spence 5½; =4th David Haydon (*Thurrock*), Peter Vas, Alan Edwards, Alexandros Ethelontis 5.

The **Major** was a success for Southend "old boy" Alan Downham with 4/5, ahead of =2nd Tony Peterson, James McDonnell and Chris Hampton (*Maldon*) 3½.

The **Intermediate** featured a clutch of Essex players in the prize list and was won by Paul Heaton (*Writtle*) 4½/5. 2nd Keith Cook (*Maldon*) 4, ahead of an eight-way tie =3rd between Jonathon Hornsby, Trevor Dickerson (*Maldon*), Luke Styles (*Westcliff*), Darren Lewis, Michael Collier, Keith Wilcox (*Westcliff*) Arnold Lutton (*Basildon*) and Sagar Bogoda, all 3½.

In the **Minor** Roger Mugridge (*Wickford*) 4½; =2nd Nigel Cook, Nicholas Stout 4; with =4th Mark Kay, Ron Prickett (*Thurrock*) 3½.

The schedule also included a **Lightning** tournament, which attracted 21 entries and resulted in a triple tie between Peter Vas, Roland Payne and Jon Friedland, all 4/5, ahead of another triple tie, involving Subin Sen, George O'Toole, Jude Lenier, 3½/5.

Both of Lawrence

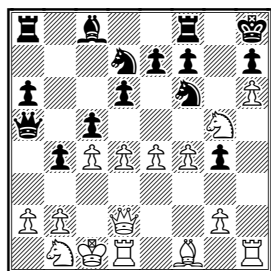
Trent's wins in the JS Memorial are entertaining, so are reproduced here.

□ : Chris Ward

■ : Lawrence Trent

King's Indian E81

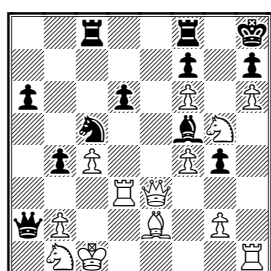
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 0-0 5 Be3 d6 6 f3 a6 7 Qd2 c6 8 0-0-0 b5 9 Bh6 Qa5 10 h4 Nbd7 11 Bxg7 Kxg7 12 h5 b4 13 Nb1 g5 14 h6+ Kh8 15 Nh3 g4 16 Ng5 c5 17 f4



17...cxd4 18 Qxd4 Qxa2 19 e5 Nc5 20 Rd3

20 Qe3 Bf5 +-

20...Bf5 21 exf6 e6 22 Qe3 Rac8 23 Be2



Na4 24 b3 Qb2+ 25 Kd1 Qxb1+ 26 Kd2 Qxh1 27 Rxd6 Nc3 0-1

□ : Lawrence Trent

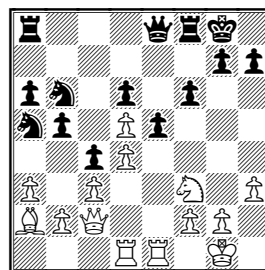
■ : Mark Hebden

Ruy Lopez C88

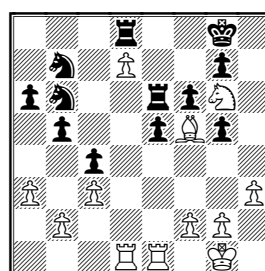
Note by Ian Hunnoble

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 0-0 8 h3 d6 9 a3 Na5 10 Ba2 c5 11 d3

Be6 12 Bg5 Nd7 13 Bxe7 Qxe7 14 Nc3 Nb6 15 Nd5 Qd8 16 c3 Bxd5 17 exd5 c4 18 d4 f6 19 Qc2 Qe8 20 Rad1



20...Qg6 21 Qxg6 hxg6 22 Bb1 Rad8 23 Nh4 g5 24 Ng6 Rfe8 25 dxe5 dxe5 26 d6! 26 Re6 27 d7 Nb7 28 Bf5



28...Kf7 29 Bxe6+ Kxe6 30 f4 gxf4 31 Nxf4+ Kf7 32 Nd5 Nxd7 33 Nb4 Ndc5 34 Rxd8 Nxd8 35 Rd1 Ke7 36 Nd5+ Ke8 37 Nc7+ Ke7 38 Nd5+ Ke8 39 Nc7+ Ke7 40 Rd5 Nde6 41 Nxe6 Nxe6 42 g3 Nc7 43 Rd1 Ne6 44 a4 bxa4?

44...Nc7 was necessary, e.g. 45 axb5 axb5 46 Kf2 ± 45 Rd5 Ng5 46 Ra5 Kd6 47 Kg2 f5 48 Rxa4 Kd5 49 Rxa6 Ne6 50 h4 f4 51 Rb6 e4 52 gxf4 Nxf4+ 53 Kg3 Nd3 54 Rb5+ Ke6 55 b3 cxb3 56 Rxb3 Kf5 57 Rb5+ Ne5 58 h5 1-0

## Essex exit on board count

### ECF Open ¼f v Lancs

By John Philpott

The Essex Open Team had qualified for the national stages of the County Championship despite a worrying over-dependency on members of the U175 squad, culminating in the home match against Sussex when only two over 174s were in the side (which nonetheless managed to draw). In previous seasons matters had tended to improve once the national stages came around, but on the occasion of this quarter final match played at Syston there were no fewer than 12 U175 graded players in the team.

On paper, Lancashire (who ultimately went on to secure the championship) would have been expected to win comfortably, but Essex, as befitted the reigning champions, put up an outstanding fight and for most of the afternoon seemed likely to prevail.

Philip Gregory won the first game to finish, and Essex were to remain ahead until the fateful final seconds of the match. The extent of the lead fluctuated, but at 8–6 I felt confident that despite the unfavourable board count we would prevail. Although Jeff Goldberg's position

Played 19th May 2007  
at Syston

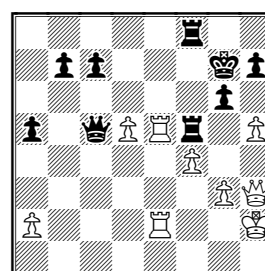
Lancashire*	v	Essex
Graham Morrison 211 (B)	0–1	Jonathan Rogers 219 (W)
Jeff Horner 222	1–0	Andrew Lewis e199
Ben Hague 196	1–0	John Hodgson 191
Brett Lund 204	1–0	Malcolm Bucknell e180
Borek Bernard –	1–0	Jeff Goldberg 173
John Littlewood 189	½–½	Ivan Myall 172
Nicholas Ivell 200	½–½	Paul Williamson 171
Paul Timson –	0–1	Kevin White 170
Malcolm Peacock 176	0–1	Larry Marden 169
Lee Kay 166	0–1	Philip Gregory 169
Marek Mazek –	½–½	George O'Toole 167
Peter Jowett 187	½–½	David Haydon 166
Jim Sumner 170	0–1	John White 165
Glyn Morris 175	½–½	Ivor BN Smith 163
Paul Fallon –	½–½	David Millward 160
John Cooper 155	1–0	Ray Purse 153
	<b>8–8</b>	

\* Lancs won on board count.

crumbled around the first time control. Andrew Lewis seemed better. However, as the clocks ran down, Andrew won the exchange but seemed uncertain as to whether to play for a win or a draw, and the Lancashire player, perhaps sensing this uncertainty, managed to turn the tables to see his team home.

□ : Jonathan Rogers  
■ : Graham Morrison  
Bogo-Indian Defence E11  
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 Bb4+ 4 Bd2 Qe7 5 Nc3 0–0 6 g3 Bxc3 7 Bxc3 Ne4 8 Rc1 Nc6 9 Bg2 d6 10 0–0 Nxc3 11 Rxc3 e5 12 d5 Nb8 13 Nd2 Nd7 14 b4 f5

15 e4 Nf6 16 c5 fxe4 17 Nxe4 Nxe4 18 Bxe4 Bf5 19 Qc2 Bxe4 20 Qxe4 a5 21 cxd6 Qxd6 22 b5 Rf7 23 Rd1 Rd8 24 Kg2 Qb6 25 Rd2 Rdf8 26 Re3 Qxb5 27 Qxe5 Qc5 28 Qe6 Rd8 29 Re5 Qd6 30 Rc2 g6 31 h4 Kg7 32 h5 Rdd7 33 Rce2 Rf6 34 Qe8 Rf8 35 Qe6 Rf6 36 Qh3 Rf8 37 Kg1 Rdf7 38 f4 Qc5+ 39 Kh2 Rf5?



40 Re7+ R8f7 41 Rxf7+

### ECF Open Other matches

**Quarter-finals**  
Kent\* 8–8 Warks  
Lancs\* 8–8 Essex  
Surrey bye  
Gtr Manchester bye  
**Semi-finals**  
Lancs 10–6 Kent  
Gtr Manchester  
6½–9½ Surrey  
**Final**  
Lancs 10–6 Surrey

**Rxf7 42 h6+ Kg8 43 Re8+ 1-0**

□ : **John White**  
 ■ : **Jim Sumner**  
 Centre-Counter B01  
*Notes by John White*

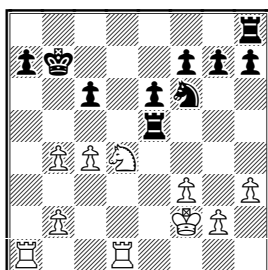
**1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 d4 Bg4 5 Be2 Nc6 6 c3 0-0-0 7 h3 Bh5 8 Qb3 e6 9 Nbd2 Qxb3 10 axb3 Kb8 11 Nc4 Nd7 12 Bf4 Be7 13 Na5 Bd6 13...Nxa5 14 Rxa5 Bg6 15 b4** was better.

**14 Nxc6+ .bxc6 15 Be3 c5 16 dxc5 Bxc5 17 Bxc5 Nxc5 18 Nd4! Rd5 19 b4**

I had planned 19 Bc4 but rejected it as 19...Re5+ is check. However, 20 Kf1 Kb7 21 f4 Re4 22 Ra5 Rxd4 23 cxd4 Ne4 24 Rg1 Bg6+-

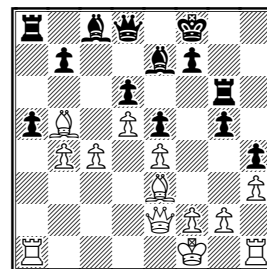
**19...Bxe2 20 Kxe2 Ne4 21 Rhd1 Kb7 22 f3 Nf6 23 c4 Re5+? 24 Kf2 c6??**

Afterwards Black said that he had seen the sequel when playing 23...Re5+ but thought he had it covered.



**25 Rxa7+! Kxa7 26 Nxc6+ Kb6 27 Nxe5 Ra8 28 Rd6+ Kc7 29 Rc6+ Kb7 30 b5 Ra2 31 Nd3 e5 32 Ke3 Nd7 33 Rd6 Nb6 34 Rc6 Na4 35 Ra6 1-0**

□ : **Larry Marden**  
 ■ : **Malcolm Peacock**  
 Czech Benoni A56  
**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e5 4 Nc3 d6 5 e4 Be7 6 Bd3 Nbd7 7 Nge2 Nf8 8 Bc2 Ng6 9 Ba4+ Kf8 10 Ng3 Nf4 11 Kf1 h5 12 Nge2 g5 13 h3 h4 14 a3 N6h5 15 b4 cxb4 16 axb4 Rg8 17 Nxf4 Nxf4 18 Ne2 Rg6 19 Be3 Nxe2 20 Qxe2 a5 21 Bb5**



**21...g4 22 hxg4 Bxg4 23 f3 Bh5 24 g4 hxg3 25 Rxh5 g2+ 26 Qxg2 Rxg2 27 Rh8+ Rg8 28 Bh6# 1-0**

## U125s shine

Played 12th May 2007  
 at East Hunsbury, Northamptonshire

Essex	v	Derbyshire
David Maynard 124 (W)	1-0	Paul O'Flanagan 124 (B)
Mike Cresswell 122	1/2-1/2	Mark Carter 123
Keith Cook 120	0-1	David Brown 120
Ken Groce 119	1-0	David Hoddy 119
Roland Johnson 115	0-1	Vaughan Smith 114
Jeff MacWain 111	1-0	Roger Walker 104
Richard Joyce 110	0-1	Luke Alldread 103
John Campbell 107	1-0	Herbert Loomes 99
Terry Field 107	1-0	Douglas Bramley 99
Peter Brander 106	0-1	Ronald Harrison 99
Kevin Cook 104	1-0	Philip Sheldon 97
Simon Moth 102	1/2-1/2	Graham Pace 95
David Gatheral e102	1-0	Howard Bradbury 84
Sid Burns 98	1-0	Richard Hickling e80
Vladimir Chтым 98	0-1	I Rees e75
Wim de Jong 86	1/2-1/2	Ian Morrell e70
	<b>9 1/2-6 1/2</b>	

### ECF U125 1/4f v Derbys

By Ian Hunnabale

The resurgent Essex U125 team continued its odyssey against Derbyshire at East Hunsbury, Northants, in the national quarter final.

With points shared over

the top seven boards, Essex strength in depth showed with a 5-2 advantage in decisive games from board eight downwards, resulting in a convincing victory.

The show moves on: Essex take on Yorkshire in the semi-final.

### Photo file



John White

### ECF U125 Other matches

#### Quarter-finals

- Warks 8 1/2-7 1/2
- Kent
- Norfolk 9-7 Cleveland
- Essex 9 1/2-6 1/2 Derbys
- Hants 4 1/2-11 1/2
- Yorks
- Semi-final**
- Yorks v Essex
- Norfolk v Warks