4NCL OTB League – Season 2025-26 => W/E #5 – May 2nd – 4th 2026

Division 3 Bishops - Wessex A – Round 9 – May 2nd 2026

Wessex A came up against one of the "bottom 2 / relegation zone" teams who still fielded a useful line-up with 3 x 2000+ players.

Wins from Olli, Christian & Bill plus draws from David and Roger saw us take the match 4-2.

		Average Woodpushers	1927		**Wessex A**	2028
361	w	Ackley, Peter J E	2022 e	½ - ½	Pye, David E	2129 e
362	b	Hilton, Tim	2030 e	0 - 1	Gill, Oliver	2091
363	w	Sajanani, Vikas	2026 e	0 - 1	Westrap, Christian F	2065 e
364	b	Tan, Yik Chean	1984 e	1 - 0	Mesesan, Mircea-Marius	2001 e
365	w	Scoular, Adam	1846	0 - 1	McDougall, William	1980 e
366	b	Eccleston, Rowan	1659 e	½ - ½	De Coverly, Roger D	1904 e
				2 - 4		

Division 3 Bishops - Wessex A – Round 10 – May 3rd 2026

Next Wessex A came up against the other "bottom 2 / relegation zone" team who still had 4 x 1900+ graded players.

Wins from Christian & Roger plus draws from David, Olli, Mircea and Bill saw us win the match comfortably again – this time with no losses.

		Wessex A	2028		**MK Phoenix**	1904
341	w	Pye, David E	2129 e	½ - ½	Elwin, Adrian G	1973 e
342	b	Gill, Oliver	2091	½ - ½	Lambourne, Dan M	1977 e
343	w	Westrap, Christian F	2065 e	1 - 0	Habershon, Paul F	1941 e
344	b	Mesesan, Mircea-Marius	2001 e	½ - ½	Obi, Okwose Marc	1968 e
345	w	McDougall, William	1980 e	½ - ½	Valentine, Brian J	1847 e
346	b	De Coverly, Roger D	1904 e	1 - 0	Shaw, John S	1723 e
				4 - 2		

Division 3 Bishops - Wessex A – Round 11 – May 4th 2026

Bank Holiday Monday saw us take on one of the "promotion chasers" – Wotton Hall – wins from Christian (who scored 3 from 3 this weekend) and Roger (who scored an impressive 2.5 from 3) plus a draw from Olli against a 2229 saw us lose very narrowly.

Zack Norris, their very strong board 1, last played Wessex two years ago graded 1608, yet even then managed to draw with Roger De C who far out-graded him - gaining 745 grading points in two seasons is pretty spectacular! He is, or will become, 13 years old this year so is "one to watch".

		Wotton Hall	2070		**Wessex A**	2028
341	w	Norris, Zack	2353 e	1 - 0	Pye, David E	2129 e
342	b	Robson, Ian A	2229 e	½ - ½	Gill, Oliver	2091
343	w	Ashworth, Michael	2130 e	1 - 0	Mesesan, Mircea-Marius	2001 e
344	b	Ashworth, Robert	1918 e	0 - 1	Westrap, Christian F	2065 e
345	w	Lappin, Benjamin	1967 e	1 - 0	McDougall, William	1980 e
346	b	Moldovan, Alexandru-Mitica	1826 e	0 - 1	De Coverly, Roger D	1904 e
				3½ - 2½		

The final table shows Wessex A in 5th place, helped by our ruthless beating up of the bottom 6 teams against whom we scored 6 wins from 6 ! With only two teams guaranteed promotion I suspect we will be in Div 3 again next year.

Division Three Bishops

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	MP	GP
1	Brown Jack		4-2	1-5	1½-4½	4-2	3½-2½	3½-2½	3½-2½	4-2	4-2	4-2	3½-2½	**18**	36½
2	Warwickshire Select 2	2-4		3-3	3-3	3-3	4½-1½	4-2	4½-1½	5-1	4½-1½	5-1	5-1	**17**	43½
3	Wotton Hall	5-1	3-3		3½-2½	3½-2½	3½-2½	2½-3½	2½-3½	5½-½	4-2	4-2	5-1	**17**	42
4	The Rookies	4½-1½	3-3	2½-3½		4-2	4-2	3½-2½	3-3	1-5	4½-1½	5-1	5½-½	**16**	40½
5	Wessex A	2-4	3-3	2½-3½	2-4		2½-3½	4-2	4-2	3½-2½	4-2	4-2	4-2	**13**	35½
6	North West Eagles	2½-3½	1½-4½	2½-3½	2-4	3½-2½		2½-3½	4-2	5½-½	3-3	4-2	4½-1½	**11**	35½
7	Cambridge University 1	2½-3½	2-4	3½-2½	2½-3½	2-4	3½-2½		2-4	1½-4½	4-2	4½-1½	4½-1½	**10**	32½
8	Guildford Young Guns A	2½-3½	1½-4½	3½-2½	3-3	2-4	2-4	4-2		3-3	1½-4½	3-3	4½-1½	**9**	30½
9	Barnet Knights C	2-4	1-5	½-5½	5-1	2½-3½	½-5½	4½-1½	3-3		3-3	5-1	3-3	**9**	30
10	Desert Penguins	2-4	1½-4½	2-4	1½-4½	2-4	3-3	2-4	4½-1½	3-3		2-4	5-1	**6**	28½
11	MK Phoenix	2-4	1-5	2-4	1-5	2-4	2-4	1½-4½	3-3	1-5	4-2		3-3	**4**	22½
12	Average Woodpushers	2½-3½	1-5	1-5	½-5½	2-4	1½-4½	1½-4½	1½-4½	3-3	1-5	3-3		**2**	18½

Division 4 - Wessex B – Round 9 & 10 – May 2nd & May 3rd 2026

Rounds 9 & 10 saw Wessex B involved in one of the baffling 3-way matches – only 2 people understand how these work and I haven't met either of them!

Ashfield 2 slightly out-graded us and a win from Jamie plus draws from myself & Tom saw us go down 4-2

In the other match we out-graded Iceni 2 and edged the match with wins from Tim, Tom & George plus a draw from Jamie.

		Ashfield 2	1858		**Wessex B**	1829
711	w	Griffin-Young, Sebastian	1860 e	1 - 0	Spanton, Tim R	1908
712	w	Garnett, John S	1951 e	½ - ½	Gregory, Keith D F	1987 e
713	b	Flynn, David	1867 e	½ - ½	Philidor, Tom	1839 e
714	b	Graham, Oliver	1841 e	0 - 1	Chilton, James I	1818 e
715	w	Graham, Danny	1774 e	1 - 0	Syed, Ashraf	1594 e
716	w	Poole, Tim R	1802 c	1 - 0	Wright, George A	1344 e
				4 - 2		
						Top

		Wessex B	1804		**Iceni 2**	1774
721	w	Spanton, Tim R	1908	1 - 0	Feavyour, John A	1829 e
722	w	Chilton, James I	1818 e	½ - ½	Gaffney, Samuel	1842 e
723	b	Philidor, Tom	1839 e	1 - 0	Collicott, Peter J	1607 e
724	b	Lawrence, Simon	1654 e	0 - 1	Kenning, Paul H	1818 e
725	w	Syed, Ashraf	1594 e	0 - 1	Rosenbach, Philip	1357 e
726	w	Wright, George A	1344 e	1 - 0	Wainwright, Cora	1528 c
				3½ - 2½		

Division 4 - Wessex B – Round 11 – May 4th 2026

Monday saw a "normal match" where we finished the season in some style, beating a higher graded team, Oxford 3, via wins from Tim & Tom, plus draws from Jamie, Simon & Ashraf.

		Oxford 3	1729		**Wessex B**	1692
481	w	Neatherway, A Philip	1807	0 - 1	Spanton, Tim R	1908
482	b	Staples, Neil	1845	0 - 1	Philidor, Tom	1839 e
483	w	Yeung, Jia-Arn	1692	½ - ½	Chilton, James I	1818 e
484	b	Yesilcay, Arel	1704 e	½ - ½	Lawrence, Simon	1654 e
485	w	Kocan, Barry A	1656	½ - ½	Syed, Ashraf	1594 e
486	b	Rumsby, Stephen	1670	1 - 0	Wright, George A	1344 e
				2½ - 3½		

Wessex B finished in 13th place from 29 teams and the Swiss system worked reasonably well so we got a range of opposition, largely avoiding the top end teams and the bottom end teams of the league – see below.

With a recent influx of new players, including several from my own club, Fareham, we may look at running a Wessex C team next season.

Sadly Mircea is taking a timeout from 4ncl after 3 seasons and 27 games for Wessex so a gap has opened up in our Wessex A team.

Division Four

			rd 1	rd 2	rd 3	rd 4	rd 5	rd 6	rd 7	rd 8	rd 9	rd 10	rd 11	P	W	D	L	MP	GP
1	3Cs	3cs	wat 4	sxm3 4½	tmn 3½	ash2 4½	wapa 5½	can 4½	csc3 5	tfp 3½	eto1 3	fcp 5	wcw 3½	11	10	1	0	**21**	46½
2	The Full Ponty	tfp	pwdp 6	can 2½	bknd 4	tmn 2	eto2 3½	fcp 3½	wapa 4	3cs 2½	wcw 3½	ash3 5	csc3 3½	11	8	0	3	**16**	40
3	Eternal Optimists 1	eto1	wcw 4	tmn 1	wat 3	bknd 3	ice2 3	crob 4	splb 5	tgk 4½	3cs 3	can 4	fcp 3½	11	6	4	1	**16**	38
4	Castell Nedd	can	tgk 3½	tfp 3½	wapa ½	sxm3 4½	fcp 4	3cs 1½	tmn 3½	wcw 3½	csc3 4	eto1 2	ash2 3½	11	8	0	3	**16**	34
5	The Goodknights	tgk	can 2½	ash3 2	spwu 4½	splc 5½	oxf3 3	ice2 4½	bknd 5	eto1 1½	eto2 3	splb 3	sxm3 5	11	5	3	3	**13**	39½
6	War and Piece A	wapa	ash3 5	ice2 4	can 5½	fcp 3½	3cs ½	tmn 1	tfp 2	eto2 3	wapb 5	wcw 2½	splb 4½	11	6	1	4	**13**	36½
7	She Plays To Win Uni	spwu	tmn 1½	wat 2½	splc 4	tgk 1½	edc ½	eto3 6	wapc 3	crob 4½	oxf3 3½	wapb 4½	eto2 4	11	6	1	4	**13**	35½
8	FCPL-UK	fcp	eto2 5	wesb 5	csc3 5½	wapa 2½	can 2	tfp 2½	ash3 6	ash2 5	splb 6	3cs 1	eto1 2½	11	6	0	5	**12**	43
9	Worcestershire Windmills	wcw	eto1 2	gilb 5½	wesb 5½	ice2 3½	tmn 1	bknd 5	ash2 4½	can 2½	tfp 2½	wapa 3½	3cs 2½	11	6	0	5	**12**	38
10	TMNT	tmn	spwu 4½	eto1 5	3cs 2½	tfp 4	wcw 5	wapa 5	can 2½	csc3 4				8	6	0	2	**12**	32½
11	Ashfield 3	ash3	wapa 1	tgk 3	crob 2	eto2 2½	wapc 3½	pwdp 5	fcp 0	bknd 3½	sxm3 4½	tfp 1	wat 2 ; edc 2	11	6	0	5	**12**	30
12	Ashfield 2	ash2	wapb 3	oxf3 5	splb 5	3cs 1½	wat 4½	csc3 2½	wcw 1½	fcp 1	wesb 4	ice2 5	can 2½	11	5	1	5	**11**	35½
13	Wessex B	wesb	crob 5	fcp 1	wcw ½	wat 2½	gilb 3	eto2 2½	splc 6	wapc 5½	ice2 3½	ash2 2	oxf3 3½	11	5	1	5	**11**	35
14	CSC/Kingston 3	csc3	oxf3 3	wapb 5	fcp ½	crob 4½	splb 5½	ash2 3½	3cs 1	tmn 2	can 2	eto2 4	tfp 2½	11	5	1	5	**11**	33½
15	English Deaf Chess Association	edc	splb 1½	wapc 5½	ice2 1	pwdp 1½	spwu 5½	oxf3 2½	eto3 4½	wapb 2	gilb 4	crob 4½	ash3 0 ; wat 1	11	5	0	6	**10**	33½
16	War and Piece B	wapb	ash2 3	csc3 0	oxf3 4½	splb 1½	crob 2	gilb 3	pwdp 4	edc 4	wapa 1	spwu 1½	eto3 6	11	4	2	5	**10**	30½
17	Eternal Optimists 2	eto2	fcp 1	splc 3½	sxm3 2	ash3 3½	tfp 2½	wesb 3½	oxf3 4	wapa 3	tgk 3	csc3 2	spwu 2	11	4	2	5	**10**	30
18	Guildford Young Guns B	gilb	ice2 1	wcw ½	eto3 4½	oxf3 2	wesb 3	wapb 3	sxm3 0	splc 3½	edc 2	wapc 5	pwdp 4½	11	4	2	5	**10**	29
19	Watford	wat	3cs 2	spwu 3½	eto1 3	wesb 3½	ash2 1½	splb 2			wapc 5	splc 5	edc 2 ; ash3 1	9	4½	1	3½	**10**	28½
20	She Plays To Win Lionesses B	splb	edc 4½	bknd 3	ash2 1	wapb 4½	csc3 ½	wat 4	eto1 1	ice2 4½	fcp 0	tgk 3	wapa 1½	11	4	2	5	**10**	27½
21	Sussex Martlets 3	sxm3	wapc 6	3cs 1½	eto2 3½	can 1			gilb 6	oxf3 3½	ash3 0	pwdp 3½	tgk 1	9	5	0	4	**10**	26
22	Iceni 2	ice2	gilb 5	wapa 2	edc 5	wcw 2½	eto1 3	tgk 1½	crob 5½	splb 1½	ash2 1	wesb 2½	wapc 5	11	4	1	6	**9**	34½
23	Oxford 3	oxf3	csc3 3	ash2 0	wapb 1½	gilb 3	tgk 3	edc 3½	eto2 1	sxm3 1½	spwu 2½	eto3 5	wesb 2½	11	3	2	6	**8**	26½
24	Crowthorne B	crob	wesb 1	pwdp 4½	ash3 4	csc3 1½	wapb 4	eto1 2	ice2 ½	spwu 1½	eto3 4	edc 1½	splc 2	11	4	0	7	**8**	26½
25	She Plays To Win Lionesses C	splc	bknd 2	eto2 2½	tgk ½	spwu 2	eto3 1½	wapc 3½	wesb 0	gilb 2½	pwdp 4	wat 1	crob 4	11	3	0	8	**6**	23½
26	Barnet Knights D	bknd	splc 4	splb 3	tfp 2	eto1 3	pwdp 5½	wcw 1	tgk 1	ash3 2½				8	2	2	4	**6**	22
27	Apprentice Woodpushers	pwdp	tfp 0	crob 1½	wapc 3½	edc 4½	bknd -½	ash3 0	wapb 2	eto3 2½	splc 1½	sxm3 2½	gilb 1½	11	2	0	9	**4**	19
28	Eternal Optimists 3 & LWCC	eto3			gilb 1½	wapc 2	splc 4½	spwu 0	edc 1½	pwdp 3½	crob 2	oxf3 1	wapb 0	9	2	0	7	**4**	16
29	War and Piece C	wapc	sxm3 0	edc 0	pwdp 2½	eto3 4	ash3 2½	splc 2½	spwu 3	wesb ½	wat 1	gilb 1	ice2 1	11	1	1	9	**3**	18
30	Cambridge University 2	cam2												0	0	0	0	**0**	0

#Stats_time

Three of our current squad have now played 100+ Wessex matches

200 – Allan Pleasants

167 – Keith Gregory

149 – Roger De Coverly

They all have some way to go to overhaul Martin Simons who has played 219 matches, although none since 2020 when he took "early retirement" from 4ncl world.

Keith Gregory – 4NCL Wessex Captain – May 9th 2026