

CULCHETH
CHESS CLUB

BULLETIN

ISSUES 1 & 2

SEASONS 1973-74 , 1974-75.

The Seeds are Sown

One day in June 1973, Gordon Brownbill - a member of Warrington Y.M.C.A. Chess Club - opened his Warrington Guardian. On the Culcheth page he read that Richard Furness - a member of Eccles Chess Club in the Manchester and District Chess League - hoped to form a chess club in Culcheth. A quick telephone call followed and within the hour Gordon and Richard were meeting and the plans for Culcheth Chess Club were hatched!

Notices were placed in local newspapers and the names of prospective members trickled in. The aim was to hold an inaugural meeting in early September with a view to entering a team in the Warrington and District League for the 1973-74 season. The opening meeting was arranged for Thursday 13th September. Four days before this the Warrington League Annual General Meeting was held and although the club had not then been formed, Richard and Gordon gambled and entered a team which was placed in the lowest of the League's three divisions.

The Inaugural Meeting

This was held at the Pack Horse Inn, Church Lane and was attended by the following thirteen interested persons :- G Adamson, G H Brownbill, J T Cammish, Mr. & Mrs. Clemson, R A Furness, E Grimshaw, R Hill, J L Hogan, A C Mackenzie, Dr. J Perkins, R Sargent and K Seddon.

Gordon Brownbill and Richard Furness jointly chaired the meeting and outlined the activities the club might offer. The match programme would consist of twelve matches in Division 3 of the Warrington and District League and a team had also been entered in the Peninsula Cup - a handicap knockout competition in which Culcheth, as a Division 3 team, would receive $1\frac{1}{2}$ points start against a Division 2 team and $2\frac{1}{2}$ points start against a Division 1 team.

It was agreed that Richard and Gordon should run the club until an Extraordinary General Meeting was held about December when a full complement of officers would be appointed. It was also agreed to fix a part-season subscription of £1 (Juniors and Pensioners 25p). Richard Furness offered to loan the club sets, boards and clocks until such time as the club was sufficiently established and financially capable of purchasing its own equipment. The club venue posed some problems. Thursday seemed to be the most convenient night but the room at the Pack Horse was not always available. Alternative accommodation was to be sought, but the club would again meet at the Pack Horse on the 20th. The meeting closed at 9 p.m. and those present then proceeded to play some friendly games.

The Prospects

The evidence of the club's first three meetings was that quite a strong team could be assembled. The strongest player - Dr. J Perkins - was a former President of Manchester Chess Club during which time he had a grading of around 180. Richard Furness and Gordon Brownbill were graded 155 and 137 respectively. Fifteen-year-old Alan Mackenzie had some competitive experience at Bolton School and only two months previously had been joint winner of the Minor Tournament at the Manchester Congress where he had scored $5\frac{1}{2}$ out of 6. Yet another member - Bill Harper - had some experience, being a former member of the now defunct Dater Club chess section. At the League A.G.M., Warrington officials had been predicting success for Culcheth simply on the strength of the Furness-Brownbill duo! If only they had known our hidden resources!

The Opening Match

For the opening match the club was in its attractive new premises at Newchurch Primary School. For this, thanks were due to one of our members John L Hogan, his wife - a teacher at the school, and also to Mr Mackinnon the headmaster.

October 4th

Peninsula Cup

This match proved to be a tougher encounter than the score suggests. Although Gordon and Alan quickly took the initiative to score convincing wins, the other four games were closely

contested. Bill Harper had to withstand a strong king's-side attack but repulsed it to win and take the score to 3 - 0. Richard took advantage of a middle-game error and also scored the full point, but R Sargent got into difficulties in an awkward ending and lost. On board 1 Dr Perkins went into a rook and pawns ending a pawn down. His opponent battled on against accurate defence until 11.15 p.m. before accepting the draw when getting tied-up himself.

<u>Culcheth</u>	v	<u>Allied Breweries</u>	
Dr J Perkins	$\frac{1}{2}$	K Johnson	$\frac{1}{2}$
R A Furness	1	M Brooks	0
G H Brownbill	1	B D Bedworth	0
A C Mackenzie	1	F Fawcett	0
R Sargent	0	C Ashton	1
W D Harper	1	A Stroger	0
Handicap	<u>$1\frac{1}{2}$</u>		—
	6		<u>$1\frac{1}{2}$</u>

First Team

The opening league encounter was the following evening at Appleton Thorn Prison. For this match Culcheth left out the top three players of the previous evening and introduced a further three members to competitive chess. For the first time ever, the prison team defaulted a board when one player failed to turn up and could not be found! It took only about ninety minutes for Culcheth to win every game.

The next league match was a home fixture against Warrington Railway 2nd. The club had now been considerably strengthened by the arrival of the Cheshire Chess Association secretary Peter Clamens, graded 152. He and the other debutants, Graham Connor (a Leigh Grammar School pupil) and J T Cammish, won their games and the match was won 5 - 1 without loss of a game.

A cup match with Warrington Y.M.C.A. 2nd provided another 5 - 1 victory without recourse to the entitled $1\frac{1}{2}$ points handicap. Y.M.C.A. went on to win the Division 2 title! Yet another 5 - 1 win, this time against Boteler Grammar School 2nd, indicated that the team was going to walk away with the league title. When Daresbury (later to win the Division 1 championship without loss!) were beaten $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ - or 6 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ with the handicap points - Culcheth moved into the Peninsula Cup semi-final and a cup and league double began to look a distinct prospect. The Daresbury match saw a successful first team debut for another Bolton School pupil - 13-year-old Jonathon Leigh.

White :- J C Leigh
Black :- G Nail

Ruy Lopez - Steinitz Defence

1	P-K4	P-K4	4	O-O	B-Q2	7	P-KR3	B-K2
2	N-KB3	N-QB3	5	P-Q3	P-KR3	8	N-QB3	P-QR3
3	B-N5	P-Q3	6	B-K3	N-KB3	9	B-R4	P-KN4

Leigh v Raif (continued)

10 N-K1	P-N5	20 B-B4	R-N2	30 RxBP	B-N3
11 BxN	N-PxB	21 B-Q6	N-R3	31 R-B6	B-K1
12 P-KR4	P-KR4	22 Q-B4 !	N-B4 ?	32 R(N1)-KB1	K-K2 ?
13 P-KN3	P-Q4	23 B-K5	B-K3 ?	33 P-QN3	P-R4
14 PxP	PxP	24 N-K3	BxB b	34 N-B5	R-N1
15 P-Q4	P-K5	25 QxB	NxN ? c	35 N-K6	B-Q2
16 N-N2	R-QN1	26 QxR+	K-Q2	36 R-B7+!	K-Q3 e
17 R-N1	P-QB3 a	27 QxQ+	KxQ	37 N-B5 !	<u>Resigns</u>
18 P-QR3	N-N1	28 PxN	P-KB4 d		
19 Q-Q2	B-B3	29 N-QR4	B-B2		

- a This is bad because it blocks in the white-squared bishop.
- b NxN loses to BxB attacking the queen. This move is also bad.
- c Much better is R-R3, followed by B3 and B6.
- d Blocking the white-squared bishop.
- e If KxN, R(1)-B6 mate.

Notes by J C Leigh.

The team continued to overwhelm all opposition, winning its remaining league matches 6-0 and 6-0 v Halton D; 5-1 and 5½-½ v Rank Xerox, 6-0 and 4-2 v Culcheth 2nd, 4½-1½ v Boteler 2nd, 6-0 v Railway 2nd and 6-0 v Appleton Thorn. The league record for the season was :-

Played 12 Won 12 Points For 65 Points Against 7 !

The team finished six points ahead of its nearest rivals.

In the Peninsula Cup semi-final Irlam were beaten 4-2. We lost 1-2 on the top boards, but scored 3-0 on the bottom three. In the final we faced Warrington Y.M.C.A., the cup-holders and the previous year's league champions. Again we went down 1-2 on the top boards but scored enough on the bottom three (2½-½) to edge through without needing the handicap. Richard's loss was his first for the club (previously P13 W10 D3). We thus completed the Cup and Division 3 double.

Peninsula Cup Final - 1974

Culcheth	v	Y.M.C.A.	
Dr J Perkins	1	G H T Parsonage	0
R A Furness	0	P Taylor	1
P Clemens	0	T A Leigh	1
A C Mackenzie	1	P Rathbone	0
J C Leigh	½	E Gleave	½
G H Brownbill	1	J Chambers	0
	3½		2½

The complete record for the first team (league and cup) was :-

Played 17 Won 17
Points For 85½ Against 16½
The games records being :-
won 80, drawn 11, lost 11.

Eighteen players took part in First Team matches, but the team was drawn largely from Dr J Perkins, R A Furness, P Clemens, G H Brownbill, A C Mackenzie (100%), G Connor (100%), W D Harper and J C Leigh. The full individual details are shown below.

Player	Average Board	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	%
Dr J Perkins	1.0	8	5	3	0	81
R A Furness	1.9	14	10	3	1	83
P Clemens	2.3	14	11	1	2	83
A C Mackenzie	3.6	10	10	0	0	100
G Connor	3.6	8	8	0	0	100
G H Brownbill	3.7	14	12	1	1	90
R Sargent	4.0	2	1	0	1	50
J C Leigh	4.8	9	7	1	1	83
W D Harper	4.8	8	4	1	3	56
E Grimshaw	5.0	3	2	0	1	67

continued

First Team Records - continued

Player	Average Board	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	%
B Bray	5.0	1	1	0	0	100
N Carr	5.0	1	1	0	0	100
J R Dutton	5.7	3	3	0	0	100
P Brooks	6.0	3	2	0	1	67
J T Cammish	6.0	1	1	0	0	100
N McFarland	6.0	1	1	0	0	100
J Howarth	6.0	1	1	0	0	100
P Moody	6.0	1	0	1	0	50
		102	80	11	11	84 %

Warrington and District League 1973-74

Division 3

	P	B	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Culcheth 1st	12	12	0	0	65	7	24
2 Boteler B	12	9	0	3	46½	24½	18
3 Culcheth 2nd	12	9	0	3	44	28	18
4 Railway B	12	5	1	6	35½	36½	11
5 Halton D	12	4	1	7	23½	48½	9
6 Rank Xerox	12	2	0	9	20½	51½	4
7 Appleton Thorn	12	0	0	12	16	56	0

Second Team

When during October, one of the Division 3 teams withdrew, the club decided to take advantage of the opportunity to give competitive play to more members, to form a second team and ask to be allowed to take over the vacant place.

The first fixture was a 5-1 victory over Rank Xerox and our successful team was :- K Chadwick, J C Leigh, G A Flook, B Bray, E Grimshaw and J L Hogan. Bill Harper was the non-playing captain. Comfortable victories against Appleton Thorn (4½-1½) and Railway B (4-2) were followed by the internal fixture against the first team and a 0-6 reverse. Two more victories at the expense of Rank Xerox and Halton D (both 4-2) put the team second in the league, but then came a poor result against Boteler B when we could muster only 4 draws. Once again there came two wins (4-2 v Appleton Thorn and 3½-2½ revenge against Boteler B) before the return match with the first team. This proved to be a much closer encounter than before and for the first time in a league match the first team lost two games before winning by 4-2. The two victorious second team players were 16-year-old Ian Dutton (who ended J C Leigh's unbeaten run of 12 games in first and second teams) and an 11-year-old debutant Alan Beardsworth. The season ended with 5-1 and 6-0 victories against Railway B and Halton D.

White :- D H Luker (Boteler)

Black :- A C Mackenzie

Modern Defence

1 Pe4	Pd6	8 Pe5	Pxe5	15 Sg5	Se5
2 Pd4	Sf6	9 Pxe5	Sg4	16 Bb3	Pb6
3 Sc3	Pg6	10 Pe6	dSe5	17 Bd6	Bh6
4 Bg5	Bg7	11 Qxd8	Rxd8	18 Bxe5	Bxc5
5 Sf3	0-0	12 Bxe7	Re8	19 Pf4	Bh6
6 Bc4	bSd7	13 Pxf7+	Sxf7	20 Sb5	Re7
7 0-0	Pc5	14 Bxc5	Bf5	21 Sd5	Be6

Luker v Mackenzie - continued

22	aRe1	Bxb3	33	Pg3	Ke4	44	Ke2	Ph4
23	aPxb3	Sxcd6	34	Re1+	Kf3	45	Pb4	Pxb4
24	Bxd6	Rxe1	35	Re6	Rd1+	46	Pxb4	Kd4
25	Rxe1	Rd8	36	Re1	Rxe1+	47	Kf3	Kc4
26	Be5	Rd2	37	Kxe1	Kxg3	48	Kg4	Kxb4
27	Rc1	Bg7	38	Ke2	Kxf4	49	Kxh4	Kb3
28	Bxc7	Kxc7	39	Kf2	Pg5	50	Kg3	Kxb2
29	Ph3	Ph5	40	Kg2	Pg4	51	Kf3	Pb5
30	Ra1	Pa5	41	Pxc4	Kxg4	52	Ke3	Kc2
31	Rc1	Kf6	42	Pc3	Kf4	53	<u>Resigns</u>	
32	Kf1	Kf5	43	Kf2	Ke4			

To show that not all of Alan's games were swindles, here is one where, after the early loss of the exchange he wins with active pawn play on two fronts.

White :- J Morris (Halton)

Black :- A C Mackenzie

Modern Defence

1	Pe4	Pd6	14	Bxf8	Kxf8	27	Qxf8+	Kxf8
2	Sf3	Pg6	15	Rb1	Pe5	28	Pxc6	Pxc6
3	Bc4	Bg7	16	O-O	Sa4	29	Kg2	Pxe4
4	Sg5	Sh6	17	Qd2	Pf5	30	Bd1	Kg7
5	Pd4	O-O	18	Qh6+	Kg8	31	Rh1	Pa3
6	Sc3	Pc5	19	Pc4	Pb4	32	Kg3	Rf8
7	Pd5	Sd7	20	Rbc1	Sc3	33	Rh2	Pe3
8	Ph3	Sb6	21	Bf3	Sxe2	34	Bf3	Pe4
9	Bb5	Pa6	22	Ra1	Sc3	35	aRh1	Rxf3+
10	Be2	Bxc3+	23	Pg4	Pa5	36	Kg2	Rxf2+
11	Pxc3	Pf6	24	Ph4	Pa4	37	Kg3	Se2+
12	Se6	Bxe6	25	Pg5	Pf5	38	<u>Resigns</u>	
13	Bxh6	Bd7	26	Ph5	Qf8			

The league record for the season is shown in the league table on the previous page. Only a slightly inferior games average prevented the team taking second place. Sixteen players took part in second team matches with A C Mackenzie, G Connor, W D Harper, J C Leigh, E Grimshaw, J R Dutton and S B Towers forming the nucleus of the team. The full records are shown below.

Player	Average Board	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	%
A C Mackenzie	1.0	8	6	1	1	81
K Chadwick	1.5	4	1	0	3	25
J C Leigh	2.2	6	4	2	0	83
G Connor	2.3	9	4	0	5	44
W D Harper	3.7	7	4	1	2	64
G A Flook	4.0	2	1	0	1	50
E Grimshaw	4.1	10	5	1	4	55
J R Dutton	4.3	7	6	1	0	93
S B Towers	4.8	5	2	0	3	40
B Bray	5.0	4	3	0	1	75
K Seddon	5.0	1	0	0	1	0
A D Robinson	5.0	1	0	0	1	0
D DeValle	5.3	3	2	0	1	67
A W Beardsworth	5.5	2	2	0	0	100
J L Hogan	6.0	2	1	0	1	50
M Gerrard	6.0	1	0	0	1	0
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		72	41	6	25	61 %
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Season Two

1974-75

The season began with the club optimistic that the First Team - if it continued to give competitive games to as many members as possible - might find things difficult in Division 2. The club's top four players were named as Dr J Perkins, Richard Furness (grading 155), Alan Mackenzie (155) and Peter Clemens (155 also!). These were ineligible for the Second Team. Gordon Brownbill (145) and Johnathan Leigh were the remaining regulars from the previous season, but Ian Dutton was challenging hard for the lost place. With Graham Connor now at Keele University, the strongest available Second Team looked likely to be Brownbill, Leigh, Dutton, Harper, Towers and Grimshaw.

First Team

Once again the season began with a Peninsula Cup match against Allied Breweries. This time we were drawn away and this time we were giving away the $1\frac{1}{2}$ points handicap. Nothing less than a 4-2 victory would do. Unfortunately we were without Dr J P and Peter Clemens. Midway through the evening our chances looked slim, but we recovered so that at adjournment we held a 3-1 lead. Ian Dutton's game seemed unlikely to yield more than a draw and on board one Richard seemed to have a shaky position. Lots of analysis went into these games. Ian soon got his draw and Richard slowly got on top and could probably have gone on to win, but took the safe draw by repetition to give the necessary 4-2 (4-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ with handicap) victory.

Our first Division 1 fixture was a match at Frodsham. Peter returned to the team at the expense of Johnathan who was unable to play in many away matches. Gordon scored his eleventh successive First Team victory but Alan Mackenzie went wrong in a rook and pawns ending and lost to end his eleven-game winning run (his first 11 games for the First Team!). Richard fought back after an elementary opening blunder and, with the score 3-2, almost swindled a draw by perpetual check - but not quite. Result 3-3. The following game was played at board five.

White :- A Miller
Black :- J R Dutton

Closed French Defence (?)

1	e4	e6 (a)	7	O-O	Bb7	13	Qh5	Qh1+
2	d4	c5 (b)	8	e5	de (g)	14	Kf2	Qh2+ (m)
3	c3	b6 (c)	9	fe	h6 (h)	15	Ke3 ? (n)	0-0-0
4	f4	d6 (d)	10	g3 ? (i)	Ne7	16	Qg4	cd+
5	Nf3	a6 (e)	11	Nh4 (j)	Qc7 (k)	17	cd	Nd5+
6	Bd3 (f)	Nd7	12	Rf7 !? (l)	Qc6 (l)	18	<u>Resigns</u> (o)	

- (a) The French Defence isn't my style - it's just that I was looking around for a reasonable answer to 1 e4.
- (b) This was it - the French-Benoni, a favourite at one time of the Danish grandmaster Bent Larsen, renowned for his wild but interesting play. White's best reply is probably 3 d5. I once had this played against me and got a draw only after some hair-raising play. This game is no exception.
- (c) To develop the black queen's bishop. I also hoped to be able to transpose to another "wild and woolly" favourite line of mine, the Katalimov Variation of the Sicilian (1 e4 c5; 2 Nf3 b6; 3 c3 e6). My opponent has other ideas.
- (d) To prevent the black queen's pawn becoming backward if white should play 5 e5.

- (e) Otherwise after 5. Bb7, an eventual Bb5 by white might cause problems. It seems a pity to move a piece in such an original/crazy position (delete whichever is inapplicable).
- (f) White has a very good position, but he is a wild player and was already watching f7. He soon runs out of a plan other than the sacrifice on that square.
- (g) 8. d5 allows him more play with the threat of f5.
- (h) 9. Ne7 only allows 10. Bg5 which, though it does not really threaten anything, piles on more pressure whilst developing a piece.
- (i) White weakens a diagonal which my queen's bishop already occupies. 10. Be3 seems natural and as good as in more normal French lines.
- (j) Making his intentions blatantly obvious.
- (k) With counterattack already planned, since my opponent seemed to be opening lines for me, e.g. h1-a8.
- (l) The sacrifice must be unsound. After 12. Kf7; 13 Qh5+ Kg8; (13. g6 is hopeless after 14 Ng6) 14 Ng6 Ng6; 15 Bg6 I lose by Bf7+ and Qg6++, though here again 15. Be7 looks comparatively safe. However even after 14. Rh7; 15 Ne7+ Be7; 16 Bh7+ Kh7 white's attack is dissipated and black is a piece to a pawn up with a simple win after 16. Rf8 and 17. Qc6. Now if 13 Qf3, probably his best move, there comes 13. Ne5, when 14 Be4 fails simply to Nf3+.
- (m) Levelling the material situation, but material is now irrelevant.
- (n) 15 Ke1 is necessary, when black replies 15 0-0-0. Now 15. Nd5+ wins but I overpooked it in my haste. White must not be allowed to play 15. Qg3+??; 16 Rf3+ winning for white.
- (o) The white queen is lost because of the black queen's bishop. This game could be said to have been played on the h8-a1 diagonal.

Notes by J R Dutton.

Yet another away match followed and the same six players - Furness, Mackenzie, Clemens, Brownbill, Dutton, Harper - went to play Halton B. The team put up a much more solid performance, winning by 4½-1½. The draw came from Gordon whose eleven-game winning run came to an end (9 of these were in Division 3 the season before). The following game was played at board one in this match.

White :- D Aldridge
Black :- R A Furness

Sicilian Defence - Pelikan Variation.

1 P-K4	P-QB4	14 N-K4	QxQ+	27 R-KR1	R-B5+
2 N-KB3	N-QB3	15 KxQ	RxP	28 K-Q3	KcP
3 P-Q4	PxP	16 NcP+	K-K2	29 RcP	P-N4
4 NcP	N-B3	17 N-K4	P-B4	30 R-Q7+	K-K3
5 N-QB3	P-K4	18 B-B1	RxRP	31 R-Q8	P-K5+
6 N(4)-N5	P-Q3	19 RcR	N-B6+	32 K-Q2	R-R5
7 B-N5	P-QR3	20 K-K3	NcR	33 R-K8+	K-B4
8 BxN	PxB	21 N-B3	NcB+	34 K-K2	RcP
9 N-R3	P-Q4	22 RcN	P-B5+	35 R-B8+	K-K4
10 PxP	BxN	23 K-B3	B-B4	36 R-K8+	K-Q5
11 PxB	Q-R4	24 R-KN1	R-QB1	37 R-Q8+	K-B6
12 Q-Q2	N-Q5	25 N-K4	BxN+	38 R-B8+	K-N7
13 B-Q3	R-KN1	26 KxB	K-Q3	39 <u>Resigns</u>	

The next match was at home to Y.M.C.A. B. For this we were in our new club room at the Methodist Church (for about six months we had been meeting at the Youth Centre in Church Lane) and were represented by what became our first choice team (Perkins, Furness, Mackenzie, Clemens, Brownbill and Dutton). We celebrated in style by recording a 6-0 scoreline which was repeated two weeks later in a cup match against third division Rank Xerox.

Irlan were our next league visitors (victims). Ian Dutton lost for the first time (previously P8 W7 D1 L0) but our team remained solid, all our white men won and the result was 4-2 in our favour. This game was played at board three.

White :- A C Mackenzie
Black :- B E Craggs

Sicilian Defence

1 Pe4	Pc5	11 Pg5	Sg8	21 Pxd5	Pe5
2 Pf4	Pe6	12 Sd5	Qd8	22 Bxe5	Sf6
3 Sf3	Pd6	13 Ph4	Pg6	23 Pd6	Bxd6
4 Sc3	Sc6	14 Rf1	Pf5	24 Bxf6	Bg3+
5 Pd3	Sf6	15 Bc3	Sd4	25 Ke2	Qxd2+
6 Ph3	Be7	16 Qd2	Rb8	26 Kxd2	0-0
7 Pg4	Bd7	17 Sf3	Sxf3+	27 Bd5+	Rf7
8 Bd2	Pa6	18 Bxf3	Be6	28 Be7	<u>Resigns</u>
9 Bg2	Qb6	19 Pxe5	Pxe4		
10 Sh2	Pe5	20 Pxe4	Bxd5		

A good example of marauding bishops and skillful use of king's-side pawns.

At this point in the season we felt confident of beating all opposition at home, but the extent of our success would be determined by our ability to take some points from away matches against Daresbury, Halton A, Railway and Y.M.C.A. The first of these difficult fixtures now loomed before us. Daresbury had not lost any of their 14 matches in becoming league champions the previous year and their strength was based entirely upon three good players - Bailey, Winbow and Storrow. Being without Dr Perkins we defaulted on board 1, hoping to score heavily on the bottom three boards and to scrape a draw on either board 2 or 3. The plan worked. Alan had an excellent win against Storrow, Peter and Ian also won and Gordon got a draw. The least said about the other game the better. Result 3½-2½. This was also our winning score in the next match against Railway. The possibility of us being serious contenders for the championship began to be considered. At this stage we were second in the league, just a point behind Halton A and a point ahead of Y.M.C.A. These two clubs were our remaining opponents before the halfway point in the season was reached.

We knew our trip to Halton would be our hardest fixture so far, and so it turned out. There could have been no more difficult a debut for 16-year-old Stephen Towers, yet he did as well as anybody. He lost! We all lost! Our 25 match (W24 D1) unbeaten run was ended in no uncertain manner. Gordon's loss ended his 17-game unbeaten run (W15 D2) and was only his second defeat in 23 first team games.

We had just eight days in which to recover our equilibrium before entertaining Y.M.C.A.. That the teams were evenly matched was proved by four of the games being hard-fought draws. Ian recovered from his three losses in four games to score our only win and this made up for our one loss. We were accustomed to Gordon's sacrifices but not to the extent of a rook in the opening. We just kept our unbeaten home record. The leading positions at this point in the season were :-

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Halton A	8	7	0	1	14
Y.M.C.A. A	8	6	1	1	13
Culcheth	8	5	2	1	12

These three clubs had pulled away from the others.

We began 1975 with three good wins :- 5-1 v Frodsham, 5-1 v Daresbury in the cup quarter-final and 4½-1½ against Y.M.C.A. B. Halton A

Matched our two league victories, but Y.M.C.A. 'A' were beginning to falter. Our home fixture against Halton 'B' appeared a mere formality. We had beaten them easily away and were at full-strength for the return. After half-an-hour's play we were one up and all seemed to be going well. By the end of the evening we were trailing 2-3 and looking desperately to Ian to square the match, which he did. With only five matches to go we were now three points behind Halton 'A' who also had the better games average.

For our semi-final at Frodsham we kept the same team ^{and} although held on the top three boards, our strength-in-depth saw us through 4½-1½ as Peter, Gordon and Ian all won as did Dr Perkins. Our only loser was Alan - his third loss of the season to Frodsham. By his win Dr J P equalled Gordon's record of 17 games without defeat.

By a 4-2 win at Irlam and a 5-1 home success against Daresbury we kept alive our slim championship hopes. Halton 'A' were still winning so we remained three points adrift with only three to play. By beating Bailey of Daresbury, Dr Perkins extended his unbeaten sequence. Whilst we scored a convincing 5-1 win at Railway, Halton struggled to a draw against Y.M.C.A. 'B'... two points behind with two to play... the next fixture brought Halton to Culcheth.

Here is a game from the match against Railway.

White :- H Dobmeier

Black :- J C Leigh

Alekhine's Defence

This game shows the disastrous effects of losing time in the opening and giving up the centre.

1 e4	Nf6	8 c3	b f5	15 Kh1	Nf3
2 Nc3	d5	9 Ng5?	c Bxe2	16 Rd1	Qh5
3 Pxd5	Nxd5	10 Qe2	h6	17 h4	Qg4 e
4 Nxd5	Qxd5	11 Nf3	e4	18 Nf4	gxf4
5 Nf3	Bg4	12 Nh4	Qf7 d	19 Kg2	Nxh4+
6 Be2	Nc6	13 g3	g5	20 Kf1	Qh3+
7 0-0	0-0-0 a	14 Ng2	Ne5	21 Ke1	Ng2+ f
				22 <u>Resigns</u>	

- Black decides to castle queens-side and advance his kings-side pawns. His pieces are poised for an attack on the king.
- Too slow. The queen would be misplaced at b3 or a4 if that was the idea.
- Bad move. The knight can do nothing and is driven back by black's advancing pawns. As soon as white's knight is safe, the attack will be upon him.
- Defending the f pawn and aiming to trap the knight with 14. g5.
- Both black's last two moves threatened mate in one.
- 22 Kf1 Ne3 dis+; 23 Ke1 Nc2 mate or 23 Kg1 Qg2 mate.

Notes by Jonathan Leigh.

As was to be expected, the match against Halton was a very tense affair and at adjournment the score stood at 2½-2½ with Brownbill v Smith the crucial unfinished game. The match might already have been won had not Richard missed a win against David Welch when both players were in severe time pressure.

White :- D Welch

Black :- R A Furness

Dutch Defence

1 N-KB3	P-KB4	6 B-N2	P-K4	11 PxP	Q-R4	(a) 15 .. P-QR4 to prevent P-QN4 and to give a retreat for the N was better.
2 P-QN3	N-KB3	7 P-Q3	0-0	12 N-R4	QxQ	
3 B-N2	P-K3	8 QN-Q2	N-B3	13 QRxQ	N-QN5	
4 P-B4	B-K2	9 0-0	Q-K1	14 P-R4	N-Q6	
5 P-N3	P-Q3	10 P-K4	PxP	15 B-QR3	N-B4 ? a	

Welch v Furness (continued)

16 P-B4	B-N5	22 R-Q7	NcN	28 P-K6	NcP
17 BxN	BxR	23 NxB	N-Q5	29 NcN+	K-B1
18 RxB	PxB	24 P-K6	QR-Q1?? b	30 N-B7	K-K2
19 PxP	N-N5	25 B-R3	RxR	31 NcR	KxN
20 N-B5	B-N4	26 PxR	R-Q1		<u>Resigns</u>
21 N-B3	N-K6	27 P-K5	P-KR3		

(b) 24. P-KR3 ! wins.

The next game was played on the top board and shows how, after black has played 9. P-K4, the closed position which results completely shuts out the black kings-bishop.

White :- Dr J Perkins
Black :- M Fox

Modern
Defence

1 P-K4	P-Q3	12 P-QN3	B-Q2	23 N-B3	R-N7
2 P-Q4	P-KN3	13 QR-B1	N-R3	24 BxN	NxB
3 P-QB4	B-N2	14 P-QR3	P-B4	25 N-R4	NcKP
4 N-QB3	N-KB3	15 N-N5	BxN	26 Q-K3	RxB
5 B-N5	O-O	16 PxB	N-N1	27 QxN	R-R7
6 Q-Q2	P-QB3	17 P-B4	QN-Q2	28 N-B3	QR-R1
7 B-Q3	QN-Q2	18 P-B5	P-N3	29 R-R3	Q-K2
8 KN-K2	Q-B2	19 R-B3	K-R1	30 Q-K3	P-N4
9 O-O	P-K4	20 QR-KB1	P-B5	31 P-B6	Q-Q1
10 P-Q5	N-B4	21 P-QN4	PxP	32 QxKNP	Q-KN1
11 B-B2	P-QR4	22 PxP	R-R7	33 Q-R5	<u>Resigns</u>

Hours (days !) of analysis went into the vital game. This showed that the adjourned position held remarkable possibilities. Gordon's efforts were not in vain. He won, so we won by $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$. We were now level with Halton 'A'. Both teams had Y.M.C.A. 'A' to play but Halton still had the better games average.

As we had only drawn our home fixture with Y.M.C.A. we were apprehensive about our winning chances. The fears of Richard and Peter proved justified, but Gordon and our three schoolboys (Alan, Ian, Jonathan) did us proud. Quite late on, the score was 2-2 with Jonathan having only a slight edge and Alan definitely on the losing end of his game against Rathbone. At the critical moment (about ten minutes to eleven) the younger brain proved to be the more alert to the swindling possibilities and Alan won. With Jonathan winning in more conventional style we triumphed by 4-2.

White :- J Chambers Black :- J R Dutton Sicilian Defence - Dragon

1 Nf3 Nf6; 2 c4 c5; 3 Nc3 Nc6; 4 d4 cd; 5 Nd4 d6; 6 e4 g6 after threatening to be a Reti Opening, then an English, we now get to a Dragon Var.; 7 Be2 Bg7; 8 Be3 O-O I was now playing an opening I disliked intensely; 9 f3 Re8 (9 .. Bd7 is correct, but I was hoping that after 10 Qd2 and Bh6 I might play Bh8 !? which I had done once before when playing a Kings Fianchetto Defence, the idea being to present my opponent with so many good-looking moves to choose from he might choose an inferior one ! (editor adds !!!!!) My opponent began to use a lot of time, presumably doing this very thing.); 10 Qd2 Rb8; I was waiting for white to commit himself. I hoped to play ..b5 if I didn't get crushed first. 11 g4 The pawnroller begins. 11 .. ab; 12 g5 ? After 20 minutes thought he goes wrong and the game changes drastically. 12 h4 is correct. 12 .. Nd7 Now I began to look for a win since white has compromised his position. 13 h4 (too late) Nf6 (with a strong defence); 14 O-O-O Bd7; 15 h5 Nd4; 16 Bd4 Bd4; 17 Qd4 Ne6; 18 Qd2 (to prevent Nf4; white is using a lot of time); 18 .. b5 (to open the c file); 19 hg fg; 20 Qd5 (with 10 minutes

to play 11 moves, white hopes to play f4) 20 .. Qc8; 21 Kb1 Bc6;
 22 Qd2 Qb7; 23 Rh7 !? Kh7; 24 Rh1+ Kg7; 25 Nb5 ab; 26 Qc3+
 (white has been lured into this by black's 24th.) 26 .. Nd4 !;
 27 Qd4+ Kf7; 28 Rh7+ Ke6; 29 e5 (one move short of the time control
 white lost on time. Black has a won position, a rook to the good, with
 a readymade attack after Kd7 and bc.

Notes by Ian Dutton

Here are the closing stages of the critical Mackenzie v Rathbone games
 White (Mackenzie) had King on f1 and pawns on a3, b4, e5, f4, g5 and h3.
 Black (Rathbone) had King on f8 and pawns on a6, b7, d5, e6, f7, g7 and h5.

Play continued :- 34 Ke2 Ke7; 35 Kd3 Kd7; 36 Kd4 Kc6; 37 Pa4
 Pb6; 38 Pf5 Kd7; 39 Pf6 Pxf6; 40 ePxf6 Ph4; 41 Ke5 Ke8;
 42 Kf4 Kf8; 43 Ke5 Kg8; 44 Pg6 Pxf6; 45 Kxe6 Kf8; 46 Kxd5
 Pg6; 47 Ke4 Kf7; 48 Kf5 Pg4; 49 Kxg4 Kxf6; 50 Kxh4 Resigns.

If Halton could beat Y.M.C.A. in their final match, the
 title would be theirs. Any other result would see Culcheth as the new
 champions. By a strange coincidence the unfinished games in the crucial
 Y.M.C.A. - Halton match were played at the Y.M.C.A. side-by-side with
 our Peninsula Cup Final against Irlam. Midway through our final, Y.M.C.A.
 beat Halton to make us the Division 1 Champions at the first attempt.
 After a brief celebration we knuckled down to our own task and beat
 Irlam to retain the Cup and clinch the double.

Peninsula Cup Final 1975

<u>Culcheth</u>		<u>Irlam</u>	
Dr J Perkins	1	B Pullan	0
G H Brownbill	1	P Furlong	0
P Clemens	$\frac{1}{2}$	J Rowles	$\frac{1}{2}$
R A Furness	1	R Singh	0
A C Mackenzie	1	F Tully	0
J R Dutton	0	J Porthouse	1
	$4\frac{1}{2}$		$1\frac{1}{2}$

Warrington and District League 1974-75

						<u>Division 1</u>	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Culcheth	16	12	3	1	$61\frac{1}{2}$	$34\frac{1}{2}$	27
2 Halton A	16	12	1	3	$65\frac{1}{2}$	$30\frac{1}{2}$	25
3 Y.M.C.A. A	16	9	3	4	55	41	21
4 Railway	16	7	2	7	48	48	16
5 Daresbury	16	5	3	8	45	51	13
6 Irlam	16	6	1	9	$41\frac{1}{2}$	$54\frac{1}{2}$	13
7 Halton B	16	4	3	9	44	52	11
8 Frodsham	16	4	3	9	42	54	11
9 Y.M.C.A. B	16	2	3	11	30	66	7

The full table of individual results is given on the following page.

Second Team

Although not winning any cups, this team had a successful
 season finishing fourth in Division 2, only a point behind the runners-up.
 On only one occasion was the strongest team selected. This was against
 the league winners Atherton who were crushed $4\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$; their only league
 defeat of the season.

First Team Records for season 1974-75

Played 21, Won 17, Drawn 3, Lost 1, Points For 85½, Points Against 40½. The games records were :- won 73, drawn 25, lost 28.

Player	Average Board	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	%
Dr J Perkins	1.0	12	9	3	0	88
R A Furness	2.4	21	9	7	5	60
A C Mackenzie	2.8	20	12	3	5	68
P Clemens	2.8	20	9	8	3	65
G H Brownbill	4.3	21	15	3	3	79
J R Dutton	5.6	21	15	1	5	74
J C Leigh	5.6	5	3	0	2	60
W D Harper	6.0	4	1	0	3	25
S B P Towers	6.0	1	0	0	1	0
default		1	0	0	1	
		126	73	25	28	68

Second Team (continued)

The programme began with a loss (2-4) at Atherton. With very much the same team, Allied Breweries and Frodsham B were beaten by 3½-2½ and 4-2 respectively. The match with Boteler G S was drawn. A defeat at home to Railway B was rather a blow, but a 3½-2½ victory at Parkside and a draw against Halton C improved the team's league position. The team was then crushed 1-5 at Frodsham but recovered well to win the next three fixtures against Boteler, Allied Breweries and Atherton. A number of new players were given games in the closing fixtures and these partly explain the losses against Parkside and Railway B. The final fixture at Halton was won 3½-1½ with one double default.

Warrington and District League 1974-75

						Division 2	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Atherton	14	10	3	1	51	33	23
2 Boteler	14	6	5	3	48½	35½	17
3 Railway B	14	7	2	5	46½	37½	16
4 Culcheth B	14	7	2	5	43	41	16
5 Parkside	14	4	5	5	42½	41½	13
6 Frodsham B	14	5	2	7	41½	42½	12
7 Allied Breweries	14	3	2	9	35½	48½	8
8 Halton C	14	2	3	9	27½	56½	7

Individual Records - Second Team - 1974-75

Name	Average Board	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	%
G H Brownbill	1.0	8	6	0	2	75
J R Dutton	1.6	11	5	4	2	64
J C Leigh	2.4	9	3	5	1	61
W D Harper	3.2	10	5	1	4	55
A W Beardsworth	3.5	2	2	0	0	100
S B P Towers	3.6	13	6	5	2	64
E Grimshaw	4.4	7	2	0	5	29
R Roe	5.0	1	1	0	0	100
G Connor	5.0	1	0	0	1	0
R H Williams	5.2	6	2	2	2	50
A Porter	5.3	3	1	0	2	33
B Bray	5.4	7	0	1	6	7
R Bates	6.0	2	0	0	2	0
Andrew Boe	6.0	1	0	0	1	0
Adrian Roe	6.0	1	0	0	1	0
R Baxter	6.0	1	0	1	0	50
		83	33	19	31	51

Notes to the Brownbill v Clemens game.

- a Here I opted to try to hold the pawn for as long as possible as the QN cannot move.
- b White threatens B-N2 or, more aggressive, N-N6! (8 .. PxN; 9 QxP or 8 .. R-R2; 9 NxB winning a piece) P-K3 was to be able to play PxN after 8 N-N6; the pawn then cuts off the check after 8 N-N6 PxN; 9 QxP+ K-Q2 (if pawn still on K2); 10 B-R3+.
- c Dangerous, but the rook is vulnerable after B-Q2; 9 NxB KxN.
- d To protect the BP.
- e What else? Allowing 11 PxP PxP; 12 N2xP gives white a crushing game.
- f To prevent P-Q5.
- g It is worthwhile examining the position here. White has a good game and black is playing defensively. However black's position is fundamentally sound and 13 .. O-O begins the build-up to a counter-attack.
- h Played to reduce the pressure on the QB pawn and to play - after PxB - N-Q4 blocking the white KB. This however turns out to be a grave error; 13 .. O-O followed by BxN would have been the correct tactics.
- i Afterwards Gordon admitted that he could not resolve all the complications generated by this sacrifice, which must be taken - white threatens QR-B1 and Q-N6 - but played the move because it seemed the best in the position, where all black's forces are on the wrong side of the board.
- j K moves, Q-N6! wins.
- k To answer Q-N3 by Q-K2.
- l Black's defence is now a horrid mess!
- m What else?
- n The second exchange sacrifice.
- o But not a sacrifice for long.
- p 26 .. K-Q1; 27 N-K6+; 26 .. K-K1; 27 QxQ;
26 .. K-B1; 27 QxQ.

Other Events

The first Club Championship was won by Gordon Brownbill. In a four-round Swiss tourney he entered the last round with 3/3 needing only a draw against Peter Clemens who was on 2½/3. Peter now takes up the story :-

In characteristic style Gordon went for the win.

White :- G H Brownbill

Black :- P Clemens

Opening - Catalan

Defence - virtually a Caro-Kann

1	P-Q4	P-Q4	10	P-N3	PxP e	19	Q-K4	B-B1	l
2	P-KN3	P-QB3	11	NxNp	N-B3 f	20	P-Q5	BPxP	m
3	N-KB3	P-KR3	12	B-N2	B-Q3	21	RxP+	K-K2	
4	P-B4	PxP	13	P-B4 g	BxN h	22	RxP+	BxR	n
5	QN-Q2	Q-R4 !? a	14	BPxB	N-Q4	23	QxB+	K-B1	
6	Q-B2	P-QN4	15	RxP !! i	KxR	24	Q-B6+	K-K1	θ
7	N-K5	P-K3 b	16	R-B1+	N-B3 j	25	QxR +	K-K2	
8	B-N2	B-N2 c	17	PxN	PxP	26	Q-R7+	K-Q3	p
9	O-O	Q-N3 d	18	N-B5	Q-B2 k	27	B-K5+	<u>Resigns</u>	

Moral : Don't transpose moves when your plan has not been worked out.

Notes by Peter Clemens.

There is a sequel to this game which will appear in the next annual bulletin.

So many club members were active in congresses that it is difficult at the time of writing to chronicle more than a few.

Cardiff January 1975

Rhyl May 1975

Jan Dutton - round 1 best game prize.

Alan Mackenzie - winner of Premier B.

Gordon Brownbill - winner of Major A.

Chorley August 1975

Alan Beardsworth - second in Major.

On the organisational scene Richard Furness was awarded the title of National Chess Judge of the British Chess Federation.

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Editor's note

The idea of a club history came to me during December 1975. The club was only in its third season, but events were moving very fast and I felt that there may be a time when members might regret that a detailed account of the early days was not available. Most of this issue was written in February of 1976, but it is only now that this double-number covering our first two years is ready for distribution. I hope that it meets with your approval. If so, issue number 3 covering the 1975-76 season will be issued in a few months time. Thereafter there will be one issue per year. I would like to thank those who have submitted games and notes.

Richard A Furness
October 1976