English Deaf Chess Association

Report of Team entry into the

Four Nations Chess League

2023-24

Division 4

With financial support from the Chess Trust and the English Chess Federation

THE CHESS TRUST

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The Report

Following upon the success of our entries into the 4NCL Main League in season 21-22 and 22-23, we decided to continue with the season 23-24.

With a provision that all members whatever their ratings could enter and play.

We agreed on the following criteria:

> Finally, we are keen that 4NCL participation should be open to all Deaf players no matter what their ratings are – not necessarily the best six players. We propose the following:
>
> > Boards 5-6 be restricted to players having ratings under 1400
> >
> > Boards 3-4 be restricted to players having ratings under 1600
> >
> > Boards 1-2 will have no restrictions.
>
> The above proposal naturally depends of availability of players having ratings under 1600 and under 1400.
>
> Members will have played at least two matches in their local club and league.
>
> Flexibility is the key here and be left solely to the match captain.

Round 1 – 18 November 2023 at Telford

		English Deaf Chess Association		1603		War and Piece A		1846
511	w	Martin, Lewis	f	2228 e	1 - 0	Onley, David E		2160 e
512	b	David, Barry A H		1692 e	0 - 1	Tenin, Aleksander		2060 e
513	w	Ajimal, Jet		1644 e	1 - 0	Tarr, Steve F		1803 e
514	b	Gibson, Stephen		1512 e	½ - ½	Morrison, Munroe L		1708 e
515	w	Fletcher, Ben J		1336 c	0 - 1	Ross, David C		1710 e
516	b	Simmons, Michael W		1207 c	0 - 1	Knipe, Matthew		1635 c
					2½ - 3½			

Round 2 – 19 November 2023 at Telford

		English Deaf Chess Association		1603		Ashfield 2		1822
511	w	Martin, Lewis	f	2228 e	1 - 0	Lane, Tim A		1856 e
512	b	David, Barry A H		1692 e	0 - 1	Walentowicz, Stefan		1873 c
513	w	Ajimal, Jet		1644 e	0 - 1	Gunarathne, Senith Thenula		1849 e
514	b	Gibson, Stephen		1512 e	1 - 0	Radford, Mark Sr		1790 e
515	w	Fletcher, Ben J		1336 c	0 - 1	Bromilow, Edward T		1777 e
516	b	Simmons, Michael W		1207 c	0 - 1	Graham, Neil		1789 e
					2 - 4			

Games from Rounds 1 and 2 - https://lichess.org/study/vNFDOeuf



WhatsApp texts submitted from players

Two little things happened in our matches.

First Barry called in the arbiter to warn his opponent not to write down moves before playing moves. There are actually rules on that to prevent players on writing down notes on scoresheets throughout the game. Nothing must be written on the scoresheets only the actual moves. Barry's opponent was rated 2060 and he should know better.

Funny enough, in my second game, my opponent wrote down the amount of time left after the 29th move. He wasn't supposed to do that! 20:05

And second, a most peculiar thing happened in our second match. Lewis was the last to finish his game. Once the arbiter saw that his game ended, he rushed over and showed Lewis something he wrote on a notepad. Lewis nodded and the arbiter spoke to his opponent who also nodded.

They both walked out of the playing hall with the arbiter and I wasn't aware what for. I didn't follow them. A little while later, Barry told me they were to be scanned/tested for elctronic devices. We all had finished our games and Mick was anxious to make a good start while there was daylight remaining. After no sight of Lewis after 10 minutes, I thought it was most strange as scanning usually took a minute or so.

We left and Barry and Jet remained behind. 30 minutes later, Barry texted me to say that the scanning went well.

I later found out after a text exchange with Lewis. Lewis and his opponent were scanned and a problem cropped up when they scanned round the region of their ankles. The scanner beeped, beeped and beeped! Alex Holowczak was puzzled and they had to take their shoes and socks off. And also to roll up their trousers up. The scanner still beeped, beeped and beeped!

They finally decided it was the flooring. However, Lewis' opponent had a pedometer attached to his trousers. This was not allowed as arbiters were not informed of this! Alex gave him a formal warning. 20:05

Steve Gibson

Round 3 – 6 January 2024 at Telford

		Watford A	1704		English Deaf Chess Association	1566
511	w	Nelson, Omowale	1961 e	0 - 1	MacLeod, Alasdair	1827 e
512	b	Rubeck, Jonathan	1974 e	½ - ½	David, Barry A H	1658 e
513	w	Lancaster, Roger	1956 e	1 - 0	Ajimal, Jet	1670 e
514	b	Dairi, Ramsey	1761 e	½ - ½	Berridge, Martin	1688 e
515	w	Kataria, Dhairya	1265 e	0 - 1	Lane, Clifford	1487 c
516	b	Dairi, Mahmoud	1308 e	½ - ½	Simmons, Michael W	1068
				2½ - 3½		

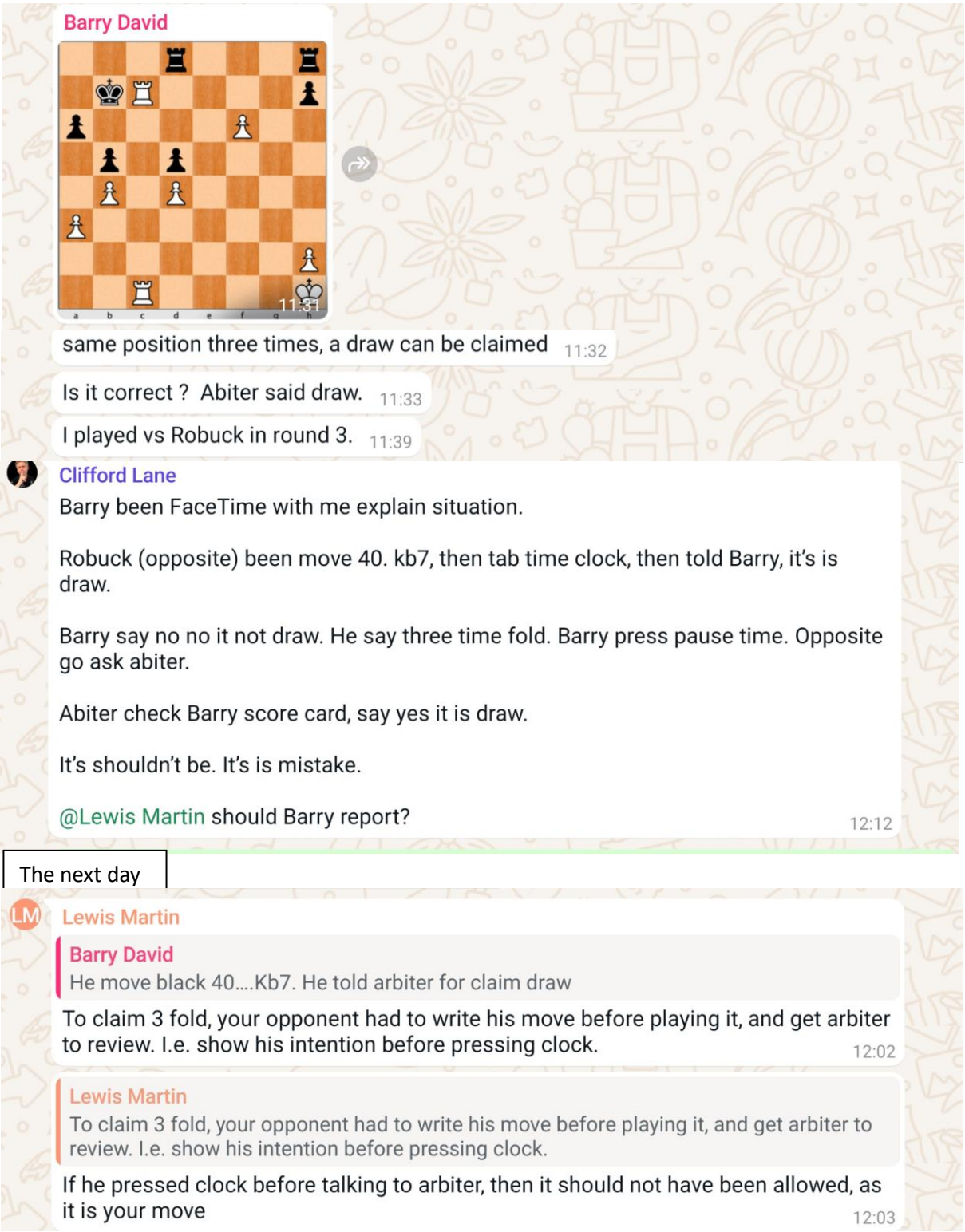
Round 4 – 7 January 2024 at Telford

		English Deaf Chess Association	1566		She Plays To Win Uni		1518
511	w	MacLeod, Alasdair	1827 e	1 - 0	Burgess, Jasmine		1694 c
512	b	David, Barry A H	1658 e	1 - 0	Agarwal, Aditi		1610
513	w	Ajimal, Jet	1670 e	1 - 0	Desheva, Evie		1656 u
514	b	Berridge, Martin	1688 e	0 - 1	Ravi, Vash		1407
515	w	Lane, Clifford	1487 c	1 - 0	Khunda, Deema		1487 c
516	b	Simmons, Michael W	1068	½ - ½	Mehta, Hatle	*	1255 c
				4½ - 1½			

Games from Rounds 3 and 4 - https://lichess.org/study/p38FIoHu



WhatsApp texts submitted from players



To recap what the above texts are saying.

For you to claim a three fold repetition draw when it's your move,

1. Write the move down and do not make the move.
2. Call the arbiter. If he is not available, stop the clock. When they come, restart the clock.
3. When the arbiter is at the board, you tell him you claim a three fold move draw.
4. You make the move and press the clock.

As you all will be aware that Alasdair won his game by default as his opponent entered the Analysis room and presumably looked at chess books. That was what the Arbiter told Alasdair.

Yet looking at chess books - whatever for! :)

But one thing interested me was that there was one arbiter at the room where EDCA was playing in. And in that room, probably 10 teams playing so 60 players all together alongside with maybe 20 spectators.

How did Alasdair's opponent get caught? The arbiter going on a toilet break - he walked pass the Analysis room and saw him. He recognised him out of 80 people. He said to himself - I know him and he's playing in my room and he's not supposed to be there. Then the arbiter decided to approach him and disqualified him.

Steve Gibson

Round 5 – 10th February 2024 at Warwick

		Coventry		1748		English Deaf Chess Association		1748
461	w	Pink, Joshua		1823	1 - 0	Martin, Lewis	f	2256 e
462	b	Ireland, David J		1851	½ - ½	MacLeod, Alasdair		1847 e
463	w	Goodwin, Ed H		1813	½ - ½	Dwek, Ilan G	*	1706 e
464	b	Towers, Nigel S		1730	½ - ½	David, Barry A H		1683 e
465	w	Edwards, Rhys		1658 e	½ - ½	Gibson, Stephen		1508 e
466	b	Woolgar, Steven G		1613	½ - ½	Lane, Clifford		1493 c
					3½ - 2½			

Round 6 – 11th February 2024 at Warwick

		She Plays To Win Young Stars A		1491		English Deaf Chess Association		1748
491	w	Jayawarna, Thisumi		1591	0 - 1	Martin, Lewis	f	2256 e
492	b	Jayawarna, Tarini		1545	½ - ½	MacLeod, Alasdair		1847 e
493	w	Veselow, Zoe		1449	½ - ½	Dwek, Ilan G	*	1706 e
494	b	Mouskos, Mia		1433	0 - 1	David, Barry A H		1683 e
495	w	Haria-Skuse, Ashwina		1454	1 - 0	Lane, Clifford		1493 c
496	b	Mehta, Sophie		1475	1 - 0	Gibson, Stephen		1508 e
					3 - 3			

Games from Round 5 and 6 - https://lichess.org/study/fdq4diZF

Round 7 – 9th March 2024 at Warwick

		English Deaf Chess Association	1467		Ashfield 3	1749
471	w	MacLeod, Alasdair	1847 e	0 - 1	Hatton, David	1782 e
472	b	Dwek, Ilan G	1706 e	0 - 1	Combie, Alex B	1787 e
473	w	Ajimal, Jet	1684 e	0 - 1	Bentley, Alex	1775 e
474	b	Paull, James	1403 e	0 - 1	Taylor, Robert P	1732 e
475	w	Simmons, Michael W	1064	½ - ½	Graham, Neil	1739 e
476	b	Masterson, Desmond	1100 u	0 - 1	Thomson, James L	1681 e
				½ - 5½		

Round 8 – 10th March 2024 at Warwick

		Apprentice Woodpushers	1634		English Deaf Chess Association		1418
491	w	Mulleady, Peter J	1960 e	1 - 0	MacLeod, Alasdair		1847 e
492	b	Sanada, Tetsuaki	1849	1 - 0	Ajimal, Jet		1684 e
493	w	Rughani, Mahin	1654	1 - 0	Williamson, Chris	*	1412 e
494	b	Gawne, Martin	1735	1 - 0	Paull, James		1403 e
495	w	Eccleston, Rowan	1409 e	1 - 0	Simmons, Michael W		1064
496	b	Kilmartin, David	1202	1 - 0	Masterson, Desmond		1100 u
				6 - 0			

Games from Round 7 and 8 - https://lichess.org/study/Ih6YUKsb



Round 9 – 4th May 2024 at Telford

		Barnet Knights C	1611		English Deaf Chess Association	1720
711	w	Kirupakaran, Vishnu	1871 e	1 - 0	MacLeod, Alasdair	1831 e
712	w	McLean, Rory	1712 e	1 - 0	Gardner, Phillip K	1789 e
713	b	Michener, Max	1546 e	½ - ½	David, Barry A H	1691 e
714	b	Horwood, Alexander	1438 e	0 - 1	Ajimal, Jet	1690 e
715	w	Lee, Xander	1490 e	1 - 0	Masterson, Desmond	1601
716	w	Wen, Liana	1430	0 - 1	Fletcher, Ben J	1356 e
				3½ - 2½		

Round 10 – 5th May 2024 at Telford

		English Deaf Chess Association	1750		Crowthorne B	1858
721	w	MacLeod, Alasdair	1831 e	0 - 1	Coates, Kenneth G	1932 e
722	w	Gardner, Phillip K	1789 e	0 - 1	Shek, Daniel	1997 e
723	b	David, Barry A H	1691 e	½ - ½	Leadbetter, Scott	1747
724	b	Ajimal, Jet	1690 e	½ - ½	Chapman, Timothy J	1759
725	w	Masterson, Desmond	1601	0 - 1	McKean, Matthew	1564
726	w	Fletcher, Ben J	1356 e	½ - ½	Haslehurst, Harriet	1718
				1½ - 4½		

Round 11 – 6th May 2024 at Telford

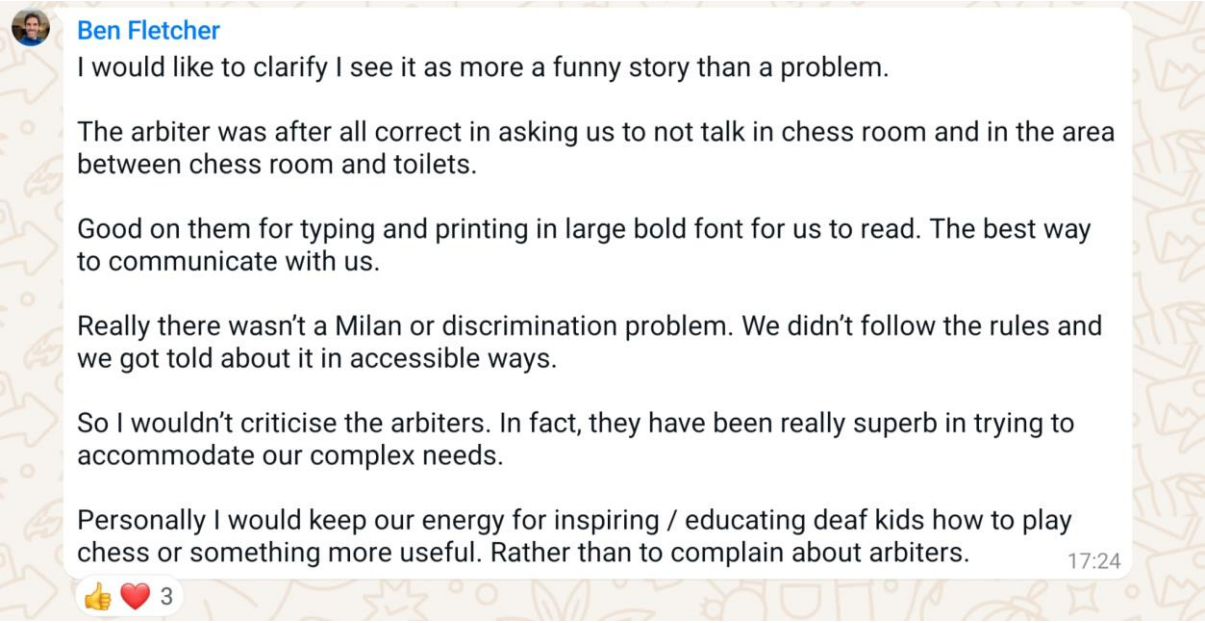
		English Deaf Chess Association	1643		War and Piece B	1556
511	w	MacLeod, Alasdair	1831 e	0 - 1	Tarr, Steve F	1780 e
512	b	Gardner, Phillip K	1789 e	½ - ½	Morrison, Munroe L	1701 e
513	w	David, Barry A H	1691 e	1 - 0	Chapman, Chas	1546 e
514	b	Ajimal, Jet	1690 e	½ - ½	Collins, Nigel	1488 e
515	w	Gibson, Stephen	1503 e	½ - ½	Thomas, Jacob	1507 e
516	b	Fletcher, Ben J	1356 e	1 - 0	Bradley, Eric	1317 e
				3½ - 2½		

Games from Rounds 9, 10 and 11 - https://lichess.org/study/hevMtB9D

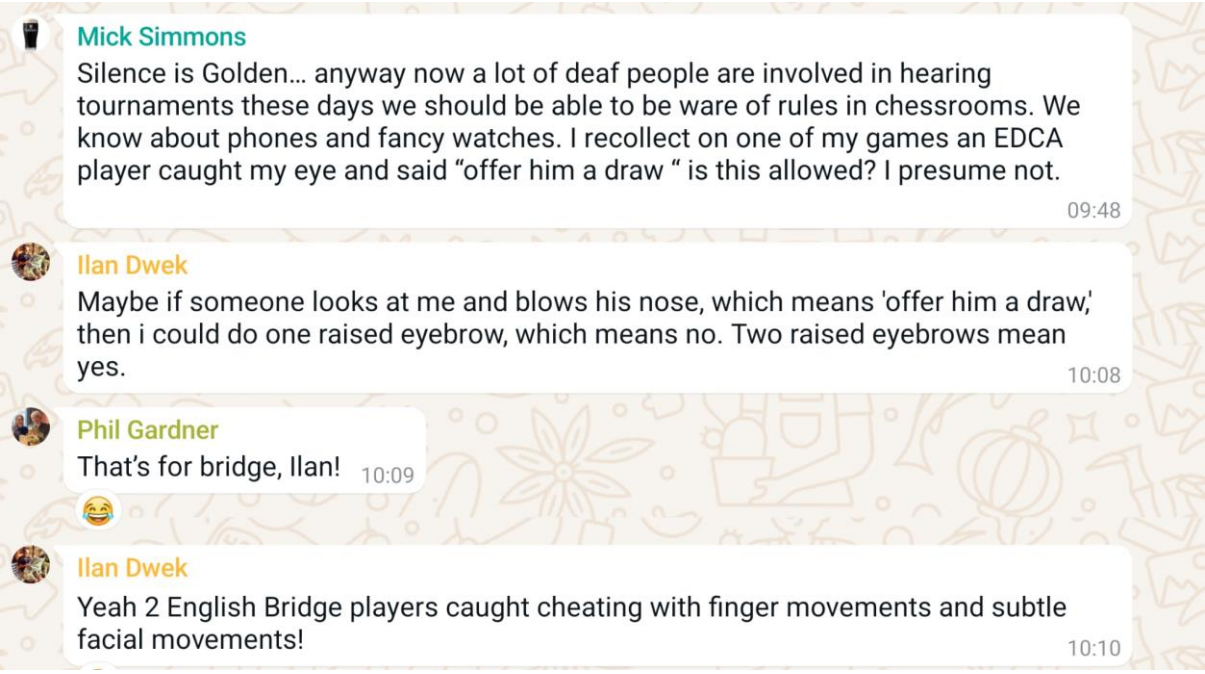


WhatsApp texts submitted from players

Ben Fletcher sent in a BSL video onto the WhatsApp group and he described the situation where the arbiters explained to him and other Deaf players over alleged breach of rules while standing outside the playing hall..



artistes! :) Predictive texting!



Cross chart of Division Four

Division Four

			rd 1	rd 2	rd 3	rd 4	rd 5	rd 6	rd 7	rd 8	rd 9	rd 10	rd 11	P	W	D	L	MP	GP
1	North West Eagles	nwe	cov 5½	spu 4½	avw 2½	tfp 3½	ash3 6	cel3 4	tbd 3½	dpg 5	ice2 5	gil 4½	wapa 3½	11	10	0	1	**20**	47½
2	Average Woodpushers	avw	wssb 3½	spya 5½	nwe 3½	tbd 2	gil 3½	dpg 3½	cov 3½	tfp 4	wapa 3½	cel3 5½	oxf3 5½	11	10	0	1	**20**	43½
3	Desert Penguins	dpg	oxf3 6	bknc 6	gil 4	lan 6	tbd 5½	avw 2½	cel3 4½	nwe 1	cov 4	tfp 3½	crob 5½	11	9	0	2	**18**	48½
4	ToBeDecided	tbd	ice2 5	tfp 3½	wapa 4½	avw 4	dpg ½	ash2 5	nwe 2½	gil 4	cel3 4½	oxf3 4	cov 2½	11	8	0	3	**16**	40
5	Coventry	cov	spu 4	nwe ½	wssb 3½	gil 2½	edc 3½	crob 5	avw 2	oxf3 3	dpg 2	ice2 4	tbd 3	11	6	1	4	**13**	33
6	The Full Ponty	tfp	wapb 5½	tbd 2½	ash3 3	nwe 2½	spyb 4	csc3 3	gil 3½	avw 2	wssb 5	dpg 2½	cel3 4½	11	5	2	4	**12**	38
7	Guildford Young Guns	gil	crob 4	cel3 5	dpg 2	cov 3½	avw 2½	wapa 4½	tfp 2½	tbd 2	csc3 4½	nwe 1½	apw 5½	11	6	0	5	**12**	37½
8	She Plays To Win Uni	spu	nwe 1½	cov 2	spyb 3	edc 1½	watb 6	apw 4	wata 2	csc3 2	wapb 6	spya 3½	ice2 4	11	5	1	5	**11**	35½
9	War and Piece A	wapa	edc 3½	ash3 4	tbd 1½	crob 4½	cel3 2½	gil 1½	ash2 4½	ice2 3	avw 2½	wata 4	nwe 2½	11	5	1	5	**11**	34
10	Watford A	wata	ash3 1	wssb 1	edc 2½	wapb 5	ice2 2½	spyb 5½	spu 4	spya 3½	oxf3 3	wapa 2	ash2 3½	11	5	1	5	**11**	33½
11	Lancaster	lan	bknc 3	csc3 3½	ash2 4½	dpg 0					spya 4	wapb 4½	ash3 2 ; wssb 3	7	5	1	1	**11**	24½
12	CSC/Kingston 3	csc3	apw 4½	lan 2½	bknc 6	ash3 ½	spya 3	tfp 3	oxf3 2½	spu 4	gil 1½	wssb 2½	spyb 4½	11	4	2	5	**10**	34½
13	Apprentice Woodpushers	apw	csc3 1½	spyb 3½	cel3 1½	spya 3	crob 2½	spu 2	oxf4 5	edc 6	ash3 4	ash2 3	gil ½	11	4	2	5	**10**	32½
14	Ashfield 3	ash3	wata 4	wapa 2	tfp 3	csc3 5½	nwe 0	ice2 ½	edc 5½	cel3 2½	apw 2	spyb 4	wssb 2 ; lan 1	11	4½	1	5½	**10**	32
15	Wessex B	wssb	avw 2½	wata 5	cov 2½	ice2 4½	ash2 2½	oxf3 1½	bknc 3½	crob 4	tfp 1	csc3 3½	lan 0 ; ash3 1	11	5	0	6	**10**	31½
16	Crowthorne B	crob	gil 2	ice2 4	oxf3 5½	wapa 1½	apw 3½	cov 1	spya 2½	wssb 2	bknc 4½	edc 4½	dpg ½	11	5	0	6	**10**	31½
17	Celtic Tigers 3	cel3	ash2 4	gil 1	spya 3½	apw 3½	wapa 3½	nwe 2	dpg 1½	ash3 3½	tbd 1½	avw ½	tfp 1½	11	5	0	6	**10**	26
18	Oxford 3	oxf3	dpg 0	wapb 4½	crob 0	ash2 ½	bknc 4½	wssb 4½	csc3 3½	cov 3	wata 3	tbd 1½	avw ½	11	4	2	5	**10**	25½
19	Ashfield 2	ash2	cel3 2	edc 4	lan 1½	oxf3 5	wssb 3½	tbd 1	ice2 2	wapa 1½	spyb 4½	apw 3	wata 2½	11	4	1	6	**9**	30½
20	She Plays To Win Young Stars A	spya	spyb 4½	avw ½	apw 3	cel3 2½	csc3 3	edc 3	crob 3½	wata 2½	lan 2	spu 2½	bknc 3½	11	3	3	5	**9**	30½
21	Iceni 2	ice2	tbd 1	crob 2	wapb 5	wssb 1½	wata 3½	ash3 5½	wapa 3	ash2 4	nwe 1	cov 1	spu 2	11	4	1	6	**9**	29½
22	English Deaf Chess Association	edc	wapa 2½	ash2 2	wata 3½	spu 4½	cov 2½	spya 3	ash3 ½	apw 0	crob 1½	bknc 2½	wapb 3½	11	3	1	7	**7**	26
23	Barnet Knights C	bknc	lan 3	dpg 0	csc3 0	spyb 2	oxf3 1½	oxf4 3½	wssb 2½	wapb 5½	edc 3½	crob ½	spya 2½	11	3	1	7	**7**	24½
24	Oxford 4	oxf4					wapb 4	bknc 2½	apw ½	spyb 4				4	2	0	2	**4**	11
25	She Plays To Win Young Stars B	spyb	spya 1½	apw 2½	spu 3	bknc 4	tfp 2	wata ½	wapb 1	oxf4 2	ash2 1½	ash3 2	csc3 ½	11	1	1	9	**3**	20½
26	War and Piece B	wapb	tfp ½	oxf3 1½	ice2 1	wata 1	oxf4 1	watb 1½	spyb 4	bknc ½	spu 0	lan 1½	edc 2½	11	1	0	10	**2**	15
27	Watford B	watb					spu 0	wapb 3½						2	1	0	1	**2**	3½

Crosschart of results and players

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	Number of games
	War and Piece A	Ashfield 2	Watford A	She Plays To Win Uni	Coventry	She Plays To Win Young Stars A	Ashford 3	Apprentice Woodpushers	Barnet Knights C	Crowthorne B	War and Piece B	
Lewis Martin	1	1			0	1						4
Barry David	0	0	0.5	1	0.5	1			0.5	0.5	1	9
Jet Ajimal	1	0	0	1			0		1	0.5	0.5	8
Steve Gibson	0.5	1			0.5	0		0			0.5	6
Ben Fletcher	0	0							1	0.5	1	5
Mick Simmons	0	0	0.5	0.5			0.5	0				6
Alasdair MacLeod			1	1	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	9
Martin Berridge			0.5	0								2
Clifford Lane			1	1	0.5	0						4
Ilan Dwek					0.5	0.5	0					3
James Paull							0	0				2
Des Masterson							0	0	0	0		4
Chris Williamson								0				1
Phillip Gardner									0	0	0.5	3
	2.5-3.5	2-4	3.5-2.5	4.5-1.5	2.5-3.5	3-3	0.5-5.5	0-6	2.5-3.5	1.5-4.5	3.5-2.5	

Summation of entry and performance

EDCA is pleased that for every match, a full team had been entered. A number of 14 players participated and they all travelled from Birmingham, Dartford, Derbyshire, London, Reading, Sheffield, Stevenage, Swindon and Wolverhampton. EDCA won 3 matches, lost 7 and drew 1.

At every match, the Deaf players met in an environment where they were able to play in a Deaf team where they all shared the same cultural values and communicated in British Sign Language. After each match, they analysed their games in British Sign Language, something they are not able to do at their home towns while playing at local clubs. Further, the Deaf players socialised in the evenings. All this can only be good for their mental well-being.

Furthermore, the other teams at the 4NCL weekends saw the EDCA team at various situations be it analysing their games, chatting in corridors and drinking in the bar lounges. Quite a few began to tentatively start to communicate with them at whatever mode. This can only be good for Deaf chess players generally with their local clubs taking account to having Deaf players in their teams.

Special mention and thanks must be given to all the arbiters at all the weekends in dealing with Deaf people. As one Deaf player in his WhatsApp text above said: "They struggle to understand us, we can be viewed as Freemasons for we are a secret society."

EDCA spent £275 for entry to the 4NCL Main League and £1330 for the accommodation costs for all members playing at all the 4NCL weekends.

EDCA would like to thank the Chess Trust and the English Chess Federation for providing financial grants for the hotel accommodation.