

KINGSTON GAMBIT
The Magazine of The Kingston & Thames Valley Chess Club
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WHY NOT THE LEAGUE?

The Kingston A team, after an indifferent start to the season, is well placed to win the Thames Valley League Championship. It is the first time since we were promoted to Division 1 that the team has produced really good results. With five wins and a draw from eight games plus a probable win against Acton, we can look forward to a fruitful season.

The lengthy process of Adjudication is obscuring the Club's performance in all competitions. In one match, against Chertsey, the Captain agreed a draw and a loss rather than wait months for results, although we might have made 1.5 points.

John Nunn and Mike Lally have played in a few matches. Despite the absence of these strong players, the top boards have not been outclassed. On board 1 Chris Clegg is always good for a draw and on the rare occasion, even more.

Club grading list

J.M.D. Nunn- 215,
M.E. Lally-182,
C. Clegg-181,
D.J Stone- 177,
K. Inwood-177,
M. Sheehan-169,
D. Rowson-167,
J. Pattle-164.

Cup year

The Band C teams are trying to make it a great Cup Year for Kingston. In the First section of the Minor Trophy the B team is lead -ing with 5. 6. The C team in the lower section also lead, with 5.5 /7.

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EDITORIAL
A Brief Survey of Kingston Chess Club

The new member tried to conceal his perplexed expression as he watched two of the stronger players moving their pieces with a speed more appropriate to table tennis. The complicated position was inflicted with an assortment of designs and sizes of pawns, while the players were banging what could only be a double-faced Victorian clock. The board, which sloped from both sides to the middle would have put even Yeovil's notorious football pitch to shame.

He asked a nearby player some questions and received the reply, "That's called Five-Minute Chess. Yes we could do with some new equipment. If you hang around we may find you an opponent." The newcomer began to thin that he had parted with his £3 membership fee rather foolishly.

At this point we leave our fictitious friend and apologise for the derogatory introduction - but it could have happened. Had he turned up on the night our first team met Richmond, he could have witnessed them start our clocks and wait ten minutes for our team to materialise for a home match. If people were punctual and everyone helped to set out the pieces, such occurrences could be avoided.

The membership of the club has doubled in little over a year. Gone are those cold monotonous evenings when three players clustered round a single board distracted only by the sonorous echo of the Bingo calls. We are situated in pleasant premises and as for the noise - the bar more than makes up for that.

Is the club merely somewhere to play Chess? Each team seems to be an offshoot of the Club rather than an integral part of it. At present match results are buried under a voluminous avalanche.

The magazine will now rectify this omission in internal communication.

There should be tournaments which really mean something in place of the various competitions scattered over the season. The Group Handicap for too long presented dull formulae which inhibited GOOD SERIOUS CHESS. Now we should welcome the flood of well planned competitions. These can be seen as the first step towards better things. A Five-Minute Chess Tournament could be run on the Swiss System. We might again hold lectures. I remember Mr. John Nunn's effort on the improbable topic "Gambits in the Endgame" a few years ago turned out to be very worthwhile, and even probable.

Kingston is a good club in some respects but it could become a GREAT CLUB in all respects. The club is becoming better in many ways. The ability to play the game with success and enjoyment is growing. This is the message of the Kingston Gambit. One of the magazine's functions is to stimulate Chess for all Kingston & Thames Valley Chess Club members.

d.l. barasi

The following list of Committee members may be useful to the newer members.

PRESIDENT G.Roberts.
CHAIRMAN V.Z.McKeon.
SECRETARY P.I.Clemo.
TREASURER W.E.Waterton.

Team Captains:

A- M.J.Sheehan

B- W.H.Booth

C- P.I.Clemo

D- J.A.Fennesay

MEMBER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO C.A. Russell