

The final report

Season 1 of 4NCL Online

Coronavirus may have stopped the physical chess club from meeting but the move it has not stopped the chess world. The move to online chess seems to have been taken up by many chess clubs and players. Given that, the national league organised its first online competition and received over 130 entries. They were expecting somewhere in the region of 30. The chess world certainly has kept spinning during all this.



The final round of the 4NCL online has sadly come and gone. As team captain, it has been an absolute pleasure to play competitive chess with my friends. Rugeley chess club has faced some tough teams throughout this season. The list of whom are below:

Round 1 – Hatch End B

A new team to online chess just like us, Rugeley were victorious over this team $3\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$.

Round 2 – Manchester Juniors B

Manchester Juniors are a regular in junior 4NCL and have an experienced coach to back them. This team finished above us in the league but we held them to a 2 – 2 draw.

Round 3 – Bristol University B

Our first loss of the season and this one stung a little bit. They had so many experienced players, I remember Luke got an ex England Junior. I thought they would finish higher in the league, this was a tough team and many thanks to them for the game. This is the one match I have not yet done a report on. They beat us $3\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$

Round 4 – Bishop Knights

This had us facing off against a northern team with what I'm certain are experienced congress players in it. They gave us a good fight but we won that one $3\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$

Round 5 – Broken Herts 1

A team from Hertfordshire and new to the league just like us. This match was close but Rugeley managed to edge out the win $2\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$

Round 6 – Temple Sutton

This one was a new one like us and we had been close to the same number of points all the way through up until this point. The grades were so close when we played each other also, I was not surprised to see us draw this match 2 – 2.

Round 7 – Kent KJCA Kestrels D

This is a very experienced team playing J4NCL, 4NCL main and J4NCL online. It was fun for me to play against a team I've arbitrated so much throughout the years and seen their players grow so strong. They also threw us a curveball altering their team more than I expected and strengthened it against us. After a rocky start, we drew this match 2 – 2.

Round 8 – Chess Warriors

Another strong junior team. While they may not play in the same teams in 4NCL they do play and these juniors I've seen at a lot of the top competitions. They ran us close but Rugeley edged them out 2½ - 1½

Round 9 – Hertford

This was the strongest team in the league. We cannot get much higher than this lot. When we played them, they were in position 3 and they definitely took us seriously. They have two players rated just under 2200 playing for them. This was the first both played together at the same time. I expected trouble as when you get to the end I've seen 4NCL teams really strengthen their side. It was a tough fight and I know I was winning at one point (shocking I know). This one we lost 1 – 3 but it's good to know that it took the strongest team in the league to give us a loss after 5 weeks.

Round 10 – Bolton & Worsley

This is a main 4NCL team and their players are well known to visit congresses all over the UK. This was a tough fight, but sadly we could only get two draws and they handed us two losses leaving us with 1 – 3.

Of all these teams we played, four of them finished above us in the table. Hertford, Temple Sutton, Kent KJCA Kestrels and Bolton & Worsley.

We have had positive comments from several teams. Hertford were extremely impressed with our website and our team itself and wanted to challenge us again sometime.

A friend of mine in Scotland paid attention to some of our games (given he's the 4NCL guy entering the teams into the anti-cheating software) and really hoped his team would play ours. Apparently, he had already called dibbs on board 2 if Rugeley vs East Kilbride happened. If Rugeley feel up for taking on them at any point let me know. If nothing else I guarantee a good laugh. Here is the final league table if you want a look.

Division 5

		rd 1	rd 2	rd 3	rd 4	rd 5	rd 6	rd 7	rd 8	rd 9	rd 10	P	W	D	L	SB	SOS	Pts	
1	Hertford	her	wim3 2½	bud 3½	csc5 2	bau1 3½	wlv 1½	mjub 4	wesc 3	nun2 2½	rgl 3	tps 2½	10	8	1	1	177	110	17
2	CSC 5	csc5	bau2 4	kesd 3½	her 2	marb 2	chw 2½	gond 2½	wlv 2	tps 4	nun2 2½	sta2 ½	10	6	3	1	170	121	15
3	Wirral League Wanderers	wlv	bln1 4	dah 2½	dod 3	baw 2½	her 2½	nun2 1½	csc5 2	wfja 3	gond 1½	uxb 1½	10	6	2	2	165	123	14
4	St Albans 2	sta2	mjub 1½	hatb 4	ecoc 3	kesd 1	ekb 1	grg 3	dah 2½	bub 3	baw 2½	csc5 3½	10	7	0	3	142	104	14
5	Uxbridge Knights 1	uxb	wflb 3	tps 1½	wesc 1	4ge 3½	mcs 1½	sta4 4	dod 3	ekb 3½	warb 3½	wlv 2½	10	7	0	3	136	101	14
6	Gonzaga D	gond		ekb 4	wim3 3	mcs 3	bub 3	csc5 1½	chw 2	kesd 3	wlv 1½	nun2 3½	9	6	2	1	136	95	14
7	Manchester Juniors B	mjub	sta2 2½	rgl 2	nun2 2	wfja 3	tps 2	her 0	bsp 4	baw 1	mcs 2½	bub 2½	10	5	3	2	143	119	13
8	Maryport Assassins B	marb	sta3 2	wig2 2½	ydr 3½	csc5 2	baw 1	ekb 2	oxf4 3½	wesc 3	tps 1	wfja 3	10	5	3	2	143	113	13
9	Bolton & Worsley	baw	shr4 3	warb 2½	chw 3	wlv 1½	marb 3	wesc 2	nun2 1½	mjub 3	sta2 1½	rgl 3	10	6	1	3	142	117	13
10	Warwickshire Bears C	warc			grg 2	bln2 4	ecoc 1	wflb 4	brh2 2½	brh1 3	bau1 2½	kesd 2½	8	6	1	1	96	59	13
11	Temple Sutton	tps	sabc 2½	uxb 2½	bau1 1	bub 2½	mjub 2	rgl 2	warb 2½	csc5 0	marb 3	her 1½	10	5	2	3	130	119	12
12	Nottingham University 2	nun2	she 4	bub 2	mjub 2	bud 2½	kesd 3	wlv 2½	baw 2½	her 1½	csc5 1½	gond ½	10	5	2	3	129	122	12
13	Wessex Some Stars C	wesc		she 3	uxb 3	bsp 4	bau1 3	baw 2	her 1	marb 1	chw 2	warb 2½	9	5	2	2	129	106	12
14	Kent KJCA Kestrels D	kesd	wfja 3½	csc5 ½	warb 3½	sta2 3	nun2 1	bau1 2½	rgl 2	gond 1	wig2 3½	warc 1½	10	5	1	4	123	121	11
15	Doughnuts of Doom	dod	brh2 3½	ydr 2	wlv 1	sta3 2	sta4 4	warb 1½	uxb 1	grg 2½	4ge 2	wat3 3	10	4	3	3	99	103	11
16	Rugeley	rgl	hatb 3½	mjub 2	bub ½	bau2 3½	brh1 2½	tps 2	kesd 2	chw 2½	her 1	baw 1	10	4	3	3	98	107	11
17	Wigston 2	wig2	brh1 2	marb 1½	sabc 2	ecoc 2	oxf4 1½	brh2 3	bau1 2	bsp 3	kesd ½	chw 2½	10	3	5	2	98	94	11
18	Young Dragons	ydr	mcs 3	dod 2	marb ½	brh1 1	bau2 4	bsp 1½	bud 3½	bau1 1	ecoc 3	ekb 2½	10	5	1	4	81	88	11
19	4 Gems	4ge	wqb2 2	bau1 1½	brh1 ½	uxb ½	sabc 3	bau2 3½	mcs 3	warb 0	dod 2	brh2 2½	10	5	1	4	79	88	11
20	Watford Juniors A	wfja	kesd ½	bau2 2	bln2 4	mjub 1	har4 4	brh1 3	ecoc 4	wlv 1	wat3 3	marb 1	10	5	1	4	70	88	11
21	Bishop Trojans	bau1	har4 4	4ge 2½	tps 3	her ½	wesc 1	kesd 1½	wig2 2	ydr 3	warc 1½	oxf4 2	10	4	2	4	101	114	10
22	Chess Warriors	chw	grg 3	bsp 4	baw 1	dah 4	csc5 1½	mcs 2½	gond 2	rgl 1½	wesc 2	wig2 1½	10	4	2	4	100	113	10
23	Warwickshire Bears B	warb	mjuc 3	baw 1½	kesd ½	sabc 4	dah 2½	dod 2½	tps 1½	4ge 4	uxb ½	wesc 1½	10	5	0	5	90	107	10
24	Battersea Pawnbreakers	bsp	wat3 2	chw 0	sta3 4	wesc 0	wqb2 2	ydr 2½	mjub 0	wig2 1	ekb 2	grg 2½	10	4	2	4	90	99	10
25	Bristol University B	bub	bln2 4	nun2 2	rgl 3½	tps 1½	gond 1	sta3 3	ekb 2	sta2 0	dah 3	mjub 1½	10	4	2	4	85	106	10
26	Oxford 4	oxf4			hatb 4	shr4 4	wig2 1½	bud 4	marb ½	dah ½	brh1 4	bau1 2	8	4	2	2	83	75	10

Now for the individual results.

We had four players make up the Rugeley team for season 1. Steve Whatmore took board 1, Matthew Carr took board 2, Luke Sullivan took board 3 and Ryan Wood took board 4 and with the help of my silicon friend we have some statistics.

Individual results as follows:

Steve

Round	Opponent	Colour	Result	Rating Used	ECF Converted
1	Parsons, Robert	w	1/2-1/2	1720	136
2	Jackson, Edward	b	1/2-1/2	1712	135
3	Porter, Andrew	w	1/2-1/2	1675	130
4	Siddle, Michael	b	1/2-1/2	1562	115
5	Hutton, Allan	w	1-0	1600	120
6	Bensoussane, Riyadh	w	0-1	1720	136
7	Bansal, Saahil	b	0-1	1745	139
8	Shah, Kian	b	1/2-1/2	1735	138
9	Borman, Philip	w	0-1	2190	199
10	Hilton, Tim	b	1/2-1/2	1885	158
Total			4	1754.4	141

Matt

Round	Opponent	Colour	Result	Rating Used	ECF Converted
1	Barry, Brendan	b	1-0	1315	82
2	Jayawarna, Tarini	w	1/2-1/2	1520	109
3	Kelly, Aaron	b	0-1	1600	120
4	Sides, David	w	1-0	1547	113
5	Elder, Kidge	b	0-1	1555	114
6	Modhura, Urbi	b	1-0	1682	131
7	Moore, Eoin	w	1-0	1558	114
8	Gurjar, Roshan	w	0-1	1712	135
9	Cheal, Barry A	b	0-1	2193	199
10	Doherty, Paul	w	0-1	1738	138
Total			4.5	1642	126

Luke

Round	Opponent	Colour	Result	Rating Used	ECF Converted
1	Gill, Veer	w	1-0	1285	78
2	Fairclough, William	b	1-0	1412	95
3	Jina, Asha	w	0-1	1600	120
4	Clynes, Chris	b	1-0	1435	98
5	Kapur, Gul	w	1/2-1/2	1510	108
6	Audhora, Purba	w	0-1	1577	117
7	Brightley-Davies, Ciaran	b	0-1	1454	101
8	Vyas, Alisha	b	1-0	1675	130
9	Judkins, Brian D	w	0-1	1697	133
10	Lamb, Ian	b	1/2-1/2	1568	116
Total			5	1521.3	110

Ryan

Round	Opponent	Colour	Result	Rating Used	ECF Converted
1	Shah, Ashok	b	1-0	1187	65
2	Jayawarna, Thisumi	w	0-1	1316	82
3	Tsoukis, Marios	b	0-1	1120	56
4	Burnett, John	w	1-0	1247	73
5	Zsibrita, Steve	b	1-0	1495	106
6	Patey, Joe	b	1-0	1225	70
7	Dorman, Orla	w	1-0	1464	102
8	Gurjar, Siena	w	1-0	1382	91
9	Wooster, Nick	b	1-0	1690	132
10	Busznyak, Arpad	w	0-1	1570	116
Total			7	1369.6	89

Steve took the full brunt of our opponent's assault. On board 1 he faced the strongest opposition. A common theme for these games are that the opponent's strength was higher than their rating would indicate. Steve managed 1 win, 6 draws and 3 losses.

Matt – There are a few of these games that could have gone either way. Trouble is they more often than not went to the opponents when he tried to be aggressive. With an average opponent rating of 1642 being close to his own rating, 4 wins, 1 draw and 5 losses seems accurate.

Luke also faced a similar opposition to his rating of 1585. The average ratings of his opponent were 1521. 4 wins, 2 draws and 4 losses and considering one of those draws was against a player whose ECF is 135. Luke has put in some great work. Luke's games are the ones that caused this writer the most amount of cheering and screaming at the screen. Now I know what goes through Dad's mind when Aston Villa score a goal.



Ryan's grade that's converted for use in this competition is 1322 and the average strength of his opponents was 1367. These opponents are stronger than their rating without a doubt and without a doubt he performed above his rating. 7 wins, 0 draws and 3 losses.

So, this brings us to the end of this season of 4NCL online. With a little luck the chess club will be able to meet again soon but until then I guarantee plenty of fun and laughs in the Rugeley Internal tournaments.