

# THE ROAR

## CELTIC TIGERS OFFICIAL UPDATE

Issue 2 / 4NCL 17-18

### NEW LOGO

Locked in!!!!

New T-shirts coming soon.



*We were 1 player short, we picked up this random at a farm on the way up to Solihull. Turns out he was a GM. 😊*

### INTRO

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of The Roar, which contains a match report for the January 4NCL weekend, as well as general club news.

The weekend didn't go entirely to plan (2 wins from 2), but as a team we felt leaving with 1 draw and 1 loss was probably a fair result, considering if it wasn't for the heroics of John Quinn we would have been in real trouble!

Biggest news is that our social presence is now live, so feel free to promote us, and encourage any banter with the competition or fans. 😊

Website: [celtictigers.club](http://celtictigers.club)

Twitter: @CelticTigersCC

Facebook: Celtic Tigers 4NCL Chess (@CelticTigersChess)

### PRE-MATCH

TigerHQ was excited to bring back two previous tigers to the team sheet of GM Cornette & IM Cornette. This made us the most multi-national team of the weekend! (only JUST!)



**Celtic Tigers 4NCL**

@CelticTigersCC

We are the most international team in the @4NCL. 8 players, 8 different countries!! ENG, AUS, FRA, GER, POL, IRL, LTU, DEN. 🇦🇺🇬🇧🇩🇰



12:06 PM - 13 Jan 2018

3 Retweets 4 Likes



2 3 4



**Andrew G** @sneider251211 · Jan 13

Replying to @CelticTigersCC @4NCL

Kings Head run you close! 🇷🇺🇫🇷🇩🇪🇬🇧🇩🇰🇫🇮 four continents! (nb proxy chess flags used for Eng and Scot)

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Our team sheet looked amazing as well, with our highest ever average rating of 2241! Which would have been impressive if not for the German uberteam of Manx Liberty who was averaging >2400!



## ROUND 1

Knowing that a win would likely put us into the promotion pool, and being slightly favorable on a few of the boards, we thought this was our best chance to get the points for the weekend. It was all looking quite rosy when Matthieu pulled out a sneaky trick in the early game against Adam Taylor (who was on amazing form with an IM norm heading into this game), which gave us some early confidence.

After a few quick draws in even positions, the young junior Jonah Willow got an advantage through a piece sacrifice against Ryszard at the same time Nick's attack was fizzling out. With Hendrik trying to hold for a draw in a worse positions things were looking tough for the tigers.

Though like any great champions we faced our challenge head on! With Hendrik winning a piece with two cute tactics, which put us within a shot of a draw. If only John Quinn now could draw a game Q&5P vs Q&3P (computer assessment = gg).



The team waited patiently in the foyer for the inevitable loss, and a team loss. Starvation was starting to creep in, but then out of the blue we see the result update with  $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ ! Surely we must have drank so many pints waiting for John to finish that we were seeing things, but at that moment, the man of the match turned up, looking exhausted but with a smile on his face, knowing he not only saved the game, and some rating points, but drew the match. Celtic tigers remained undefeated!

Celtic Tigers			2241	Wood Green Monarchs			2176
w	Cornette, Matthieu	g	2611	1 - 0	Taylor, Adam C	f	2260 e
b	Cornette, Deimante	i	2439	$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$	Cooper, Lawrence H	i	2305 e
w	Hoffmann, Hendrik	f	2232	1 - 0	Sygnowski, Tomasz		2151
b	Quinn, John M		2158	$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$	Longson, Sarah N	wf	2177 e
w	Maciol, Ryszard		2163	0 - 1	Willow, Jonah B	j	2152
b	Pedersen, Carsten		2136	$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$	Pein, Jonathan		2153
w	Skulte, Christopher		1952	$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$	Green, Michael		2035 e
b	Larter, Nick J.		1855	0 - 1	Serbanescu, Diana-Maria	w	1989
				4 - 4			

Some key moments:

- 1: Hendrik (white) finds the quickest way to finish off his opponent, can you find it?
- 2: Matthieu (white) finds a cheeky tactic after black just played Bb7, what would you do?
- 3: John Quinn (Black) somehow holds this, but can you see white's winning plan here? (hard)



If you get stuck and want some answers, find us on twitter or facebook!

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*KEY LESSON:*

*NEVER EVER GIVE UP IN TEAM EVENTS*

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## DINNER

After trying out 4 different pubs (this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> one), we finally found somewhere serving dinner after 7pm. Thank god!



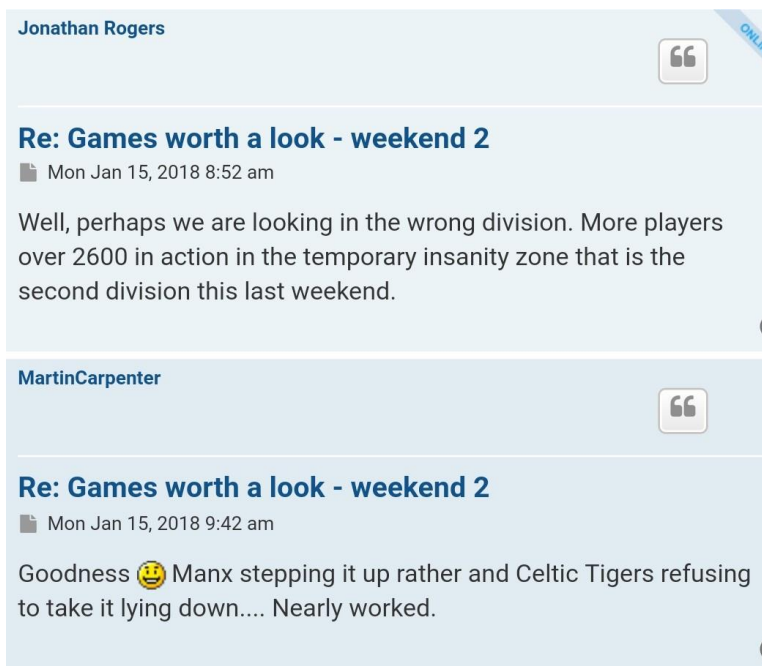


## ROUND 2

The ultimate battle of the two leaders in division 2. Though it was first (Manx Liberty) vs second (Celtic Tigers), we came up against a HUGE David vs Goliath battle, as Manx brought their top flight team with SIX (6) yes six titled players, three of which are over 2600 rated.

Our strategy was win on the bottom two boards, and everyone else needs to try and hold. To a tiger there isn't any prey too big, just a bigger meal, and we were quietly confident after the previous day that lady luck was on our side.

Even the message boards were getting excited for the first time 2x2600's played each other in division 2.



Alas as MartinCarpenter put it, it nearly worked. A quick draw from John Quinn by locking up the position, as well as Chris & Nick pushing advantages, then Deimante agreed a draw, we felt that it might quite work

This is when you see the real magic of titled players, who all started to put pressure on our team. It was 4-3 with only Matthieu fighting on, but even his superhuman chess brain couldn't find a way to progress and a draw was agreed.

So close yet so far, but at least we received the maximum board points for losing a match, which might make the difference if we have another poor result.

		<b>Manx Liberty</b>		2416		<b>Celtic Tigers</b>		2241
211	w	Erdos, Viktor	g	2630	½ - ½	Cornette, Matthieu	g	2611
212	b	Lupulescu, Constantin	g	2628	½ - ½	Cornette, Deimante	i	2439
213	w	Parligras, Mircea-Emilian	g	2632	1 - 0	Hoffmann, Hendrik	f	2232
214	b	Galyas, Miklos	i	2502	1 - 0	Pedersen, Carsten		2136
215	w	Cioara, Andrei-Nestor	i	2447	1 - 0	Maciol, Ryszard		2163
216	b	Kolbus, Dietmar	i	2322	½ - ½	Quinn, John M		2158
217	w	Miah, Zahed		1751	0 - 1	Skulte, Christopher		1952
218	b	Akeya-Price, Robert	j	1756	0 - 1	Larter, Nick J.		1855
					4½ - 3½			

Some key moments:

- 1: Carsten (white) could have continued slightly worse with c3, but he played Bd3. See black's tactic?
- 2: Chris (black) is ready to go for the kill. What is black's only move here?
- 3: Nick (white) found the interesting idea moving his knight from f3 to e5. Why can't black take the queen?



## SEASON PROGRESS

Here is the current table. We are currently sitting in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, but there is a fight between 4 teams for the 3 promotion pool spots (as Manx have theirs wrapped up). A win again Sussex Martlets next weekend should do it for us, otherwise it will likely come down to board points (GP) as the tie-breaker.

### Division 2a

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	GP	Pts
1 Manx Liberty			4½-3½	5½-2½	5½-2½		6-2		21½	8
2 Kings Head			3½-4½		5½-2½	5-3		4-4	18	5
3 Celtic Tigers	3½-4½	4½-3½		4-4			5-3		17	5
4 Wood Green Monarchs	2½-5½		4-4			4½-3½	5-3		16	5
5 Sussex Martlets 1	2½-5½	2½-5½				4½-3½		5-3	14½	4
6 White Rose 2		3-5		3½-4½	3½-4½			6-2	16	2
7 Grantham Sharks 2	2-6		3-5	3-5				5-3	13	2
8 Barbican Youth		4-4			3-5	2-6	3-5		12	1

## OTHER NEWS

**T-Shirts:** I am going to get these at some point over the coming months, worst case will be ready for next season.

**Donations:** Any donations are always welcome (privacy kept at all times), contact me. Thanks all who have helped so far. If you think you might know any potential sponsors, please let me know, I have put together an offering.

**Photos:** I am throwing up the team page onto the website at some point over the next week, if you don't like your photo that I put up there send me a new one.

**Write something:** If you want to write a short article, or item, or section of this report, please feel free to send me something or let me know.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CELTIC TIGERS TEAM:** It looks like this is going to go live for the next season, to ensure maximum number of tigers get some chess in. I am organising Hammersmith (London) to be a feeder club, and Nick has organised a club in Ireland to feed into us as well. Though as usual, if you have any friends that may want to play for us, get them to sign up too!

## REMAINING ROUNDS

### February:

Weekend 3 | Rounds 5-6  
10-11 February 2018  
Park inn Northampton

### March:

Weekend 4 | Rounds 7-8  
17-18 March 2018  
De Vere Wokefield Estate

### May:

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

# THAT'S A WRAP!