

THE ROAR

CELTIC TIGERS OFFICIAL UPDATE

Issue 4 / 4NCL 17-18 / The Real Hunt Begins

CONTRIBUTERS

A friendly ROAR goes to the following tigers who contributed to this issue:



Ryszard Maciol



You do not need to be a tiger to contribute. Get in touch to share with us!



With the snowfall overnight, Nick Larter took some great photos. Even the statues were in a fighting spirit this weekend.

WELCOME

Welcome to the 4th edition of The Roar, which contains a match report for the March 2018 4NCL weekend, as well as general club news. After the stupidly long 16-page report for last Roar, we have kept this edition short and sweet.

This weekend also saw the return of previous captain Peter Kemp, who wanted to ensure that the club was in safe hands. 😊

Social Update: We now have 60 followers across Facebook and Twitter (+18!) since last newsletter. Social links below:

Website: celtictigers.club

Twitter: @CelticTigersCC

Facebook: Celtic Tigers 4NCL Chess (@CelticTigersChess)



PRE-MATCH

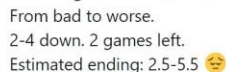
A few of us met for dinner on Friday to spend time with the better half of the Cornettes, who was travelling solo to lead the tigers over weekend 4.

At the ever amazing Drafthouse Hammersmith, Carsten came to supervise to ensure that we were drinking the right volumes of beer to be considered a proper pre-weekend warmup.

Changes for this weekend included Klaudia Kulon joining us again, as well as Nick Larter bringing his ever entertaining brand of chess to the board.



This was an interesting round for the tigers as the result meant nothing, and we were playing the 7th rank team in the division. Chris decided to take the round out and act as reserve and take some photos etc, but due to the previous night, it meant he just had a nice sleep instead. 😊 On waking up and walking to the games, all 8 games looked to be in extremely horrible positions. Shortly later....



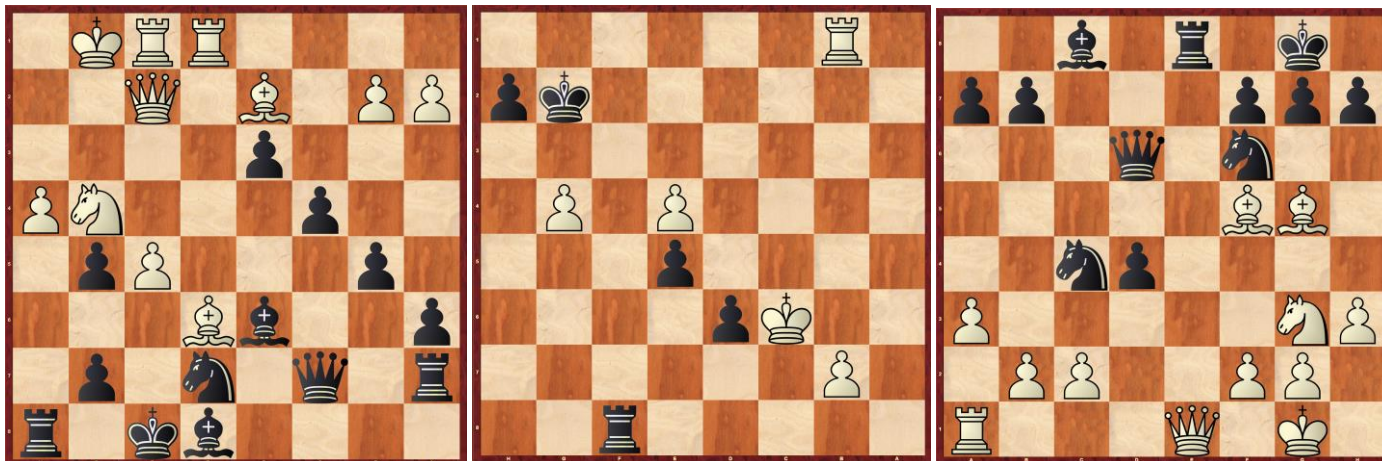
Final Scorecard:

		White Rose 2		2090		Celtic Tigers		2193
231	w	Shaw, Peter		2116	½ - ½	Cornette, Deimante	i	2447
232	b	Gayson, Peter M		2128	1 - 0	Kulon, Klaudia	wg	2326
233	w	Burnett, Jim		2103	½ - ½	Maciol, Ryszard		2155
234	b	Li, Harry		2031	1 - 0	Quinn, John M		2155
235	w	Ho, Conrad		2077	½ - ½	Pedersen, Carsten		2130
236	b	Sucikova, Svetlana	wf	2109	½ - ½	Kemp, Peter D		2122
237	w	O'driscoll, Kieran		2070	1 - 0	Way, Julian M	f	2020
238	b	Jones, Rupert	f	1826	½ - ½	Larter, Nick J.		1852
					5½ - 2½			
Res:						<i>Skulte, Christopher</i>		

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	GP	Pts
1	Manx Liberty		5½-2½	4½-3½	6-2	6½-1½	7½-½	5½-2½	7-1	42½	14
2	Wood Green Monarchs	2½-5½		4-4	5-3	4½-3½	4½-3½	5½-2½	6½-1½	32½	11
3	Celtic Tigers	3½-4½	4-4		5-3	2½-5½	4½-3½	5-3	6½-1½	31	9
4	Gantham Sharks 2	2-6	3-5	3-5		4-4	5-2	5-3	5-3	27	7
5	White Rose 2	1½-6½	3½-4½	5½-2½	4-4		3-5	3½-4½	6-2	27	5
6	Kings Head	½-7½	3½-4½	3½-4½	2-5	5-3		5½-2½	4-4	24	5
7	Sussex Martlets 1	2½-5½	2½-5½	3-5	3-5	4½-3½	2½-5½		5-3	23	4
8	Barbican Youth	1-7	1½-6½	1½-6½	3-5	2-6	4-4	3-5		16	1

Some key moments (and this was really hard, as the games were pretty horrible...):

- 1: Julian's (black) opponent found a very strong continuation here as white to win a few moves later. See it?
- 2: Deimante's (black) opponent decided to play Kc7 here to support the pawn. Is there an alternative idea?
- 3: Klaudia (white) is still trying to come up with a good reason that she played Bxf6 here.

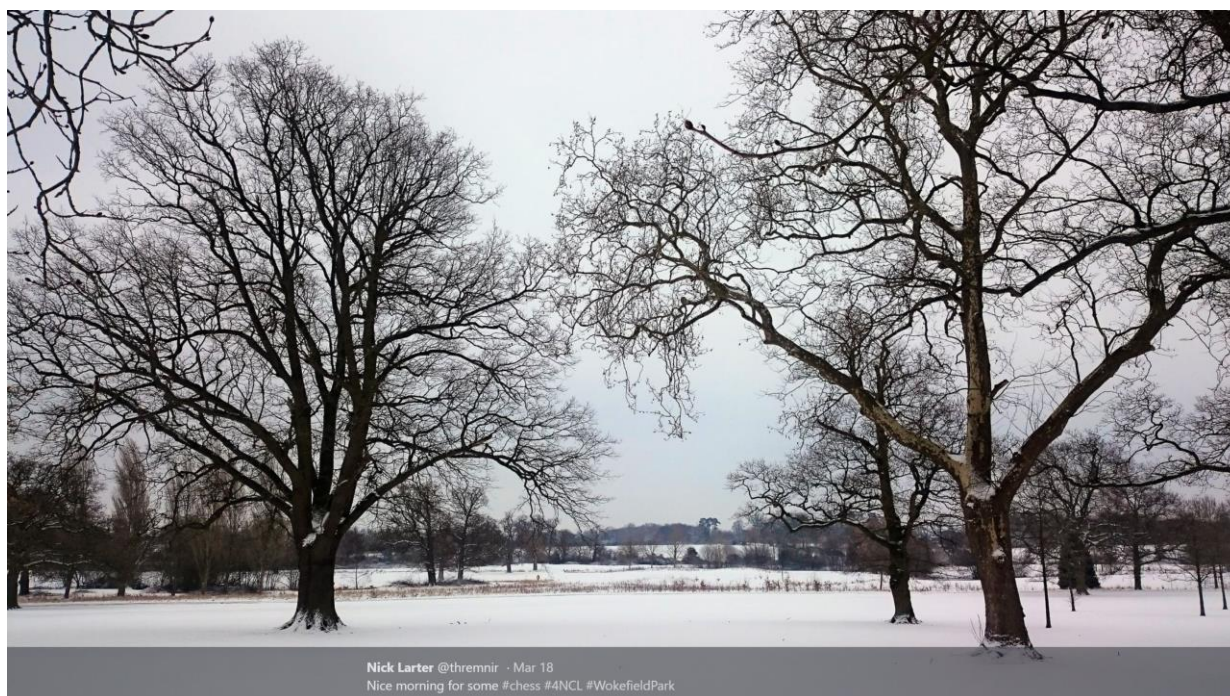


DINNER & DRINKS

Everyone was pretty exhausted, and a bit deflated from the round. Carsten did find a nice pub a few miles from the venue (which is in the middle of nowhere), but we decided to just eat at the hotel this time, and most of the team went for an early rest. [obviously not Ryszard] ☺

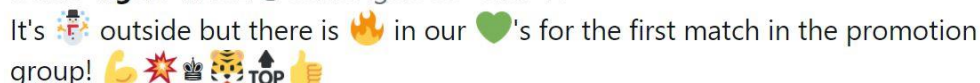
ROUND 8 (SUNDAY)

It has snowed over night, and we were wondering is it a sign? While we were all pondering if it was just a weather pattern or is there some hidden meaning, Nick went out to take some beautiful shots of the landscape around the venue.



Nick Larter @threminir · Mar 18
Nice morning for some #chess #4NCL #WokefieldPark

We needed to win this match as otherwise it would mean we would need at minimum two wins in the final weekend to be promoted. Where a win today would make the path much more manageable.



Lucky that by the time control, Chris & Ryszard both had the slightest advantage, and with nothing to lose, sat into the games knowing that only a result each would clinch the match in our favour.

There were some draw offers, some perpetuals turned down, often checking each others board, trying to work out if a draw was good enough to tie the match, or if extra risks had to be taken. With minimal understanding of each others position, we both decided (which we found out after the match), that we had to go for the win, as the other game looked drawish.

<Continued after the key positions>

Some key moments:

- 1: Chris (black) played Bf4 here. White immediately played Qa8+. What was the game result?
- 2: Deimante (white) played Bxh6 here to break open the king-side. After gxh6, Qg4+ black falls apart.
- 3: Ryszard's (white) opponent just played f6 to try and simplify the position. Does white have a trick?



As always if you have any questions about the positions, feel free to tweet up or ask on our facebook page.

Twitter: @CelticTigersCC

Facebook: Celtic Tigers 4NCL Chess (@CelticTigersChess)

<Match report continues next page>

After another hour of play, and some nerve-wracking finishes (where the team for a second thought Chris blundered the game away – see position above), Cassia seems to be on our side, and we both won within a few minutes of each other.

 You Retweeted



Peter Kitchen 

@pkitchen_Star · Mar 18

@CelticTigersCC What a comeback and what a big result today! Sets things up beautifully for the final #4ncl weekend #projectpromotion

  1  1 

This gave us the match win, with the final scorecard falling in our favour. An exhausting match (for both players and spectators) showing how tough each game is going to be in this pool going forward.

		Celtic Tigers		2168		Manchester Manticores 1	2125
231	w	Cornette, Deimante	i	2447	1 - 0	Polaczek, Richard	i 2389
232	b	Kulon, Klaudia	wg	2326	½ - ½	Peacock, Malcolm R	2080 e
233	w	Maciol, Ryszard		2155	1 - 0	Mazek, Marek	2110 e
234	b	Kemp, Peter D		2122	½ - ½	Jayawarna, Nugith	j 2110 e
235	w	Quinn, John M		2155	½ - ½	Hamer, Martyn	2102 e
236	b	Skulte, Christopher		1955	1 - 0	Kay, Lee P	2050 e
237	w	Way, Julian M	f	2020	0 - 1	Newton, Robert A	2035 e
238	b	Larter, Nick J.		1852	0 - 1	Whitehead, Mark A	1960 e
					4½ - 3½		

Have a look at the article at the end of the newsletter for Ryszard’s analysis of his game. It’s a treat getting into the mind of a 2150-2250 player.

Unfortunately we didn’t get a full squad photo after the match as it went on for quite a long time, and two of our players had to go, but here is a happy team after a hard days chess.



SEASON PROGRESS

There is a new table now, which is the final promotion pool group. With three matches to go, the tigers are in 3rd position. As no team is allowed to have more than 2 teams in a single division (apart from bottom division), Guildford 3 is out of the running to be promoted.

That leaves a 3 point gap to the Manchester Manticores, who pending an expected loss to Manx Liberty, need 2/2 from the other two matches to be promoted. This means that with 1 win in any of the three final matches in the last weekend, will be enough for the tigers to get promoted to Division 1.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	GP	Pts
1 Manx Liberty			4½-3½	5½-2½			5-3	6-2	21	8
2 North East England					5½-2½	4½-3½	5-3	5½-2½	20½	8
3 Celtic Tigers	3½-4½			4-4		4½-3½		5-3	17	5
4 Wood Green Monarchs	2½-5½		4-4		5-2			5-3	16½	5
5 Guildford 3		2½-5½		2-5		5-3	4½-3½		14	4
6 Manchester Manticores 1		3½-4½	3½-4½		3-5		5-2½		15	2
7 Anglian Avengers 1	3-5	3-5			3½-4½	2½-5			12	0
8 Grantham Sharks 2	2-6	2½-5½	3-5	3-5					10½	0

There are no easy games, and as you saw, we had lost a match to a team at the bottom of the relegation division, there is often only a ½ point between being champions and struggling to survive. Though matters like that do not worry a tiger.

It is also looking like Hendrik's premonition from the start of the season may possibly come true!!



Hendrik Hoffmann Well done to everybody involved. Got to be careful now - lest we are going to be promoted again 😊

Haha · Reply · 👍👎 3 · 11 hrs

OTHER NEWS

T-Shirts: Should be ready for the final weekend. Unfortunately the supplier ran out of the larger sizes we wanted to order, so we just said send what you have for now. Hopefully they will fit! Otherwise there will be a wait to early next season.

New Members: We probably have a spot next year for 1 more person, to make sure we have a solid enough squad to not have to default any boards on the 2nd team. If you know someone 1600-2000 FIDE rated, throw them our way.

Donations: Thanks all who have helped so far contributing to the cost of the tigers team.

Write something: The Roar is only ever going to be as good as the members make it. The more work you do (just a little from everyone), the faster I can get this out. So if you want to write any of the following it would really help me!

- Guest Article
- Match Report
- Suggest some key moments from the games of the round to me
- A summary of the dinner and social time
- Anything else you could think of!

Thanks! 😊

REMAINING ROUND

May:

Weekend 5 | Rounds 9-11
5-7 May 2018
Park inn Telford

THANKS FOR READING 'THE ROAR'



NOTE:

THE FINAL GUEST ARTICLE IS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN:

GUEST ARTICLE: ROUND 8 GAME ANALYSIS **BY RYSZARD MACIOL**

D10
2155
2061
 4NCL Wokefield Park (8) 18.03.2018

Blitz 5m Patient tigers need to be! It happened to be one of the two games that won us the match. I shall share my way of thinking about the game of kings and tigers from that Sunday, March 18 2018. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nc3 Nf6** Exchange Slav can be more fun than one can expect, see:

[4...Nc6 5.Bf4 Nf6 6.e3 Qb6 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.f3 Bh5 9.Nge2 Bg6 10.0-0 (10.Nb5 e5 11.Bxe5 Bb4+ 12.Kf2 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nd7) 10...e6 11.Nb5 Bxd3 12.Nc7+ Kd7 13.Nxa8 Qa6 14.Nc3 Bd6 15.Bxd6 Kxd6 16.Re1 Rxa8 17.e4 dxe4 18.fxe4 Ke7 19.Re3 Nb4 20.Rc1 Qb6 21.e5 Nd7 22.a3 Qxd4 23.Qd2 Nc6 24.Qxd3 Qxd3 25.Rxd3 followed by some more ups and downs totaling in 129 moves in Maciol, R.(2216) - Szoen, D.(2459) 1/2-1/2, Polanica Zdroj, 2005.]

5.Bf4 a6 6.e3 Nc6 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.f3 Bc8 My opponent setup is solid and objectively he will soon equalise easily. But I will always like my position more. **9.Nge2 e6 10.Bg5 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Rc1 Bd7 13.Bh4** At this stage my plan is just to keep pieces and prepare to play in the center. In fact I do not have any plan but keep it quiet for a moment. **b5 14.Nf4 h6 15.Bf2 Qb8** I didn't expect this **16.Nfe2**

[16.Bg3 Bd6]

16...Na5 17.Ng3 Nc4 18.Qe2 Rc8 19.e4 b4 Now he went a bit aggressive and created weaknesses so I decided that the best choice is to aim for pawn ending and win the game there. **20.Nb1** The following line was tempting here:

[20.Nxd5 exd5 21.exd5 Nd6 22.Qxe7 Re8 23.Qe5 computer says it is possible to play for white but far from a desired pawn ending Rxe5 24.dxe5 Bb5 25.Rfd1 Bxd3 26.Rxd3 Qb5 27.Rd4 Nfe8 28.exd6 Nxd6 29.b3 should be equal but I think black can push]

20...Bb5 21.b3

[21.exd5 Nxd5 22.Bxc4 Nf4 23.Bxb5 Nxe2+ 24.Bxe2 Bg5 25.Rxc8+ Qxc8 26.Bd3 It should be good for white but far from pawn ending that I am aiming for so I didn't like it. For example: Qd7 27.Ne4 Qa4 28.h4 Bf6 29.Bc4 Qc2 30.Nbd2 Qxb2 31.Rb1 Qc2 32.Rxb4 still complicated]

21...Na3 much better is

[21...Na5 avoiding damaging pawn structure and it is simply equal but with chances on both sides]

22.Nxa3 Bxd3 23.Qxd3 bxa3

24.Rxc8+ Qxc8 25.Ne2 Qb7

[25...dxe4 26.fxe4 Qc6 27.Ng3 Rc8 28.Be1 I felt ok with this and was aiming for pawn or at least minor pieces ending all the time]

26.e5 The position is objectively equal but practically a bit more difficult for black as there will be soon no plan left. They will be waiting while white will keep making small steps on kings side. Also exchange of major pieces is likely lost for black. Lets be patient and wait for blunders like a tiger in the bushes!

Ne8 I would choose

[26...Nd7]

27.Rc1 Rc8 28.Be3 Rc6 29.Kf2 Nc7 30.f4 Nb5 31.f5 exf5 32.Qxf5 Rxc1 33.Bxc1 Qc6 34.Bd2 Bd8 35.Qd3 Bb6 36.Be3 Ba5 37.g3 Qc8 38.Kg2 Qc6 39.g4 f6? and here it is: a long-awaited blunder

[39...Bb4 40.h4 Nc7 41.Kg3 Be1+

42.Bf2 Bb4 is still totally equal]
40.Qg6 Qe6 41.exf6 Qf7 42.Qxg7+ Qxg7 43.fxg7 Kxg7 44.Bf4 Bc3 45.Be5+ Kf7 46.Kf3 Bb2 47.Ke3 Na7 48.Bd6 Nc6 49.Kd3 Kg6 50.h4 Kf7 51.Bc5 Na5 52.Kc2 Nc6 53.b4 Nd8 54.Kd3 Ne6 55.Bd6 Ke8 56.Be5 Kd7 57.Nf4?! I still managed to make it a bit dramatic. At this stage a win would only level the match. I wasn't yet 100% sure that Chris in the other remaining game is actually winning. Bxd4 58.Bxd4 Nxf4+ 59.Kc2
Thanks Caissa this is still winning with no big issues. It is not quite a pawn ending but not far off. You cannot have everything. **h5 60.gxh5 Nxh5 61.Kb3 Ke6 62.Kxa3 Kf5 63.Ka4 Ke4 64.Bb2 Kd3 65.Ka5 Kc4 66.a3 Nf4 67.Kxa6 Kb3 68.Bc1 Nd3 69.h5 Nxc1 70.h6 d4 71.h7 d3 72.h8Q d2 73.Qd4 Kc2 74.Qc4+ Kb2 75.Qf1 Kc2 76.b5 Nd3 77.b6 Nc5+ 78.Kb5 Nb7 79.Qc4+ Kb2 80.Qd3 Kc1 81.Qc3+ Kd1 82.Ka6**
1-0