

Round 1 - CC Gambit Asseco SSE 5-1 White Knights Chess Club

Our first round match was against a side from Macedonia containing 1 grandmaster, 3 international masters and 2 fide masters. This was not going to be an easy start and Pete Heaven volunteered to sit this game out.

The words I think that best describe this match would be missed opportunities. Whilst both Allan Pleasants and I were well beaten as black the other 4 players all had opportunities in their games. Bill Hewitt missed a chance to equalise in a rook and Bishop endgame but played a different move and was quickly losing. Dave Buttell missed a Bxh7 sac on move 20 which would have won the exchange and given him a clear advantage. Unfortunately he played something different and slowly his position deteriorated before he eventually blundered a knight. Adam May played a really good game and got himself into a queen and 5 pawn endgame where each player had pawns on the a, b, f, g and h files and a completely equal position. Unfortunately he overlooked his clock and forgot he needed to make 4 moves in 6 minutes and lost on time.

Star player of the day had to be Peter Bevan who with the black pieces played an impressive game against his IM opponent who after sacking his bishop in order to try and queen a pawn then blundered and Peter's position was so good that he could afford to give up his queen for rook and still win due to the queening of a pawn. A great start to the week for Peter.