

Mark Murrell reports

Summer season headlines

- **Wanstead B “Zugzwangs” win the Essex Team Blitz**
- Wanstead teams participate in all 3 sections of the inaugural SCCU Team Rapid
- Wanstead A KO Barking B, Basildon and Writtle to reach the EKO Cup Final
- Wanstead C KOd by Barking B in the EKO Plate after Cup loss to Writtle
- Wanstead B KO Thurrock and Barking A but it's a replay with Loughton in the Cup Semi-final
- **Wanstead 1 retain the Baum Trophy with early wins over Chingford & Enfield 1**

Team Blitz – Sunday 30th June (9 team all play all)

Selector, Philip, held his ground as to the make-up of the Wanstead teams for this always closely fought contest of G7 team chess, with plenty of prize money for good performances thanks to the sponsorship of King & King. Inspired it was too, with the Wanstead second string (on paper at least), the Zugzwangs winning all their matches. However, not losing matches is not enough in this competition (as Wanstead first string, the Knightmares found last year) as it is game points that decide the placings, meaning every game counts and strong performances are needed across the whole team.

A 3–1 win over the Knightmares was followed by narrow but key victories over reigning champions Barking A and top seeds (by 14 grading points) Writtle. This good start was the key and with only a slight wobble against Barking B (where 1½ points were dropped) the Zugzwangs held their nerve and form with whitewashes over Ilford, Tall Pawns and crucially Writtle B. The only other team to win 4 – 0 was favourites Writtle A but only twice. The Wanstead cause was helped by Writtle B who took 1½ points off Writtle A, in just a hard-fought opening round clash as that between Knightmares and Zugzwangs.

Wanstead Zugzwangs (Z)	25½ just dropping 6½ points across 8 matches
Writtle A	23½
Barking A	18½
Wanstead Knightmares (K)	18

Wanstead Tall Pawns (TP) collected the wooden spoon due to an inferior game points total but did win the match of the minnows against Barking B.

Partha Mulay (Knightmares, board 1) won the Junior prize.

Terry Whitton (Z4) scored a perfect 8 followed closely by Kyan Bui (Z3) with 7½ both claiming their respective board prizes.

Notable performances elsewhere taking points off the opposition were: Larry Marden (K4) 6½; Partha Mulay (K1), David Spearman (Z1) and Maksim Cheslavskiy (Z2) on 5 and Mark Murrell (TP1) 4.

For full team and player results check out the [tournament pages](#) on the ECA website.

SCCU/London Clubs Team Rapid - Saturday 29th June

12 players took part across 3 sections with team average ceilings of 180 (major), 150 (inter) and 120 (minor) at St Luke's Church in West Hampstead. Whilst great things were not expected of our minor team (av 101) as a result of a late player substitution due to illness, both our inter (av 148) and major teams (av 180) were in with a shout on paper. However, there was tough competition and hard-fought matches in all three sections all day.

Wanstead 3 (Minor) managed a solitary win against Hendon to finish 9th out of a field of 10. However, Paul Haddock (2) and Nigel White (3) held their grades whilst David Smith (1) and Nic Charles (4) performed above their ratings. Paul Haddock top scored for the team with 2½ out of 6. DHSS 2 won all 6 to win the section.

Wanstead 2 (Inter) finished 5th out of 10 with wins over DHSS1, Richmond Juniors and Southend. However, Kyan aside who faced stronger graded opposition in most rounds, the rest of the team under-performed against their ratings. Keith Jones (3) could not quite make it 6 draws and Ben Harte (4) and Mark Murrell (1) both managed to mess up some good positions. Keith and Ben finished on 2½ with Mark and Kyan on 3½. Hatch End won on game points tie-break from Pimlico each having drawn with Streatham & Brixton who finished third.

Wanstead 1 (Major) were one grading point off a perfect maximum of 180 but did not live up to their star billing finishing 6th. This was a 7 round all play all and it did not help having our rest round in round 1. The later start only resulted in a draw in their first match against Mushrooms 2. The only victory came in round 4 against Richmond Juniors. More was needed from David Spearman (3) and Larry Marden (4) each finishing on 2½ out of 6 with Ian Hunnable having a tough ask on board 2. John Hodgson top scored joining Mark and Kyan on 3½ points for the day. All of the matches in the Major were tight with Muswell Hill worthy winners having won all their matches, but only just. A challenging competition.

Full results can be found at: [Major](#) [Inter](#) [Minor](#)

Essex Knockout – June to end September

The Plate competition was won convincingly by Upminster A over Barking B. In their semi-final against Barking B, Wanstead C could never get into their match either.

In the Cup Wanstead A play [Loughton probably on a Wednesday in September] [Wanstead B on Tuesday 17th September] in the Final.

For Wanstead A it was a close call at home to Basildon with just a single point in it but a more comfortable win at home to a higher graded Writtle.

For Wanstead B it was an untroubled home win over Thurrock and an away thriller to steal the match against Barking A fielding all their regulars. With the hard work done in the quarter-final, hard work was made of the semi-final encounter against Loughton with both legs tied with reversed results, so a replay in September it is.

20 players participated on at least 1 KO match, producing 80 grading results.

You can follow the progress of our teams and all the details via the [Knockout pages](#) of the ECA website.

NCCL Baum Trophy – Bonanza Night 28th May to end August

One league for 8 teams of vastly differing playing strengths is always a challenge for team selection having to second guess (for the most part) the intentions of the opposition. This summer Enfield (who play in Divisions B and C of the North Circular League) fielded four teams, Chingford (who play in Divisions A to C) mostly fielded their Division B side and Wanstead fielded 3 teams (in name but with sides representing the breadth of abilities across the Club). All of the Clubs internal matches were played in a four team all play all competition over extended boards at the end of May – Bonanza Night, producing 92 grading results.

In several matches against Wanstead teams, Enfield 2 produced line ups that were worthy of a Division A team but Enfield 1 were very much on the weak side in the critical matches against Chingford and Wanstead 1. Wanstead 3 showed their metal with a hard fought 5-5 tie against Enfield 1 in the final match of the league on 27th August. Chingford were missing several first team players in the extended board encounter with Wanstead 1, nevertheless a little bit of fortune was still needed by the summer league champions. Wins against all of the Enfield teams were enough for second place for Chingford thanks to Wanstead 3.

Priority for Wanstead second and third team matches was given to weaker members of the Club without games in the Knockout, which in the later stages saw the introduction of two new members who had arrived over the summer.

With the league won with a match to spare, once again on the final match night of the summer saw Wanstead 1 pitted against the weakest of the Enfield teams, but with a line-up to match the opposition. Having narrowly lost the first leg, a reversal of fortunes in the second leg saw Enfield 4 take the only points off Wanstead 1 and to finish above Enfield 2 and 3 and catching Wanstead 2.

48 players played at least 2 games in this competition, producing 144 grading results (excluding the 10 default wins).

Final placings: Champions Wanstead 1, 4th= Wanstead 2, 8th Wanstead 3. League tables can be found [here](#) and full details will eventually appear [here](#)

For Wanstead matches check out the [statistics pages](#) for performances, results and match sheets.

John Philpott Trophy – current season 2019/20

52 players have participated in our Rapid competitions over the summer. All points scored in these matches (Baum Trophy, Essex Knockout & SCCU Team Rapid) which started with Bonanza Night in the Baum Trophy on 28th May have counted towards the John Philpott Trophy currently held by Paul Barclay. Members can add to their scores through points scored in the Knockout Final, Aix-en-Provence challenge match, Lawrance and Finchley knockout league cup matches and the Club's **Rapid Championship (**NB new date 18th April 2020**** – moved from 22nd February 2020)

The Current leaders on my reckoning are: Kyan Bui (16½); David Spearman (11½); Larry Marden (10); Mark Murrell (9½); Alin Chirea-Florica, Steve Rix & John Hodgson (9); Nigel White & David Smith (8½).