

2009-10 Teams Blog

(most recent items at the top.)

 16 March 2010 00:28:44

The luxury of defeat

Essex U160 availed themselves of the luxury of defeat in their last match of the SCCU campaign, going down 5½-10½ at home to Herts. Fortunately, they had already assured themselves of the U160 Championship in their previous match. However, no-one *wants* to lose just because you can afford to; captain David Payne swallowed his pride, describing the result as "very disappointing".

[Details...](#)

 07 March 2010 20:12:58

Essex rise to the occasion

Needing to win by a large margin in their last match against Herts, the Essex Open team rose to the occasion with a resounding 13-3 victory, to secure qualification to the national stages of the ECF County Championship. Acting Captain, Ivor Smith, and his squad deserve every praise for this supreme effort. They now have to contest a Preliminary round against the 3rd placed/nominated team in the Midlands.

The Essex U100 team, already SCCU Champions, completed the season with a 100% record, with a home win against Surrey.

 27 February 2010 21:03:32

U180s finish with a win

The SCCU competition for the U180s finished with a home win against the Champions, Surrey, by 9-7. Since the qualifying places were already decided, Essex qualify 2nd, nothing hung on this fixture, other than bragging rights. [More...](#)

 23 February 2010 16:48:31

U100s Champions!

With their third straight win, a thumping 9-3 victory away to Kent, the Essex U100 team has emulated the U160 side by winning its SCCU Division with a match to spare. Many congratulations to Malcolm Crane and his merry band on this success in the first U100 season (played as U075 in last year's inaugural season).

Essex therefore qualify for the first ECF U100 competition, where they get a bye to the semi-final and await the winners/nominees from the Northern Counties. [More...](#)

Meanwhile, the U140 team "produced its best result of the season by losing only by 6½-9½" in the words of team captain, Simon Moth. [More...](#)

 15 February 2010 00:33:18

U160s Champions while U180s Qualify

The Essex U160 team wrapped up the SCCU U160 Championship with a round to spare, when securing a 9-7 victory away to Surrey at Coulsdon. Many congratulations to David Payne and his squad, who maintained their 100% record, now 4/4.

The U180 team, meanwhile, secured qualification to the national stages with a 9-7 away win to bottom team Middlesex. Surrey are Champions with a round to spare. Essex's only challengers, Sussex, are one point back but, even though in the final fixtures Essex play Champions Surrey while Sussex play bottom team Middlesex, Essex's favourable Game Points total against Sussex gives Essex 2nd spot no matter what the results in the final round.

The third result on a busy weekend, was a loss for the U120 team away to Kent, by 7-5. This confirmed Kent as U120 Champions; Essex have failed to qualify.

 09 February 2010 00:51:56

Calamity!

With an unusually high proportion of our 180+ players unavailable, Essex failed to make any impression on their visit to Hassocks, losing this Open fixture away to Sussex by 11-5.

The U140 team fared only marginally better against the same opposition, losing 10-6 at home to Sussex.

There was better news for the U100 team, who won away to Surrey by 6-5, although they had to thank their hosts for no fewer than four defaulted boards.

[Details...](#)

 24 January 2010 12:55:32

U160s flying high

A narrow home win over Middlesex, by 8½-7½, kept Essex flying high at the top of the U160 division, now with 3/3. In the other games, Kent 8-8 Surrey and Sussex 9-7 Herts (three defaults by the visitors due to train delays), left Essex's nearest rivals, Surrey and Middlesex, each with 1½/3. Surrey, away, are the next opponents for the U160 team, on 13th Feb.

 24 January 2010 12:55:32

Essex suffer

Both of the Essex fixtures on 23rd January saw the County suffer defeat. The U180 match away to Sussex ended in a narrow loss by 8½-7½, pegging Essex back to 50% after four matches. The U120s, meanwhile, lost 8-4 at home to Herts.

 21 January 2010 20:49:56

Essex go down to Middlesex

The New Year for Essex U140 started badly. The Exmouth Arms were not welcoming as Essex crashed 10½-5½ against Middlesex, a result forged over the top five boards where Essex lost all despite the grades being almost identical. A freak result, surely. [Details...](#)

 15 January 2010 19:02:33

Essex double over Surrey

The U120 fixture, also against Surrey, 9th January, was played over nine boards, this being all the opposition could raise. Playing at the same time and in the same venue as the Open team (below), Essex U120 also won by a single point, in this case, 5-4, completing a Surrey double. [Details...](#)

 09 January 2010 18:29:16

Essex break their duck

A glance at the previous item (below) will show that we listed the encounter with Surrey in the Open as a "stern test". In the event, this was met with fortitude, Essex gaining a valuable narrow victory, by 8½-7½. [Details...](#)

 19 December 2009 19:59:14

County Teams Round-up

With completion of the pre-Christmas fixtures, we draw breath and take stock. All teams are adjusting to the new grading bands, except the Open team.

Open: 0/2, out-gunned by Kent and Middlesex. We were harbouring no illusions, we knew this section was going to be tough. Herts and Sussex, if we can mobilise our forces, are within range, but Surrey will be another stern test.

U180 (old U175): 2/3, second behind Surrey, who seem to have benefited best out of the new grading bands. Our accustomed Championship position will therefore receive a strong challenge and we must be at our best in the second cycle of the double-round section.

U160 (old U150): Excellent start, leading with 2/2 in the five match programme.

U140 (old U125): Least easy to assess having played only one fixture (loss to Kent) out of the five match programme.

U120 (old U100): Opened brightly with a narrow win away to Surrey, but failed to add to this in the two subsequent fixtures. On the evidence of the first half, the teams are closely matched, so all to play for.

U100 (old U075): This embryonic team having waited all last season for their first win opened their second season with a win in their only fixture to date. Three teams double round. This team now has a national stages qualifying place to aim for.

 03 October 2009 17:36:30

U180: All change!

John Philpott reports:

David Brock has found himself under too much pressure from other commitments to be able to act as captain of the Essex U180 team for the time being, and I have agreed to resume responsibility for organising matches and selecting the team, although I will have to rely on others to perform captaincy duties on match days.

The fixtures have changed from those originally published on the SCCU website, which had been predicated on a five team single round competition. Kent have withdrawn as a result of the lack of a match captain and the competition has reverted to its traditional four team double round format. An unfortunate by-product is that the SCCU loses its entitlement to a third qualifying place from this competition.

At present the new fixture list is as follows.

October 31 - Middlesex (home)

November 21 - Sussex (home)

December 5 - Surrey (away - confirmed as Ashtead)

January 2 - Middlesex (away)

January 23 - Sussex (away)

February 27 - Surrey (home)

These dates have now been entered into the ECA Calendar

However, Middlesex have sought to rearrange the match scheduled for 2 January, and it is extremely likely that this (and the Surrey v Sussex match scheduled for the same date) will be moved.

National stage dates have not yet been officially announced. Under the competition rules, unless the Director of Home Chess decides otherwise by the 14th of this month, the quarter final will be on 15 May, the semi-final on 12 June and the final on 3 July.

The squad will have a different look this season, as the increase in the competition grading limit from U175 to U180 has proved insufficient to prevent several players rendering themselves ineligible. This season Tim Hebbes, Ivor Smith, Kevin White, Jeff Goldberg, Chris Fegan and David Spearman will be able to represent Essex only as members of the Open team.

Home matches will continue to take place at Wanstead House with a 2.00 p.m. start. Please note that board fees have been increased to £2.50 for adults and £1.25 for juniors.

The default rate of play for games conducted using DGTs becomes 35 moves in 100 moves plus an extra 20 minutes to complete the game and a time increment of 10 seconds per move from move. I will be asking opposing captains whether they are comfortable with this rate: Middlesex have already confirmed that they are.

Invitations for the first match will follow shortly: if you are definitely unavailable for any (or all!) of the fixtures it would be helpful if you could let me know this now.

John Philpott