

COUNTY TEAMS – THE HIGHLIGHTS (TO 2019)

There is a lot to celebrate – 17 National and 60 MCCU titles by my count. This piece has something on all the national titles, MCCU Championship, MCCU Correspondence and junior championships and a few other things besides. The omission is the lesser MCCU over-the-board titles largely for reasons of space but also, dare I say , winning them up has become rather routine of late.

I would be delighted to add match reports or reminiscences for the following matches:

Notts vs Kent 3rd team Final, 1989 Notts vs Warks U150 Final, 1997
 Notts vs Devon U180 Final, 2011 Notts vs Warks U120 Final, 2016
 Notts vs Yorks, U140 Final, 2018

And it is hereby decreed that a team photo will be taken next time we win a national title

Robert Richmond, August, 2019

MCCU adult OTB titles 1898-2019

Championship	1930 , 1972 , 2014 , 2016, 2019	5
MINOR championship	2014	1
2 nd Team	1981 , 1989 , 1991	3
3 rd Team	1989 , 1990 , 1991	3
U180	2011 , 2017	2
U175	1996 , 2004	2
U160	2012 , 2013 , 2015 , 2016 , 2018	5
U150	1993 , 1995 , 1996 , 1999 , 2003 , 2005 , 2006 , 2007	8
U140	2010 , 2014 , 2015 , 2016 , 2018	5
U125	1997 , 1998 , 1999 , 2003	4
U120	2016 , 2017 , 2019	3
U100	1997 , 2004 , 2009 , 2012 , 2013 , 2014 , 2016 , 2017	8
	Total	49

Source: MCCU Website

And the next table shows how this compares to other counties. Warwicks, Staffs and Manchester have roughly twice , and Leics a slightly lower population than Notts. Source: MCCU website

MCCU Adult O.T.B. titles 1898-2019

Warwickshire	103
Nottinghamshire	49
Leicestershire	30
Greater Manchester (from 1975)	30
Staffordshire	26
Worcestershire	14
Shropshire	11
Oxfordshire	9
Lincolnshire	7
Derbyshire	2
Huntingdon & Peterborough	1
Northamptonshire	1
Total	283

1. MCCU CHAMPIONS

1930

The early County teams were rather weak and usually got hammered. The exception was 1930 when, against formidable odds, the team won the MCCU Championship. It wouldn't happen again until 1972. In 1929-30 the championship was a knock-out, which no doubt helped, with wins over Oxfordshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire.

British Chess Magazine (1930, P180) has the following paragraph:

“We have received the Year Book from the Nottinghamshire Chess Association, which is of special interest this year on account of the fact that Nottingham have won the Midland Counties Championship. We think it is truly wonderful that an association with a total membership of thirty-eight, including President and Vice-Presidents, should be able to do this, and the success of Notts should be an encouragement to other small county associations. In the Annual Report we note a hope expressed that the association ought to have, and hopes to get, fifty members. We are of the opinion that a thorough canvas of the city of Nottingham and the other towns in the county should produce 250 members, and we shall look forward with interest to next year's book to see what progress has been made.”

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE vs WARWICKSHIRE 1972 MCCU FINAL

Here is the report by John Coggan in the Nottingham Evening Post of 25th September 1972

Four undecided games stand between Nottinghamshire and the title of Midlands Champions. At their recent, long-delayed final with Warwickshire they were leading 8½-7½ at the close of play, with 4 games to be adjudicated. Two points from these will give Notts the championship, and their first ever win against Warwickshire. The match was the climax to a long wrangle between Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire over date and venue. It should have been played way back on March 25th and Notts claimed the match by default when opponents said they could not raise a team.

Complaint

The Midland Counties Chess Union at their annual meeting refused to give Notts the title by default, but seemed to acknowledge that Notts had grounds for complaint by telling Warwickshire to play at Nottingham at their own expense on a date chosen by their opponents.

When the match took place at the Gambit club's headquarters on September 16th, the home team had to contend with something like the anxiety the former world champion must have felt waiting for Bobby Fischer to turn up in Iceland. Fifteen minutes after the scheduled start of the match half the Warwickshire team, including their captain, hadn't arrived. But rules are rules, and

Notts started with a time advantage. They also had one of the strongest teams they had ever entered for a county fixture.

Boards

R G Thimann scored an early win on board five and the players on the lower boards gave a good account of themselves.

Nottinghamshire			Warwickshire
1. K B Richardson	0	1	A J Miles
2. M H Horton	½	½	R S McFarland
3. A N Walker	Adj	Adj	P C Griffith
4. R J Clunie	0	1	W R Ritson-Morrey
5. R G Thimann	1	0	G N Stokes
6. P Sharp	½	½	M Pitt
7. J K Walters	½	½	R J Farley
8. P B Dodson	½	½	R C T Parry
9. J Gardner	0	1	G M Boyce
10. N F Edmonds	Adj	Adj	M B Davis
11. M D Smith	½	½	J Murray
12. P Tibbert	1	0	G Kaye
13. A K Wigmore	Adj	Adj	R Baker
14. J G Cooper	1	0	C E Packwood
15. L Wright	Adj	Adj	G J Stoker
16. C T Kent	1	0	J Lanz
17. D Greenwood	0	1	E Burke
18. A Rolfe	1	0	P J Jones
19. P Grimsey	0	1	P A Harris
20. R Richmond	1	0	A B Lloyd
	8½	7½	

The next report on the County First Team in the *Evening Post* (30th October, 1972) begins:

“Notts, the new Midlands Champions, powered their way to an easy win over Northants at Corby on Saturday.”

Andrew Walkers scorebook record the match result as 10½ - 9½, with his adjudication coming back a draw. The result of the other adjudications is unknown.

So justice was done. It was not however the first ever win over Warwickshire. Eagle eyed readers will have spotted this was 1930.

Here’s Peter Gibbs giving the Warwickshire perspective in the *Birmingham Post* (Sep 23rd):

“The Midland Championship final between Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire was delayed from the previous season until last Saturday due to a dispute. Although the final was in Nottingham, the expenses had to be met by Warwickshire. It was therefore specially regrettable that the venue arranged by the host County was far from ideal”

So he glosses over the dispute, and that Warwickshire were lucky not to be defaulted. Federation House was usually a respectable venue – but Neil Graham writing on poor venues notes (Bulletin Dec 1993) “Federation House when wedding receptions are taking place - Nottm Gambit venue

became notorious after a County Match between Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire when a Ukrainian wedding reception was booked at the same time, The games were played to the accompaniment of boisterous accordian playing and Cossack dancing". Could this have been the 1972 Final? Just asking.

Did Notts win in 1975? The John Coggan column in the *Evening Post* had disappeared by then. Peter Gibbs has this to say in the *Birmingham Mail* (Saturday Sep 27th): " The MCCU final between Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire would take place that very day at Aston University, starting 2.00pm." The absence of any further report suggests Notts were the likely winners. He did a report on the 1972 final where Warwickshire might have won (see above) , and on the 1974 final when they definitely did win. Any further information most welcome.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE vs LEICESTERSHIRE - MCCU Final 15th March, 2014

In 2013-14 the resurrected County First Team, now playing in the MINOR Counties, swept aside all MCCU opposition (P7 W7), only losing in the National Final to Suffolk. This included three wins over Leicestershire (East Midlands zonal, National Semi-Final and the MCCU Final (below) to become Midlands champions for the third (or possibly fourth) time.

Nottinghamshire				Leicestershire	
1. Michael Barnes	205	0	1	Martin Burrows	198
2. Pablo Padillo Cabero	203	1	0	Alan Byron	194
3. Alexander Combie	193	1	0	Sven Reimaa	202
4. Robert Richmond	180	½	½	Alan Agnew	197
5. Peter Mercs	180	½	½	Graham Sharpe	185
6. Tim Walker	180	0	1	John Denton	179
7. Andrew Walker	175	½	½	Brian Galligan	180
8. Steve Burke	172	0	1	Ray Burgess	174
9. Daniel Broughton	172	0	1	John Robinson	178
10. Andy George	171	½	½	Tom Reynolds	169
11. John Swain	170	½	½	John Mitchell	170
12. Steve Hunter	168	1	0	Paul Coburn	170
13. Brian Thompson	169	½	½	Alfonso Jiminez	167
14. Drag Sudar	164	1	0	Sean Sheahan	170
15. Nick London	160	½	½	Karl Potter	161
16. Brian Hayward	159	1	0	John Pattinson	147
		8½	7½		

2. CORRESPONDENCE

MCCU CORRESPONDENCE CHAMPIONS 1959-60 , 1960-61 , 1983-87 and 1997-98

1959-60	1960-61
Nottinghamshire 10	Nottinghamshire 10
Warwickshire 9½	Staffordshire 9½
Worcestershire 8½	Worcestershire 9½
Derbyshire 7½	Lincolnshire 7
Lincolnshire 6	Warwickshire 7
Shropshire 6	Derbyshire 6
	Shropshire 6

Source: BCF Yearbook

1983-87 (16 Boards, two games vs same opponent)

	1983-84	1984-85
1. G Allcock	1	1½
2. P B Dodson	1½	2
3. M Alcock	2	2
4. T Guy	2	½
5. P W Grimsey	1½	1
6. M Thomas	1	2
7. M Cooke	2	1
8. J G Cooper	1½	2
9. C T Kent	1½	1
10. D A Toms	1	1
11. S J Burke	1 + Adj	Bd
12. B J Armitage	2	(11) 2
13. W H Selby	1 + Adj	(12) 2
14. D T K Lewis	2	(13) 2
15. J Tassi	1½	(14) 1½
15. G Murfet		2
16. R J Stevenson	1	
16. G Gibson		1
	23½ + Adj 1½ Claimed	23

1984-85 Our winning margin being 3½ points which should have been larger had it not been for an administrative error on my behalf. Apologies therefore to Tom Guy and Geoff Gibson but congratulations to everyone for their performance. Let us hope we can make it a hat trick this season. R S Stevenson, Bulletin Nov 1985

1986-87 “ The County Correspondence teams have once again put up a good performance in both the Midland and National competitions. The Midland competition was won by the narrowest of margins (half a point) and this was our fourth consecutive victory. Point scorers were: G Allcock 1, P B Dodson 2, P A Richmond 1, G Murfet 1, C Jones 2, J G Cooper 0.5, C T Kent 1.5, Dr.B J Armitage 2, Dr.D A Toms 1, J Tassi 2, W H Selby 2, G T Gibson 2, N Hill 2.” Ron Stevenson – Correspondence Captain , Bulletin , October 1987

1997-98

1. Nottinghamshire	21	6. Worcestershire	14
2. Greater Manchester 1	20½	7. Lincolnshire	12
3. Leicestershire	20	8. Greater Manchester 2	10
4. Warwickshire	19	9. Staffordshire	9
5. Shropshire	18½		

Incredibly we won – despite scoring ½ point less than last year and losing 3½-½ and 3-1 to the second and third-placed teams respectively. Well done to all the players.

The one blight on our successful season is the recent death of Stephen Housego (board 15). Stephen represented Nottinghamshire at CC every season from 1990-91 in both the MCCU and national (C&DCCC) competitions. In seven years (to 1996-97) in the MCCU event he scored a phenomenal and quite unparalleled 13½/14. Such a player is simply irreplaceable.

The individual scores for 1997-98 were as follows:

Nottinghamshire			
1. George Allcock	2	0	A Mukherjee (Shropshire)
2. Jonathan Tait	½ ½	½ ½	P Johnstone (Warwickshire)
3. Tom Guy	2	0	N Payne (Lincolnshire)
4. Peter Dodson	2	0	R J Edwards (Staffordshire)
5. Peter Mercs	1 ½	½	J Clissold (Greater Manchester 2)
6. John Cooper	½	1 ½	H Lamb (Greater Manchester 1)
7. Peter Grimsey	2	0	L Heathcock (Worcestershire)
8. Keith Walters	0	2	F Haynes (Leicestershire)
9. Janos Wagenbach	2	0	K R Ingram (Warwickshire)
10. Paul Cockayne	1 ½	½	P Cameron (Shropshire)
11. John Tassi	1	1	M G Smith (Staffordshire)
12. Paul Rees	2	0	R Cook (Lincolnshire)
13. Phil Becket	0	2	G Keeling (Greater Manchester 1)
14. Chris Kent	1 ½	½	N Pickering (Greater Manchester 2)
15. Stephen Housego	½ ½	½ ½	R Houghton (Leicestershire)
16. Philip Troubridge	½ ½	½ ½	A Merritt (Worcestershire)

Jonathan Tait (Notts CC Team Captain)

The best placing in the Ward-Higgs (National Division 1) is 4th in 1987-88 and 1990-91, after winning the Sinclair (Division 2) in 1982-83

And whilst I'm on Correspondence:

"Mr.Gillam informed the meeting that the outstanding performance for 1968/69 was that of Junior Correspondence team in winning the National Junior Correspondence championship" Executive Committee Minutes 9th Feb 1970

Does anyone know any more? There is no further record of participation in a National Junior Correspondence championship in the minutes and nothing on the ECF website.

3. COUNTY JUNIOR TEAMS

COUNTIES U18 , 1973

Jamboree win for Notts. Juniors

Nottinghamshire were clear winners of the Midland area under 18 jamboree at Lichfield last weekend. Playing against seven counties they finished with a score of 9½. They were ahead of Lincolnshire 6½ and an adjudication, Shropshire 6½ and Leicestershire 6. Derbyshire scored only four points, but have a game for adjudication, and a win will put them above Warwickshire (4½)

Notts qualify for the final in London on April 14th, when they play the champions of the other chess unions

Victory

Their victory was based on fine play by the top six boards and on the bottom three. Jerry Herrington of Ashfield Comprehensive, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, playing on board 11 won his game with a crunching king-side attack. He exploited a blunder and won before the other players had got beyond the opening.

Nottingham Evening Post, 19th February, 1973

Neil Graham drove the minibus to London for the finals. They were held in the squalor of the chess room at St.Brides Institute (cramped , very hard chairs) just off Fleet Street. Lancashire had a powerful team (1.Mestel, 2.P Littlewood...12.Sheila Jackson) and won comfortably. Notts came joint second of the also rans, including a very impressive win by Peter Sharp over Jonathan Speelman. The final scores: 1st Lancashire 10 2nd= Nottinghamshire / Middlesex 5 , 4th Somerset 4

"Neil Graham Notts junior chess secretary described the team's performance as highly creditable"
Nottingham Evening Post , April 24th, 1973

Nottinghamshire			
1. P J Sharp	1	0	J S Speelman (Middx)
2. A Rolfe	0	1	N J Webber (Somerset)
3. R Richmond	½	½	R J Starkie (Lancs)
4. A Richmond	0	1	A C Dempsie (Lancs)
5. P W Grimsey	1	0	J Bunter (Somerset)
6. R Day	0	1	R Lee (Middx)
7. M Boszormenyi	0	1	P A Corbin (Middx)
8. P C Abbott	½	½	R Furseman (Somerset)
9. A Mycroft	0	1	N Hacking (Lancs)
10. J Herrington	0	1	T Holt (Lancs)
11. B Skuse	1	0	T Wheeler (Somerset)
12. A Ross	1	0	C Okike (Middx)

1973 was certainly the best ever in the Midlands jamboree. **The only other outright win was 1968.**
The team were joint winners , but not qualifying for the final in 1982 , 1984

MCCU U14 1989

The U14 Competition took place at Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall, and I am delighted to report that Notts have finally broken the Warwickshire monopoly and brought the trophy to the E.Midlands for the first time since 1980. The competition was always close, but, after crucial round 1 victories by Jonathan Parker and Jonathan Smallwood against the holders, Notts were always in front, finally winning by 2 clear points with 29½ to 27½. Notts II, with a team whose average age was under 10, finished last of the twelve competing teams but gained from the experience. Having won the trophy, you can be sure that we won't give it up easily

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
1. J Parker	1 Warks I	½ Humberside	½ Worcs	2
2. S Joseph	1 Humberside	1 Notts II	1 Lincs	3
3. J Vere	1 Staffs	1 Warks II	1 Notts II	3
4. R Randall	1 Notts II	1 Worcs	½ Warks I	2½
5. A Rose	½ Worcs	1 Warks III	0 Staffs	1½
6. O Playe	0 Warks II	1 Notts II	½ Lincs	1½
7. I Higgins	1 Lincs	0 Warks I	1 Warks III	2
8. J Crockett	1 Northants	1 Warks I	1 Salop	3
9. J Redburn	1 Warks III	1 Northants	1 Warks I	3
10. M Tailby	1 Salop	1 Staffs	1 Northants	3
11. P Faulkner	1 Humberside	½ Salop	1 Worcs	2½
12. J Smallwood	1 Warks I	½ Humberside	1 Lincs	2½
				29½

My thanks go to all the adults who helped, David Parker, Len Morrell, and Jenny Waddingham in particular. Notts II were represented by Ross Watchorn, Alex Ward, Ajay Gupta, Sean Mill, David Ladds, James Tarling, Andrew Cameron, Phillip Harrison, Abigail Dyce, Andrew Dyce, Paul Mill, William Elliott, Chris Bailey, Andrew Dyce and Alan Joseph

Andy Erridge Source: Bulletin 1988-89 (5) Late April 1989

Were these the best ever by county junior team performances? Probably not. The 1982 AGM minutes has the following:

“An U16 team won a magnificent trophy in the national competition, which they thoroughly deserved for an exceptional result”

Does anyone know any more? There is nothing in the BCF Yearbook, or on the ECF website and it pre-dates the bulletin.

4. COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTTS vs YORKS , County Championship Semi-Final , 1st June 1974

1973-74 must be the most successful season ever for the County first team. The wins against the other Midlands teams were embarrassingly large.

East Midlands Zone

Vs Huntingdon & Peterborough	Won 17 - 3
Vs Lincolnshire	Won 17 - 3
Vs Northamptonshire	Won 16½ - 3½
Vs Derbyshire	Won 16½ - 3½
Vs Leicestershire	Won 12 - 8

MCCU semi-Final

vs Staffordshire	Won 14 - 6
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National Stages

Quarter-final vs Devon	Won 8½ - 7½
Semi-Final vs Yorkshire	Lost 9½ - 10½

The semi-final vs Yorkshire was an excruciatingly tense match and going into the final stretch we had our noses in front. Any 10-10 draw and we win on board count. The match turned when Alan Kerry just gave away his queen when a piece up. Yorkshire went on to comfortably beat Cambridgeshire 9½ - 6½, so could that have been us? So near and yet so far. You don't get many chances in life of a national title - this match is one of life's great regrets.

For context in the over 100 years of the County Championship the title has only been won by the top 9 by population (all at least 2m) or Oxford and Cambridge (Universities). The one and only exception is Leicestershire in 1994 (Top boards Hebden, Flear, Lawton, Christine Flear). Winning the County Championship would have been an incredible achievement.

Nottinghamshire			Yorkshire
1. K B Richardson	½	½	B Eley
2. M H Horton	1	0	M J Haygarth
3. Dr. A N Walker	0	1	D R Johnstone
4. R G Thimann	½	½	D Adams
5. P D Hare	1	0	B A Jones
6. P R Kemp	1	0	D R Markham
7. T Guy	0	1	A Toothill
8. P Sharp	1	0	J E Vickery
9. A J Rolfe	½	½	R D Westra
10. P B Dodson	1	0	H Russell
11. A Richmond	½	½	J D Atkinson
12. K Morrison	0	1	R H Watson
13. M D Smith	0	1	J H Beatty
14. J G Cooper	1	0	D Lister
15. R Richmond	½	½	P V Wade
16. P Abbott	½	½	R Gardner
17. P Kizel	0	1	D Firth
18. M Lambert	0	1	S J Mann
19. A A Kerry	0	1	J E Povey
20. A J Gillam	½	½	D J Finnie
	9½	10½	

The other occasions when Notts have reached the semi-finals were:

1975 losing to Lancashire 13-3

1983 losing to Yorkshire 14-6

1991 losing to Lancashire 8½-7½

5. SECOND and THIRD TEAMS

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE II vs LINCOLNSHIRE II , 14th Jan 1984

The largest ever wins by a County team are 18½-1½ achieved three times by Notts II – 1982 against Lincs II (5 defaults) , 1984 again against Lincs II (see below) and Northants II in 1990 (2 defaults) , and following a 14½-1½ win over Northumberland II earlier in the year.

Nottinghamshire II			Lincolnshire II
1. D Andrews	½	½	H Strator
2. H R Edwards	1	0	G Wollerton
3. W H Selby	1	0	Rev Cullen
4. P Thomas	1	0	J Gibson

5. W M S Tildersley	1	0	P Smith
6. B M Hayward	1	0	R Hewes
7. G T Gibson	½	½	A R Smith
8. J Tassi	1	0	F Bristow
9. R Dicks	1	0	A Taylor
10. T A Lane	1	0	T Archer
11. A Dean	1	0	D Leatherland
12. D Ball	1	0	E Creasey
13. N Graham	1	0	J Douce
14. J Herrington	1	0	R Horne
15. J Stephen	1	0	S Marshall
16. J J A Orchison	½	½	N Crabb
17. J Eastwood	1	0	A Jones
18. A Morrey	1	0	N Spittalhouse
19. W Taylor	1	0	G Coddington
20. D Gwynne	1	0	C Holt
	18½	1½	

Captain Alan Morrey described those conceding draws as “miscreants”. I feel this is far too polite for such dereliction of duty.

The biggest wins for the County First team may well be the 1973 series. U150's beat Leics B 14-2 (1993) , 13-3 (1997) , 14½-1½ (1997) and 13½ - 2½; (1999) . The best result in the national stages is Notts III 13½ -2½ Beds II (1990)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE III vs KENT III, Third Team Final, 24th June 1989

A first national title, and one achieved against grading odds of 20 points per board.

Nottinghamshire III				Kent III	
1. A K Erridge	150	½	½	F Percival	176
2. D Wrightman	153	0	1	G R Tidmarsh	178
3. I Nicholson	140	½;	½	D Hill	-
4. L Sewell	139J	1	0	M H Micklethwaite	167
5. A Robinson	137	1	0	M D Broughton	162
6. M Kennedy	131J	0	1	C J G Wright	-
7. J Vere	113J	1	0	A Ropek	155
8. M V Taylor	134	1	0	Z Mehmet	155
9. P Erentz	112	0	1	P L Childs	154
10. R Webster	131	½	½	R T McCorry	151

11. A Dean	134	1	0	A C Shilling	151
12. C Martin	132	1	0	B J Westover	146
13. J Hornagold	128	0	1	H E J Dobson	149
14. M Nailard	131	0	1	S Jacobs	141
15. C Cantrill	131	½	½	S Scott	146
16. P D Rees	130	½	½	R F Pooley	144
		8½	7½		

Average Grade 135
(with 10 points added
to each junior grade)

Average grade 155

6. COUNTIES RAPIDPLAY CHAMPIONS 1988,1993,1994,1996, 1997

Well OK none of the big boys entered, but what the heck it's a National Championship and Notts won.

1988		1993		1994		1996		1997	
Notts	35½	Notts	42½	Notts	45	Notts	45½	Notts	42
Leics	34½	Staffs	40	Warks	41½	Wilts	41	Warks	38
Warks	34	Warks	39½	Staffs	33½	Warks	40½	Leics	33½
Bedfords	31½	Leics	31	Leics	31	Leics	33½	Derbys	26
N'land	24½	Oxon	29½	Bedfords	25	Staffs	32	N'hants	20½
		Bedfords	25	Shrops	16	Derbys	18		
		N'hants	16½			Shrops	13½		

Here's the report in the bulletin from 1997

Counties Rapidplay Championship, Nuneaton, 1997 Jonathon Tait (Notts Open Team Captain)

The National Counties Rapidplay Championship has finally regressed to the MCCU Rapidplay Championship with not even one non-MCCU team making the journey this year. And who can blame them? No matter who turns up we invariably win, and did so again for the fourth time in five years. This year, as with the European Ryder cup team we took a 5½-point lead into the final round and tried our best not to win, but we couldn't quite manage it.

My thanks to the drivers: Jason Cast, Rob Furness, Norman Lazonby and Ken Morrison

1. Nottinghamshire	12	22	34	42
2. Warwickshire	10½	20½	28½	38
3. Leicestershire	8	15½	24½	33½
4. Derbyshire	4½	12	19½	26
5. Northamptonshire	5	10	13½	20½

Individual round by round and final scores

1. Ben Beake	½	0	1	0	1½	<i>Unaffiliated</i>
2. Michael Barnes	1	1	1	½	3½	<i>Fiveways</i>
3. Jonathan Tait	1	1	1	½	3½	<i>Mansfield</i>
4. Ray Evans	1	1	0	½	2½	<i>Fiveways</i>
5. Steve Burke	½	½	1	1	3	<i>Ashfield</i>
6. Norman Lazonby	1	0	½	1	2½	<i>Gambit</i>
7. Ken Morrison	1	1	1	½	3½	<i>Mansfield</i>
8. Kevin Simpson	½	0	1	0	1½	<i>Mansfield</i>
9. Rob Furness	0	1	½	0	1½	<i>Fiveways</i>
10. Peter Mercs	1	1	0	1	3	<i>Fiveways</i>
11. Julian Cast	1	½	1	½	3	<i>Fiveways</i>
12. David Levens	1	1	1	½	3½	<i>Stapleford</i>
13. Davis Amour	0	1	1	1	3	<i>Mansfield</i>
14. Abigail Cast	1	0	½	0	1½	<i>Fiveways</i>
15. Janos Wagenbach	½	1	½	1	3	<i>Mansfield</i>
16. Jason Cast	½	1	½	1	3	<i>Fiveways</i>

Club breakdown: Fiveways 18/28 , Mansfield 13½/20 , Others 10½/16

Notts were the only team not to have a perfect score on any board

As only five teams entered every player got to play against every county

Our Match scores were:

vs Warwickshire 7½ - 8½

vs Leicestershire 11½ - 4½

vs Derbyshire 12 - 4

vs Northamptonshire 11 - 5

Warwickshire can therefore take some consolation in having beaten us in the match (we won only on boards 1,3,10 and 12). But we took home the trophy and the money.

7. GRADING LIMITED COMPETITIONS (1) 1995-2011

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE vs ESSEX U175 NATIONAL FINAL 1st July 1995

Nottinghamshire U175			Essex U175		
1. N A Lazonby	174	0	1	R Heppinstall	174
2. P S Fallon	172	1	0	D J Millward	172
3. K G E Morrison	170	½	½	P C Doye	171
4. J Harrison	169	1	0	C R Ramage	171
5. A Chu	169	1	0	I D Hunnable	169
6. S J Burke	168	½	½	I B N Smith	165

7. A M Ashby	165	1	0	T D Whitton	165
8. C S Cantrill	164	1	0	R E Waldteufel	162
9. G Halfpenny	162	1	0	M Weighell	162
10. R J Webster	161	0	1	And. King	161
11. P J Mercs	159	0	1	N H Twitchell	160
12. D Amour	155	0	1	J A Philpott	157
13. M Darlington	152	0	1	P Walker	153
14. N Graham	152	1	0	S Harwood	150
15. Julian Cast	151	½	½	S M Williams	152
16. T A Lane	150	½	½	A D Hartland	149
17. B M Hayward	149	1	0	A Drake	146
18. A J Wright	149	1	0	P R Barclay	146
19. J J Wagenbach	147	1	0	R D Sharman	145
20. H R Edwards	-	½	½	M R A Murrell	137
		12½	7½		

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE vs WARWICKSHIRE U150 National Final, 1997

Nottinghamshire U150			Warwickshire U150
1. T Lane	½	½	J Coleman
2. J Ozyer	½	½	B Reynolds
3. J Tassi	½	½	B Wallman
4. Jason Cast	0	1	K Thomas
5. M Shaw	1	0	W Archibald
6. G Beales	1	0	S Smith
7. N Bowler	0	1	W Harwood
8. G Murfet	1	0	K Jones
9. S Cranmer	1	0	R Tailor
10. W Selby	1	0	L Collier
11. P Davies	0	1	T Walker
12. I Nicholson	½	½	G Windows
13. R Sayer	0	1	A Russell
14. R Taylor	½	½	M Soszynski
15. M Taylor	½	½	A Kent
16. M Nailard	1	0	B Briscoe
	9	7	

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE vs ESSEX U100 National Final, 1997

Nottinghamshire U100			Essex U100
1. G Gibson	1	0	R Pickett
2. A Flint	1	0	B Mehanjdad
3. M Clark	1	0	C Wiggins
4. D Eggleston	0	1	E Lutton
5. E Middleton	1	0	A O'Neil
6. A Freeman	0	1	C Turner
7. S Turner	1	0	D Allen
8. O Graham	1	0	A Trent
9. D Blampied	½	½	J Sneesby
10. R Dawson	0	1	S Trent
11. T England	0	1	J Lutton
12. A Kowalkowski	0	1	H Walker
	6½	5½	

As stand in captain I thought my job would be easy. Just turn up, write the team down and wait for them all to win. Unfortunately life is never that easy! After getting lost around Birmingham I finally arrived and won the toss. Great I thought, its down to the team.

After about half an hour I realised that this could be quite a stressful afternoon as Alan Freeman disappeared from his board for 20 minutes! At this stage we were looking good on most boards and I thought a win was on the cards.

An hour later we were 3 - 0 up and looking very comfortable thanks to wins from Steve Turner, Oliver Graham and Eric Middleton. How Oliver won his game I will never know. Two hours into the match we were 5½- 2½ due to a good end game win by Graham Gibson and Andy Flint's opponent doing a queen sacrifice that failed miserably. Dorothy Blampied managed a draw against a young opponent who is improving fast.

At this stage we needed only one point to win and a half to draw, winning on board count. I went around telling the players not to do anything stupid or rash as I could see one definitely lost position. As a result of my advice two players promptly lost and raised my stress levels through the roof! One of the two remaining games was lost so it all came down to the last game. Mick Clarke played a blinder and won an excellent exchange sacrifice to leave the final score 6½ - 5½ to us.

The result was excellent as we were playing a team with many England junior players in it, who may be stars of the future. I'd like to thank everyone who played and especially my dad, Richard Dyce, who has done a brilliant job as captain throughout the season. I enjoyed my day out but, never again!

Abigail Cast – Glory seeker for a day

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE vs NORFOLK U150 National Final 2nd July, 2005

Report from Neil Graham ,

Nottinghamshire became National Under 150 Champions on 2 July after a nail-biting match with East Anglian champions Norfolk. The final score was 8–8 with Notts overall winners on board count by 29 to 43.

This result confirms Nottinghamshire's competitiveness at this level, as we also regained the Midlands title. Thus our overall results for the last three years are as follows:

2002–03	Midlands Champions	National Semi-finals
2003–04	Midlands Runners-up	National Semi-finals
2004–05	Midlands Champions	National Champions

Our results this year were:

Midlands Rd 1	Warwickshire	6½–9½	Nottinghamshire
Midlands Rd 2	Greater Manchester	8½–6½	Nottinghamshire
Midlands Rd 3	Nottinghamshire	9–7	Staffordshire
Midlands Rd 4	Nottinghamshire	10½–5½	Leicestershire
National Quarter-final	Nottinghamshire	9–7	Hertfordshire
National Semi-final	Leicestershire	7½–8½	Nottinghamshire
National Final	Nottinghamshire	8–8	Norfolk

Only 25 players represented the county in the seven matches and unfortunately some players had to stand aside such was the competition for places. The only disappointment was against Greater Manchester, when we defaulted two boards much to my chagrin when selected players failed to turn up. From then on it was tension all the way. In the closely contested Midland zone we trailed early leaders Staffordshire by 6–4, but won five of the last six games to finish. Leicestershire, who had already qualified, appeared to be in second gear and we had a relatively easy victory over them to overhaul our local rivals for the Midlands title. In the National quarter-final we beat Hertfordshire, with the match going down to the final two boards, while in the semi-finals a rejuvenated Leicestershire were in much more determined form, and we again scrambled through by a narrow margin. In the final, our top three boards somehow managed to conjure up two points out of three with the match going into the last two minutes of time.

All the team contributed to a superb season, and whilst I would like to congratulate everyone a special thanks go to the players who secured those last gasp victories for us. A mention too for the juniors who played: Daniel Wells, Kishan Lakhani, Amisha Parmar and Ian Harris. It is unfortunate that other events and exams inevitably clash with the competition, but our improving juniors were reliable point scorers whenever they played. My other thanks go to the team members who could be relied upon both to turn up every match and also to score vital points. John Tassi, George Murfet, Brian Hayward and Dave Flynn played in all seven matches, with Tim Lane, Tony Wright, Phil Morgan, Kevin Harvey, Keith Roper and Sean Foreman featuring in six games each. We now come to the difficult part – defending our title in 2005–06 – and I look forward to consolidating our position as the top English county at this level.

Here are the detailed results of the epic final match:

Nottinghamshire U150				Norfolk U150	
1. Tony Wright	148	1	0	D Twitchell	149
2. Daniel Wells	146	½	½	G Blowers	146
3. Tim Lane	146	½	½	J Mc Avoy	146
4. Keith Walters	142	½	½	B Jeffrey	146
5. John Tassi	141	1	0	J Burrows	145
6. Kevin Harvey	139	0	1	H Duncanson	144
7. Dave Flynn	136	½	½	T Robinson	144
8. Keith Brameld	138	½	½	C Russell	143
9. Stan Cranmer	137	½	½	N Gorvin	142
10. Phil Morgan	137	1	0	P Badger	136
11. Brian Hayward	135	0	1	L Gladwell	135
12. George Murfet	134	0	1	C Tuffin	129
13. Keith Roper	131	1	0	J Bell	128
14. Sean Foreman	126	½	½	D Gutteridge	126
15. Bob Taylor	130	0	1	G Tebbie	126
16. Neil Graham	128	½	½	A Donnelly	117
		8	8		

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE vs DEVON U180 National Final 2nd July 2011

Nottinghamshire U180				Devon U180	
1. Glenn Halfpenny	179	½	½	Brian Hewson	176
2. Tim Walker	179	0	1	Trevor Thynne	177
3. John Harrison	176	½	½	Alan Brusey	175
4. Rob Hearne	174	½	½	Tim Paulden	174
5. Dave Flynn	170	½	½	Jonathan Underwood	172
6. John Swain	168	½	½	Dennis Cowley	170
7. Andre Antunes	166	0	1	Dave Regis	166
8. Ian Kingston	166	1	0	Andrew Kinder	166
9. Stephen Burke	165	½	½	John Duckham	165
10. Geoff Gibson	165	½	½	William Ingham	164
11. Drag Sudar	162	½	½	Paul Brooks	160
12. Stephen Foster	161	½	½	Charlie Howard	158
13. David Levens	159	1	0	Brian Gosling	156

14. Andrew Garside	163	½	½	Alex Billings	148
15. Brian Hayward	158	½	½	Philip Kennedy	151
16. Eric Williamson	155	1	0	John Gorodi	150
		8½	7½		

8. GRADING LIMITED COMPETITIONS (2) 2013-19 THE NEIL GRAHAM ERA

In the period 2013-19 Neil Graham took on the herculean task of running all the County teams. County matches are mostly very competitive. The statistics below compare this period with the previous six years. A small edge produces a very large multiplier effect – the difference between games won of 53% to 51% becomes the difference between a national championship every 4 years to four titles in six years. With such a large sample the teams overall perform to grading. So Neil was that little bit better at mobilising the stronger players at all levels.

TEAMS COMPETING - Notts run 5 or 6 (when the MINOR team fails to qualify and an U180 team is run instead). Only Essex, Lancashire, Middlesex, Surrey and Warwickshire can match this, and they all have at least twice the population of Notts.

GAMES WON

In the period 2007-13 51%

In the period 2013-19 53%

MATCHES WON

In the period 2007-13 P97 W54 D6 L37 Score 58%

In the period 2013-19 P147 W86 D10 L51 Score 62%

MCCU CHAMPIONS

In the period 1993-2013 - 19 about 1 per year

In the period 2013-2019 - 13 about 2 per year

QUALIFICATION FOR THE NATIONAL STAGES

2007-2013 16

2013-2019 28 . Only Lancashire have more – and they don't face the tiresome inconvenience of actually having to qualify

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

In the period 1993-2013 5 One title every 4 years

In the period 2013-2019 4 titles in 6 years

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE vs HERTFORDSHIRE - U120 National Final, 14 July 2014

Nottinghamshire U120				Hertfordshire U120	
1. Nigel Wright	120	1	0	Roger D J Kearns	115
2. Paul Rees	118	1	0	Ray R Claret	121
3. Dave Dunne	115	1	0	Corinne Mountford	125
4. Andrew Thompson	113	1	0	Keith Woodhouse	126
5. Simon Scott	112	½	½	Steve Zsibrita	120
6. Michael Swanwick	113	1	0	Matthew Devan	116
7. Len J Morrell	108	½	½	Kidge Elder	128
8. Margaret Gretton	108	0	1	Richard Pearson	113
9. Lukasz Kacprzak	106	1	0	John A Peate	113
10. Robert Garnett	107	1	0	Peter Hayward	109
11. Richard Dawson	105	0	1	Tim Sampson	105
12. Steve Luland	101	0	1	Simon Hicks	103
		7	5		

The U120 team proved to be the only Nottinghamshire victory on Counties Final Day – A welcome result after the other two sides were beaten.

Hertfordshire arrived as SCCU champions with 7 wins and a draw to their credit and looked to outgrade us but in reality the teams seemed closely matched. So close that whilst the results were coming in regularly in the other matches it was almost three hours before the first result was recorded

Notts scored the opening point when Nigel Wright who had played though an extremely complex middlegame emerged pawns ahead in an easy-to-win King and pawn endgame. Herts levelled on board 8 where the ending was clearly won for them and we regained the lead through Bob Garnett again in a King and pawn ending. However the next three boards to declare 6, 11 and 12 were all Hertfordshire victories and they were now 4-2 in the lead.

Nevertheless the top boards looked in our favour and whilst things were going wrong elsewhere, there was a chance for Notts. Our top boards Dave Dunne and Paul Rees had both established advantages that were converted into wins and Lukasz Kacprzak once again confounded an opponent when a rook down. Earlier this season he had drawn with perpetual check and this time some open files allowed a mate against an exposed King.

With a 5-4 lead and wins on boards 1-3 there was no hope of a Herts comeback as Andy Thomson was set to win on board 4 after winning material and converting to a won endgame. The position on board 7 had been sterile for a couple of hours and at the same time as Andy's opponent resigned the Hertfordshire player finally agreed the draw against

Len Morrell; Notts 6.5 – 4.5 Herts. The last game to finish was on board 5 where after almost five hours play Simon Scott went slightly wrong and allowed his opponent to scramble a rather fortuitous draw. The team stopped behind and were presented with individual trophies and the U120 cup

Neil Graham

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE vs KENT , National U100 Final, 4th July 2015

Nottinghamshire U100				Kent U100	
1. Robert Abrahamart	99	0	1	Jacob Watson	89
2. Ben Gilpin	93	½	½	Mary Scott	98
3. John Dell	-	0	1	Vicktor Jamroz	97
4. Alberto Rodriquez	97	1	0	Chris Cheeseman	98
5. Michael Seagrave	98	1	0	Oleg Gaidai	97
6. Nathan Cragg	94	1	0	Mark Horner	93
7. Charlotte Attwood	93	1	0	Alan Evans	87
8. Malcolm Hargreaves	91	1	0	Henr AubanPravu	88
9. Stephen Morley	94	0	1	R Huseyini Gueriane	94
10. Dorothy Blampied	89	½	½	Frank Cheeseman	89
11. Akmal Latif	82	1	0	David Glenister	74
12. James Garside	65	0	1	Peter Houching	84
		7	5		

Nottinghamshire took on Kent in both the U140 and U100 County Championship finals at Trident College, Warwick. The day began inauspiciously with the 8.00am phone call – a player taken ill in the U100 team – fortunately I was able to find a substitute within 30 minutes, and I am indebted to Nathan Cragg who played at the last minute.

Kent are the holders of the National U100 title and beat us convincingly in 2014 so we anticipated a tough match. However they were contesting four finals so possibly their resources might be stretched. Things began poorly; their top board, a very undergraded junior was soon on top and once he'd won a piece exchanged off and we were 1-0 down. On bottom board we were also a piece down. Nevertheless by the time six boards were declared we had evened things up with wins from Mike & Nathan plus two draws. Another Kent junior won on board three but Akmal replied after holding an advantage for a considerable period the wins for us on boards 7 & 8 and suddenly we were 6-4 up with two to play. A draw on board 4 would suffice but Alberto was in no mood to let his opponent off the hook and the Kent King was checkmated in the middle of the board. There was some consolation for Kent when they won the remaining board but by that time it was too late!

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE vs WARWICKSHIRE, National U120 Final, 2nd July 2016

Nottinghamshire U120				Warwickshire U120	
1. Mike Swanwick	116	1	0	Richard Evans	112
2. Chris Sargeant	E118	0	1	Kevin Spillane	E118
3. Armaan Gogia	104	1	0	Karol Gryzwaczewski	119
4. Steve Luland	105	1	0	Rayaan Farooq	118
5. Nigel Wright	112	½	½	Dennis Horsley	118
6. Andy Flint	107	1	0	John Llewelyn	114
7. Len Morrell	115	1	0	Paul Hodgkin	E88
8. Bob Garnett	-	½	½	Robert Mantell	111
9. Bernardo Pincheira	-	1	0	Marak Zawadzki	99
10. Margaret Gretton	102	½	½	Paul Davies	98
11. Lukasz Kacprzak	110	0	1	John Pakenham	103
12. Alberto Rodriguez	100	½	½	Alan Kelly	88
		8	4		

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE vs YORKSHIRE, National U140 Final, 7th July 2018

At last!! After losing the 2014 and 2016 finals this title was finally won with an emphatic win over Yorkshire.

Nottinghamshire U140				Yorkshire U140	
1. Alan S Robinson (B)	145	1	0	Karim Khan	146
2. Marcel V Taylor	142	½	½	Paul A Allison	140
3. James L Thomson	136	1	0	Aditya Tangirala	145
4. Tom Dabner	133	0	1	Chris R Tinker	132
5. Keith Roper	131	½;	½	David G Mills	134
6. Steve Luland	131	1	0	Vivien Webster	135
7. Graham Neil	131	½	½	Alec Grice	132
8. Hambel M Willow	131	1	0	Neville R Pearce	134
9. Christopher Sargeant	129	½	½	Ian D Strickland	131
10. Peter Gorecka-Marshall	128	1	0	Norman G Andrews	128
11. Nigel Wright	128	0	1	Graham W Matthews	121
12. George J Murfet	126	½	½	Paul Gelder	128
13. Chris Budd	126	0	1	Dale H Callum	117
14. Bernardo Pincheira	125	½	½	Richard White	121
15. Michael J Harper	120	1	0	Joe Varley	120
16. Michael J Nailard	119	1	0	Paul Masiak	88
		10	6		

9. MINOR COUNTIES

In 1988 the County 1st team lost 13½-2½ to Sussex in their first ever Minor Counties quarter-final - the worst ever score for any Notts team. The team list was deliberately not published in the bulletin, such was the shame at this fiasco. To qualify, if that's the right word, you had to prove your incompetence by not reaching the national stages of the County Championship in the previous four years. Many players it seemed did not want to play "in this tinpot competition", and the team was very weak. Neil Graham, who played board 9, read the riot act in a later bulletin.

Since then the rules have been relaxed, with the result that more and more counties have chosen MINOR county status and the prestige of the competition has gone up, whilst the County Championship itself has gone into something of a death spiral, with only the big six (Kent, Surrey, Middx, Essex, Yorks, Lancs) competing regularly. The attraction of the MINOR Counties is that most have a realistic prospect of winning. Even Lincolnshire have won it. Three times.

Nottinghamshire vs Leicestershire

Minor Counties semi-final, Syston, June 7th 2014

In the recent era Notts has reached the national stages three time , losing in the finals to Suffolk in 2014. This is the only time the first team has reached a national final, so it is arguable that the semi-final win was the best ever result. It is all the more impressive for being against the oldest enemy putting out a very strong team (giving them a grading advantage of 5 points per board) and by a rather comfortable margin. Note the draw by Alex Posazhennikov against Mark Hebden on top board and the first County First team win for Jonah Willow (Aged 11, the youngest player ever) on board 15.

Nottinghamshire				Leicestershire	
1. Alex Posazhennikov	206	½	½	Mark Hebden	247
2. Pablo Padillo Cabero	203	0	1	Martin Burrows	198
3. Mike Barnes	205	1	0	Alan Byron	194
4. Alex Combie	193	0	1	Alan Agnew	197
5. Robert Richmond	183	1	0	Graham Sharpe	185
6. Peter Mercs	180	½	½	Andrew Morley	188
7. Glen Halfpenny	179	½	½	Philip Horsepool	186
8. Andrew Walker	175	½	½	Brian Galligan	180
9. Steven Burke	172	½	½	Paul Colburn	184
10. Andy George	171	1	0	Ray Burgess	173
11. John Swain	169	½	½	Karl Potter	161
12. Steve Hunter	168	1	0	Sean Sheahan	170
13. Brian Thompson	165	1	0	James Miller	162
14. Mark Kenyon	170	½	½	Alfonso Jimenez	167
15. Jonah Willow	141	1	0	Sean Hewitt	169
16. Nick London	160	0	1	Shabir Okhai	-
Average	179	9½	6½	Average	184