

NORTH EAST ENGLAND – 4NCL

We have had our first weekend playing in the 4NCL National Chess League and got off to something of a flyer. The venue Redworth Hall; Darlington was excellent with very spacious playing conditions.

We out graded our opponents on both days but as the new boys we needed to settle in. Our first match was against JORVIC, (the lads from York), and was a lot closer than 5-1 score line would suggest. Four games went down to endings. I was the reserve and my finger nails were rather worn down by the end of play. I think it is sometimes worse watching than playing.

On day two we introduced a team change on the bottom two boards. I thought this would help confuse the opposition who had laptops to hand and were preparing for us!

I was playing on board 5 against a rather well prepared opponent and choose an inferior line just to take him out of his preparation. I looked worse for a long time with my isolated pawn - but everyone else seemed to be doing fine. With David Walker, Andrew Dunn, Andy Lawson and Dave Edmunds on the top four boards I felt we were rather solid on the top boards. In the end I managed to win thanks to my opponent imploding .The top four boards all came in with drawn games leaving Martin Seeber with all the pressure which he handled with some style! Martin's opponent needed a win but offered a draw? Martin of course accepted and secured us the points. Currently top of Division 3 North but we have a long way to go.

Lara and Alex did an excellent job running the event and also took a few photographs for historical purposes.

Division 3 North Standings	GP	SOS	PTS
1 North East England	8½	4	4
2 Bradford DCA Knights B	7	0	4
3 Cheddleton 2	6½	4	2
4 Jorvik	4½	4	2
5 Holmes Chapel	5	6	0
6 Manchester Manticores	4½	6	0