

# Defaults

## Defaults

Many of you may believe that we should take **no** action on defaults. In that case simply vote **against** the proposal below at the AGM. You may be in sympathy with **Roger Tuddenham**'s opinion quoted below:

“Dear Geoff,

I am opposed to any use of fines or penalty-points. In other words, let us leave matters as they are. We have lived with this problem for several years, though it has been unusually bad at some times this season. Some clubs seem to have been very inefficient and negligent. However I cannot believe that having joined the league in order to play Chess they have then deliberately set out NOT to play Chess. A reminder about good manners to other clubs and players is certainly in order, but not some of the grumpy and vindictive reactions that I have read about. Furthermore many a default has been out of the control of the team- captain. I would far rather a team like David Brown's remained in the leagues, even though it defaulted one board or more per match, than that it were forced out by some system of penalties. Some may accuse me of 'softness', but I would rather talk of understanding and tolerance. I don't like the idea of 'criminalising' old friends with whom I have played Chess in these leagues for many decades. Let us not over-react to one season of unusual defaults. Please feel free to circulate these views to all clubs, if you think that they will help the ongoing debate.

Best Wishes,  
Roger.”

**Also Bill Lumley**

“Roger says it all.

Recently I turned up at Lindley to play for Netherton 2 against Knights. John Newsome had rung the team through to me during the afternoon, pointing out that he had been obliged to ring Robert Sutcliffe defaulting bottom board. John had hoped that Alex Cruikshank would be available to fill the last place but Alex was not able to confirm as he relied on his father for transport. At 7.30 pm Netherton had 6 players. Alex had arrived. He had not been able to make contact with Mr Newsome so his father brought him to the venue anyway. As Bishops had quite rightly turned up with 5 players, I volunteered to ‘drop out’ and everyone was happy. I watched play for while and then drove home for an early bath. No big deal. I merely relate this incident because I firmly believe that this illustrates the spirit in which our Association operates and has operated for more than a century.

During 40 years of playing regularly In HDCA matches, I can honestly say that I cannot recall a single occasion where I did not play a game owing to opponent default. There must have been a few such defaults, but you can rest assured that they have not left me feeling bitter or scarred for life!

Bill Lumley  
President HDCA”

**Also an excerpt from Matthew Parsons’ email,**

“No I do not believe that any team should be punished, or fined in any way. We are not a professional organisation. We are amateur players, who enjoy the friendship and comradery that comes from playing a game we all love. Can we expect a certain level of professional behaviour? Perhaps, but we must not get above ourselves.”

**However** I am making this proposal for the following reasons.

1. It gives members the **opportunity** to take action on defaults. Members may wish to support the proposal or amend it in some way at the AGM, though remember that it needs two thirds majority of votes cast to be passed.

2. If the proposal is thrown out... That’s fine ! Anyone who then rings me / emails me etc. complaining about defaults I will say “There’s no problem - there’s no penalty for this. Tough - Get over it. The AGM decided to take no action on defaults on 9/6/10”.

I will have a clear conscience that I did attempt to counter the “problem”.

Either take action now or forever hold your peace!

3. **This is not a new problem.** I attempted to counter the “problem” with a General Committee meeting held to discuss defaults **6th March 2007**.

In that season a team had failed to turn up without alerting the opposing Captain. This was not acceptable. The very same thing had happened in the 2005-6 season when the Dragons failed to turn up against the Huddersfield Rooks, on a date that had been arranged and booked by the Dragons’ captain.

Mr Peake was sad to report that Netherton B had defaulted the night before the meeting against Brighouse in the Team KO without alerting their opponents.

Mr Sutcliffe stressed the importance of team captains, whose role was vital to the smooth running of the league. They had to take responsibility for turning a full team out and fulfilling fixtures, and hopefully this would be recognised and the captains strongly supported by colleagues {vice captains?}.

It was noted that there was no appropriate “punishment” for such defaults.

Mr Peake supplied a list showing the defaults in the HDCA leagues. He reported that the HDCA compared unfavourably with the Calderdale league. In this league, NO matches had been defaulted. The Calderdale league had 3 individual defaults in the 1st div, one in the second division. In the HDCA leagues 8 matches had been defaulted [2 without informing opponents], and there had been 12 individual defaults.

4. The proposal attempts to define a **framework** of what is acceptable with regard to defaults.

5. In most sports organisations defaults / unfulfilled fixtures are viewed quite seriously.

6. **Obviously the “problem” has continued this season.**

### Huddersfield & District Chess Association **Defaults 2009-2010 season**

<b>Examiner Handicap</b>	<i>David Browns</i>	<i>Holme Valley</i>	<i>Netherton A</i>	<i>Netherton B</i>	<i>Calderdale</i>	<i>West Bretton</i>	<i>Wakefield</i>	<i>Hudd Dragons</i>	<i>Hudd Rooks</i>
Team Defaults				<b>2</b>					<b>1</b>
Individual Defaults	<b>3</b>					<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>Watkinson</b>	<i>David Browns</i>	<i>Holme Valley</i>	<i>Netherton 1</i>	<i>Netherton 2</i>		<i>West Bretton</i>	<i>Wakefield</i>	<i>Hudd Bishops</i>	<i>Hudd Knights</i>
Team Defaults									
Individual Defaults	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>RapidPlay</b>	<i>David Browns</i>	<i>Holme Valley</i>	<i>Netherton A</i>	<i>Netherton B</i>		<i>West Bretton</i>		<i>Hudd Blitz Boys</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>
Team Defaults								<b>2 then withdrew</b>	
Individual	<b>6</b>								<b>4</b>
<b>TeamKO</b>	<i>David Browns</i>	<i>Holme Valley</i>	<i>Netherton A</i>	<i>Netherton B</i>	<i>Calderdale</i>	<i>West Bretton</i>			<i>Huddersfield</i>
Team Defaults									
Individual Defaults	<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>			

**Note that the new Calderdale team {+Bishops} did not have any defaults !**

**The worst kind of defaults are those where a team or individual player simply does not turn up without any warning to the opposition [this has happened four times in recent years].**

This is very frustrating. A team may be waiting around and it slowly dawns on them that the opposition is not going to show. I have received angry phone calls / emails from Captains/ players howling for blood when this has happened!

Also a player may make a long trip to a match [e.g. Calderdale players travelling to David Browns in the Rapidplay this season] fully expecting a game and then find they are disappointed.

I don't think a docking points system works as I do not believe that this has any effect. Hopefully the proposed system is a better deterrent. One has to ask “How much is enough ?” At what stage are we going to say this level of defaults is not acceptable.

My proposal is below:

**Proposed by Geoff Peake, seconded by Stewart Thompson**

1	A team failing to turn up to fulfil a fixture without warning* the opposition.	<i>6 defaults {for that Team}</i>
2	A player not turning up, and thus leaving his opponent with no game without warning.	<i>2 defaults</i>
3	A team defaulting a <b>match</b> WITH warning to the opposition so no players had to travel unnecessarily. <i>Postponing Matches -Please note that on current rules, matches can be postponed /rearranged, though the opposition must be given 8 days warning.</i>	<i>3 defaults</i>
4	A team defaulting a <b>board</b> WITH warning to the opposition so no players had to travel unnecessarily.	<i>1 default</i>
<p><b>*Warning Time :</b> Direct contact with the opposing Captain the day before the match or earlier. {Not email as not everyone will read emails daily}</p>		
<p><b>In any one Competition</b> [e.g. Examiner] when a Team’s <b>default total exceeds 7</b> then that team does not play any more matches that season in that competition {i.e. defaults the rest of its matches in that competition 0-6.}</p>		
<p><b>Extenuating circumstances:</b> If there are extenuating circumstances the captain can appeal to the Executive Committee.</p>		