



B.S.C.C. Rapid Play Tournament 25/26



Sat 28/02/26

And so, to the 15th BSCC Rapid Play Competition...

Eighteen brave souls ventured out on a wet and distinctly chilly Saturday to do battle in this season's Rapid Play Tournament — proving once again that chess players fear neither rain, cold, nor complicated endgames. With plenty of familiar faces in attendance, along with a welcome handful of debutants, the scene was set for an entertaining afternoon.

The upper half of the draw carried more than a hint of inevitability about it (all roads, it seemed, led to Ieuan), but over in the race for the Capsey Cup, things looked far less predictable. Meanwhile, those contesting the Crosby Cup would surely be wondering: could one of them derail the apparently unstoppable march and cause the upset everyone secretly hoped for?

The standard grades are used as most players currently do not have a formal Rapid Play grade.

Players involved:

The Crosby Cup	
Player	Standard
Ieuan Ward	2246
William Young	1961
Paul Shellard	1924
Andrew Cowlin	1809
Kai Rundell	1762
Vishnu Suresh	1663
Matt Farley	1660
Nick Harrington	1660
Pete Jurd	1598

The Capsey Cup	
Player	Standard
Kayal Vijay	1581
Andy Macmillan	1580
Charles Willbe	1519
Perry Greenberg	1495
Sam Richardson	1452
Ben Wright*	1450
Mwaura Munyua*	1400
Nathan Wong	1336
Paul Birbeck*	1300

(* Estimates Only)

The tournament is a Swiss five-round event, and the results for each round are listed below. For the first time, we had 12 members participating this year. The format was Fischer Rapid (25 minutes plus 10 seconds per move).

Round 1		
White		Black
Ieuan Ward	1-0	Pete Jurd
Kayal Vijay	0-1	Billy-Bob Young
Paul Shellard	1-0	Charles Willbe
Perry Greenberg	0-1	Andrew Calvin
Kai Rundell	1-0	Sam Richardson
Ben Wright	0-1	Andy Macmillan
Vishnu Suresh	1-0	Mwuara Munyua
Nathan Wong	0-1	Matt Farley
Nick Harrington	1-0	Paul Birbeck

Highlights

And they're off!

Everything organised to the Nth degree, only to find I'd missed a player out! Never mind. With good software and a Billy-Bob at my side, all was organised in a jiffy!

Only wrinkle was PB getting stuck in the nightmare that is the 'Bishops Stortford Road & Parking Infrastructure', so a late start there, but otherwise all else absolutely fine.

The matches were really only quite remarkable in their unremarkable-Ness. Those who won were expected to win—a nod to Sam against Kai. The endgame looked very even. But Kai's savviness saw him through. Kayal sacrificed right at the start, but her attacking position had Billy jumping through hoops for a long period of the game! It went to the death – but Billy is a wily old coyote and 'Road-Runner' his way to victory at the end,

Round 2		
White		Black
Andrew Macmillan	0-1	Ieuan Ward
Billy-Bob Young	1-0	Kai Rundall
Matt Farley	0-1	Paul Shellard
Andrew Cowlin	1-0	Vishnu Suresh
Pete Jurd	½ -½	Nick Harrington
Mwaura Munyua	0-1	Kayal Vijay
Charles Willbe	1-0	Ben Wright
Paul Birbeck	0-1	Perry Greenberg
Sam Richardson	0-1	Nathan Wong

Highlights

Now is when it gets interesting...

Some closer pairings here (Billy v Kai & Nick v Pete). Kayal won first. Nathan got a cheeky little win (2 rooks and a knight) next. We had our first draw, and a fair one – (Nick & Pete).

There was a tight game between Vishnu and Andrew. Both had created opportunities, but also defended well against any attacks. Vishnu apparently missed a complex mate near the end, and Andy took advantage to score a win.

Paul and Matt looked like they would strain their friendship, the way the 2 of them were at loggerheads. Paul eventually won out.

Andy was pushing Ieuan hard, but Ieuan was doing his usual 'Anaconda Thang' and slowly squeezing the life out of his opponent.

Round 3		
White		Black
Ieuan Ward	1-0	Andrew Cowlin
Paul Shellard	1-0	Billy-Bob Young
Nick Harrington	0-1	Kai Rundall
Kayal Vijay	1-0	Andy Macmillan
Vishnu Suresh	1-0	Charles Willbe
Perry Greenberg	0-1	Matt Farley
Nathan Wong	0-1	Pete Jurd
Mwaura Munyua	0-1	Sam Richardson
Ben Wright	1-0	Paul Birbeck

Highlights

This round can sometimes throw up a few curveballs. The start was fairly innocuous, with straight wins for Pete, Sam, and Ben. Everyone else's game seemed to go the distance. Vishnu won a 50/50 game on time.

Kai & Nick looked very close, but Kai's astuteness won out.

Andrew was making life hard for Ieuan, it's just that Ieuan was doing the same to Andrew.

Matt and Perry were having a right old ding-dong. Perry had got into Matt's kingside castle but struggled to make it pay while Matt continued with a dogged defence. Time trouble again here for Perry meant a win for Matt.

Kayal beat Andy in a game I cannot comment on 'cos I didn't see it!

Round 4		
White		Black
Paul Shellard	0-1	leuan Ward
Billy-Bob Young	1-0	Vishnu Suresh
Andrew Cowlin	1-0	Matt Farley
Kai Rundall	1-0	Kayal Vijay
Andy Macmillan	0-1	Nick Harrington
Pete Jurd	½ -½	Perry Greenberg
Charles Willbe	1-0	Nathan Wong
Sam Richardson	0-1	Ben Wright
Paul Birbeck	1-0	Mwaura Munyua

Highlights

The big game this round was Paul v leuan. Paul's earlier win meant he was in the lead – same points but higher median. And leuan, being leuan, was never going to stand for that! That said, a queen move in the middle game did look quite delicious for Paul and seemed to have leuan on the ropes. But this is leuan, and, the 'Anaconda' did it again!

All games seemed to last in this round, which is a testament to the pairing and the improvement all players seemed to have made as the tournament progressed. Charles got his second win. Billy got a solid win. Nick then had a win and so did Ben, both tight games. Matts game ended in resignation – the pressure just too much. Pete and Perry had a doozy. Time limits and still a lot to play for, the battled on till Perry found a small chink. But the lack of pieces forced a draw.

Round 5		
White		Black
leuan Ward	½ -½	Billy-Bob Young
Kai Rundall	½ -½	Paul Shellard
Nick Harrington	½ -½	Andrew Cowlin
Vishnu Suresh	0-1	Kayal Vijay
Matt Farley	1-0	Charles Willbe
Ben Wright	1-0	Pete Jurd
Perry Greenberg	1-0	Sam Richardson
Nathan Wong	1-d	Paul Birbeck
Mwaura Munyua	0-1	Andy Macmillan

Highlights

Not guaranteed but a draw would be enough for leuan to win outright. Nathan got a stunning point (by default) Paul and Kai agreed a draw to allow Paul to leave on time and not get told off by the missus.

Nick got a very good draw from Andrew. Kayal played a super aggressive game and got a deserved win. Ben too, earned a good win against Pete, as did Matt versus Charles. The 'Battle of the Billboards' was won by Perry (with white this time).

The last 2 were Billy v leuan and Andy v Mwaura. These were both good, tight games. For leuan and Billy, a draw was a fair result.

I think Mwaura's lack of experience OTB had hindered his previous matches, but he put it all on the table in the last. Possibly his hardest opponent, he orchestrated the best game of the day. Andy had to work very hard and his experience got him a very good win.

Thus, we conclude this year's B.S.C.C. Rapid Play Tournament. Sincere congratulations to **leuan** for winning the tournament. Very well done also to **Kayal** for being the winner of the Capsey Cup. And my thanks to all 18 who took part. The final standings can be found below. Please remember, the top 4 players are automatically drawn into the semi-finals of the Club Championship. Details on that will follow from leuan.

The night was ended at The Shadona restaurant where an incredibly good meal, and (not many) brews, were had by all. Photos of the day can be found on Instagram/website.

Pos.	Player	Score	Modified Median	Winners
1 st	Ieuan Ward	4.5	12.5	Crosby Cup Winner
2 nd	Billy-Bob Young	3.5	14.5	
3 rd	Paul Shellard	3.5	14.5	
	Andrew Cowlin	3.5	13	
	Kai Rundall	3.5	13	
	Matt Farley	3	11.5	
	Nick Harrington	3	11	
	Kayal Vijay	3	11	Capsey Cup Winner
	Ben Wright	3	7.5	
	Perry Greenberg	2.5	6.5	
	Pete Jurd	2	10	
	Charles Willbe	2	9.5	
	Andy Macmillan	2	9	
	Vishnu Suresh	2	8.5	
	Nathan Wong	2	6	
	Paul Birbeck	1	7.5	
	Sam Richardson	1	7	
	Mwaura Munyua	0	6.5	

Please note: the software uses the 'Modified Median' system (a revision of Harkness/Buchholz system) for tie breaking in Swiss-system tournaments. Ieuan has kindly volunteered to explain this to anyone interested.

YNWA

Adam Hirst