

Ulster Chess Union

Ulster Chess News 2000 Number 2

CITY OF BELFAST CHAMPIONSHIP 1-2 APRIL 2000

This event attracted 32 players, including four past and present Ulster champions. Top seed Tom Clarke was the only player with full points after three rounds but then losses in the next two rounds to Steve Scannell and Richard McMaster put him out of contention. Going into the final round Scannell and McMaster, who had drawn with each other in Round 3, were in the lead with 4½ points, with Nicholas Pilkievicz next on 4. McMaster had on paper the easiest task of the three leaders in the last round, being rated over 400 points better than his opponent Tony Parker, but in the end he had a very hard struggle before scoring the full point. North Belfast team-mates Scannell and Pilkievicz were paired against each other and it was the latter who eventually won in a game that went down to the last minute of the playing session.

Leading final scores: 1st Richard McMaster 5½/6; 2nd Nicholas Pilkievicz 5; 3rd equal Steve Scannell and Neil Fisher (who had an excellent last round win against former Ulster champion Michael Holmes) **4½** (Scannell took the 3rd place prize on tie-break but Fisher had the consolation of winning the under 1800 rating prize); **5th equal Tom Clarke, Kieran Greer, David Robb and Mark Newman 4; 9th equal Michael Holmes, Des Moreland, Tony Parker** (who took the under 1650 rating prize), **Stephen McCann and Alan Burns 3½.**

Although the tournament was run in one section the **Junior (under 1450)** competitors had their own prize list and here **David Collins and Ian Woodfield shared 1st with 3 points with David O'Donnell taking 3rd prize on 2½.**

COMPLETE RESULTS

1. R. McMASTER 5.5
2. N. PILKIEWICZ 5
- 3-4. S. SCANNELL, N. FISHER 4.5
- 5-8. T. CLARKE, K. GREER, D. ROBB, M. NEWMAN 4
- 9-13. M. HOLMES, D. MORELAND, T. PARKER S. McCANN, A. BURNS 3.5
- 14-20. D. MALLAGHAN, J. STRAWBRIDGE, P. McLOUGHLIN, J. McLEAN, D. BARLOW, D. COLLINS, I. WOODFIELD 3
- 21-24. A. COOTES, S. McCONAGHY, W. STOREY, D. O'DONNELL 2.5
- 25-30. G. ANNESLEY, C. DUNLEAVY. E. MORGAN, J. CLIFFORD, R. TRIGGS, S. LINTON 2
31. J. CAHOON 1
32. J. WOODFIELD 0

FISHERWICK TOURNAMENT 1999/2000

This continuous tournament was played on Monday nights at the Fisherwick Club throughout the winter and finished on the 10th April. Run on similar lines to the summer tournament at Civil Service, players had to play at least 12 games and compete on 2 out of the last 3 nights. The winning percentages were:

Winner Richard McMaster P21 W18 L2 D1 Points 18½ 88.0%

Runner-up Nicholas Pilkievicz P16 W11 L2 D3 Points 12½ 78.1%

Grading Prize A Paul McLoughlin P21 W11 L7 D3 Points 12½ 59.5%

Grading Prize B David Collins P21 W12 L7 D2 Points 13 61.9%

Steve Scannell scored 8½ out of 10 (W8 L1 D1) but did not play enough games to qualify for a prize. 19 competed, all but 3 playing at least the minimum number of games required.

McMASTER MATCHPLAY MASTERS (RAPIDPLAY) BELFAST 8-9 APRIL 2000

Richard McMaster had the idea of bringing together Ulster's top players in a matchplay format. Originally planned to be run on a knock-out basis, the event was changed into a double round all-play-all. Each player had half an hour on his clock and some hard fought and fascinating chess was produced in what is probably the strongest rapidplay event ever held in Ulster.

POINTS SCORED WHEN PLAYING WITH WHITE								
	C	S	G	H	M	P	S	Pts
Tom CLARKE	X	½	0	1	1	1	1	4½
Steve SCANNELL	1	X	1	0	1	½	0	3½
Kieran GREER	1	½	X	½	0	½	½	3

Michael HOLMES	½	0	1	X	½	1	1	4
Richard McMASTER	1	1	1	1	X	1	1	6
Nicholas PILKIEWICZ	0	0	1	0	1	X	0	2
Adrian SKELTON	0	0	0	0	0	1	X	1
POINTS SCORED WHEN PLAYING WITH BLACK								
	C	S	G	H	M	P	S	Pts
Tom CLARKE	X	0	0	½	0	1	1	2½
Steve SCANNELL	½	X	½	1	0	1	1	4
Kieran GREER	1	0	X	0	0	0	1	2
Michael HOLMES	0	1	½	X	0	1	1	3½
Richard McMASTER	0	0	1	½	X	1	0	2½
Nicholas PILKIEWICZ	0	½	½	0	0	X	0	1
Adrian SKELTON	0	1	½	0	0	1	X	2½

FINAL CROSSTABLE									
		M	S	H	C	G	S	P	Pts
1.Richard McMASTER	2073	XX	10	1½	10	11	11	10	8½
2.Steve SCANNELL	2167	10	XX	01	1½	1½	01	½1	7½
2.Michael HOLMES	2116	½0	01	XX	½0	1½	11	11	7½
4.Tom CLARKE	2187	10	½0	1½	XX	00	11	11	7
5.Kieran GREER	2148	00	½0	½0	11	XX	½1	½0	5
6.Adrian SKELTON	2019	00	01	00	00	0½	XX	11	3½
7.Nicholas PILKIEWICZ	1902	10	0½	00	00	1½	00	XX	3

McMaster,R - Scannell,S [A50]

McMaster Matchplay Masters Belfast (4), 08.05.2000
[Annotations by Richard McMaster]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3

Avoiding the 3...e5 lines.

3...e6 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Nbd2

Hoping to preserve the two bishops.

5...Qe7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 d6 8.a3 Bxd2 9.Bxd2 e5 10.d5 Nd4?!

Almost certainly losing the d-pawn. 10...Nd8 is probably better.

11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Bg5?!

Wasting a move - but the black-squared bishop has few alternatives.

12...h6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Qd2 Bg4

Hoping to attack the semi-backward e-pawn and also possibly the potential attack on the b-pawn.

15.Rfe1 Rfe8 16.f3 Bf5 17.Rad1 Re3

Black has nothing else - the d-pawn is lost and now White is better.

18.Qxd4 Qxd4 19.Rxd4 Rae8 20.Kf2

Not 20.Rd2 because of 20...Bd3 recovering the pawn.

20...Bc2 21.Rd2 Bb3 22.Rd3!

Probably the winning move.

22...Rxd3 23.exd3 Rxe1 24.Kxe1 b5

The only chance.

25.Bf1 g5 26.Kd2 Kg7 27.Be2 bxc4 28.dxc4 Kf6 29.Kc3 Ba4 30.Kd4 h5 31.b4 Bd7 32.c5 Kg6 33.cxd6 cxd6 34.b5 f5 35.f4 h4 36.a4 Kf6 37.a5 Bc8 38.b6 axb6 39.axb6 Kg6 40.Bb5 Kh5 41.fxg5 hxg3 42.hxg3 Kxg5 43.Bc6 Kg4 44.b7 Bxb7 45.Bxb7 Kxg3 46.Bc8 f4 47.Ke4 f3 48.Kf5 f2 49.Ba6 Kf3 50.Ke6 1-0

McMaster,R - Pilkiewicz,N [E83]
McMaster Matchplay Masters Belfast (10), 09.04.2000
[Annotations by Richard McMaster]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3

A Saemisch King's Indian - the battle lines are drawn!

5...0-0 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Nge2

Avoiding the 7.Qd2 e5 8.d5 Nd4 lines or 7...e5 8.Qd2 exd4 9.Nxd4 Ne5 lines.

7...Re8 8.Qd2 a6 9.g4 Rb8 10.h4 e5

10...b5 is possible as well.

11.d5 Nd4

Anything else is good for White. Although Black loses a pawn, paradoxically, he comes out better! It would probably be called a gambit, along the lines of other Nd4 King's Indian lines. Combined with the later sacrifice, which White declines, Black's position becomes very powerful.

12.Nxd4 exd4 13.Bxd4 c5! 14.Be3

14.dxc6 bxc6³

14...h5! 15.g5

15.gxh5 Nxh5³.

15...Nd7 16.Be2

White has nothing better. I would like to play 16.f4 and nearly did so here until I saw 16...Bxc3 and 17...Rxe4³.

16...Ne5 17.0-0-0

17.0-0 fails to 17...Qd7

17...b5

Thematic and good.

18.Rdf1

Again White wants to play 18.f4 but it is still premature.

18...b4?!

There are some lines in this opening where 18...bxc4 is not good. Here, however, it is probably best.

19.Nd1 a5 20.f4

During the game (and until now!) I thought 20.Nf2 was a mistake, thinking after 20...a4 21.f4 Ng4 Black was better. I completely overlooked 20.Nf2 covers g4 as well as e4. This means 20.f4 is a mistake.

20...Ng4 21.Bxg4 hxg4?!

Black doesn't take advantage of White's 20.f4. 21...Bxg4! is better, with perhaps an unclear position.

22.f5

White is now probably better.

22...Rxe4 23.f6 Rxc4+ 24.Kb1 Bf5+ 25.Ka1?

An horrendous oversight. I looked at the position for a couple of minutes and thought I had no choice and played 25.Ka1 missing 25.Rxf5! and 26.fxg7².

25...Rc2 26.Qe1 Bxf6 27.gxf6 Qxf6 28.Rf2

Not 28.Bg5 Qxg5 29.hxg5 Rc1 mate.

28...Rc4 29.Qd2 a4 30.Bg5 Qg7 31.Ne3 Rd4 32.Qc1

32.Nxf5 Rxd2 33.Nxg7 Rxf2 wins for Black.

32...a3 33.Nxf5 gxf5 34.Rxf5 Qg6 35.Rhf1 axb2+ 36.Qxb2 Qxf5??

Probably a time pressure mistake forgetting about the bishop. In simple terms, a losing blunder.

37.Rxf5 Rd1+ 38.Bc1 c4 39.Rg5+ Kf8 40.Qh8+ Ke7 41.Qxb8 1-0

**IRISH SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP LIMERICK 22-30 APRIL 2000
9 ROUND SWISS: 12 COMPETITORS**

PLAYER	H	C	S	W	M	C	D	W	F	M	K	P	Pts
M. HEIDENFELD	X	1	0	½	1	1	½	1	1	1			7
S. COLLINS	0	X	½	1	0	1	1	1	1		1		6½
P. SHORT	1	½	X	0	½	1	½		1	1		1	6½
G. WALL	½	0	1	X	½		1	½	1		1	1	6½
D. McMAHON	0	1	½	½	X	1	½		0		1	½	5
T. CLARKE	0	0	0		0	X		1	1	1	½	1	4½
C. DALY	½	0	½	0	½		X	1		1	0	1	4½
P. WALSH	0	0		½		0	0	X	½	1	1	½	3½
A. FOX	0	0	0	0	1	0		½	X	½	1		3

P. McMAHON	0		0			0	0	0	½	X	1	1	3
E. KEOGH		0		0	0	½	1	0	0	0	X	1	2½
D. PATH			0	0	½	0	0	½		0	0	X	1½

Both P. McMahon and D. Path received a ½ point bye in Round 1.

FINAL UCU LEAGUE TABLES 1999-2000

DIVISION 1.	PLAYED.	WON.	LOST.	DRAWN.	POINTS
R.V.H. A	16	11	1	4	80.5
FISHERWICK A	16	11	3	2	73.0
MALACHIANS	16	12	3	1	72.0
NORTH BELFAST	16	7	5	4	60.5
NEWTOWNARDS	16	4	7	5	49.0
CIVIL SERVICE	16	5	8	3	49.0
BOMBARDIER	16	3	7	6	46.5
C.I.Y.M.S. A	16	3	9	4	43.0
BANGOR A	16	1	14	1	30.5

DIVISION 2/3	PLAYED.	WON.	LOST.	DRAWN.	POINTS	DIVISION
MAGHERAFELT	18	11	1	6	86.5	3
BANGOR B	18	12	3	3	82.5	2
RANDALSTOWN	18	12	6	0	77.5	3
SHORTS	18	9	5	4	74.5	2
FISHERWICK B	18	8	5	5	71.0	2
R.V.H. B	18	8	5	5	69.0	2
C.I.Y.M.S. B	18	5	11	2	47.0	2
FORTWILLIAM	18	2	12	4	43.5	3
R.V.H. C	18	4	14	0	41.0	3

BANGOR C	18	4	13	1	38.5	3
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At a meeting of the Ulster Chess Union Committee, clarification was sought as to whether the Division 3 teams were also eligible for the Division 2 championship. It was decided that under the rules the Division 3 teams were eligible and so Magherafelt were declared Division 2 champions. However having indicated that in those circumstances they did not wish to be awarded the Division 3 title as well, consequently the next placed Division 3 team Randalstown are Division 3 champions.

BOARD PRIZES

	DIVISION 1	DIVISION 2	DIVISION 3
BOARD 1	D. HOUSTON	T. BECKETT	D. MORELAND
BOARD 2	M. HOLMES	E. BOOKLESS	B. MCCAUGHEY
BOARD 3	J. CAIRNS	B. SHAW	F. JOHNSTON M.MCKIMM
BOARD 4	B. O'NEILL	W. MCKITTRICK	S. MCCARTNEY
BOARD 5	B. THOMPSON	C. HUTCHINSON	K. MCCARTAN

UCU KO CUP/PLATE FINALS DAY 7 MAY 2000

UCU KNOCKOUT CUP FINAL 2000

ROUND ONE			
FISHERWICK			NORTH BELFAST
K. GREER 2148	½	½	D. HOUSTON 2249
R. McMASTER 2073	0	1	S. SCANNELL 2167
J. CAIRNS 2008	0	1	A. SKELTON 2019
B. THOMPSON 1754	0	1	N. PILKIEWICZ 1902
W. GRIER 1701	0	1	D. MALLAGHAN 1749
	½	4½	
ROUND TWO			
K.GREER 2148	0	1	D. HOUSTON 2249
R. McMASTER 2073	1	0	S. SCANNELL 2167
J. CAIRNS 2008	1	0	A. SKELTON 2019
B. THOMPSON 1754	0	1	N. PILKIEWICZ 1902

W. GRIER 1701	0	1	D. MALLAGHAN 1749
	2	3	
FINAL SCORE			
FISHERWICK	2½	7½	NORTH BELFAST

INAUGURAL UCU KNOCKOUT CUP PLATE FINAL 2000

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY	2	3	CIVIL SERVICE
D. O'DONNELL 1410E	0	1	T. ESMONDE 1886
D. LAVERY	½	½	S. MOORE 1815
- CHEAH 1300E	½	½	G. HARVEY 1751
C. BLACK	1	0	D. JACKSON 1562
J. O'DONNELL	0	1	C. ARMSTRONG 1542

**BELFAST CIVIC FESTIVAL TOURNAMENT MAY 20-21 2000
(SUPPORTED BY BELFAST CITY COUNCIL)**

There were 38 competitors in this event which was run in a single section but there were separate prize funds for Senior, Intermediate and Junior players.

FINAL SCORES:

1. R. McMASTER 5.5
2. M. HOLMES 5
- 3-5. T. CLARKE, S. SCANNELL AND B. JAMISON 4.5
- 6-8. K. GREER D. ROBB AND D. MALLAGHAN 4
- 9-17. J. STRAWBRIDGE, G. ANNESLEY, A. PINKERTON, M. NEWMAN, T. BECKETT, D. O'DONNELL, B. O'NEILL, S. McCONAGHY AND D. LAVERY 3.5
- 18-21. T. PARKER, S. LYNN, J. WOODFIELD AND N. PILKIEWICZ (withdrew after 5 rounds) 3
- 22-28. W. STOREY, J. CLARKE, J. McLEAN, P. McLOUGHLIN, J. ORCHIN, D. CUNNINGHAM AND F. MARLOWE 2.5
- 29-33. D. GRAY, I. WOODFIELD, C. BLACK, D. COLLINS AND S. LINTON 2
34. N. TODD
- 35-36 J. CAHOON AND A. BECKETT (withdrew after 3 rounds)
- 37-38. A. XAIO (withdrew after 3 rounds) AND S. MCCANN (withdrew after 3 rounds)

PRIZE WINNERS:

SENIOR: 1ST RICHARD MCMASTER;; 2ND MICHAEL HOLMES; 3RD EQUAL TOM CLARKE AND STEVE SCANNELL. GRADING PRIZE (UNDER 1900) BRENDAN JAMISON.

INTERMEDIATE: 1ST EQUAL TONY BECKETT STUART MCCONAGHY BRENDAN O'NEILL AND JOHN STRAWBRIDGE. GRADING PRIZE (UNDER 1600) WILLIAM STOREY (ON TIE-BREAK).

JUNIOR: 1ST EQUAL DAVID O'DONNELL AND DAMIEN LAVERY; 3RD SAM LYNN. GRADING PRIZE (UNDER 1250) JONATHAN WOODFIELD.

U.C.U. GRADING LIST: EASTER 2000

This list, dated 6th May 2000, covers Ulster Senior, Intermediate and Junior championships, League fixtures, KO Cup and Plate to date, City of Belfast tournament, Ulster Open and Fisherwick competition. Only players who have played rated games since the previous list are included below. Any players unhappy with their ratings should contact Robert McCaughey (e-mail prester@ic24.net) with their results for rechecking.

ANNESLEY G. 1842 ARMSTRONG A. 1456 ARMSTRONG C. 1542

BARLOW D. 1561 BECKETT A. 1430 BECKETT T. 1621 BELL E. 1555 BIANCHIN R. 1722 BIGLEY G. 1426 BLACK C. U/G BLAIR D. 1847 BOOKLESS E. 1561 BRADLEY J. 1862 BRADLEY B. U/G BROWN J. 1783 BROWNE K. 1422 BURNS A. 1504

CAHOON J. 1239 CAIRNS J. 2008 CAMPBELL S. 2015 CANNING J. 1400 CARROTHERS F. 1260 CARTER I. 1321 CHEAH 1300E CLARKE J. 1535 CLARKE T. 2187 CLIFFORD JON. 1308 COLLINS D. 1539 COLLINS GEO. 1398 COLLINS GER. 1367 COOPER N. 1429 COOPER S. 1369 COOTES A. 1610 CROSSEY J. 1097 CROZIER E. 1308 CUNNINGHAM D. 1475

DEVENNEY R. 1945 DINSMORE E. U/G DOUGLAS A. 1489 DOUGLAS J. 1187 DOUGLAS T. 1951 DOWNE B. 1281 DOWNES S. 1598 DUNLEAVEY C. 1523

ELLIOTT A. 1442 ELLIOT L. 1310 ESMONDE T. 1886

FERGUSON W. 1824 FERRIS S. 1663 FISHER N. 1752 FOX K. 1270 FOX S. 1194

GRAY D. 1267 GREEN N. 1660 GREER K. 2148 GRIER W. 1701 GUTHRIE G. U/G

HARVEY G. 1751 HEATHWOOD G. 1952 HENDERSON R. 1630 HOLMES M. 2116 HOLMES L. 1427 HOUSTON D. 2249 HUTCHINSON C. 1402

IRVINE P. 1338

JACKSON D. 1562 JAFFA B. 1619 JAMISON B. 1734 JOHNSTON D. 1204 JOHNSTON F. 1398 JUDGE N. 1545

KANE M. 1311 KEENAN E. 1173 KELLY C. 1612 KENNEDY J. 1545

LAPPIN B. 1393 LAW S. 1161 LINES J. 1400 LINTON S. 1480 LOGAN P. 1115E LYNN S. 1253

MCALISTER D. 1690 McBRIDE R. 1198 McCANN S. 1587 McCARTAN K. 1300E McCARTER A. 1649 McCARTNEY S. 1132 McCAUGHEY B. 1557 McCAUGHEY C. 1000 McCAUGHEY R. 1765 McCONAGHY S. 1666 McCONNELL A. 1584 McCORMICK G. 1802 McDONNELL J. 2138 McFERRON B. 1519 McGARRIGLE C. 1244E McGLADE C. 1143 McGRATTEN W. 1609 McGUCKIAN P. 1630 McGUIGAN P. 1782 McKIMM M. 1380 McKITTRICK W. 1530 McLAUGHLIN P. 1711 McLEAN J. 1620 McLEAN R. 1212 McMASTER R. 2073 McNAUGHTON P. 1764 McNEILL J. 1401 McVEIGH R. U/G

MALLAGHAN D. 1749 MALLON S. 1376 MARLOW F. 1458 MASTERSON J. 1872 MAY P. 1876 MEARNS J. 1771 MOORE S. 1815 MORELAND D. 1841 MORGAN E. 1262 MORGAN S. 2004 MORRISON P. 1354 MURRAY D. 1602 MURTAGH D. 1795 MURTAGH P. 1084

NESBITT E. 1261 NEWMAN M. 1815 NICHOLSON J. 1901

O'DONNELL D. 1410E O'DONNELL J. U/G O'NEILL B. 1681 ONG J. 1400E ORCHIN J. 1530

PARKER T. 1612 PATTERSON H. 1158 PATTON C. 1524 PILKIEWICZ N. 1902 POLLOCK G. 1610 PROCTOR R. 1446

ROBB D. 1804 ROGERS J. 1403 ROGERS M. 1570 RUBEN D. 1711

SCANNELL S. 2167 SEIDMAN M. 1428 SHAW B. 1610 SKELTON A. 2019 SLOAN H. 1633 SMYTH DAN. U/G SOUTHAM D 1000 STAFFORD R. 1503 STOREY W. 1465 STRAWBRIDGE J. 1690

THOMPSON A. 1261 THOMPSON B. 1754 THOMPSON D. 1296 THOMPSON I. 1336 TODD GEOFF. 1246 TODD NI. 1245 TRAINOR E. 1078 TRIGGS R. 1500E TRUESDALE D. 1632 TUMILSON D. 1476 TURNER J. 1383

WADDELL J. 1420 WADDELL M. 1782 WALSHE B. 1617 WARING L.C. 1464 WHITESIDE E. 1863 WILLIAMS D. U/G WILSON A. 1309 WILSON J. 1646 WILSON P. 1036 WOOD J. 1577 WOOD S. 1983 WOODFIELD I. 1489 WOODFIELD J. 1237

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