

## Round 5 report - White Knights Chess Club 2-4 Viking Chess Club

Our fifth round opponents in this years European Club Cup were Viking Chess Club from Iceland. After our win yesterday this was a tougher match with our opponents having two IMs and an FM but at least they were closer to our own strength on the lower boards. It was bill's turn to sit out today's match.

First to finish was Peter Bevan who lost a disappointing game which was certainly not to the standard of his win in round one which was mentioned on the Chess 24 website. Next to finish was Allan Pleasants who has been unlucky with colours in this tournament and he was black for the 3rd time in 4 matches. He gave up the exchange for a pawn but his opponent slowly took advantage of this material advantage and won.

Pete Heaven played a Dragon Sicilian opening and his opponent sacked the exchange on c3. Pete was certainly in the game for a long time but missed a tactical continuation and his opponents excellent defence saw him come away with the full point.

At 3-0 down we were potentially facing our first 6-0 defeat. However Adam played an excellent opening and middle game but felt his advantage had whittled away so agreed a draw. Unfortunately looking at it afterwards showed that Adam was winning in the final position. Adam certainly hasn't got the points this week his play has deserved.

David Buttell played a much better game today than yesterday and was always in control against his opponent who eventually resigned when David won his queen.

My game was last to finish and once again my preparation was proved to be a waste of time. My opponent in the last two years had played 1.d4, Nf3, c4 and e4 so that did not help but against the Sicilian I had seen he always played 2.Nf3.

Today however he decided to play 2.b3. Unsurprisingly I had not done much preparation in the morning on that move so was making it up as I went along. Things went ok for black and after 35 moves I made a draw offer in what I thought was a dead drawn knight and pawns v bishop and pawns endgame.

My opponent did not appreciate the offer of a draw and played on and on making no progress. I had worked out that i needed to get to move 85 to claim a draw under the 50 move rule but thankfully he offered me a draw on move 80.

Even though we lost 4-2 it was a good team performance based on the rating differences between us. We have continued to avoid the dreaded bye and in round 6 we have been paired with a team from Luxembourg. We need to at least draw this match to avoid the bye in round 7.

Fingers crossed we can do this.