

Volume 2
Issue 3
8 July 2010



Cavendish at a canter

Round 5 of the Essex Team Blitz Championship in progress



The Essex Team Blitz, generously sponsored by **King & King**, Chartered Accountants, took place on 4th July, at Ilford CC, with Ivor Smith controlling. Nine teams entered, necessitating a bye, the event being an all play all with 7 minutes per player per game.

The defending Champions, Cavendish, cruised through the event, dropping just 5 points out of 32 games, finishing on 27/32, ahead of Barking A, 23½.

Final standings: 1 Cavendish, 27; 2 Barking A, 23½; 3 Wanstead A, 19; 4 Writtle, 18; 5 Ilford 17; 6 Barking B, 15½; 7 Upminster A, 14½; 8 Wanstead B, 6; 9 Upminster B, 3½.

'Quick' Sands spoils Goldberg hat trick

The entry of 16 for the Essex Lightning Championship, 4th July 2010, sponsored by **King & King**, Chartered Accountants, included top seeds Matthew Piper (Cavendish) grade 213 and David Sands (Barking) 212, plus speed-specialist Roland Payne, David Sherman and defending Champion Jeff Goldberg (Barking). Defending Champion Jeff Goldberg was on a hat trick of Essex Lightning Championships at the start of the event, a feat never done before in its 47 year history. However, the presence of the two 200+ entrants indicated a stern challenge.

The first casualties among the quintet of favourites were Roland Payne and David Sherman. Jeff Goldberg took a ½ point off Matthew Piper in R3, while David Sands forged into the sole lead with a win over Larry Marden. This brought the clash of the two big guns in R4 where 'Quick' Sands showed his class at speed chess to take the full point.

Jeff Goldberg was just half a point behind the sole leader, Sands, after four rounds and was paired against him in the final round; winner takes all. Sadly for Goldberg, his dream of becoming the first player to land a hat trick of Essex Lightning Championships foundered on a blunder as early as move 16, followed immediately by another, bringing proceedings to a premature end. Sands therefore took the Lightning Championship with a clean score, 5/5. Many congratulations to him on a fine performance.

Prize list: 1st David Sands, 5/5; 2nd David Sherman, 4; =3rd Jeff Goldberg, Matthew Piper, 3½; Grading performance prizes: John Tuitt (+21); Syd Kalinsky (+11); 16 players.



Barking star, David Sands (right), on his way to victory over Matthew Piper in Round 4

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