



# Home News

**BANGOR** – Bangor City Chess Club played host to the Ulster Blitz Championships on December 28th, in which Mandar Tahmankar (Civil Service) prevailed with 15/18, finishing just half a point ahead of Stephen Scannell (Belfast), with Michael Sheerin (Fruithill) back in third on 12½ points.

**BRADFORD** – Andrew Wainwright and his Ilkley Chess Centre organised the 1st Bradford Blitz on January 5th, which IM Gedaminas Sarakauskas (Warrington) won with 10½/11, finishing a point ahead of Andrew Bak (Bradford), with the only man to take half a point off the winner, David Burgess (Swinton), back in third on 7½ points.

**BRISTOL** – The 1st Bristol New Year Open took place at the Bristol Bridge & Clifton Chess Club (December 27–30). 60-year-old Andy Hill had the tournament of his life, belying his rating of 1974 as he raced to 6/6 ahead of drawing with Malaysian student Sebastien Chua to win the £500 first prize. Top seed Keith Arkell was stunned by Bruce Baer in round 3 and only able to recover to a share of second. *Leading scores:* 1 Andy Hill (Horfield & Redland) 6½/7, 2–3 Keith Arkell (Paignton), Sebastien Chua (Oxford University) 5½, 4–9 Oliver Stubbs (Downend & Fishponds), Tim Kett (Cardiff), Michael Ashworth, Zack Norris (both Gloucester), Jai Kothari (Guildford), Carl Bicknell (Horfield & Redland) 5.

**CANTERBURY** – The Canterbury Congress was a new venture at the University of Kent (November 29 – December 1), one which even attracted a Norwegian IM.

**Open:** 1 Kristian Stuvik Holm (Norway) 5/5, 2–4 Patrick Damodaran (Coulson), Mike Waddington (Dorchester), Dominik Swiatkowski (Medway) 3½.

**Under-1800:** 1–2 Aram Swiatkowski (Medway), Ilan Rubin (Bridge) 5½/7, 3 Bohdan Myroshnichenko (Kent University) 4½.

**CLEVEDON** – The Somerset New Year Congress took place at the Walton Park Hotel, Clevedon (January 11–12).

**Major:** 1 Benjamin Lappin (Gloucester) 4½, 2 Adrien Allorant (south-east London) 4, 3–6 David Egginton (Clevedon), Mark Abbot (Exmouth), Peter Kirby, Andy Hill (both Horfield & Redland) 3½.

**Intermediate:** 1 Adrian Lawrence (Billericay) 4½, 2–3 Angok Jok (Gloucester), Kevin Heady (Haverfordwest) 4.

**Minor:** 1 Henry Burton (Haverfordwest) 4½, 2–3 Paul Collis (Godalming), Shaun Walsh (Downend & Fishponds) 4.

**HAMILTON** – Several Scottish juniors massively outperformed their ratings and top seed Andrew Greet made hay at the Hamilton Open (January 3–5).

*Leading scores:* 1 Andrew Greet (Bellshill) 5/5, 2–6 Chrysa Mitrika (Cumbernauld), Ciaran Conway (Troon), Benjamin Saunders (Lanark), Ross Blackford (Dunbar), Neil Irving (Stirling) 4.

**HASTINGS** – The untitled but 2502-rated Chinese teenager Haowen Xue triumphed with 7/9 at a hard-fought Caplin Hastings Masters, the top section of the 98th Hastings International Chess Congress (December 28 – January 5). We'll have a full report on the Masters next month and there were, as ever, a number of supporting sections.

**Con Power Under-2150:** 1–2 Younggyu Lee (South Korea), Jonathan Arnott (Sheffield) 4½/6, 3 Arthur Kendall (Brighton) 4.

**Con Power Under-1950:** 1–2 Aram Swiatkowski (Medway), Paul Kelly (Hastings) 5, 3 Ben Sadler (Norwich) 4½.

**Con Power Under-1750:** 1 Paul Jackson (Coulson) 5½, 2 Erik Heitmann (Germany) 5, 3–5 Zebadiah Taylor (Eastbourne), Advik Saxena (south-west London), William Walshe (Medway) 4½.

**New Year Under-2050:** 1–2 Oliver Howell (Loughborough), Gerben van Pel (Holland) 4/5, 3–4 Kevin Smyth (Folkestone), Andrejs Gorskovs (Maidstone) 3½.

**New Year Under-1850:** 1–3 Ben Sadler (Norwich), Chris Howell (Coulson), Louie Ellson (Maidstone) 4.

**New Year Under-1650:** 1 Erik Heitmann (Germany) 4½, 2–4 Reyansh Saxena (south-west London), Joe Eagle (Kent), Daniel Evans-White (Hastings) 4.

**Blitz:** 1 Vignir Vatnar Stefansson (Iceland) 8½/9, 2 Mahadevan Siva (India) 7½, 3–5 Kajus Mikaljanus (Loughborough), James Golding (Bath University), Lukas Schimatkowski (Germany) 6.

**Weekend Open:** 1 Jack Liu (Street) 4½/5, 2–5 Venkataraman Tiruchirapalli (Watford), Zain Patel (Hammersmith), Kajus Mikaljanus (Loughborough), Samuel Alcinder (France) 4.

**Weekend Major:** 1 Sylvio Prudent (France) 4½/5, 2–6 Hyunbin Choi, Hyunyou Cho (both South Korea), Matthew Masani (Lewes), John Brown (Bromley), Louie Ellson (Maidstone) 3½.

**Weekend Intermediate:** 1–2 Zoe Pellatt (Brighton), Caelan Rooney (Hastings) 4½, 3 Onbin Lee (South Korea) 4.

**Weekend Minor:** 1 Daniel Evans-White (Hastings) 5, 2–5 Reyansh Saxena (SW London), Yechu Chen (Godalming), Piermael Raffin-Sumyk (France), Aidan Burnside (Reigate) 4.

**HULL** – WFM Kamila Hryshchenko remained undefeated and won £200 at the Hull & East Riding Rapid on January 5th.

**Open:** 1 Kamila Hryshchenko (Hull University) 5/6, 2 John Cooper (Hull) 4½, 3 Sam Milson (Louth) 4.

**Major:** 1–2 Gary Morris (Hull), Stephen Crow (St Andrews, Hull) 5, 3–4 George Swanson (Sheffield), Ewen Miller (York) 4½.

**Minor:** 1 Stuart Sharp (Hull) 5½, 2 Ian Scott (St Andrews, Hull) 5, 3–6 Joey Pramana (Gosforth), Kieran Hooton (Hull University), Olaf Duemmer Wrigley, Bertie Leatham (both York) 4½.

**Foundation:** 1 Jamie Fisher (Beverley) 5, 2–4 Maro Arab, Sebastian Dworniak (both Hull), Ambrose Lam (Warrington) 4½.

**KENNINGTON** – The latest Oxford Rapidplay took place on November 30th at Kennington Village Hall, just to the south of Oxford.

**Open:** 1 Connor Clarke 4½/5, 2–3 Jem Gurner, Ryan Pang (all Oxford University) 4.

**Under-1850:** 1 Jack Virgin (Stockport) 4½, 2 Martin Lambert 4, 3–4 Andrew Humphrey (both Watlington), David Deane (Reading) 3½.

**Under-1550:** 1 Sean Herrington 5/5, 2 Sebastian Rohan 4, 3 Aditya Tekriwal (all Oxford University) 3½.

**Under-1250:** 1 Arthur Guindani (Oxfordshire) 4½, 2 Harry Greaves (Oxford) 4, 3 Prakhar Saxena (Brentwood) 3½.

**LONDON** – We reported last month on the four blitz qualifiers at the Emirates Stadium, which qualified 8 players for the final stages of the Super Blitz at the London Chess Classic. That 32-player event on December 7th began with four all-play-all groups, which largely went with seeding. Nikita Vitiugov and Alireza Firouzja qualified with 6/7 in Group A, a score matched by Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in Group B, from which Michael Adams also qualified with 5½/7.

Group D saw Vidit Gujrathi lose to Ilya Smirin, but finish top with 5½/7, half a point in front of Smirin and Raunak Sadhwani, the former having won their individual encounter and so qualified on tiebreak. There were more shocks in Group C, where Gawain Jones and Icelandic GM Vignir Vatnar Stefansson went through with 5½/7, as Shakhriyar Mamedyarov could only score '+2', losing to Stefansson and also Luke McShane, who finished third.

The resulting Super Blitz Final saw Firouzja lose to Adams, but otherwise impress as he scooped the £5,000 first prize for his 5½/7, which left him a point in front of compatriot Vachier-Lagrave, with Jones and Vitiugov a further half-point in arrears.

An arguably more important event was the Masters (November 29 - December 7), a pretty strong Open, which at the halfway point Stefansson and Marcus Harvey led with 4½/5, the latter having just held top seed Sadhwani. Unfortunately Harvey would be ground down in 125 moves in round 7 by the highly experienced Israeli GM Smirin, while Stefansson went down to Sadhwani, the 18-year-old top seed landing up tying for first with 56-year-old Smirin, which netted them both £7,500.

**Leading scores:** 1 Raunak Sadhwani (India), Ilya Smirin 7/9, 3-6 Vignir Vatnar Stefansson (Iceland), Ameet Ghasi (Teddington), Matthew Wadsworth (Maidenhead), Oleg Korneev (Spain) 6½.

## O.Korneev-R.Sadhwani London Classic Masters 2024



36...c2+! 37 ♙xc2 ♜b7+ 0-1

The University of Westminster's Marylebone Campus played host to the London Junior Championships over the weekend of December 14th and 15th.

**Under-14 Major:** 1-2 Armaan Nilim (Barnet), Aden Kennedy (Bicester) 5½/6, 3-9 Senith Gunarathne (West Nottingham), Luke Chapman (Bexhill), Ashwin Gopikrishna (Wanstead), Yuk Hei Lee (Wallington), Advait Keerthi Kumar (Watford), Michal Orszulak (Southbourne), Bharath Jayakumar (Harrow) 4½.

**Under-14 Minor:** 1 Edgar Pack (Tonbridge) 5½, 2 Aadishesh Devalia (Dartford) 5, 3-10 Cedric Demarcus (Hammersmith), Alice Harmer (Basildon), Gautam Sriram (Watford), Gaurav Manikandan (Charlton), Rene Uzdin (Richmond), Jagat Singh (Ealing), Jai Bhatia (Wallington), Kwun Fung Hsu (North London) 4½.

**Under-10 Major:** 1 Dildarav Lishoy Gengis Paratazhm (Coulsdon) 7/7, 2-6 Ethan Bogerd, William Lin (both Richmond), Krish Keshari (Reading), William Zhang (Maidenhead), Djan Sennaroglu (Wimbledon) 5½.

**Under-10 Minor:** 1 Kwun Him Hsu (North London) 6½/7, 2 Boyan Spassov 6, 3-9 Max Peach (Barnet), George Brown (Horsham), Patrick Bao (Hammersmith), Zhixing Bai (Leeds), Aron Bertok Szabo (London), Viyaan Goel (Camberley), Ethan Hu (Oxford) 5½.

Alongside those junior championships, a 'Northwick Park' weekend was staged.

**Open:** 1 Ezra Terryn (Belgium) 4½/5, 2-4

Lion Lebedev (Barnet), Sebastien Chua (Oxford University), Alexey Lapidus (Richmond) 3½.

**Major:** 1 David Ewart (Oxfordshire) 4½, 2-5 Hooman Honarvarmahalati (Brighton), Oliver Finnegan (Loughton), Vineet Sood (London), Marc Morgan (Hackney) 4.

**Minor:** 1 Benjamin Carter (Haywards Heath) 4, 2-3 John Sears (Uxbridge), Mason McDermott (Hammersmith) 3½.

Then from December 28th to 30th, the University of Westminster's Harrow Campus staged the remaining sections of the London Junior Championships alongside a Christmas Congress.

**Open:** 1 Cameron Goh (Cambridge University) 6/6, 2 Nigel Aldritt (Harrow) 5, 3 Isaac Lam (Putney) 4½.

**Major:** 1-5 Mohammad Mozaffari (Coulsdon), Daniel Longley (Crowborough), Tara Tamilselvan (Leicester), James Ratcliffe (Horsham), Anixton Linton (Hounslow) 4½.

**Minor:** 1 William Purl 5½, 2-3 David Purl (both Crowthorne), Andrei Laza (Harrow) 5.

**Under-12 Major:** 1-2 Aden Kennedy (Bicester), Advait Keerthi Kumar (Watford) 7½/9, 3-4 Djan Sennaroglu (Wimbledon), Samuel Shah (East Grinstead) 7.

**Under-12 Minor:** 1 Adam Sarwar (Cardiff) 8, 2 Aarav Raj (Coulsdon) 7½, 3 Iaroslav Sinkevich (Horsham) 7½.

**Under-8:** 1-4 Nikesh Acharya (Milton Keynes), Furion Kapitanski (Lewisham), Brannon Bliss (Barnet), Albert Biermann (Nottingham) 6/7.

Tumen Buyandalai (South Norwood) triumphed with 5/5 at the Ealing Rapid on December 1st, finishing a point ahead of Mohammad Mozaffari (Coulsdon) and Boris Pastukhov (Epsom). There was also an Ealing Rapid on January 5th, in which Jovica Radovanovic (British Bangla CA, London) and Ioannis Lentzos (Imperial College London) scored 4/5 in the Open, while the Under-1700 section was won by Torrey Horwood (Westminster) with 4½/5, with Blake Catlett (Imperial College) half a point behind in second.

Another London Chess Congresses event is the Wimbledon Rapidplay, where on December 7th, Epsom IM Peter Large won the Open with 4½/5, finishing a point ahead of Dildarav Lishoy Gengis Paratazhm (Coulsdon). There was an Under-1750 section too, in which Ayush Ganbold (Ealing) triumphed with 4½/5, which left him half a point ahead of Ethan Bogerd (Richmond) and Aryan Singh-Raj (Wimbledon) 4.

The following weekend (December 14-15) saw the Sainbayars put on a Southall Congress.

**Under-2400:** 1-2 Stanley Badaacsonyi (Muswell Hill), Michael Fernandez (Marple) 4/5, 3-4 James Merriman (Petts Wood), Chukwunoso Oragwu (Uxbridge) 3½.

**Under-1900:** 1-4 David Flynn (Nottingham), Raghu Kamath (West London), Boris Pastukhov (Epsom), Roman Zadvorny (Dulwich) 4.

**Under-1600:** 1-2 Harish Chockalingam (Greenwich), Guranshvir Singh (Aylesbury) 4, 3-4 James Peel (Rugby), Prakash Chandra (Southwark) 3½.

That same weekend, (December 14-15), also saw the Coulsdon Late Autumn

Standardplay Congress.

**Open:** 1 Henry Adams (Lewes) 4½/5, 2-3 Robin Haldane (Streatham), Venkata Kilambi (Coulsdon) 3.

**Major:** 1 Paul Jackson (Coulsdon) 4, 2 Charlie Wannasin Bell (Crowborough) 3½, 3-8 Gary Slegg (Wrexham), Paul Braithwaite, Amit Athawale, Dominic Warner (all Coulsdon), Thomas Holmes (St Neots), David Howes (South Norwood) 3.

We should also pay tribute to Baker Street regular, Paul Haddock (1964 - 2024), who was remembered by his good friend Stuart Conquest:

"It is with profound sadness that I record here a few words in tribute to my friend Paul Haddock, whose recent death came as such a shock. Paul was a staunch supporter of congress chess in London, particularly one day rapid events, and many will remember him, indeed will have played Paul in tournaments at Ealing, Muswell Hill, Kensington, Golders Green, and Docklands, to name just a few.

"Paul had a deep love of chess, found the game absorbing and kept his bookshelves stacked with chess material, from new publications to second-hand treasures he sometimes came across. He would never be seen without a bag - anything from the plastic supermarket kind to a smart briefcase - and if the bag contained an old chess magazine or Fred Reinfeld book and a small chess set (with perhaps a bar of chocolate and a paperback novel) then all was well. There was also the question of dinner. If a tournament was not going well, Paul might skip the last round or two and head to one of his favourite restaurants, The Punjab in Neal Street or nearby Masala Zone, and enjoy a fine meal (the waiters practically knew his order by heart) before returning home.

"Like Dr. Johnson, Paul did not tire of London. His career in the Metropolitan Police led him all over the city, and after taking early retirement one of his simple pleasures was to amble its streets, his peregrinations often bringing him to Chess & Bridge from where he would seldom leave without a purchase. But Paul also played chess overseas. His favourite event (he called it 'chess heaven') was Gibraltar, which he returned to year after year.

"He played in Las Vegas in 2008, in Sardinia, 2009, and two years later, in the company of this writer, was in Otranto, Italy, for an inaugural event there. An abiding memory is of how we spent the evening back in London on our return, singing Elvis Presley songs in Paul's front room (aided by a duty-free item I had chosen to open), after which, suitably fortified, we headed out to an Indian restaurant Paul knew at Marble Arch. I should add that Paul was blessed with a fabulous voice and could impersonate Elvis (one of his heroes: another was Freddie Mercury) almost to perfection.

"Paul played Garry Kasparov in a simul at the House of Commons in May 1989, lasting 33 moves. He also played Anatoly Karpov in Gibraltar. Other simul opponents included Ray



Paul Haddock – ever an enthusiastic presence at any chess board, or chess shop.

Keene, Jon Speelman, Neil Carr and Jonathan Levitt. He played many matches for the Metropolitan Police. He helped and encouraged juniors and was always happy to offer advice and go over their games. I gave Paul lessons too, in London, with our first session (I believe) in May 2010, at a pub near Victoria station. The pattern of such meetings – and there were to be many – was quickly established: analyse a game or two of Paul's, unravel a few puzzles or an endgame study perhaps, then off for an early dinner!

"When Brian Callaghan in 2016 organised a special chess trip to Marrakech, with Nigel Short as top billing, Paul signed up. I know he looked back on this experience fondly. Paul would attend any major chess event in the capital, and was a recent visitor at the Global Chess League, as well as at Hans Niemann's match against Nikita Vitiugov. December's London Classic was in his diary. He popped by at ChessFest in Trafalgar Square in July.

"Norman Went, Docklands organiser, describes Paul as 'a one-off, liked universally by other players', who 'lit up the atmosphere at any tournament he had chosen to enter.' His friend Michael Inzani would meet Paul for chess in Walthamstow, where they played five-minute games using Paul's home-made board (its squares, says Michael, 'neatly coloured in with pink highlighter'). They would use Paul's 'slightly mismatched set of wooden chess pieces' and sit outside on a pub bench when the weather permitted, or in the cafe of a local church.

"One of Paul's favourite expressions, at least to me (and usually uttered in a restaurant or over a game of chess) was 'This is the life!'. He loved reading (he seemed to know everything by Stephen King, but would happily dip into the classics), films (he was a member of the Prince Charles cinema by Leicester Square), and Indian food. He was a keen and accomplished golfer before chess took over.

"I close with a game won by Paul in concise fashion, displaying his eager eye for the attack."

## P.Haddock-R.Goodfellow

Kingston (rapid) 2019

*Sicilian, Morra Gambit*

1 e4 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 c3 dxc3 4 ♗xc3 ♗c6  
5 ♗f3 e6 6 ♗c4 a6 7 ♖e2 ♗c7 8 0-0 ♗d6  
9 h3 ♗ge7 10 ♗e1 ♗a5 11 ♗d3 ♗ac6

After finding an interesting set-up against the Morra, Black loses time.

12 ♗e3 0-0 13 e5!?

Perhaps not strictly correct – but the evergreen sacrifice which follows was too tempting.

13...♗xe5 14 ♗xh7+ ♗xh7 15 ♗g5+ ♗g8?

After 15...♗g6 there is no mate. A piece down, White would struggle to justify his cavalier approach.

16 ♖h5 ♗e8 17 f4

Now White has an overwhelming position.

17...♗5g6 18 ♗ce4! b5?



Missing the main threat.

19 ♗ac1

Paul harshly awards himself a question mark for this move in his scorebook. This is a typical exaggeration: he only spotted the winning tactic on his next turn.

19...♖b8 20 ♗f6+! 1-0

Mate is unavoidable.

Paul was a regular at the Baker Street chess shop and the staff there, Joao Santos and Jun Chew, add the following tribute to him:

*Paul used to delight us with his presence and dry sense of humour as he dropped by as part of his daily routine on the way to Oxford Street. He would keenly challenge all-comers to a game or two and browse our rare and second-hand collection of books. He was a gentleman on and off the board with his captivating smile and soft spoken nature, who will be both remembered and sorely missed among the chess community.*

**MANCHESTER** – Swinton Chess Academy staged a Rapidplay on December 8th.

**Open:** 1-2 Jacob Boswell (Cheddleton), Paul Macklin (Swinton) 5/6, 3 Ethan Norris (Atherton) 4.

**Under-1850:** 1 Alannah Ashton (3Cs) 6, 2 Aram Marsh 5, 3 Julian Alderton (both Chorlton) 4½.

**Under-1450:** 1 Muhammad Zairudin (Manchester University) 5½, 2-4 William

Bartlett (Ashton-under-Lyne), John Donegan (Chorlton), Ryan Chattopadhyay (Swinton) 4.

**OLDHAM** – Our congratulations to 3Cs and their secretary Steve Rigby, who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the King's New Year's Honours, for services to chess and his work with young people in the community. Despite now being retired, Rigby is still actively involved in 3Cs, regularly making the 200-mile round trip from his home in Wales to Oldham and the highly successful club which he was a co-founder of in 1978.

**SUTTON COLDFIELD** – We were delighted to see a strong turnout for the Keith Escott Memorial Congress in Sutton Coldfield (December 14-15), where even such players as Mark Hebden and Koby Kalavannan would finish outside the prizes.

**Open:** 1 Tarun Kanyamarala 4½/5, 2-3 Ilia Malinovskii (London), Adam Nawalaniec (Peterborough) 4.

**Under-2000:** 1-2 Doruk Unver (Central Birmingham), Dmytro Romaniuk (Frome) 4½, 3-4 Shahab Quraishi (West Bromwich), Golam Ali (Sutton Coldfield) 4.

**Under-1600:** 1 Matthew Rowe (Longbridge) 5, 2-3 Ron Cooper (Kettering), Waylon Chan (Newport) 4.

**TELFORD** – The popular Shropshire Congress once again took place at the Wrekin Housing Group (January 3-5).

**Open:** 1-2 Shabir Okhai (Syston), Tim Kett (Cardiff) 4/5, 3-6 Tomasz Sygnowski (Wolverhampton), Nathanael Paul, Phil Zabrocki (both Telepost, Shrewsbury), Rudy van Kemenade (Oswestry) 3½.

**Major:** 1 Glyn Pugh (Maddocks, Telford) 4½, 2-3 Carmelo Tirado Simarro (Birmingham), John Cawston (Selby) 4.

**Intermediate:** 1-3 Neil Homer (Swindon), N. White (Wycombe), Waylon Chan (Newport) 4.

**Minor:** 1 Cesar Pileggi (Darwinian Knights, Shrewsbury) 4½, 2-3 Margaret Gretton (Nott-ingham), Sam Bartlett (Ashton-under-Lyne) 4.



Steve Rigby has given his life to helping the young people of Oldham, not least at 3Cs.