

CULCHETH CHESS CLUB

BULLETIN

4

SEASON

—

1976-77

25_p

(PROFITS TO CLUB FUNDS)

Season Four

1976-77

The Club reopened late in August and the Annual General Meeting was held on the first evening. Secretary, Treasurer and all three Team Captains were re-elected. The big change was that we were meeting in our new Club Room at the Old People's Day Centre in Jackson Avenue - our fifth venue in our three years existence. Much discussion concerned the level of subscriptions. It was eventually decided that the adult subscription should be three pounds plus one pound to the Equipment Fund. New members would not be asked to pay the Equipment Fund levy. Two familiar faces were missing. Peter Clemens, although not quite a founder member, had given loyal and stalwart service and his experience and solidity (at the chess-board) could not be replaced. Peter had moved to ~~Edgely~~ Kings Lynn. Stephen Towers was no longer in our ranks. He had moved to the Blackpool area. His performance had improved tremendously during the previous twelve months and he was on the verge of being more than an occasional member of the First Team.

Six members of the Club were listed in the "Top Twenty" of the Warrington League Grading List. They were :- 178 Dr J Perkins 3rd, 164 G H Brownbill 8th=, A C Mackenzie 161 11th=, 157 A W Beardsworth 15th, 155 P Clemens 16th= and 153 R A Furness 18th=. Other players graded over 100 were :- J R Dutton 143, W D Harper 102, J C Leigh 140, S B Towers 130 and R H Williams 102.

First Team Report by Richard Furness

The season opened with the captain pessimistic about the team's chances of registering a 'hat trick' of First Division Championship successes. With the loss of Peter, who had scarcely missed a match in three years, the team was likely to be less strong. At the same time our only serious rivals - Atherton - were likely to be stronger than in the previous year when we had pipped them by the narrowest of margins. Fortunately help was on the way. Philip Clay (grade 158) joined us from Warrington Club and another new member was Geoff Vaughan, a new arrival in the district. Geoff had an S.C.C.U. grading of 144. Curiously both our new members had come across each other in Birmingham League chess.

A ten-board friendly match with Manchester League Eccles was our first fixture. We won this match against strong opposition by a score of $5\frac{1}{2}-4\frac{1}{2}$, the result hinging on the last game. Geoff made a winning debut when we beat Irlam 5-1 in the first league match. We then went to Atherton. Due to a misunderstanding we defaulted on one board, but ended the evening with a 2-1 lead. This became 3-1 when Philip Clay beat his highly graded opponent from a seemingly hopeless position. This meant that Gordon had only (!) to draw against Nigel Short or Richard to draw against Jim Ward for us to win the match. Both achieved just that and we had won the match by 4-2. Since Atherton had already dropped a point at Warrington we were three points ahead of them with only two matches played. Provided we won all our other games, we could afford to lose the return fixture with Atherton and still win the title.

We set about doing this by whipping Centre A $4\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$, Warrington 5-1 and Centre B 5-1 - all this without the loss of a single individual game. The New Year saw us continue our winning ways at the expense of Frodsham ($4\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$). We had also progressed to the quarter-final of the Peninsula Cup where we had to meet Irlam. At 10 p.m. we were trailing $\frac{1}{2}-2\frac{1}{2}$ and would lose on board count in the event of the score being 3-3. We won $3\frac{1}{2}-2\frac{1}{2}$ with one of our players winning on time in an even position. Just four days later the clubs met again at Irlam in a league

fixture. Once again we got the wobbles and trailed 0-2 and 1-3. By the time of adjournment we had narrowed the gap to 2-3. The match was saved when - at the second session - Richard's opponent blundered in time shortage at the 54-move control. The match against Atherton was naturally very hard-fought. Although Dr Perkins succeeded in beating Nigel Short, we went down by $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$. This put the two clubs on level points with Culcheth having the better games total. Although Atherton closed on us we came through with victories against Centre A, Warrington, Centre B and Frodsham. The last match of the season was the Peninsula Cup Final against Atherton C who had put out two first division teams including their own first team. We had to give $3\frac{1}{2}$ points start and never really looked like doing it. We won the match by $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ but that was just not good enough.

Once again our First Team pool of players had been a bit too strong for the opposition. Three of our younger players had made great progress and all three (Ian Dutton, Allan Beardsworth and Jonathan Leigh) had moved up the team to take high boards by the season's end. Dr Perkins and Richard had gone through the season unbeaten and Gordon and Geoff had 22 victories between them. Mark Lyons had been successfully introduced into the team also. The final mention must be of Jonathan. At one stage he had twenty consecutive victories for Culcheth (first and second teams), although this record extended back to the previous season and was helped towards the end by skillful manipulation of dates for resuming unfinished games.

Warrington and District League 1976-77

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Culcheth	12	10	1	1	$51\frac{1}{2}$	$20\frac{1}{2}$	21
2 Atherton	12	10	1	1	$48\frac{1}{2}$	$23\frac{1}{2}$	21
3 Warrington	12	7	2	3	$37\frac{1}{2}$	$34\frac{1}{2}$	16
4 Centre A	12	4	2	6	$32\frac{1}{2}$	$39\frac{1}{2}$	10
5 Frodsham	11	2	2	7	27	39	6
6 Irlan	12	2	2	8	$26\frac{1}{2}$	$45\frac{1}{2}$	6
7 Centre B	11	1	0	10	$22\frac{1}{2}$	$43\frac{1}{2}$	2

First Team Records for the season

(Cup and League)

Played 16, Won 14, Drawn 1, Lost 1, Points for $68\frac{1}{2}$, Points against $27\frac{1}{2}$.

Player	Average Board	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	%
Dr J Perkins	1:0	12	8	4	0	83
A W Beardsworth	2:0	4	3	0	1	75
G H Brownbill	2:8	16	10	2	4	69
I R Dutton	3:8	11	5	5	1	68
P J Clay	3:9	10	3	4	3	50
J C Leigh	4:0	11	8	1	2	77
A C Mackenzie	4:0	2	1	0	1	50
R A Furness	4:2	12	5	7	0	71
G J Vaughan	5:0	15	12	1	2	83
M Lyons	6:0	2	1	1	0	75
defaults					1	
		96	56	25	15	71

Second Team Report by Bill Harper

The gaining of experience and the 'bleeding' of Juniors were the main objectives of the Second Team during the 1976-77 season. The policy was not always adhered to however. The result of our first match, a home loss to Atherton, was a pointer of things to come. Competition in the division throughout the season was very keen and it was felt that the Third Team might be a better proving ground for the less strong players. This did in fact prove to be the case. This change in policy meant that more First Team players were played in the Second Team than originally intended and even then some close results were obtained. Three of our six wins were by the odd game.

By mid-season it was apparent that four teams were going for the honours. St Helens, Warrington B, Atherton B and Culcheth B being the teams in question. At the end of the season the clubs did in fact finish in that order, with our team 4 points behind St Helens the ultimate winners. It is worth noting that we had in fact beaten St Helens quite convincingly by $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ at home and our return match was the last match of the season. At the first session four games were adjourned with the score at 1-1. When the match was resumed Jonathan Leigh had to withdraw because of sickness. After the other games had been completed the score was 3-2 to St Helens and they then refused to negotiate a further date for Jonathan's game and claimed it by default. By this method they won the division by one point - so much the price of success!? Every sympathy must go to Jonathan - he had a forced win in about five moves and this would have given him eight wins in successive appearances for the team, our best individual record during the season. Our other most successful players were :- Richard (2 losses in 7 games), Geoff (2 losses in 8 games), Roger (2 losses in 12 games). Roger gained the distinction of being the only one to play in every match.

Warrington and District League 1976-77

							<u>Division 2</u>
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 St Helens	12	7	4	1	$44\frac{1}{2}$	$27\frac{1}{2}$	18
2 Warrington B	12	7	3	2	$42\frac{1}{2}$	$29\frac{1}{2}$	17
3 Atherton B	12	7	1	4	43	29	15
4 Culcheth B	12	6	2	4	$37\frac{1}{2}$	$34\frac{1}{2}$	14
5 Halton	12	3	1	8	$29\frac{1}{2}$	$42\frac{1}{2}$	7
6 Boteler	12	2	3	7	28	44	7
7 Parkside	12	2	2	8	27	45	6

Second Team Records for the season

Player	Average Board	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	%
A W Beardsworth	1.0	2	2	0	0	100
J R Dutton	1.5	4	2	2	0	75
G J Vaughan	1.8	8	4	2	2	63
R A Furness	1.9	7	2	5	0	64
P J Clay	2.0	1	0	1	0	50
J C Leigh	2.5	8	7	0	1	88
R H Williams	3.8	12	4	6	2	58
M Lyons	4.3	7	2	1	4	36
W D Harper	4.9	10	1	3	6	25
Dr S Lowe	5.0	3	0	0	3	0
J Maguire	5.0	1	0	1	0	50
E Charters	5.0	1	0	0	1	0
E Grimshaw	5.3	3	2	0	1	67
A H Carus	6.0	3	0	0	3	0
J Lyons	6.0	2	1	0	1	50
		72	27	21	24	52

Third Team Report by Roger Williams

After finishing in such a disappointing position in Division 4 the previous year, the new season was greeted with a certain amount of trepidation amongst Third Team players. Although the general feeling was that now a fifth division had been formed, the experience of the previous year would stand the team in good stead.

The first match of the season was a Peninsula Cup match with Warrington A from the First Division, giving our team a $4\frac{1}{2}$ points start. The result was a 6-0 victory for Warrington. Although not an inspiring start, every game of the match was hard fought, with no easy wins for Warrington.

After a 3-3 draw with Boteler Juniors in the first league match, the team went from strength to strength, helped by the arrival of new players to support the Third Team squad as the season wore on.

The team eventually finished by winning 9 of the 12 league matches and drawing 3, scoring 21 points out of a possible 24. Culcheth C was also the only team out of the five divisions not to lose a league match all season, a very creditable performance.

It is hard to single out individuals after such a tremendous all-round performance, but worthy of note were E Charters and J Lyons who finished with a score of 80%. Indeed none of the players scored less than 50% in league matches.

The season finished with the team being the first winners of the new Division Five trophy and promotion to Division Four. The Captain announced his intention of retiring from office.

Warrington and District Chess League 1976-77

						<u>Division 5</u>	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Culcheth C	12	9	3	0	49	23	21
2 Padgate B	12	7	3	2	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	17
3 Boteler Juniors	12	6	2	4	40	32	14
4 Frodsham C	12	4	2	6	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	10
5 Appleton	12	4	2	6	34	38	10
6 Irlam C	12	3	1	8	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	7
7 Halton British Legion	12	2	1	9	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	5

Third Team Records for the season

(Cup and League)

Played 13, Won 9, Drawn 3, Lost 1 (Cup), Points for 49, points against 29.

Player	Average Board	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	%
M Lyons	1.2	9	4	1	4	50
R H Williams	1.6	13	6	4	3	62
W D Harper	2.6	8	5	0	3	63
E Grimshaw	3.2	6	3	0	3	50
Dr S H Lowe	3.9	9	6	2	1	78
C J Grime	4.6	7	3	1	3	50
J Lyons	4.6	5	2	2	1	60
E Charters	5.0	11	8	0	3	73
R Baxter	5.0	1	0	0	1	0
J Maguire	5.3	4	3	0	1	75
A H Carus	6.0	3	3	0	0	100
Defaults			1		1	
		78	44	10	24	63

In fairness to Richard Baxter, it should be pointed out that his single game was against First Division Warrington in the cup.

Third Team Report (Leigh League) by Stephen Lowe

In Spring 1977 Culcheth entered a team in the newly formed Leigh and District League, with the intention of offering competitive chess to as many players as possible. The Leigh League differed from that of Warrington in that when clocks were used, each player had to complete all his moves in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

The first season only commenced in March and therefore only one fixture against each of the other seven teams was possible. Our team was highly successful, winning the League Championship and remaining unbeaten all season. Convincing home wins against Atherton (5-1), Bridgwater (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$) and David Brown's (4-2), were coupled with away successes at Tamar (5-1), Leigh College (5-2) and Courtaulds (4-2). Our one drawn match was away at the Bridge Inn where Atherton's 1st Team Captain (Warrington League) appeared against us at board one and the Culcheth captain's mother at least saved our defaulting on board six! Perhaps our most impressive opponents were Courtaulds who started poorly but by the end of the season were a stronger team than our 4-2 scoreline would suggest. This was a match we were lucky to win with our strongest team playing, and we were all impressed by the facilities available at Courtaulds - sets, clocks and the room.

As can be seen from the individual analysis, many players had an extremely successful season and everybody enjoyed playing in this league. Some questions arise from this first season, notably that it seems unfortunate that certain teams request that Juniors (under 18) be excluded from visiting teams because their venues are in places where alcohol is consumed. This is to be deprecated as it is a chess league not a drinking league! The timing system means that games played cannot be counted for grading purposes. Both these points will be discussed at the Leigh League A.G.M., but it must be stressed that for a fledgling league there have been few problems and all the matches have been played with a spirit of good humour and friendship.

No league table has been published, but we do know that Culcheth Third Team was placed first with the following record :-

Played 7 Won 6 Drawn 1 Lost 0 Match Points 13 out of 14
Game Points for 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ Game Points against 11 $\frac{1}{2}$

Leigh League Individual Records

Player	Average Board	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	%
R H Williams	1.0	1	1	0	0	100
M Lyons	1.3	4	3	1	0	88
W D Harper	1.5	2	0	0	2	0
E Grimshaw	2.0	4	4	0	0	100
S H Lowe	2.8	5	3	0	2	60
A H Carus	3.0	2	2	0	0	100
J Maguire	3.2	5	4	0	1	80
J Lyons	4.6	5	3	1	1	70
E Charters	5.2	5	2	1	2	50
R Baxter	5.5	2	2	0	0	100
R Bates	5.5	2	1	0	1	50
R Checkley	6.0	1	1	0	0	100
C J Grime	6.0	1	1	0	0	100
O M Lowe	6.0	1	0	0	1	0
Defaults			2			
		42	29	3	10	73

SELECTION OF GAMES

We begin this time with a game supplied by Peter Clemens. It was played in round one of the 1975-76 Peninsula Cup (Culcheth v Allied Breweries). The copious notes make this a game worthy of study.

Game 4/1 Peter writes, "I will probably be remembered at Culcheth for nothing more than my fondness for the Caro-Kann Defence to 1 P-K4 by White. This is a defence which is not well-known (except by Culcheth players these days) and which is considered to be 'unfashionable! However I adopted it several years ago because I had become tired of replying to P-K4 by 1 ... P-QB4 or 1 ... P-K3. Strangely my play and my record continued to improve from that time on; the novelty of the defence probably helped by confusing many opponents.

The Caro-Kann may be summarised as follows, in strategic terms :-

- it requires a slow build-up of development.
- it generates a very solid, but cramped, position for Black.
- it often tempts White into sacrificing unsoundly.
- by neutralising White's forces, it enables Black to prepare for an eventual counter-attack.
- if White goes for a quick 'kill', he often leaves serious weaknesses behind his defence which Black can usually take rapid and conclusive advantage of.
- it aims to neutralise and exchange-off White's pieces, reaching - fairly quickly - an ending in which Black's pawn structure is better than White's, which thus allows Black to apply pressure in several places. Usually a rook and pawn endgame is the outcome in which Black often has a half-open file to operate on.

However, it is a defence which requires considerable patience on Black's part, an ability to turn endgame situations to his advantage; it is not recommended for anyone who likes aggressive, open positions where each side has chances simultaneously.

White : B Bedworth
Black : P Clemens

Allied Breweries v Culcheth

Caro-Kann Defence
October 1975

1	P-K4	P-QB3	17	Q-Q3	j QxP	33	B-B6	P-R5	49	R-B4	RxP+ u	
2	P-Q4	P-Q4	18	QxQ	BxQ	34	R-R7	R-R8+	50	RxR	BxR	
3	N-QB3	PxP	19	P-B3	B-B3	35	K-R2	P-R6	51	KxB	K-Q3	
4	NxP	P-KR3	a20	QR-Q1	O-O	36	R-R8+	K-K2	52	K-K3	K-K4	
5	N-KB3	B-N5	b	21	R-Q3	KR-Q1	37	R-R7+	K-Q3	53	P-N4	
6	B-K2	P-K3	22	KR-Q1	K-B1	k	38	B-K8	r B-N7	54	K-B3	
7	P-KR3	BxN	23	P-QN4	l RxR	39	BxP	R-K8	55	K-N3	P-K4	
8	BxB	c N-Q2	d	24	RxR	P-QR4	m	40	R-R6+	K-K2	56	P-R4
9	B-B4	e N-N3	f	25	P-N5	PxP	41	B-R5	R-QN8!	57	PxP	
10	O-O	B-K2	g	26	BxP	R-N1	n	42	B-N6	B-K4+	58	K-B2
11	N-B5	h Q-B1	27	B-R6?	R-N3	o	43	P-N3	R-N6	59	K-K1	
12	R-K1	N-B3	28	B-B8	R-B3	44	B-B2	? R-N7	t	60	K-Q1	
13	B-K5	QN-Q2	29	B-Q7	R-B4	p	45	R-R7+	K-B3	61	K-K2	
14	BxN	NxB	30	P-QR4	PxP	46	RxRP	RxB	62	K-B1	K-B6	
15	N-K4	Q-Q2	31	BxP	RxP	q	47	R-B3+	K-K2	63	K-K1	
16	NxN+	i BxN	32	R-Q7	R-R6	48	K-N2	B-Q4		Resigns	v	

Resigns v

- A transposition of moves allowing B-R2 if Black plays B-KB4 and White replies N-KN3.
- The usual practice is to exchange the white-squared bishop for the White king's knight.
- The White KB is now on a less useful square; Q3 or QB4 is its more 'natural' position.
- To prepare KN-KB3; if NxN+, NxN is better than QxN.
- Threatening N-K6+ or B-K6, both of which are good positionally.
- The QN often reaches here en route to Q4.

Notes to Bedworth v Clemens (continued)

- g To prepare N-B3.
- h An unusual move in this position; White normally carries on developing. Besides the threat of NxNP, White is offering the line :- 11 ... BxN; 12 PxB QxQ; 13 KRxQ N-Q4; 14 BxN BPxB (not KPxB opening the king's file to White); 15 B-Q6 when White has a strong bishop and the prospect of a Q-side pawn advance which Black will find difficult to stop.
- i Not good play by White, who now has to defend the QP.
- j However he forgets to do so.
- k Time to take stock of the position.
 - * Most of White's pieces have been exchanged-off.
 - * Black is a pawn to the good, although much work is needed to convert it into something better.
 - * The opposite-coloured bishops are roughly equivalent in scope at present.
 - * The game is almost a R and P ending, with the Black king in the better position.
 - * Neither side controls the open file yet, but Black is better placed to exploit it.

Overall, Black is well satisfied with the situation, but has now to set out on the long grinding-out of a win.

- l Aiming for P-N5 and the weakest of Black's pawns on QN2; however the move really only weakens White's position giving the black-squared bishop more scope. White should play K-B1 here.
- m If PxP, RxP and Black's rook is loose in the White defence. This forces either P-QR3, when PxP; 26 RPxP RpxR6 gives the same result, or the text-move.
- n Now Black is happy; White's Q-side pawns are divided.
- o Even happier.
- p The BP must fall.
- q Two pawns up; one passed with the 'right' colour bishop to control the queening-square.
- r Black gives up a pawn to divert White's resources.
- s A subtle manoeuvre which leads to the win of a piece.
- t Wins the B for a P; but for this error by White, the threat was 44 ... BxP+!; 45 PxB R-N7+; 46 K moves P-R7 and White must give up the R for the P.
- u Black calculates correctly that the resulting K and P ending is won.
- v This game is a good illustration of the Caro-Kann at work, even if White did blunder away a pawn; at the time, the pawn did not seem too important, but in the end it made all the difference."

Game 4/2 This game was mentioned on page 2 of Bulletin 3 (1975-76)

White : E Gleave
Black : S B Towers

Warrington v Culcheth

French Defence
December 1975

After 25 moves the following position was reached :-

White K on KN1; Rs on KB1, Q1; N on KN3; Ps on KR2, KB2, Q4, QN3, QN2.

Black K on KN1; R on KN4; Bs on Q3, QN4; Ps on KR2, K4, Q4, QN2, QR3.

Stephen is the exchange down but with much the better position. Play continued :- 26 KR-K1 P-K5; 27 K-R1 P-KR4; 28 R-KN1 K-B2; 29 N-B1 R-B4; 30 N-K3 RxP; 31 R-N2 R-B6; 32 NxP RxP; 33 N-B3 B-Q6; 34 R-K1 B-N5; 35 R-QB1 P-K6; 36 R-K1 BxN; 37 RxP BxQP; 38 R-B2+ K-N2; 39 R-K7+ K-R3; 40 R-B3 B-B5; 41 RxR B-Q4+; 42 Resigns. White saw little future in the only moves, namely 42 R-K4 BxR+; 43 R-B3 BxR mate. Although White did not put up the best resistance, the power of the two bishops and the amusing finish make the game extract an instructive one.

Game 4/3

White : Dr J Perkins
Black : R Conroy

Centre A v Culcheth

French Defence
March 1977

1	P-K4	P-K3	13	P-QN4	N-B3	25	N-K5	R-N1	37	B-R3	R-KB1
2	P-Q4	P-Q4	14	N-N3	P-N3	26	P-KN5	Q-N2	38	RxR	QxR
3	N-QB3	N-KB3	15	B-K2	N-Q2	27	N3-N4	N-Q2	39	R-KB2	Q-KN1
4	B-KN5	B-K2	16	P-QR4	P-N3	28	Q-K3	NxN	40	P-R5	Q-K1
5	P-K5	KN-Q2	17	O-O	B-N2	29	NxN	R-Q3	41	B-N4	Q-N1
6	BxB	QxB	18	N-R1	O-O-O	30	B-N4	K-N2	42	R-B6	K-B2
7	Q-Q2	P-QR3	19	N-B2	N-R2	31	R-R2	KR-Q1	43	Q-B4	K-B3
8	QN-K2	P-QB4	20	N-Q1	K-N1	32	P-R4	P-N4	44	R-B8	P-K4
9	P-QB3	QN-B3	21	N-K3	N-B1	33	P-QR5	N-B3	45	PxP	Q-N2
10	P-KB4	N-N3	22	P-KN4	B-B1	34	NxN	KxN	46	R-B7	
11	P-QN3	P-B5	23	B-Q1	P-B4	35	P-B5	NPxP			
12	N-B3	N-R4	24	PxPep	QxP	36	BxP	B-Q2			<u>Resigns</u>

Game 4/4

White : J R Dutton
Black : M D Riding

Greater Manchester Congress, Bolton

Sicilian
April 1977

1	e4	c5	9	O-O	Qc8	17	Bf4	Be5	25	Qe2	f3
2	Nc3	d6	10	Kh2	O-O	18	Qd2 !	Qd8	26	Qf3	Qc7 +
3	f4	Nc6	11	Nh4	Nd4	19	Be5	de	27	Kg1	Bc6
4	Nf3	Nf6	12	Ne2	e5	20	g5	gf !?	28	Bh7 +	Kh8
5	d3	g6	13	Nd4	ed	21	ef	Ng7	29	Be4	Be4
6	g3	Bg7	14	f5	Nh5 ?	22	fg	Ne6	30	de	Kg8
7	Bg2	Bg4 !?	15	Bf3	Nf6	23	Be4	Nf4	31	Qh5	Qf4
8	h3	Bd7	16	g4	Ne8	24	Rf4 !	ef	32	Nf5 !	<u>Resigns</u>

Ian has supplied notes to the above game. These will be displayed on the Club Notice Board and can be borrowed by members.

Game 4/5

White : S B Towers
Black : D G Lloyd

Cardiff Congress, Major

Budapest Gambit Reversed
September 1976

Stephen writes, "I had previously seen a top British player pushing a3 on his first move and decided to venture into unknown ground. Its primary idea is to adopt a Black set-up with the White pieces. It must have been a little disconcerting for my opponent, not knowing whether I was (a) a zombie, or (b) crackers."

1	a3	d5	7	Nge4	Nc6	13	Bb5	Ne4	19	Rd8	Bd8
2	Nf3	c5	8	d3	O-O	14	de	Qd1	20	Bd6	g5
3	e4	de	9	O-O	b6	15	Rad1	Rad8	21	Kf2	
4	Ng5	Nf6	10	Bf4	Bb7	16	f3	Bf6			Here I unwisely
5	Bc5	e6	11	Re1	Nd4	17	c3	Rd1			agreed a draw.
6	Nc3	Be7	12	Nb5	Nb5	18	Rd1	Rd8			

Stephen's notes to this game will also be available at the Club. Stephen sends his best wishes to all members of the Culcheth Club.

Game 4/6

White : R A Furness
Black : M J Speyer

Warrington League Individual

Caro-Kann Defence
January 1977

1	P-K4	P-QB3	7	PxP	NxP	13	P-B3	QxQ	19	N3-N5	BxN
2	P-Q4	P-Q4	8	Q-Q4?	N-B3	14	NxQ	O-O-O	20	PxB	K-N1
3	PxP	PxP	9	B-QN5	B-Q2	15	N-B3	R-K1+	21	B-B4+c	K-B1
4	P-QB4	N-KB3	10	BxN	BxB?	16	K-B2	P-KR3	22	B-K3	K-N1
5	P-B5 a	P-K4	11	B-N5	Q-K2+	17	B-K3	P-KN3	23	R-R2	P-N3?
6	P-QN4b	N-B3	12	N-K2	Q-K5	18	P-QR4	B-N2	24	N-B6+	K-B1

Furness v Speyer (continued)

25 RxP N-Q2 26 B-B4 d N-K4 27 BxN BxB 28 NxB RxN 29 R-R8+
Black Resigns

- a My first attempt at the Gunderam Attack. My opponent had never met it before.
 b After Black's aggressive response I should have played 6 N-QB3 and now if 6 ... P-K5; 7 P-QN4 or if 6 ... PxP; 7 QxP and if 7 ... N-B3; 8 B-QN5 B-Q2; 9 BxN!
 c Hoping for 21 ... K-R1; 22 RxP+! KxR; 23 R-R1 mate.
 d Again with a mating threat, 27 R-B7 mate.

Game 4/7

White : D G Ellison

Black : A W Beardsworth

Chorley Open-last round

Benko Gambit
 August 1977

1 d4	Nf6	11 Nc3	Qb6	21 h3 m	Ne3 n	31 Re6	Qh3+
2 c4	c5	12 O-O	Nbd7	22 fe	Nf3+	32 Ke2	Qe6 q
3 d5	b5	13 Re1 e	Rfb8 f	23 gf	Bc3	33 de	Kf8
4 cb	ab	14 Ba6	Qa6	24 Rc3	Qa2 o	34 f4	Ke7
5 e3 a	d6 b	15 e5 !	Ng4 !	25 Qf1	Rb1 p	35 f5	gf
6 Nc3	g6	16 e6 !	fe	26 Rc1	Rc1	36 ef	Kf6
7 e4 c	Bg7	17 Re6 h	Rf8 i	27 Qc1	Rb8	37 Ke3	d5
8 Nf3	O-O	18 Be3 ?	Rab8 j	28 e4	Rb1	38 Kf3	c4
9 Bd3	ab d	19 Re7 k	Rb2	29 Qf1	Rf1+	39 Ke3	c3
10 Nb5	Ba6	20 Rc1 l	Nde5 !	30 Kf1	Qh2	40 Kd3	d4

White resigns

- a 5 ba and 5 Nc3 are probably better than the text move.
 b Probably not as good as 5 ... ab.
 c Already Black is happy with the opening.
 d The correct moment.
 e 13 h3 is better, to stop Nf6-g4-e5.
 f 13 ... Ng4 is better.
 g Although 15 ... de is alright I couldn't see me winning with it. This gives Black his best chance.
 h Spoiling all his good play. 17 Ng5, coming in on e6 is good for White.
 i It is the K'side which is weak now.
 j Now it is the Q'side.
 k Even against 19 Qc1 or 19 Bc1 Black now has a good game.
 l 20 Qc1 is better.
 m Black now wins.
 n Not 21 ... Nf3+; 22 gf Ne3; 23 Re3 ! with chances.
 o Black has regained his pawn and now has much the better game. The main threat is Rg2+ and mate quickly.
 p Rf3+ also wins, but there is little risk in Rb1.
 q 32 ... Kf7 wins easily ... idea Qe6; 34 de Ke6.

By this win, against a very experienced player, Allan shared second place in the Open and gained himself a tournament rating of about 205, not to mention £43.

Game 4/8 A McDonnell (Wymondham) v P Clemens (Kings Lynn) 1976

1 P-K4 P-QB3 (what else ?); 2 P-Q4 P-Q4; 3 P-K5 B-B4; 4 P-KB4 P-K3;
 5 N-KB3 N-Q2; 6 B-Q3 BxB; 7 QxB P-QB4; 8 P-QB3 P-KN3; 9 B-K3 P-B5;
 10 Q-B2 N-K2; 11 N1-Q2 P-KR4; 12 P-QN3 P-QN4; 13 PxP NPxP; 14 R-QN1
 B-R3; 15 N-R4 O-O; 16 O-O R-N1; 17 RxR QxR; 18 R-N1 Q-B2; 19 R-N2 R-N1;
 20 RxR+ QxR; 21 Q-R4 Q-N2; 22 P-QR3 N-QB3; 23 Q-B2 K-N2; 24 P-R3 Q-N3;
 25 P-N4 PxP; 26 PxP BxP !; 27 BxB NxQP !; 28 PxN QxP +; 29 K-R1 QxB;
 30 N4-B3 QxNP; 31 Q-R4 Q-R6+; 32 K-N1 P-B6; 33 QxN PxN; 34 NxB Q-K6+;
 35 K-B1 QxN; 36 QxRP Q-B5+; 37 K-N2 QxP; 38 P-R4 P-Q5; 39 P-R5 P-Q6;
 40 P-R6 P-Q7; 41 Q-Q7 Q-K7+; 42 Resigns.

Results of all league matches played by Culcheth First Team 1973-77
 The upper result in each pair is the HOME match, except that all fixtures with Appleton are away.

Opponents	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Appleton Thorn	6 - 0 6 - 0				
Railway B	5 - 1 6 - 0				
Boteler B	5 - 1 4½-1½				
Halton D	6 - 0 6 - 0				
Rank Xerox	5 - 1 5½-½				
Culcheth B	6 - 0 4 - 2				
Frodsham		5 - 1 3 - 3	4½-1½ 5 - 1	4½-1½ 4½-1½	
Halton B		3 - 3 4½-1½	6 - 0 4 - 2		
Y.M.C.A. B		6 - 0 4½-1½			
Irlam		4 - 2 4 - 2	5 - 1 3½-2½	5 - 1 3 - 3	
Daresbury		5 - 1 3½-2½			
Railway/Orford Park/ Centre/Latchford		3½-2½ 5 - 1	4½-1½ 4½-1½	4½-1½ 5½-½	
Halton		3½-2½ 0 - 6	5 - 1 2½-3½		
Y.M.C.A./ Warrington		3 - 3 4 - 2	4½-1½ 4½-1½	4½-1½ 5 - 1	
Atherton			3 - 3 2 - 4	2½-3½ 4 - 2	
Centre B				3½-2½ 5 - 1	

During the 1973-74 season the team was playing in Division 3, after which all matches were in Division 1.

Peninsula Cup results

<u>1973-74</u>	Allied Breweries (H) 4½-1½, YMCA B (H) 5-1, Daresbury (H) 3½-2½, Irlam (H) 4-2, YMCA (H) 3½-2½.
<u>1974-75</u>	Allied Breweries (A) 4-2, Rank Xerox (H) 6-0, Daresbury (H) 5-1, Frpdsham (A) 4½-1½, Irlam (N) 4½-1½.
<u>1975-76</u>	Allied Breweries (A) 6-0, Orford Park (A) 4½-1½, Tanner (H) 4½-1½ (lost 4½-6 on handicap).
<u>1976-77</u>	Centre B (H) 4½-1½, Irlam (H) 3½-2½, Centre A (A) 4½-1½, Atherton C (N) 4½-1½ (lost 4½-5 on handicap).

Winners, winners, beaten in semi-final on handicap, beaten in final on handicap.

Results of all league matches played by Culcheth Second Team 1973-77

Opponents	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Rank Xerox	5 - 1 4 - 2				
Appleton Thorn	4½-1½ 4 - 2				
Railway B/ Orford Park B	5 - 1 4 - 2	2 - 4 2½-3½	4 - 2 1 - 5		
Culcheth A	0 - 6 2 - 4				
Halton D	4 - 2 6 - 0		4 - 2 3 - 3		
Boteler B	2 - 4 3½-2½				
Atherton A		4½-1½ 2 - 4			
Allied Breweries		4½-1½ 3½-2½			
Frodsham B		4 - 2 1 - 5	5 - 1 4 - 2		
Boteler A		3½-2½ 3 - 3	3 - 3 1 - 5	3½-2½ 3 - 3	
Parkside		2 - 4 3½-2½	5½- ½ 4½-1½	4 - 2 4½-1½	
Halton C		3 - 3 3½-1½ !			
Warrington B			1 - 5 3½-2½	1½-4½ 3 - 3	
Atherton B				2½-3½ ½-5½	
Halton A				3½-2½ 5 - 1	
St Helens				4½-1½ 2 - 4	

During the 1973-74 season the team was playing in Division 3, after which all matches were in Division 2.

How to Draw by an anonymous club member

"Do not drink, but encourage your opponent to do so".

Proof of the validity of this maxim came in the Culcheth v Centre, Peninsula Cup semi-final played earlier this year.

After downing a few pints, my opponent said he needed to visit the Gents downstairs. He asked if I would stop the clock when I had made my move. Not wishing to appear disagreeable I nodded my agreement but he returned before I had moved, so I did not need to break the rules. I soon nodded again and obtained a lost position. By now my opponent had downed a few more pints and was rather short of time with about ten moves to make. Again he felt the need for a little relief and repeated his previous request.

How to Draw (continued)

This time I felt less agreeable and indicated that, in the circumstances, I could not do this. I was not short of time and looked long and hard to find a saving move. My opponent, hopping from one leg to the other, could stand it no longer. "Will you take a draw?" he ~~asked~~ gasped. I could have considered his offer for at least ten minutes, but generously shook the proffered hand. My opponent fled.

* * * * *

Famous Last Words

"I was two pieces up and still he wouldn't resign!"
"What happened?"
"I lost."

The next was overheard at the first meeting of the Leigh League and was an argument in favour of all moves being played in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours per player.

"If your game is unfinished it might be a week or more before you can carry on. If you play in a pub like us, someone might have knocked over the pieces so how can you carry on?"

Next, a complaint at the Manchester Congress, July 1976.

"Who is running this Congress? I enter the Minor and end up playing a bloke graded 198."

All eyes go to the pairing list and it transpires that our friend is playing Joe Bloggs on board 198 !!

* * * * *

Warrington League Team Lightning at St Helens, December 1976

Eighteen teams took part. Our eight players we divided into two equal teams. We wanted to give the other teams a chance.

Playing for Culcheth Knights were :- G H Brownbill, D A Smith, R A Furness and W D Harper. The Culcheth Bishops consisted of P J Clay, G J Vaughan, A C Mackenzie and M Lyons.

Round 1 Knights beat Boteler 4-0, Bishops beat Tanner 3-1.
Knutsford, Centre B and Knights led with 4.

Round 2 Knights beat Knutsford 3-1, Bishops lost to Centre A $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$.
Knights led with 7, Warrington $6\frac{1}{2}$.

Round 3 Knights lost to Warrington 1-3, Bishops beat Rainford 4-0.
Warrington $9\frac{1}{2}$; Bishops, Atherton, Centre A $8\frac{1}{2}$; Knights 8.

Round 4 Knights beat Parkside 3-1, Bishops lost to Atherton $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$.
Warrington $11\frac{1}{2}$; Knights, Atherton, Centre B 11; Bishops 10.

Round 5 Knights drew with Atherton 2-2, Bishops beat Parkside 4-0.
Warrington 15; Bishops 14; Centre A $13\frac{1}{2}$; Knights, Atherton 13.

Individual Scores :- Brownbill 4, Smith 3, Furness 4, Harper 2;
Clay 4, Vaughan $2\frac{1}{2}$, Mackenzie 3, Lyons $4\frac{1}{2}$.

We left Culcheth Rooks (Perkins, Beardsworth, Dutton, Leigh) at home !

What about entering three teams this year ?

* * * * *

Club Lightning Tournament

Winner :- P J Clay with 7 out of 7.

Club Championship 1977

Nineteen players took part in the qualifying sections, with the following results :-

- Group A A Beardsworth 2; J Lyons and J Maguire 1 and 0 respectively.
 Group B G H Brownbill 3; W D Harper 2; E Charters 1; W Litton 0.
 Group C J R Dutton 2; C J Grime 1; E Grimshaw 0.
 Group D R A Furness 1½; R H Williams 1; S H Lowe ½.
 Group E G J Vaughan, M Lyons and A H Carus all 1.
 Group F J C Leigh and P J Leigh 1; R Baxter 0.

The winner of each section qualified for the Club Championship section.

Congresses

The following results are known to the editor, who is aware of some omissions from the Blackpool Congress details.

A W Beardsworth	Chorley	August 1976	5	Major	1st=
	St Helens	October	4 (5)	'B'	1st=
	Islington	December	3	Under 184	
	Blackpool	March 1977	3½(5)	Major	
	Bolton	April	5	Major	2nd=
	SCCU	May	3½		
	Atherton	May	3 (5)	Open	
	Manchester	July	4½	Major	5th=
	Manchester	July	3½	Open	
	Chorley	August	5	Open	2nd=
E Charters	Manchester	July 1977	½	Minor	
P Clay	Southend	April 1977	4½(5)	Major	1st
W D Harper	Chorley	August 1976	3½	Minor	
	Manchester	July 1977	3	Minor	
M Lyons	Chorley	August 1976	1½	Minor	
	Manchester	July 1977	2	Minor	
D A Smith	Chorley	August 1976	4½	Major	5th=
R H Williams	Chorley	August 1976	3½	Minor	
	Manchester	July 1977	4	Minor	
J R Dutton	St Helens	October 1976	3½(5)	'C'	2nd=
	Bolton	April 1977	5½	Major	1st
	Rhyl	May	4(5)	Premier B	2nd=
(best results only)	Basingstoke	June	5	Major	1st=
	Bristol	July	4 (5)	Major	3rd=
	Manchester	July	5	Intermediate	3rd=

With this issue I complete the marathon task I set myself almost two years ago - that of writing a season-by-season record of the club. Now I am up-to-date, the task should be much easier. My thanks to the Team Captains and those who supplied games for inclusion.

Individual Playing Records at the start of the 1977-78 season

Only competitive matches in the Warrington League (and Cup) are included.

First Team

Player	Bd.	P	W	D	L	%
Dr J Perkins	1.0	42	27	13	2	80
P Clemens	2.5	51	29	15	7	72
A W Beardsworth	2.8	5	4	0	1	80
R A Furness	3.0	64	35	20	9	70
A C Mackenzie	3.2	47	31	5	11	71
G H Brownbill	3.3	67	46	10	11	76
G Connor	3.6	8	8	0	0	100
P J Clay	3.9	10	3	4	3	50
R Sargent	4.0	2	1	0	1	50
J C Leigh	4.9	38	28	3	7	78
E Grimshaw	5.0	3	2	0	1	67
B Bray	5.0	1	1	0	0	100
N Carr	5.0	1	1	0	0	100
G J Vaughan	5.0	15	12	1	2	83
J R Dutton	5.1	39	27	6	6	77
W D Harper	5.2	12	5	1	6	46
D A Smith	5.3	3	2	1	0	83
S B Towers	6.0	7	3	3	1	64
M Lyons	6.0	2	1	1	0	75
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 Hogan	6.0	1	1	0	0	100
P Moody	6.0	1	0	1	0	50
default losses					2	

Second Team

Player	Bd.	P	W	D	L	%
G H Brownbill	1.0	8	6	0	2	75
A C Mackenzie	1.0	8	6	1	1	81
R A Furness	1.5	12	4	8	0	67
K Chadwick	1.5	4	1	0	3	25
G J Vaughan	1.8	8	4	2	2	63
P J Clay	2.0	1	0	1	0	50
J R Dutton	2.3	26	15	8	3	73
J C Leigh	2.4	28	18	8	2	79
A W Beardsworth	2.6	10	9	1	0	95
G Connor	2.6	10	4	0	6	40
S B Towers	3.3	30	15	8	7	63
W D Harper	3.9	37	14	7	16	47
G Flook	4.0	2	1	0	1	50
D Henderson	4.0	2	0	1	1	25
C J Grime	4.0	1	0	0	1	0
R H Williams	4.2	28	9	12	7	54
E Grimshaw	4.5	23	9	1	13	41
M Lyons	5.0	15	5	2	8	40
K Seddon	5.0	1	0	0	1	0
A D Robinson	5.0	1	0	0	1	0
R Roe	5.0	1	1	0	0	100
J Maguire	5.0	1	0	1	0	50
B Bray	5.3	15	4	3	8	37
A Porter	5.3	3	1	0	2	33
D Devalle	5.3	3	2	0	1	67
Dr S H Lowe	5.5	6	1	0	5	17
E Charters	5.5	2	0	0	2	0
A H Carus	6.0	3	0	0	3	0
R Bates	6.0	2	0	0	2	0
J Lyons	6.0	2	1	0	1	50
J Hogan	6.0	2	1	0	1	50
M Gerrard	6.0	1	0	0	1	0
And. Roe	6.0	1	0	0	1	0
Adr. Roe	6.0	1	0	0	1	0
R Baxter	6.0	1	0	1	0	50
defaults by both teams					1	

Third Team

Player	Bd.	P	W	D	L	%
R H Williams	1.6	23	9	7	7	54
W D Harper	1.9	20	8	2	10	45
B Bray	2.9	8	3	1	4	44
M Lyons	3.0	22	9	3	10	48
Adr. Roe	3.0	1	1	0	0	100
E Grimshaw	3.2	12	5	0	7	42
C J Grime	3.8	11	3	1	7	32
D Henderson	4.0	2	0	1	1	25
R Baxter	4.2	5	0	1	4	10
Dr S H Lowe	4.5	18	9	3	6	58
J Lyons	4.6	5	2	2	1	60
R Bates	5.0	2	0	0	2	0
E Charters	5.2	20	9	0	11	45
J Maguire	5.3	4	3	0	1	75
A H Carus	6.0	3	3	0	0	100
And. Roe	5.0	2	0	0	2	0
A Jackson	6.0	1	0	0	1	0
defaults			1		1	
defaults by both teams					1	

Team Records

Matches	P	W	D	L	%
First Team	71	62	5	4	91
Second Team	50	29	6	15	64
Third Team	27	11	4	12	48
The Club	148	102	15	31	74

Team Records

Games	P	W	D	L	Pts	%
First	426	271	84	71	313	73
Second	299	131	65	103	163½	55
Third	161	65	21	75	75½	47
	886	467	170	249	552	62