

# THE ROAR

## CELTIC TIGERS NEWS

DOUBLE EDITION

Issue 6 / 4NCL 18-19 / Division 1 & 4 / Rounds 1-4 / The battle begins

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### WELCOME

Wow! The first ROAR of 2018/2019 season is finally here, sorry for the delay, but I have been so busy with work (and life/beer), but here we are! A new season with a few really exciting things to mention:

- 1) We are in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division! (for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time). We are once again one of the weakest teams in the league, but when have we ever let that stop us. (Watch out Guildford 1!)
- 2) We welcome back the 2<sup>nd</sup> team of Celtic Tigers. Thank you so much to all the part-time members who have stuck by the team for all these years, and it's nice to have a team you can play in every 4NCL weekend, as well as the Hammersmith Chess Club members who have decided it is time to compete at a national level. (and Jacques & Mehmet, who's tiger inner spirits put them in contact with the team!)

### SEASON GOALS

We discussed before the season what our goal's were (i.e. Fun, European qualification, Championship pool, who cares), and we decided that we will stick to our normal method and not stack the earlier rounds, and just play with our regular team of misfits and passionate players and see how we do.

### THE CRY OF THE TIGER BY JOHN WHITE

This tale starts.....

*A few months ago, when in a moment of weakness, I was seduced by the winsome chatline of one Chris Skulte. A man of dubious Australian heritage with a passion for chess and flowery language. Encased in his crypto-world and emerging now and then as the so-called manager of the mythical Celtic Tigers he entrapped me, and other innocent Hammerites, into volunteering for a second Celtic Tigers national chess team. It all seemed such a good idea at the time.*

*Now with the imminent advent of the first weekend of matches for Tiger 2. The reality is hitting, both as an individual and collectively that as a new Tiger member, I cannot and must not fail my fellow Tigers. Especially after the heroics displayed last weekend by Tigers 1.*

*The pressure is intense, the excitement is immense and the confidence and doubt measures are fluctuating wildly.*

Celtic Tigers 4NCL @CelticTigersCC - Jan 12  
21st Century Tigers. Contactless payments for room fees. 🙌  
#chess #4ncl #contactless



Celtic Tigers – Now accepting card payments for room costs. (or donations!)

*To be invited to be part of the Tigers odyssey is definitely one of the highlights of my chess career. The Tigers I have been fortunate to meet are the sort of people you wanna spend time with and enjoy several pints with. They are very likable people – they play hard and they party hard. Anyone would be honoured to join this band of chess nutters. You do not want to let them or the great Tigers heritage down. The pressure is real and tangible*

*This is where equal doubt and excitement both seep in and words start to fail me. So, with apologies to all and Emimen I resort to sheer plagiarism to describe my thoughts about my debut appearance.*

*Cue the intro of “Lose Yourself”*

*“Look if you had one shot, or one opportunity.*

*To seize everything you ever wanted in a game of chess.*

*Would you capture that pawn or just let it slip.”*

*Yo, my palms are sweaty, knees weak, arms are heavy.*

*I am nervous, but on the surface I look calm and ready to make sacs*

*But keep forgetting my preparation that I written down.*

*The clock is running out, it will be do or die, the Tiger way – the only way.*

So, my thoughts and state of mind are this:

- I am going to play the Tiger way
- I am going to enjoy it
- I want my teammates and I to play our best
- To hell with the consequences

I think you can say I am wired for Sunday morning.

See you then fellow Tigers.



## MEET THE TIGERS – KARINA SZCZEPKOWSKA

We will be sharing 1-2 profiles throughout the newsletters going forward to get to know the tigers even more. What turns a normal chess player into a tiger? Find out below



### 1) When did you start playing chess?

*Moja przygoda z szachami zaczęła się w wieku 6 lat w przedszkolu.*

My adventure with chess has started in kindergarden at the age of 6.

### 2) Which players have most inspired you?

*Od małego fascynował mnie Mikhail Tal. Jest kombinacyjny styl gry.*

I was always fascinated by Mikhail tal and his combinational style.

### 3) Do you have a favourite opening?

*Raczej nie mam. Lubię grać dużo rzeczy. Czasem lubię eksperymentować albo zagrać to co trener mi pokaże.*

I rather do not have. I like playing many things. Sometimes, I experiment, the other time I just follow what the coach advised.

#### 4) What is the best chess advice you have received?

*Jak byłam mała to mój pierwszy trener wpisała mi do pamiętnika takie zdanie "Gdy widzisz dobre posunięcie, poczekaj, nie wykonuj go.. Może znajdziesz lepsze"*

When I was very young my coach written into my diary the following sentence: When you see a good move: wait, do not make it. Maybe you will find a better one.

#### 5) How do you find the 4NCL compared to other team events?

*Bardzo podoba mi się formuła rozgrywek 4NCL. W lidze angielskiej czy polskiej gra 6 zawodników. Fajnie że w angielskiej ma możliwość zagrania więcej zawodników z drużyny.*

I like the format of 4NCL very much. In other leagues there are only 6 players. It is good more players can play in one match in the UK.

#### 6) Do you have a favorite game that you have played?

*Myślę że najlepszą moja partia jest partia z Rosyjską zawodniczką Aleksandra Goryaczkina rozegrana na Olimpiadzie w Baku 2016 gdzie zdobyliśmy z drużyną srebrny medal. Jest to jedna z moich lepszych partii w karierze.*

I think my best game was the one with Aleksandra Goryaczkina during Chess Olympiad in Baku 2016. Our team won the silver medal there. That game, for sure, is one of the best games during my chess career.

#### 7) What is it like being a tiger?

*Że drużyna Tigersow tworzy niesamowity team spirit.*

Tigers team create an amazing team spirit. 🤩 😄

### DIVISION 1 - ROUND 1 (SATURDAY)

Back in Division 1, there was a lot of nervousness as our last (and only previous venture) into the 1<sup>st</sup> division ended with us winning the wooden spoon, coming last in the demotion pool. Though we did get 2 wins over 11 games, so not the worst performance for one of the bottom rated teams.

Arriving in Division 1, we were once again one of the weakest teams in the league, but with new t-shirts and a slightly stronger line up, we had some small hopes. This was quickly dashed with comments like; "I thought that you were going to try and compete this year"... thanks Tom Rendle.

Our first match was against Blackthorne Russia, Ryszard ran into Zbigniew during a drinking session in Poland and convinced him to come and have a match with us. This along with some powerplay gave us a 100% start to the season. (Also welcome to another Aussie, David Webster)

Scorecard from round 1:

Blackthorne Russia			2339		Celtic Tigers 1			2251
w	Gormally, Daniel W	g	2483	½ - ½	Pakleza, Zbigniew	g	2508	
b	Hunt, Adam C	i	2401	0 - 1	Szczepkowska, Karina	i	2404	
w	Bates, Richard A	i	2378	0 - 1	Kulon, Klaudia	wg	2327	
b	Ledger, Andrew J	i	2348	1 - 0	Skulte, Christopher		2110	e
w	Ansell, Simon T	i	2336	½ - ½	Maciol, Ryszard		2120	
b	Ledger, Dave J	f	2237	e 1 - 0	Pedersen, Carsten		2130	
w	Nelson, Jonathan P		2190	½ - ½	Quinn, John M		2163	
b	Yurenok, Maria S	wf	2005	0 - 1	Webster, David		1964	
				3½ - 4½				



*As well as a great win, the greatest moment of the day was when we found a huge oversized chessboard with tiny pieces to play 3minute blitz on.*



## DIVISION 1 - ROUND 2 (SUNDAY)

We showed that we are here for business, and beating Blackthorne, meant that the thoughts of a spot in the Championship Pool, along with European Qualification was a real option!

Will this Disney story continue?

Can we beat the top ranked team on our side of the draw?

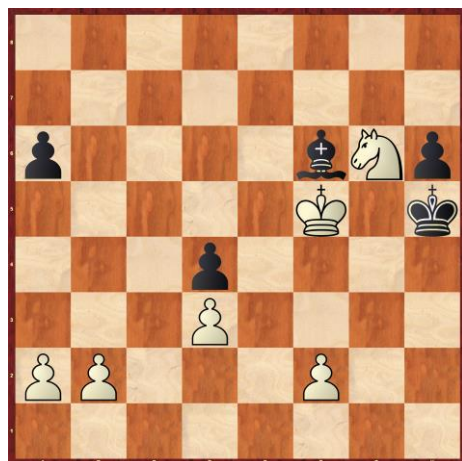
Simple answer = No. Turns out we had a snowflakes chance in hell. 😊

Scorecard from the round two match → → → → →

Celtic Tigers 1			2251		Chess.com Manx Liberty 1			2501
w	Pakleza, Zbigniew	g	2508	½ - ½			g	2604
b	Szczepkowska, Karina	i	2404	0 - 1			g	2601
w	Kulon, Klaudia	wg	2327	0 - 1			g	2645
b	Skulte, Christopher		2110 e	0 - 1			i	2495
w	Quinn, John M		2163	0 - 1			i	2427
b	Pedersen, Carsten		2130	0 - 1			i	2386
w	Maciol, Ryszard		2120	0 - 1			i	2349
b	Webster, David		1964	0 - 1			i	2305
				½ - 7½				

Some key moments from the weekend matches:

- 1: Klaudia's (black) opponent just played, Bf3 -> Bd5. What to play as black? (p.s. Took Klaudia 6 minutes)
- 2: David (white) decided to trap the king and then run his pawns up the board to win to take the win.
- 3: John (black) decided to play Kf5 and took the draw, is there an alternative? (p.s. hard to see)
- 4: Ryszard (white) played f3 to try and solidify his position and stop the attack. Does black have a win?
- 5: Carsten (black) is up a Queen and two pawns for a knight, unfortunately white has a good move here...



## DIVISION 1 - ROUND 3 & 4 (SATURDAY & SUNDAY)

Every match in Division 1 is tough, but we have now classified them into:

- Crazy stupid difficulty level (Cheddleton, Manx, Guildford)
- Tough to compete with (3Cs, Blackthorn)
- Strong/Difficult (Wood Green, Sharks)

Since only 4 teams make it into the Championship pool, we looked at this as a fight for the last spot between the (b) & (c) category teams. We beat Blackthorn, so once again this match was going to be important, if we won, then we were really in an unbelievable spot to get promoted.



The lovely Cornette's were available to strengthen the team for this weekend, and it showed, with everyone stepping up to defeat the 3Cs! We are now on 4/6, where 7 should guarantee top flight, the dream continues!

I should also mentioned we welcomes our new player Latvian Superstar Ritvars! – Welcome to the team, he has the heart of a tiger, winning a key game while sick to help us secure the Saturday game.

Sunday, well.... It was against an (a) team, we thought we had a shot, but they proved too tough.

Scorecards from round 3 and 4:

3Cs 1		2377	Celtic Tigers 1		2320		
w	Gordon, Stephen J	g	2540	½ - ½	Cornette, Matthieu	g	2587
b	Libiszewski, Fabien	g	2481	½ - ½	Cornette, Deimante	i	2448
w	Colovic, Aleksandar	g	2454	½ - ½	Hoffmann, Hendrik	f	2272
b	Guichard, Pauline	wg	2378	0 - 1	Reimanis, Ritvars	f	2316
w	Ashton, Adam G	f	2326	0 - 1	Kulon, Klaudia	wg	2347
b	Longson, Alexander	f	2312	1 - 0	Maciol, Ryszard		2163
w	Walton, Alan J	c	2149	½ - ½	Skulte, Christopher		2110 e
b	Longson, Sarah N	wf	2086	½ - ½	Quinn, John M		2123
				3½ - 4½			

<b>Celtic Tigers 1</b>		2320		<b>Guildford 2</b>	2390		
w	Cornette, Matthieu	g	2587	½ - ½	Zhou, Yang-Fan	i	2432
b	Cornette, Deimante	i	2448	½ - ½	Ris, Robert	i	2451
w	Hoffmann, Hendrik	f	2272	½ - ½	Suarez Real, Alberto	i	2446
b	Reimanis, Ritvars	f	2316	0 - 1	Sarakauskas, Gediminas	i	2425
w	Kulon, Klaudia	wg	2347	0 - 1	Wadsworth, Matthew J	f	2373
b	Maciol, Ryszard		2163	0 - 1	Kilpatrick, Callum	f	2344
w	Skulte, Christopher		2110	½ - ½	Golding, Alex		2264
b	Quinn, John M		2123	½ - ½	Ciukyte, Dagne	i	2297
				2½ - 5½			

Some key moments from the weekend:

- 1: John (white) played Nxe5, what do you think? (his opponent went for the draw)
- 2: Ryszard (white) after outplaying a 2300 made it to this critical position. What should white play now?
- 3: Chris (white) played for a strong endgame after 16. Bxh6 gxh6 17. exf5 Bxf5 - Can you see the next move?





## MY FIRST WEEKEND AS A TIGER BY DAVID WEBSTER



Last weekend was my first playing for the Tigers and also my first in the 4NCL.

My Australian chess friends were quite jealous that I had the opportunity to play in the top division of one of the most famous chess teams competitions in the world. The highlight of the weekend was of course our upset win on the Saturday and the celebrations that followed. In my own game after winning a pawn I had a lot of fun in a good knight vs bad bishop endgame.

However, I also enjoyed Sunday despite a one-sided loss for both myself and the team, as I learned a lot in the analysis session afterwards with my friendly German IM opponent.

Overall, it was a great weekend - I really enjoy team competitions, especially being part of a team with such great spirit. The format of one round each day is nice and relaxed and gives time for both chess and going to the pub - much better than the tournaments I played in Australia when there could be 12+ hours of chess in a day. The Tigers are a great team to be a part of both on and off the board and I'm already looking forward to January!

## MEET THE TIGERS – JOHN QUINN

We will be sharing 1-2 profiles throughout the newsletters going forward to get to know the tigers even more. What turns a normal chess player into a tiger? Find out below

### 1) When did you start playing chess?

When I was 10 which was a long time ago.

### 2) Which players have most inspired you?

Lasker and Tal are the top two.

### 3) Do you have a favourite opening?

It has to be the Kings Indian: let battle commence!

### 4) How do you find the 4NCL compared to other team events?

4NCL is one of my favourite team events

### 5) What is it like being a tiger?

Grrrrrrr!



## SEASON SUMMARY – AFTER 4 ROUNDS

After 4 rounds we are on 2 wins and 2 losses. This is a great positions to be in considering a number of our other competitors have all drawn their matches, making it look likely that 6 points might be enough to enter to promotion pool. The next weekend is the critical one and getting 2 points might be enough to get us into the championship pool.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	GP	Pts
1  Cheddleton 1			5½-2½		5-3		7-1	6-2	23½	8
2  Chess.com Manx Liberty 1			5-3	7½-½		4½-3½		6-2	23	8
3  Guildford 2	2½-5½	3-5		5½-2½		7-1			18	4
4  Celtic Tigers 1		½-7½	2½-5½		4½-3½	4½-3½			12	4
5  Blackthorne Russia	3-5			3½-4½			5½-2½	4-4	16	3
6  3Cs 1		3½-4½	1-7	3½-4½			6-2		14	2
7  Wood Green Monarchs	1-7				2½-5½	2-6		4½-3½	10	2
8  Grantham Sharks 1	2-6	2-6			4-4		3½-4½		11½	1

GET YOUR CLAWS OUT – THE 2ND TEAM HAS ARRIVED

We are really excited that we now have a 2nd team in the league, as a club we strive to support and grow the chess community, and just having 1 team in division 1, is slightly ‘elitist’ of us. 😊

At the same time, there are many tigers that fill in for a few games a season, and this gives the opportunity for all our old-hands to start playing again.

Jacques was always going to be a tiger with his passion and erratic and passionate style of play, and recently world champion GM Magnus Carlsen was seen trying to copy the approach and submit an application to the team, but unfortunately we have a full roster this season.



**Alina l'Ami**  
@alinalami

Following

Something different @tatasteelchess 😊  
#TataSteelChess



2:00 PM - 13 Jan 2019



ROUNDS 1-4

The greatest start a new team can hope for is a win, and that is how we set off, it was a great way to bring the team together who for many was their first time wearing the green jersey.

Wessex C		1684	Celtic Tigers 2		1852
w	Krawczuk, Michael J	1820	1 - 0	Kitchen, Peter J	1915 e
b	Moore, Gillian A	1814	0 - 1	Evans, Craig	* 1992
w	Coburn, Joseph A	1768	0 - 1	Buttell, David	1915 e
b	Smith, Steven J	1722	½ - ½	Tivillier, Jacques	1855 e
w	Priest, Christopher PA	1690 c	0 - 1	Sturt, Charles A	1720 c
b	Deacon, Nicholas	1292 u	0 - 1	Cranston, Adam	1720 c
		1½ - 4½			





Unfortunately we had to take on the stronger teams, and though we put up a hard fight it wasn't possible to take the points, but shows real promise for a new pack coming together.

Ashfield 1		2003		Celtic Tigers 2		1830
w	Mercs, Peter J	2080 e	½ - ½	Evans, Craig	*	1992
b	Combie, Alex B	2020 e	0 - 1	Buttall, David		1915 e
w	Garnett, John S	1990 e	1 - 0	Tivillier, Jacques		1855 e
b	Naylor, Michael A	1990 e	½ - ½	White, John		1780 c
w	Burke, Steven J	1990 e	1 - 0	Sturt, Charles A		1720 c
b	Truman, Richard G	1952 e	1 - 0	Cranston, Adam		1720 c
			4 - 2			



We had issues on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend, with Charlie deciding to run his car straight into a wall in the morning, choosing to blame the weather rather than his driving skills. 😊

You will be happy to know that Charlie's car is fighting fit again, but Charlie himself is still a little strange, and Dr's haven't been able to work him out yet. 😊 😊 😊

Celtic Tigers 2		1830		Wood Green Youth		1646
w	Pedersen, Carsten	2117	1 - 0	Woodhouse, Stephen V		1881
b	Tivillier, Jacques	1855 e	1 - 0	Dias, Savin		1887
w	Buttall, David	1915 e	0 - 1	Pattni, Kishan	*	1574
b	Boztuna, Mehmet	1831	½ - ½	Parry, Samuel		1530
w	Donaldson, Wyatt Zd	* 1435 c	0 - 1	Lazarevic, Ljubica		1359
b	default	u	d - d	default		u
			2½ - 2½			

After a fighting draw on the Saturday where it was 5v5 against Wood Green, who are quickly turning into our nemesis (due to many do-or-die matches played with them in all divisions that have gone down to the wire), the team came out angry with claws on the Sunday, and won by an 8 point margin!!

Oxford 4		1671		Celtic Tigers 2		1812
w	Tselos, Aristotelis	1817 e	0 - 1	Pedersen, Carsten		2117
b	Willis, Graham	1727 c	0 - 1	Tivillier, Jacques		1855 e
w	Bush, Ian	1780 e	0 - 1	Buttall, David		1915 e
b	Beckett, Richard	1615	d - 1	Boztuna, Mehmet		1831
w	Burcham, Tony	1644	d - 1	Cranston, Adam		1720 c
b	Matilal, Tamal	1447	0 - 1	Donaldson, Wyatt Z D	*	1435 c
			-2			
			-2 - 6			



## Check it out!

Jacques created a great YouTube video on the weekend games in Division 4, it is well worth a watch, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/IGq7ax1yoeo>



## SEASON SUMMARY – TIGERS 2<sup>ND</sup> TEAM (DIVISION 4)

We are sitting in 9<sup>th</sup> place after 4 rounds in a huge division.

The swiss format open's itself to getting a lot of luck with the pairings, and often the promotion places come down to a tiebreak.

17 points is usually what is needed for a guaranteed promotion. With 16 points it will come down to luck. So as many board points and difficult opponents will help us here.

No point stressing about it at the moment, let's keep playing for the win and have some fun and see where we are after the next weekend.

			rd 1	rd 2	rd 3	rd 4	P	W	D	L	GP	TB	Pts
1	Ashfield 1	ash1	cyj 6	cel2 4	fis 4	tit 4	4	4	0	0	18	0	8
2	Watford 1	wat1	bkn4 5	mkp2 3½	cim2 5	wesb 4	4	4	0	0	17½	0	8
3	Crowthorne 1	cro1	pit 5½	ash2 4½	tit 3	aad 4½	4	3	1	0	17½	0	7
4	Check Innmates 2	cim2	cht 6	sxm3 5	wat1 1	fis 5	4	3	0	1	17	0	6
5	Wessex B	wesb	bkn2 5	csc3 5½	wib3 4	wat1 2	4	3	0	1	16½	0	6
6	Warwickshire Select 2	wks2	sxm3 3	wib4 3	shr2 3½	ban 5	4	2	2	0	14½	0	6
7	West is Best 3	wib3	rar 5	shr2 3½	wesb 2	mkp2 4	4	3	0	1	14½	0	6
8	Oxford 3	oxf3	wgn3 4	fis 2½	rar 4	ash2 3½	4	3	0	1	14	0	6
9	Celtic Tigers 2	cel2	wesc 4½	ash1 2	wgn3 2½	oxf4 6	4	2	1	1	15	0	5
10	Poisoned Pawns - Next Generation	psp2	shr3 1	wat2 5½	aad 3	ice3 5	4	2	1	1	14½	0	5
11	Throw in the Tal	tit	oxf4 3½	shr3 5	cro1 3	ash1 2	4	2	1	1	13½	0	5
12	Sussex Martlets 3	sxm3	wks2 3	cim2 1	cyj 5	pit 4	4	2	1	1	13	0	5
13	Wood Green Youth	wgn3	oxf3 2	tfp 3½	cel2 2½	wib4 3½	4	2	1	1	11½	0	5
14	The Full Ponty	tfp	fis 2½	wgn3 2½	wat2 5	cim3 5½	4	2	0	2	15½	0	4
15	MK Phoenix 2	mkp2	ice3 6	wat1 2½	shr3 4½	wib3 2	4	2	0	2	15	0	4
16	Ashfield 2	ash2	cro2 6	cro1 1½	csc3 4½	oxf3 2½	4	2	0	2	14½	0	4
17	Shropshire 2	shr2	wat2 6	wib3 2½	wks2 2½	bkn2 3	4	2	0	2	14	0	4
18	All Anands on Deck	aad	cim3 6	ban 2½	psp2 3	cro1 1½	4	1	2	1	13	0	4
19	Banbury Bulldogs	ban	bkn3 5½	aad 2½	pit 3	wks2 1	4	1	2	1	12	0	4
20	CSC 3	csc3	cam3 3 ; wib4 2	wesb ½	ash2 1½	wat2 4	4	2	0	2	11	0	4
21	Shropshire 3	shr3	psp2 5	tit 1	mkp2 1½	wesc 3	4	2	0	2	10½	0	4
22	Fischer's Catch	fis	tfp 3½	oxf3 3½	ash1 2	cim2 1	4	2	0	2	10	0	4
23	Crowthorne 2	cro2	ash2 0	pit 0	bkn3 4	rar 4½	4	2	0	2	8½	0	4
24	West is Best 4	wib4	csc3 1 ; cam3 3	wks2 3	ice3 3	wgn3 2½	4	½	2	1½	12½	0	3
25	The Pitstop	pit	cro1 ½	cro2 6	ban 3	sxm3 2	4	1	1	2	11½	0	3
26	Iceni 3	ice3	mkp2 -1	bkn4 3	wib4 3	psp2 1	4	1	1	2	6	0	3
27	Wessex C	wesc	cel2 1½	bkn2 2½	oxf4 3½	shr3 2	4	1	0	3	9½	0	2
28	Rook & Roll	rar	wib3 1	cht 4½	oxf3 2	cro2 1½	4	1	0	3	9	0	2
29	Barnet Knights 2	bkn2	wesb 1	oxf4 1½	wesc 3½	shr2 2	4	1	0	3	8	0	2
30	Barnet Knights 3	bkn3	ban ½	cim3 ½	cro2 2	cyj 4½	4	1	0	3	7½	0	2
31	Oxford 4	oxf4	tit 2½	wesc 2½	bkn2 4½	cel2 -2	4	1	0	3	7½	0	2
32	Check Innmates 3	cim3	aad 0	bkn3 5½		tfp 0	3	1	0	2	5½	0	2
33	Watford 2	wat2	shr2 0	psp2 ½	tfp 1	csc3 2	4	0	0	4	3½	0	0
34	Barnet Knights 4	bkn4	wat1 1	ice3 2			2	0	0	2	3	0	0
35	Barnet Knights 5	bkn5					0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Camberley Juniors	cyj	ash1 -1		sxm3 0	bkn3 -1½	3	0	0	3	-2½	0	0
37	Chesstivus	cht	cim2 -3	rar 0			2	0	0	2	-3	0	0
38	Cambridge University 3	cam3	wib4 -1 ; csc3 -2				1	0	0	1	-3	0	0

## OTHER NEWS

**T-Shirts:** If you played this year, you get a t-shirt for free. Otherwise you will get it with your membership fees for next year. If anyone wants a 2<sup>nd</sup> t-shirt (or for fans/friends of tigers), it will cost £15 per shirt. For people we don't like it's £30.

**Jumpers/Hoodies:** I will be looking to get some of these soon, and will share pricing with everyone shortly, if you want to buy one, it will cost about £35 I think, so start saving!

**New Members:** We might introduce a 3<sup>rd</sup> team, if you are interested in playing for the club and are around 90-180 ECF please get in touch. This is to be confirmed. Please know that we will NEVER accept people on rating alone, the preference is always to friends of Tigers, and those who clearly resemble our way of thinking. The tigers are not a team, it's a lifestyle and way of thinking.

**Donations:** Thank you to everyone who helped to support the tigers this season (both financial and non-financial). If you know anyone that might be interested in sponsoring our club next season, please put me in contact with them.

**Raffle with Hammersmith:** We are running a joint raffle with Hammersmith Chess Club (London), if you are interested, there are only 150 tickets on sale. There are roughly £2,000 retail of prizes, get in touch with [chrisskulte@gmail.com](mailto:chrisskulte@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Link to details: <http://hammerchess.co.uk/2019/01/02/the-hammer-celtic-tigers-raffle/>

## NEXT SEASON DATES

### Weekend 3 | Rounds 5-6

9-10 February 2019

Divisions 1 & 2 [Park inn Telford](#)

Divisions 3 & 4 South [Mercure Daventry Court](#)

### Weekend 4 | Rounds 7-8

16-17 March 2019

Divisions 1 & 2 [Park inn Telford](#)

13-14 April 2019

Divisions 3 & 4 South [Mercure Daventry Court](#)

### Weekend 5 | Rounds 9-11

4-6 May 2019

Divisions 1 & 2 [Park inn Telford](#)

Divisions 3 & 4 South [Mercure Daventry Court](#)

# THANKS FOR READING 'THE ROAR'

