

White Knights Chess Club 2-4 Cercle des Echecs Dudelange

Falling at the final hurdle

Our 6th round opponents were the Luxembourg team who were ranked two places above us. We knew we needed at least a draw to avoid the bye in the last round. Adam May sat out today's match.

Peter Bevan was first to finish with an agreed draw as black in a Scandinavian opening which seems to have worked well for him this week.

However things took a turn for the worse with both myself and Bill losing as white around the same time. All week our performances with black have been better than with white and I played a dreadful game losing a pawn and never recovering. Bill lost on time still 9 moves from the time control.

This left us 2.5 - 0.5 down. Pete Heaven was a pawn down in a bishop endgame but managed to hold it.

David Buttell continued his run of excellent results with his 3rd win in a row to bring the score back to 3-2. This left Allan Pleasants trying to win a position in which he was worse against his opponent. He took several risks to unbalance the position but eventually lost.

A real disappointing game which unfortunately meant we were awarded the bye in the last round. We haven't had the best of luck with the draws in that we never played either of the two lowest ranked teams and we will probably finish in our starting ranking position. On a positive note the weather and venue have been excellent.