



B.S.C.C.

The Bishop's Stortford Chess Club



The Sharp Cup (U1900) Knockout Competition

Captains Report

2022/23

Players	Grade
Gary Thurston	1869
Lara Osiyemi	1800
Tim Acton	1767
Andrew Cowlin	1748
Michael Dunsire	1746
Adam Hirst	1650
Thomas Barnard	1648

First Match

Bishops Stortford v Hertford

Looks like myself and Tim took early draws, Mine was a captains (tired) draw. Tim, with opposing bishops, looked to have a locked pawn position as well, so draw was the right move.

Adam was never in trouble and the first win on the board emboldened the team.

I am always confident of Andrew when he is in a complicated tactical game and forces his opponent to have to think hard and get in time trouble. An unforced error was bound to come through, another win in the bank.

Two to go and both Michael and Thomas, attaining through superior play, winning positions. But they say a won game is the hardest to win and, although their opponents were in time trouble, played quickly and let their opponents off the hook. Two draws followed.

4-2, no losses. A good result 😊

Semi Final

Bishops Stortford v Letchworth and Hitchin

Out graded on most boards; Lara was in command quite early and went two pawns up, but he let his opponent get some play back with double rooks. I looked away for a moment and by then he had a winning mate attack.

Adam went for a good solid draw as we moved forward.

Tim had a tough one and missed a dangerous knight fork that had too much play against his Queen and Rook. This was followed with overwhelming pressure.

Thomas was solid and playing with confidence, although he had a wobble thinking his Queen was pinned against his rook by the opponent's rook and would have to give an exchange knight for a rook. However, he took the two rooks for the Queen and then picked up the opponent's knight. Two rooks and knight against the Queen was just too much for his opponent.

I was second last to finish. Although a hard-fought pawn up, my opponent had a bit more space and went for an all-out flank attack on my Queen side castled king. I underestimated it and missed a Queen move that was fairly strong. I tried to swap queens, but missing a pawn check first by him, let a follow-on Queen check fork my rook 😞.

Andrew was the last to finish playing an opponent who wanted an 'All in 80' game. He was up against an experienced player but managed to grind out a two-pawn advantage. However, he hadn't realised he needed to win to win the match. Both with a few minutes left, and with some tricky knight manoeuvring against a stubborn Bishop, which was trying to hold or get a stalemate position. Andrew was too careful for that, eventually going three pawns up. Slowly but surely, he got his pawn queened, taking the game and getting us over the line for the Sharp final!!

THE FINAL

Watford v Bishops Stortford

Tim had a tough game with an opponent who can go very deep into games and very adept at end games. On this occasion and despite a pawn down Tim outplayed him in this area and secured a well-earned draw that didn't look possible at one time.

Andrew's game looked complicated with hardly any pieces being exchanged for many moves, a slow grind and then both were short on time. Then followed half the game in quick play, finally exhausted into a draw.

Thomas was positionally down and needed to fight hard, but I am always confident in his tactical ability and in that area he was stronger. He outplayed his opponent to secure a good win.

Adam, again in an unknown opening 🤖 and a position that he wasn't familiar with. The pressure was being piled on, but he held it off by defending well and then his opponent ran out of steam and position. Adam turned the tables and got another great point on the score board.

I won the toss and took white on odds, but with 6 boards, not a great advantage.

A closed 'Sicilian', one of my favourites. This didn't play out in the normal way with opposite side castling, allowing me to exploit his late Queen side, castled king, as my king was well secure. An nice tactic won a piece followed by opening up of the centre pawns led to a good win.

Lara had a game that looked to swing back and forth and, although down a pawn, it was tactically won back. The game became very sharp and, unfortunately Lara, was on the wrong side, with the final positional play leading to his opponent Queening first and a crushing king Check next move, that was just too strong.

4-2 Champions and Sharp cup winners 🏆

A great result!

I would like to thank the whole team for a tremendous effort and playing together got us through some tough matches.

Well done 🙌🙌

Gary Thurston

Date	Opposition		Team		Score	Opposition	Grade
25.10.22	Hertford		1	Gary Thurston	½ - ½	Ian Capes	1899
			2	Tim Acton	½ - ½	Andrew Du Boulay	1761
	Venue	Result	3	Andrew Cowlin	1 - 0	Duncan Marshall	1746
	Away	WIN	4	Michael Dunsire	½ - ½	Corinne Mountford	1574
Notes			5	Adam Hirst	1 - 0	Dwijen Shilu	1548
			6	Thomas Barnard	½ - ½	Louis Cowell	1627
			BSCC		4 - 2	Hertford	

Date	Opposition		Team		Score	Opposition	Grade
09/03/2 3	Letchworth & Hitchin		1	Gary Thurston	0 - 1	Sean Burton	1900
			2	Lara Osiyemi	1 - 0	Sammy Mendel	1835
	Venue	Result	3	Tim Acton	0 - 1	Ian Mutton	1861
	Home	WIN	4	Andrew Cowlin	1 - 0	Anthony Burrows	1741
Notes	The Semi		5	Adam Hirst	½ - ½	Jon Barnes	1735
			6	Thomas Barnard	1 - 0	Nigel Wright	1710
			BSCC		3½ - 2½	Letchworth & Hitchin	

Date	Opposition		Team		Score	Opposition	Grade
17/04/23	Watford		1	Gary Thurston	1 - 0	Alistair Taylor	1810
			2	Lara Osiyemi	0 - 1	Jeremy Taffel	1801
	Venue	Result	3	Andrew Cowlin	½ - ½	Patrick Shine	1748
	Away	Win	4	Tim Acton	½ - ½	Simon Charles	1691
Notes	The Final		5	Thomas Barnard	1 - 0	Sanjay Vig	1592
			6	Adam Hirst	1 - 0	Louis White	1582
			BSCC		4 - 2	Watford	